We find ourselves completing our third annual alumni newsletter. As we continue to expand and develop the Division of Plastic Surgery, at The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, I thought it would be interesting to review our history. According to Dr. Gil Snyder: “In the beginning, in Miami, there was no plastic surgery training program as we now know it”. According to Tony Wolfe the first plastic surgeon, was Clifford Snyder. Both Drs. Clifford Snyder and Millard would be at the Cleft Clinic together. Eventually, Dr. Snyder moved onto Utah where he was chief for many years. He should be remembered for his experimental work with one of our current active voluntary faculty Dr. George Levine at Children’s in the field of replantation and one of the first mandibular distractions. Dr. Millard following his second tour of duty in Korea was briefly in practice in Beverly Hills prior to moving permanently to Miami.

In the 1960’s, the Medical School appointed, Dr. Dean Warren, the Chairman of the Department of Surgery. His goal according to Dr. Snyder was to transform the Department of Surgery into a world renowned institution. Dr. Jude was recruited from The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine to direct the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and at his suggestion; Dr. Warren interviewed Dr. Snyder who recently completed his plastic surgery residency at the same institution with Dr. Milton Edgerton to fill the vacancy as chief of a newly formed Division of Plastic Surgery. Dr. Snyder along with a wife and three children embarked upon this challenge in the summer of 1964. Dr. Gil Snyder was responsible for initiating the first residency at Jackson.

Dr. Snyder was joined by all of his plastic surgery colleagues within the community who aided him in presenting lectures on pertinent topics to the University of Miami Mel Lesavoy medical students. Dr. Snyder was also given the titles of chief of the tumor clinic responsible for both resection and reconstructions, chief of the hand clinic with the assistance of the department of orthopedics, and initiating a plastic surgery clinic.

In addition, Dr. Snyder arranged for psychiatry residents to rotate through the plastic surgery clinic and dermatology residents to learn techniques and perform minor surgical procedures. Dr. Millard was also active clinically at Jackson working with Walter Garst who was a general surgery resident at JMH. Dr. Millard was also assisted by fellows initially from England who were supported by Robert Wood Johnson who lived here at that time.

Dr. Snyder states that the first plastic surgery resident was Charles Wilson followed by Ghassan Khalil. After the JMH program received approval for a full plastic surgery training program, Peter Stokley arrived from Grady Memorial Hospital. During his two year tenure at The University of Miami, Dr. Snyder with the assistance of Dr. Thomas Zaydon, Senior established the Miami Society of Plastic Surgery following the close association we have with our colleagues in our plastic surgery community.

In 1967, Dr. D. Ralph Millard was appointed interim chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery by Dr. Dean Warren. Peter Stokley (now deceased) was the first resident chosen by Dr. Millard followed by Dr. Walter Garst who went into joint practice with Dr. Millard in 1970 and remained together for approximately 5 years. Dr. S.A. Wolfe returned from Paris in 1975 and they overlapped in practice for about 6 months before starting his own private practice in Miami. Between Stokley, Garst remains somewhat lacking. Les Hovey was the chief resident in 1972 when Dr. Wolfe commenced his plastic surgery training. Dr. Hovey was in the military and became a long-time member of the plastic surgery faculty at Stanford. Following was Gene Tansky who eventually went into practice in Chicago. This began the period of two residents per year. Following Tansky, Wolfe and Gary Burget who had been friends with Walter Garst was in the first year of plastic surgery at Columbia. Garst ended up his second year of plastic surgery at Miami. Dr. Barnie Barrett followed Burget and went into practice in Houston.

In completing 1975, Bill Little arrived in Miami as a resident. Interestingly, he had already completed a plastic surgery residency in Cleveland and desired a second plastic surgery residency. Residents that followed included: Larry Ketch, Bill Riley, Mel Lesavoy and Scott Spear all of whom have made significant contributions to various plastic surgery organizations.

Felix Freshwater, Greg Lovaas, and Buster Mullin completed their training during the later 1970’s and early 1980’s. In addition to the residents, there were a number of fellows who generally stayed for almost 6 months. This built the foundations for today’s residency program.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

In today’s environment, program directors survive within an extremely challenging situation. They must be able to maintain an active clinical practice to cover their salaries as well as keep up and document the ever increasing requirements set forth by accrediting agencies. However, the growth and development of a plastic surgery resident into an independent operating plastic surgeon also has its rewards. The UM/JMH Plastic Surgery program has continued to evolve and develop over the years in order to endure. We currently have six residents (three per year) in a fully accredited independent type plastic surgery training program. Three years ago, we decided to accept applications from only those candidates that have completed a surgical residency which has resulted in an increase number of applicants from which to choose from. Over this period of time, the caliber of residents has continued to improve making selection even more demanding. In addition, we have a hand and micro-surgery fellowship under the stewardship of Dr. Milton Armstrong with two fellows per year. We are in the process of applying for ACGME Accreditation for this program. In collaboration with Dr. Wolfe and Miami Children’s Hospital, we participate in the craniofacial fellowship which is also applying for ACGME accreditation. Lastly, we have had an opportunity to develop a basic science research program in collaboration with the vascular biology laboratory at The University of Miami and employ a full-time research fellow.

Once matriculated into the program, we have each resident immediately involved in a rigorous curriculum that will help them develop a basic fund of knowledge to ultimately practice the speciality of plastic surgery. Present day academic requirements are now based on the concept of outcomes in six so-called “competencies” This demands that our educational program develop a number of initiatives that fulfill these means of measurements. For instance, each Wednesday during our indications conference, our house-staff may be presented with an unknown case for discussion and receive immediate feedback from the faculty with a “report card” of their performance detailing the competencies. On Thursday AM for our weekly didactic sessions, the residents are given quizzes which gauge their capacity to digest a basic quantity of knowledge on a specific plastic surgery topic. Surveys are presented to patients and nurses to assist the faculty in a so-called 360 degree evaluation of their communications skills and professionalism. Special OSCE examinations of simulated clinical incidents are recorded and evaluated with the individual resident to assess their progress in these competencies. We have developed a set of training sessions consisting of video examination, reading assignments, and quizzes to assess their capacity to perform certain surgical procedures prior to actually going into the operating room for the actual surgery. In the future, we hope to work with Plastic Surgery industry to develop and produce actual simulation labs or situations in order to provide our residents with increasing guidance and educational venues. Yes this is a different residency education and program and will continue to evolve as needed.

RICARDO JIMENEZ-LEE

Ricardo Jimenez-Lee was born in Puerto Rico on April 14th, 1971. Following in his father's footsteps, he pursued a career in surgery completing a general surgery residency in 2002 in the University of Puerto Rico program. Afterwards, he completed a breast cancer fellowship at the Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR. During this fellowship his involvement in reconstructive breast surgery generated the idea of combining both the initial management of breast cancer and the subsequent reconstruction by the same surgeon evolved. Therefore, he applied for a plastic surgery residency spot, and was accepted at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Prior to starting his residency, he completed a Microsurgery & Hand Surgery fellowship at the same institution. He met his wife during general surgery residency, subsequently married in 2002, and they have been blessed with two children. Upon his return to Puerto Rico he plans to start a practice and devote part of his time to the improving the availability of reconstructive surgery to his community.

SEAN SIMON

Sean graduated in the top of his class in 1999 from the University of Miami medical school. He continued at the University of Miami for general surgery and plastic surgery training. He became board certified with the American Board of Surgery in March 2005. Sean is married to a prominent local internist and they are blessed with two beautiful girls. Interestingly enough, Sean has an identical twin, Michael, who is a successful Hollywood Urologist. Sean will begin his career in private practice in the South Miami area this summer.

JEFFREY HAMMOUDEH

Dr. Hammoudeh completed a double doctorate at Northwestern University Medical School. After medical school he fulfilled his 3 year pre-requisite in general surgery followed by completion of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery residency at The Mass General Hospital. He subsequently was accepted at University of Miami/JMH Plastic Surgery program and now is in his last year of training in plastic surgery. Dr. Hammoudeh has co-authored several book chapters during his plastic surgery training. Currently Dr. Hammoudeh is one of the senior plastic surgery fellows and after graduation he will be starting a fellowship in Craniofacial Surgery at USC. He will be getting married and moving to Southern California where he plans to practice. I dream to be a BIG TIME player!! Big house, big cars, and BIG money!!!!
**SECOND YEAR RESIDENTS**

**KERRY LATHAM**

Dr. Kerry Latham is one of our first year residents. She was born and raised in the Washington DC area, went to Princeton University and then accepted a commission as an Air Force Officer and attended The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Maryland. She recently completed her General Surgery Residency at UTSA/WHMC in San Antonio, Texas. She remains on active duty status while training in Miami, and plans to be a career Air Force surgeon and then pursue private practice after retirement from the military. Dr. Latham has already been on several humanitarian missions and plans to continue in this endeavor.

**JAY JENOFF**

I am very thankful to be able to continue my training at UM/JMH. I was born in Silver Spring, MD, and raised in Marlton, NJ. I received a B.A. in Biology at Rutgers College in New Brunswick, N.J. in 1995. From there I began medical school at Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University, and subsequently stayed for the next ten years including six years of a general surgery residency. This was my first exposure to plastic surgery, and would influence my future career path. I feel privileged to have obtained a plastic and reconstructive surgery residency spot, and look forward to this next step in my academic and professional development.

**JONATHAN FISHER**

Jonathan G.R.S. Fisher was born in Berkeley, California and spent his formative years in the San Francisco Bay area. Following stints as a marine biological field worker for the University of California at Berkeley in Fiji and French Polynesia, and a theater residency at St. Peter’s College in Oxford, England, he attended Harvard College, and graduated with a degree in Philosophy. Dr. Fisher earned a Master’s Degree in Applied Physiology and his Doctorate of Medicine at Chicago Medical School. He completed his internship in General Surgery and his residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, and was Board Certified in 2004. Dr. Fisher became interested in the challenges of reconstructive surgery when treating head and neck cancer patients in a multidisciplinary setting, and is currently a first year resident. He looks forward to the remainder of his tenure in Miami, and plans to return to the Bay Area.

**HAND AND MICROSURGERY FELLOW**

**JASON HESS**

After medical school at Wright State University, Jason trained in General Surgery for three years at the University of Texas in Houston. He then completed a peripheral nerve research fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. Jason is currently studying hand surgery at the University of Miami and is looking forward to Plastic Surgery training in St. John’s Health System of Southfield, Michigan. His future pursuits are uncertain, but he hopes to continue to research in peripheral nerve regeneration and motor re-innervations after injury.
Michelle DeSouza

A description of myself: I was born in New Jersey, but raised in Kansas where I had all of my education. Now that I’m “not in Kansas anymore,” I am completing my general surgery residency in New Jersey. My interests include tennis, snowboarding, traveling, and most recently, golf. Currently, I don’t know in which field I would like to specialize, but am looking forward to the broad spectrum of plastics.

Mitchell Cassidy

Dr. Mitchell was born in Green Coves Spring, Florida and brought up and received his education in Nebraska. He received a BS in Chemistry from Creighton University and his MD from the same institution in May 2000. He will have completed his full General Surgery residency at The University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics.

Jason Altman

Dr. Altman obtained a BA in Biophysical Engineering from Dartmouth College in 1997. He received his MD from SUNY Stony Brook with high honors in 2001. He will have completed his training as an intern and resident in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Mt Sinai School of Medicine where he participated in a number of research projects resulting in presentations and first author publications.

Research is progressing well in the lab and with upcoming clinical trials. Noor Kassira, the current research fellow, is going to present “Estrogen Deficiency and Smoking Increase Collagenolysis Through MMP-13 Activation in Aging Mice” at the annual PSRC meeting in Dana Point, CA on May 19, 2006. Several grants have been submitted to the PSREF and University of Miami for funding in the coming year. An ADA grant is currently being prepared for submission this summer. Noor is currently working on the effects of estrogen on metalloproteinases in diabetic wound healing in the lab. As for clinical research, we have recently completed an anti wrinkle cream study and are set to begin a Phase 4 antibiotic/complicated skin and skin structure infection trial with Pfizer Inc as well as a facial filler trial with Contura International in the upcoming months.
**JAY GRANZOW SAYS:**

Things have kept me quite busy. Just to catch up, I finished a fellowship in New Orleans last year with Bob Allen in microsurgery and then another fellowship in Melbourne, Australia, with Bryan Mendelson in aesthetic surgery. Afterwards I took the time to visit many other top plastic surgeons around the world and take the time to do some great traveling as well before I start back in Los Angeles. Among everyone I visited were Dr. Tebbetts, Dr. Hamra and Dr. Duffy in Dallas, Texas, Ian Taylor and the Royal Melbourne unit and Wayne Morrison and the St. Vincent’s unit in Melbourne, Dr. Fu-Chan Wei’s unit in Taiwan, Dr. Isao Koshima’s unit in Tokyo, the unit of Dr. Jaume Garcia in Barcelona, Spain, Eva Mithof at Canniesburn and the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow, Scotland, the unit of Philip Blondeel in Gent, Belgium, and the unit of Dr. Venkat Ramakrishnan outside London. I also visited other individuals and hospitals in places such as London, including the Royal Marsden and Royal Free Hospitals for cases. Still on the schedule are visits with additional surgeons, such as Sherrell Aston, Dan Baker and David Hidalgo in NYC.

In Spain I also was able to go to the perforator flap microsurgery meeting at the beginning of October. I had a well received oral paper presentation on SIEA flaps and one of our LSU residents presented another one of our papers as a poster. I also had the chance to assist on the OR for a breast reconstruction with a free SIEA flap for the live conference video demonstration, which went very well. During my travels I also returned to Los Angeles briefly for one week to interview for a full-time faculty position at Harbor-UCLA.

The interviews went great and I was offered and accepted the position. It seems like a great fit and includes a significant private practice component in the practice of Jim Black and Brian Boyd, which I was originally going to join anyway. They are both closely affiliated with UCLA as well, Brian Boyd being full-time and Jim Black being clinical faculty.

**RAJEEV VENUGOPAL SAYS:**

I have been practicing at The University Hospital of The West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica; since my return from Jackson Memorial in January 2001. Plastic Surgery team have established a full time service at this institution and offer weekly clinic with operating schedules being piggy backed on other services due to the constrains on the operating time. This situation has been scheduled to dramatically improve in 2006.

**SABRINA LAHARI SAYS:**

I am working as usual. I just finished my third year in private practice. It has been challenging. I also moved into my new office two weeks ago which is 4500 sf. It includes a full service medical spa. I have two aestheticians now. The new space is very convenient. It is located 2 floors above the surgery center that is physician and hospital owned. Jimmy and I are both partners. Reconstruction continues to be a part of my practice. I have emphasized breast reconstruction so that many women in my community do not have to go to MD Anderson for their treatment. I am sure you will be happy to know that I will never be just a cosmetic surgeon. Jimmy and I bought a small ranch (about 34 acres). We plan on building a house, having horses, and Jimmy wants some cows (funny). It is about 15 minutes from the hospital. Jimmy also bought a ford, king ranch truck. We are fitting in quite well I was inducted as a Fellow of the American of Surgeons this past October Wolf Losken is Professor of Plastic Surgery at University of North Carolina and now only working part time. He went on a Mission to JiuJiang, China and the team operated on 99 children with cleft lip and palate and it brought back memories of all the wonderful pearls that were learnt during the Maytag Fellowship with Dr. Ralph Millard. Wolf was honored at the International Cleft Palate meeting in Durban, South Africa for having started Craniofacial Surgery in South Africa. He was honored by UNC by creating the ‘Wolf and Daisy Craniofacial Research Fellowship’ His son Bert was 2 years old when the family was in Miami. He is now an attending Plastic Surgeon at Emory.

*CONTINUE NEXT PAGE*
AL ALY SAYS:

Well I have just had another baby and now I have two children. A boy and girl. I have left the University of Iowa and I am in private practice in Iowa City. My book entitled "Body Contouring After Massive Weight Loss" is about to be published at the end of this month.

DAVID O’DONOVAN SAYS:

Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Dept. of Plastic Surgery, St James’s Hospital, Dublin 8, Ireland. Our Lady’s Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin Dublin 12, Ireland. Also have a private practice based at the following: Suite 9, Blackrock Clinic, Rock Road, Co. Dublin, Ireland & Suite 4, St James’s Private Clinic, St James’s Hospital, Dublin 8 Ireland. In public practice, specialized areas are pediatric plastic surgery, breast reconstruction, facial reconstruction & skin oncology. In private practice, areas include breast & facial aesthetic surgery & general plastic surgery reconstruction. Recently elected as Secretary of the Irish Association of Plastic Surgeons (IAPS) and as a member of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons (BAPS).

ANTHONY WOLFE SAYS:

The caseload of the Plastic Surgery Service at Miami Children’s Hospital continues to grow at about 20% per year, and is now the third most active surgical service, after ENT and Pediatric Surgery. The University of Miami plastic surgery residents continue to have a busy rotation at Children’s, with the Plastic Surgery faculty consisting of Wolfe, Thaller, Marshall, Garri, Gottenger, and others. The Hand Fellowship begun by Drs. Thaller, Armstrong and Panthaki is becoming a reality, and will include a rotation at MCH.

A film crew has been present at many of the craniofacial conferences putting together ten one hour segments for the Discovery Channel on the Craniofacial Team at MCH, and many of the faculty, fellows, and residents, along with many of the patients, will be featured.

JOE GARRI SAYS:

After the completion of the craniofacial fellowship at UCLA, I joined private practice here in Miami and have just recently celebrated my one year anniversary. My academic endeavors in 2005 include two papers published in the Journal of Craniofacial Surgery as well as being a coeditor along with Dr. Seth Thaller and Dr. James Bradley on a book on craniofacial surgery (due for release next year). My acting career (which started in LA during my fellowship) has also shown some progress and I have a small scene in an upcoming film titled Running with Scissors, due for release in 2006. I’ve continued to stay involved with the UM Plastic Surgery program on a voluntary basis and truly enjoy that aspect of my professional life.

FELIX FRESHWATER SAYS:

Buster Mullin and Felix Freshwater are now sharing office space in a symbiotic manner at 9100 S Dadeland Boulevard in Miami. Buster is practicing primarily cosmetic surgery while Felix is no longer doing cosmetic surgery his practice is over 90% hand surgery. Buster’s phone number still is 305-325-1441. Walter Garst retired in June 2005 and plans to spend more time traveling ad collecting art. Former resident Daniel Gruver will receive the Vasco Nunez del Balboa Award from the President of Panama in May 2006 for his humanitarian work with the Cuna Indians. This award is the Panamanian government’s highest civilian honor. Dan has been retired from private practice for the past two years living in Bismarck North Dakota, but he and Jane are planning to move to Jacksonville.
MEET THE FACULTY

SETH THALLER, M.D.

MILTON ARMSTRONG, M.D.

ZUBIN PANTHAKI, M.D.

LAWRENCE ITELD, M.D.
PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENT’S FUND IS CREATED:

By Dr. Joe Garri

Due to the ever increasing financial pressures on training programs and their impact on resident education, we at UM’s plastic surgery program have started a resident’s education fund, to help with expenses involved in resident travel and lodging for courses and presentations. The fund is being managed by the University of Miami’s fundraising office and will be designated specifically for resident education only. It will be structured in such a way as to protect the principal and allow only for the utilization of interest earned. The suggested contribution from the current alumni of the program is for a total of $5000 evenly divided at $1000 per year for five years. Our initial response has been very positive and we’ve collected over $30,000 in contributions and pledges thus far. Our goal is to collect $100,000 from our existing alumni and hope to continue to inspire contributions from our future graduates to create a fund of $250,000 over the next 10 to 15 years. I am very proud to be involved in this effort; one which I think is extremely worthwhile. If you have not already, expect to hear from me in the not to distant future to request a contribution. On behalf of the current and future residents, I would like to thank you and ask you to give some serious consideration to this project.

The DeWitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery has a number of funds that provide support for research, education and training. Over the next year, our goal in the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery is to fully fund the Plastic Surgery Resident’s Endowment Fund exclusively established to help cover the costs of resident activities such as educational meetings, travel expenses to present abstracts, books, and journals for the resident’s library.

Below is a pledge form for your completion and return. Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions.

Seth R. Thaller, M.D., D.M.D.
Professor and Chief
Division of Plastic Surgery
The DeWitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery
305-585-5285

Jose I. Garri, M.D., D.M.D.
Plastic Surgery
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
305-665-8730

Yes, I want to make a gift!

Yes, I/we want to make a tax deductible gift/pledge to the Plastic Surgery Resident’s Endowment in the amount of $________________. My pledge balance will be paid in ☐ monthly, ☐ quarterly, ☐ semi-annual, or ☐ annual installments of $____________ beginning ____________.

Name (please print) ____________________________
Signature ____________________________
Address ____________________________
E-mail ____________________________
City ____________________ State ____________________ Zip ____________________

☐ Check enclosed (payable to University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
☐ Gift of Stocks & Securities: Please call our office at 305-243-5605
to make a gift of stock or securities.

☐ Information About Estate and Planned Giving: I would like information
about various charitable giving vehicles, including gift that provide me (and/or
another beneficiary) with an income for life.
Or visit www.miami.edu/estateaangiftplanning

Credit Card Payment
☐ Discover
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express

Credit Card # ____________________________ Exp. Date ____________________________
Signature ____________________________

Thank you for your generous gift to the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine!

All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Please mail pledge terms and gifts to
Angelique S. O. Grant, Ph.D.
Director of Miami, Miller School of Medicine
P.O. Box 016960 (R-100) • Miami, Florida 33101
305-243-5605 Phone • 305-243-7450 Fax • agrantl@med.miami.edu
A TRIBUTE TO JOHN DEVINE, M.D.

FELIX FRESHWATER, M.D.

Thinking about John there are two aspects of John’s personality that are most worthy of admiration:
He was passionate about becoming and being a plastic surgeon. When most men of his age were thinking about winding down their surgical careers John was closing his general surgery practice in Virginia and coming to Miami to learn plastic surgery, first as Millard’s fellow and then as a resident.

He probably was the first plastic surgeon to get a Medicare card before a certificate from the board. He loved plastic surgery and until he retired from private practice would continue to take ER call at several hospitals despite the fact that he could have been exempted because of his age.

John was a safe surgeon because he was acutely aware of his limitations as a surgeon and knew when to ask for help. If he was doing a longer case such as a breast reduction he would ask the senior resident at the VA to assist him and he would offer to pay the resident an assistant’s fee. I still remember a couple of complex emergency hand cases that John referred to me early in my career when he believed that it was in the patient’s best interest to be treated by a sub specialist including the first thumb degloving injury that I treated in private practice.

S. ANTHONY WOLFE, M.D.

John Devine spent most of his career in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as a general surgeon. For some reason, he decided that he would like to go into plastic surgery in his mid-60’s, an age at which many of his contemporaries were retiring. He showed up on Dr. Millard’s doorstep, and told him of his desire. Predictably, DRM told him, “Ridiculous, You’re too old.” But John was persistent. DRM had an opening for a fellow at that age, and took John—about 64. John worked like a fiend, and so impressed DRM that he indeed did take John as a resident—in his late 60’s, an age at which many of his contemporaries were thinking about winding down their careers.

With his wife Jean, he bought a house at Bay Point, not far from Millard, and the two of them became more or less friends. In his late 70’s, John retired from active private practice, and took a full-time position as Chief of Plastic Surgery at the VA. He was a mixed blessing for the residents. He did provide some political “cover” for our residents, who had previously been at the mercy of other services since we had no full-time attending. But John also tended to hover over all of their cases, and I felt was often overly “ecumenical”. He often arranged for a general surgery resident to come take off whatever the skin cancer was before our residents did the reconstruction, and often our men were more highly trained and capable than the general surgeon. Towards the end, now in his 80’s, John began to be a bit forgetful, and there were occasions when he went to the VA police and reported that his car had been stolen, when in reality he had forgotten where he parked it.

JOHN CASSEL moved into this space, and Ralph did his residency administrative tasks. His son had a cleft, and I think DRM did an Abbe for him. John also took over all the “non-operative” areas of plastic surgery that DRM looked down his nose at—hair transplants, collagen injections, and so on. John even developed a prototype of a penile prosthesis which he showed at an exhibit at the FMA one year. It was made by Jack Nestor to John’s specifications, was stainless steel, with several articulated joints, and was truly a fearsome object.

Fortunately it was never used, since it probably would have resulted in a fatality. John had the upstairs office space at 1444, and his daughter helped run the office. Later John Cassel moved into this space, and later I took it over, and Deirdre came in too. The building has now been razed and they are building a big condo there.

John took emergency room call at just about every ER in Miami until he was in his early 70’s. With his wife Jean, he bought a house at Bay Point, not far from Millard, and the two of them became more or less friends. In his late 70’s, John retired from active private practice, and took a full-time position as Chief of Plastic Surgery at the VA. He was a mixed blessing for the residents. He did provide some political “cover” for our residents, who had previously been at the mercy of other services since we had no full-time attending. But John also tended to hover over all of their cases, and I felt was often overly “ecumenical”. He often arranged for a general surgery resident to come take off whatever the skin cancer was before our residents did the reconstruction, and often our men were more highly trained and capable than the general surgeon. Towards the end, now in his 80’s, John began to be a bit forgetful, and there were occasions when he went to the VA police and reported that his car had been stolen, when in reality he had forgotten where he parked it. John went into final retirement and he and Jean moved to a retirement home on the West Coast, where, without the stimuli of medical practice, his memory went into a rapid decline before his death. John should be remembered as an incredibly motivated and energetic individual, who more than anything, was devoted to his new specialty of plastic surgery, to DRM, and in particular, to the Plastic Surgery Residency at the University of Miami, for which he did so much. He was a kind and unselfish man.

ROBERT FABRIC, M.D.

I think at one time he was the oldest person to enter and then complete a Plastic Surgery Residency Program. I often wondered what motivated him after having a successful General Surgery practice. Ralph did his facelift. I often felt that they actually had some similarities in their stature. John spent most of his time at the VAH and worked himself up the chain of command. He was very loyal to Ralph and did a lot of the residency administrative tasks. His biggest contribution to plastic surgery was his passion for hair transplants and his dual knife blade device. His donor sites were just a straight line scar. I don’t think he ever did micro transplants.

ALAN RAPPERPOR, M.D.

In his 80’s John ran the VA Program and participated in the Resident selection. His longevity and energy serves as an example for all of us.

JAY ELLENBY, M.D.

A kindly old man who loved hair transplantsations.

LAWRENCE KETCH, M.D.

I was observing a facelift consultation in his office. The patient was there with her husband who was not thrilled with her desire to undergo surgery. He was listening intently and questioning and objecting to all of John’s statements. John finally said “Look I’ve had a facelift”, at which time the man got up walked over to John, looked carefully at him and said: “Well you need another one you son of a bitch.” ! He was always the resident’s friend and advocate, and a true gentleman and scholar. He loved Plastic Surgery and was stimulated to creativity continuously by it.
MEET THE NEW PROFESSORS

DR. LAWRENCE H. ITELD
Assistant Professor
Division of Plastic Surgery

Dr. Lawrence Iteld joined the faculty of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine this past summer as Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery. Larry was born and raised in New Jersey and did his undergraduate training at Rutgers College. He then received his medical degree from the University of Michigan School of Medicine and completed an integrated residency in Plastic Surgery at the University of Chicago Hospitals. He then undertook additional fellowship training in Oncologic and Microvascular Reconstruction at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he also held an appointment as Clinical Specialist.

Dr. Iteld has experience in a broad spectrum of techniques for reconstruction after cancer surgery, including newer free flap procedures such as perforator flaps. His clinical interests focus on reconstructive and aesthetic surgery of the female breast and facial aesthetics. Other areas of interest include reconstruction of head and neck cancer defects, complex reconstruction of the chest wall and extremities, and research in super microsurgery.

DR. JOHN OELTJEN
Assistant Professor
Division of Plastic Surgery

I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska shortly before my father graduated from law school at the University of Nebraska. After a short three weeks we moved to Chicago for my father’s fellowship and then he accepted a job as a Professor at the Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee.

Thus I grew up in Tallahassee, the oldest of four children, with multiple fine memories of water skiing, sailing, camping, and fishing in the great outdoors of the Florida panhandle. On occasion we would venture south to Disney World and that huge metropolis far away called Miami. As a Florida State brat I attended many a Seminole football game and am currently having some reservations of working for one of the many rivals, the Hurricanes.

I graduated high school in 1986, yes my 20th high school reunion is this summer, and matriculated at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. In college I majored in Zoology, but took as many diverse courses as possible including enough credits for a second major in History. Some of my best time in college was spent at the Duke Marine Laboratory on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Beaufort. On a good day I could finish class and be on the water on my Hobie Catamaran sailboat in less than 15 minutes. I liked Beaufort so much that I stayed an extra year after college as a research technician.

On a suggestion by the pre-med advisor at Duke, I interviewed for the MD/PhD program at Baylor College of Medicine in of all places Houston, Texas. After one long weekend there I was sold on the expanse and numerous medical opportunities in the Texas Medical Center. I began the MD/PhD program in 1991 and finally finished in 2000 with a PhD in Molecular Genetics, some post-doctoral research, and the completed MD degree. For my PhD I researched the conservation of non coding DNA across species, using high throughput sequencing and computer analysis to search the genome for important regulatory elements.

After I completed my degrees, I remained at Baylor beginning the Integrated Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Program. Over the past six years I have had an immense exposure to the multiple different facets of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and look forward to sharing and using this training as a member of the University of Miami faculty.

Lastly, on a personal note, in addition to sailing and camping, I enjoy biking, swimming, running, and any other activity that keeps me outside. I have a wonderful loving wife of three years, Stacey, who is finishing her training as an Interventional Cardiologist just across the street at St. Luke’s Texas Heart Institute. With her, we have one child thus far, Christopher, who is giving us more sleepless nights than residency has. The three of us, and the remaining relatives we intend to drag along with us, look forward to living in Miami and becoming part of the University of Miami family.
It has been another exciting year for the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons. This year started out quite challenging, both for the Miami Society and its members, because of the multiple hurricanes that came through South Florida. Miami plastic surgeons are a hardy breed, however, and we have persevered through these trials and emerged stronger than ever.

Our society was forced to change venues and reschedule our first meeting because of hurricane damage. The University helped us at the beginning of the year by hosting a combined event at Perricone’s Marketplace Restaurant to welcome Dr. Charles Butler from MD Anderson who described innovative clinical uses for AlloDerm.

The continued involvement and guidance from many of our senior members has proven to be in-valuable and is greatly appreciated. The academic relationship between the University of Miami - Division of Plastic Surgery and the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons has facilitated many outstanding educational activities. The society gratefully acknowledges Dr. Seth Thaller, chief of the division, for his cooperation, time and interest.

We have continued the tradition established last year of corporate sponsorship for our meetings. This has been very helpful and has significantly contributed to our continuing medical education. The society would like to thank the following sponsors who have made these meetings possible: Mr. Vince Parras of Lifecell Corporation makers of AlloDerm (Nov. 9th, 2005 “Perricone’s Marketplace and Cafe”), Mr. Ken Holtschlag of P.M.T. Corporation makers of tissue expanders (Dec. 20th 2005 “Morton’s Steakhouse”), Mrs. Maria Bernal of Bioform Medical Corporation makers of Radiesse (Jan. 31st, 2006 “Joe’s Stone Crab”), Mr. Pablo Garzon of Inamed Corporation (April 18th, 2006 Fleming’s Restaurant) and Mrs. Linda Kinsky of Mentor Corporation (June 6th, 2006 The Palm).

Dr. Randy Miller has established an educational endowment on behalf on the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons with the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami. Our relationship has become a win-win situation with visits and lectures by internationally recognized professors of plastic surgery and enhanced divisional educational programs that will be opened to our entire membership. Increased vendor sponsorship and our educational endowment have helped with additional support to this year’s plastic surgery visiting professors; Dr. Charles Butler, Dr. L. Scott Levin, American Hand Society Visiting Professor, and Dr. Robert Walton, PSEF Visiting Professor.

Distinguished member recognition goes out to our hard working full-time plastic surgeon and full-time political activist doctor Stephan Baker. Dr. Baker continues to provide us with highly accurate and frequently updated information. Distinguished member recognition also goes out to Dr. Onelio Garcia. While maintaining active membership in the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons, Dr. Garcia is the current president of the Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons. He is responsible for the strong bond between our state plastic surgery society and our local plastic surgery society. Dr. Garcia continues to provide very informative updates regarding office surgery regulations and other specialty issues. These updates have been very appreciated by the society.

The Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons welcomes the new applicants for provisional membership status, Dr. Newman, Dr. Gottenger, and Dr. Iteld. These applications will be evaluated and voted upon during the business meeting of June 6th, 2006. Dr. Max Polo, Dr. Jose Garri, and Dr. Pat Pazmino, were approved for provisional membership last year and will be eligible for vote to full active membership this year at our June 6th 2006 meeting. Dr. Edward Truppman, Dr. Joel Raskin and Dr. Tom Zaydon Sr. have become Life Members of the Society. The outstanding leadership of Dr. Randy Miller (immediate past president) was handed down to Dr. Tom Zaydon Jr. (current president). Dr. Jorge de la Pedraja is the president-elect and Dr. Zubin Panthaki is the Secretary/Treasurer.

On behalf of the Miami Society of Plastic Surgeons, we would like to wish the University alumni and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous year!

HASSLE-FREE DRIVING IN SOUTH FLORIDA

All Italian sports cars are the same, right? Performance is great, but the price is that they are fragile, temperamental beasts; unreliable, best reserved for the weekend, needing constant cosseting to keep running. That theory does not apply to Maserati, and Dr. Zubin Panthaki is part of the proof. Zubin owns a 2003 Maserati Coupe Cambiocorsa, purchased from The Collection. It’s not a ‘trophy’ car; it is his daily driver, and in 18 months he has clocked up over 20,000 trouble-free miles, mostly in southern Florida - he is Assistant Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Miami. Zubin specializes in reconstructive rehabilitation of fire and accident victims.
PLASTIC SURGERY’S OBSERVERSHIP AT
JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

SARAH FERNANDEZ:

The life of a medical student on a surgical rotation is often a difficult one plagued by long hours, high-stress surgeries, and challenging material, relieved only by the occasional “hands-on” experience (typically consisting of placing a few subcuticular sutures, or holding a retractor). Thus it was with a slight amount of trepidation that I approached my plastic surgery rotation at the University of Miami School of Medicine in the Fall 2005 semester.

Not surprisingly, the rotation certainly met my expectations in terms of the hours and degree of difficulty. However, I was pleasantly taken aback by the enthusiasm of the faculty and residents to not only welcome a medical student to the team, but to make me feel like a contributing member of that team from the first day. The attendings and residents never missed an opportunity to teach not only the theory but the practical techniques of the surgeries which we performed. No matter how long the case, they always encouraged me to participate. As I sutured for hours in the OR, or assessed patients in clinic, I suddenly began to feel like a physician rather than a token observer. And in turn, reading about my patients and their surgeries became part of my role as their doctor, rather than a student’s chore.

My experience with the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine has led me to the decision to pursue a career as a plastic surgeon. I continue to stay as involved with the department as possible, and am very grateful to them for providing me with such a wonderful introduction to the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

ADRIANA GOMEZ & LUZ CORREA, MEDICAL STUDENTS FROM COLUMBIA:

YES, it is possible. The University of Miami offers the observership program for medical students, physicians and residents who are interested. It is a very easy thing to do you just need the interest and to provide some information about your rotation period and your interest. You can look for the information and the application form in the internet. The William J. Harrington Training Medical Program for Latin America has an excellent relationship with the University of Miami and is another way to make your dreams come true. Programs such as The William J. Harrington Training Medical Program for Latin America are an important way of preparing Latin American physicians to become leaders of medical education and research when they return to their countries of origin. This observership has made all the difference in our lives. We certainly hope the program will continue to expand, allowing physicians, students and educators to improve their skills.

Be the proud owner of a University of Miami Alumni tie
and help support the Resident’s Trust Fund.

The ties are $100.00 + $10.00 Shipping & Handling,
all proceeds will go to the Residents Trust Fund.

Please place your orders directly with the
Division of Plastic Surgery at:
1611 N.W. 12th Avenue, ET3019, Miami, FL 33136
or call your order in to 305-585-5285.
Caught in the Act at the 2005 Graduation and Visiting Professors

Graduation 2005

Drs. Iteld, Levin, & Thaller

New format for In-service

Dr. Firmin from France

Dr. Robert Simon

Dr. Spira & Dr. Baker

Residents hard at work

Dr. Robert Walton
Caught in the Act at the Community Events

University of Miami Wellness Center Mardi Gras Expo

Chambers South Business Expo March 28, 2006

Jackson South Health Fair May 8, 2006

NBC6 Health & Fitness Expo Miami Beach Convention Center April 29 & 30, 2006
We would like to thank the following sponsors...

ALLERGAN INAMED

ETHICON
a Johnson & Johnson company

INTEGRA

MENTOR

PROCYTE CORPORATION

MIAMI SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS