

# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

**Our new dean, Dr. Tim Dellit, is on a mission to support medical students.**

Following a national search, Dr. Timothy H. Dellit has been appointed to serve as the CEO of UW Medicine, the Paul G. Ramsey Endowed Dean of the UW School of Medicine and the university's executive vice president for medical affairs, positions he has held on an interim basis since July 2022.

Dellit now oversees the School of Medicine, one of the largest in the country with more than 5,000 students and trainees, 32 clinical and biomedical research departments, and multiple research institutes and centers.

"UW Medicine is truly special, with our innovative School of Medicine serving the five-state WWAMI region; our excellence in clinical care combined with world-leading research; our values and our unique role serving the most vulnerable in our communities; and, most importantly, our amazing faculty, staff, trainees and students," said Dellit.

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Dellit earned his MD from Cornell University Medical College. He completed his residency in internal medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and his fellowship in infectious diseases at UW Medicine.

"I came here 21 years ago for my infectious disease fellowship and stayed because of the people and the unique role UW Medicine, and particularly the School of Medicine, plays in our community," said Dellit. "Our students who go on to become tomorrow's medical leaders are at the heart of our mission to improve the health of the public."

### Supporting future medical leaders with scholarships

Dellit and his wife, nursing leader Elizabeth McNamara, are personally committed to supporting students through scholarships. They established an endowed MD scholarship in recognition of the impact of the increasing cost of medical

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education and the importance of supporting future medical leaders who are dedicated to serving our communities.

The Rickey R. Dellit Endowed Scholarship is named after Dellit's father, Rick, who was the son of a Methodist minister in rural Iowa. Rick knew at an early age that he was gay at a time when the expression of his self-identity was not accepted. Growing up, Dellit visited his father in Philadelphia, where he developed a strong appreciation for the closeness of the gay community and an awareness of the discrimination and harm his

father and others experienced.

Dellit witnessed firsthand the devastating health and societal effects of HIV/AIDS with the death of his father and most of his father's friends. Rick Dellit died in 1992, prior to the introduction of combination antiretroviral therapy. This experience had a profound impact on Dellit, shaping his interest in infectious diseases and the intersection between medicine and the communities we serve.

The new endowed scholarship will support MD students across the WWAMI region with financial need.

"One of my biggest priorities as dean is to promote endowed scholarships to decrease the financial burden on our students so that they have the freedom to pursue their interests in medicine," said Dellit. "Liz and I also hope that others might be inspired to join us in supporting scholarships." ●

*Written by Nicole Beattie*

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of our alumni newsletter! We've been working hard on some exciting updates to enhance your experience as an alum of the UW School of Medicine.

**Alumni survey:** We conducted an alumni survey in January. This survey was sent via email to all alumni across the School's programs. Thank you for your feedback! We'll report back soon about what we learned.

**Website refresh:** We're updating our website to better serve you. With improved accessibility, easier navigation and an increase in resources to help you reconnect with your classmates and the School, we

believe the new site will be a valuable tool for you. Stay tuned for our new look at [uwmedalumni.org](http://uwmedalumni.org)!

**Connect with us on social media:** Visit [uwmedalumni.org](http://uwmedalumni.org) to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. To make sure you don't miss out on any updates, please let us know your current email address at [uwmedalumni.org/update-your-info](http://uwmedalumni.org/update-your-info).

Let's stay in touch! Please send your comments to [medalum@uw.edu](mailto:medalum@uw.edu).

**Blair Washington, MD '02, MHA '97**  
President, UW School of Medicine  
Alumni Association



# 5 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

From continuing education to local meetups, see what the Alumni Association can offer you.

Since 1950, the UW School of Medicine Alumni Association has been here to support our alumni and provide a community of connection. However, even some of our long-time alumni may not know about all the wonderful programs and services we offer. Find out what you may have been missing out on — and please share with a colleague who may be interested!

**1. You are one of thousands of graduates of the UW School of Medicine.** The School has over 32,000 alumni, and graduating from any program makes you a member of the alumni association. This includes MD, MD/PhD, residents, fellows, PhD, PA-C (MEDEX), MA, MS, BS, PT/DPT, OT and P&O alumni.

**2. Alumni awards aren't just for MDs.** Do you know a fellow alum who is achieving remarkable things? Honor them with an alumni award nomination! Submissions open in fall every year, and graduates from any of our programs are eligible for awards.

**3. We offer convenient online sessions for CME credit.** Did you know that as an alum, you

can earn CME credit by joining the Department of Medicine's Grand Rounds? These live online lectures are held twice a month and are open to all alumni. Visit our website to learn more about upcoming topics and to sign up.

**4. We're planning fun events around the WWAMI region and beyond.** We're working hard to expand our presence outside of western Washington through our happy hour series in Seattle, Portland, Boise and Anchorage. Let us know where we should go next!

**5. Your classmates want to hear what you're up to.** We asked, and you answered: Updates from fellow classmates are the best part of the alumni newsletter! Did you get married? Start a new position? Move across the country? Make a breakthrough in research? Whether it's professional or personal news, we would love to share your milestones with your fellow alumni. Keep us updated! ●

Learn about these and more great alumni benefits at [uwmedalumni.org/fivethings](http://uwmedalumni.org/fivethings)

# ALUMNI CONNECT



*A & B: Alums create their own cocktails at a mixology class in Portland, Oregon. C & D: Alums root for the home team at a Seattle Sounders match. E & F: Alums and friends enjoy a casual gathering at The Collective in Seattle. G: The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented at Reunion 2023. H: Alums from the MD class of '93 having fun at Reunion 2023.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 15:**  
Match Day for UW School of Medicine students

**MARCH 30:** National Doctors' Day

**APRIL 4:** Husky Giving Day

**APRIL 26:**  
Anchorage Alumni Happy Hour, location TBD.  
Register at [uwmedalumni.org/anchorage](http://uwmedalumni.org/anchorage)

**MAY 7:**  
Physical Therapy Student-Alumni Networking,  
Vista Café, Seattle. 6–8 p.m.  
Register at [uwmedalumni.org/ptnetwork](http://uwmedalumni.org/ptnetwork)

**MAY 31–JUNE 2:**  
Alumni Reunion Weekend, The Lodge at  
St. Edward Park (see page 6 for details)

**Stay updated on the latest Alumni Association events at [uwmedalumni.org](http://uwmedalumni.org)!**

# CLASS NOTES

Here are just a few of the wonderful Class Notes we've received from you and your classmates! Read more and submit yours at [uwmedalumni.org/classnotes](http://uwmedalumni.org/classnotes).



Richard Honsinger II, MD '63, Res. '69, visits with his great-grandkids.

## MD

**Richard Honsinger II, MD '63, Res. '69** (internal medicine), writes, "Sorry to miss Reunion. Grandchild wedding more important. Practicing internal medicine and allergy immunology at Los Alamos, New Mexico, since 1969. Still active with three-day-per-week consultative practice, UNM clinical professor, editorial and review boards of major allergy journals, still active on IM and Allergy Association boards. Widowed, five kids, 12 grandkids, eight greats."



**Tony Komaroff, MD '67**, writes, "I continue as a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and senior physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. I ended my practice in 2015 and now spend all my time on research. With support from NIH, I study two very similar illnesses: long COVID and chronic fatigue syndrome. I also study human herpesvirus-6A and -6B, which are increasingly being linked to several important diseases.

Several of the problems I studied were initially controversial, but I thought they were important and pushed ahead. I would encourage medical students to have the courage of their convictions. My wife, Lydia Villa-Komaroff, and I celebrated our 53rd anniversary in 2023. Friends, music, movies, books, travel and community service round out our non-work lives."



**John Williams, MD '68, PhD**, writes, "I am now an active emeritus professor at the University of Michigan after

33 years as a professor of physiology and internal medicine. Twenty-one years were spent as chair of molecular and integrative physiology. I just published my memoir, 'The Pancreas and Me: My Life as a Biomedical Scientist.' It is open access and can be found at [fulcrum.org/maizebooks](http://fulcrum.org/maizebooks)."

**Arno Weiss Jr., MD '70**, writes, "Finished general surgery in 1974. Started head and neck residency in 1974, finished in 1977; finished plastic surgery residency in 1979. Went into practice in Saginaw, Michigan, at St. Luke's, which became Covenant, and retired in 2021 due to personal health problems. Ran a free craniofacial cleft palate clinic for 20 years. Really miss my patients and surgery. Do what you love and never look back! My wife of 56 years and I have two doctor daughters and four grandchildren. They're great!"

**Carrie Sylvester, MD '70, Res. '81** (pediatric psychiatry), **Res. '83** (psychiatry and behavioral sciences), writes, "I'm semi-retired, doing limited

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Raymond Vath, MD '65, Res. '69**, writes, "I, with two other physicians, developed the MEDEX physician assistant program to assist overburdened physicians, primarily in rural areas. It was very successful and spread across the country. For my work in MEDEX and Mercy Corps, I was awarded the Humanitarian Award by the UW School of Medicine Alumni Association.

"I started a private practice that quickly filled and added several partners. I also supervised residents as a clinical instructor and was gradually promoted to associate professor.

"I served on the UW Foundation subcommittee on medical student scholarships. When I started, there was one scholarship fund. I suggested each graduating class sponsor a scholarship, and when I left, we had created 300 scholarships. Our class of 1965 has raised more than any other class. I thank all my classmates for their support in this project."

*Read more from the Class of '65 at [uwmedalumni.org/classnotes65](http://uwmedalumni.org/classnotes65).*

locum tenens mainly in West Coast locations. I particularly enjoyed my time as director of education in child and adolescent psychiatry at Northwestern University. Sorry to miss the reunion — I was in Melbourne, Australia, visiting one of my brothers who emigrated there over 50 years ago."



Top: Bridget Marvin Smith, MD '13 (and family). Bottom: Peter Angleton, MD '88, Res. '89 (internal medicine) with friend.



**Reginald Finger, MD '81**, writes, "After career stints as state public health epidemiologist in Kentucky,

work with the health department in Colorado Springs, Focus on the Family, and as a researcher and advocate for embryo adoption, I have just completed a 10-year tenure on the faculty of the Master of Public Health program at Indiana Wesleyan University.

"In retirement, I am involved in several volunteer capacities with my undergraduate alma mater, Northwest Nazarene University, near our home here in Nampa, Idaho. In 2023, I received the Alumnus of the Year award from Northwest Nazarene University Alumni Association. I have been very happily married to Annette since 1982 and have two grown children."

**Robert "Rocky" Kerr, MD '82**, writes, "Out of medical school, I did a rotating internship at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, then a year of general medical practice in Red Lodge, Montana. I completed an internal medicine residency in Spokane and a second residency in emergency medicine in Orlando. I also have military medicine experience as a naval medical officer, primarily serving with the Marine Corps, and was deployed into theater for Desert Storm and twice in Iraq. My wife, an ICU nurse, and I have been to Honduras, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic for medical missions. We still volunteer at Union Gospel Mission and Providence community clinics in Spokane. I help out on the family ranch in Montana as a ranch hand and love the outdoors, sailing, painting and drawing."

**Linda Fearn, MD '83**, writes, "After five years of general internal medicine practice, followed by more than 27 years in college health,



Your UW School of Medicine

# Reunion Weekend

NOW AT THE LODGE AT ST. EDWARD PARK

Friday, May 31, through Sunday, June 2

[uwsomreunion.org](http://uwsomreunion.org)

**Celebrating the classes and E-years of**

- 1954 (E-50) • 1959 (E-55) • 1964 (E-60)
- 1969 (E-65) • 1974 (E-70) • 1979 (E-75)
- 1984 (E-80) • 1989 (E-85) • 1994 (E-90)
- 1999 (E-95) • 2004 (E-00) • 2009 (E-05)
- 2014 (E-10) • 2019 (E-15) and the 50-Year Association (all alumni of 50+ years)

I retired from clinical practice in 2020. Now I teach part-time for the Idaho WWAMI program and enjoy interacting with the faculty and our remarkable students who help me keep learning about medicine."

**Peter Angleton, MD '88, Res. '89** (internal medicine), writes, "Aloha — sorry to miss the reunion. 39 years! I've been in Boise most of that time practicing emergency medicine. Jan and I have four children scattered about the country, none of them doctors. In 2018, I downshifted into a job at Kula Hospital in upcountry Maui. It's EM 'lite' — six or seven 24-hour shifts/month with low patient volumes and acuity and limited diagnostics. Jan and I shuttle back to our permanent home in Idaho for a 2-3 week break about every 3-6 weeks."



**A. Patrice Burgess, MD '90,** writes, "In 2023, I was selected as the chief medical officer for the Saint Alphonsus

Health System, based in Boise, Idaho. I'm the first woman to serve in this position. Very grateful to have this opportunity. I'm also fortunate to be able to continue to care for a small panel of patients in my family medicine practice with the support of my partners."

**Walter Medlin, MD '93,** writes, "Hi to everybody who wasn't able to make it to Reunion. This was the first reunion I ever attended for anything, and I was very pleasantly surprised. Highly recommend. Still can't believe I'm allowed to be a surgeon and how amazing it can be. Look me up if in SLC!"

**Albert Yan, MD '96,** writes, "Stepped down as chief of dermatology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2020. While it's still my day job, I have been devoting more time to a startup project called EDVYCE, an app to help

facilitate informal 'curbside' communication and education among medical clinicians. We've been growing by word-of-mouth and would love to have more clinicians involved. Please visit us at [edvyce.health](http://edvyce.health) to learn more!"

**Halmanot (Monnie) Wasse, MD '97,** writes, "I hold an MD from the University of Washington School of Medicine (1997) and an MPH (1993) from the University of Washington School of Public Health. I was named the interim chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Rush Medical College in Chicago. In addition to my interim chair position, I am the Muehrcke Family endowed professor of nephrology, chief of nephrology and the director of interventional nephrology at Rush University Medical Center."

**Bridget Marvinsmith, MD '13,** writes, "I'm currently the primary care medical director and family physician at the first value-based care network in northern New England, in Portsmouth, NH. My spouse, Greg, and I have been mostly in the Northeast since UWSOM graduation and welcomed three kids since then. We have now settled in the seacoast New Hampshire area and plan to stay. Although we love it here, we miss Seattle, the PNW and our UW friends very much. I am so grateful to be a family physician. I am perhaps most proud of sharing the joys and satisfaction of the field with medical students who have never considered



Walter Medlin, MD '93

it. I daresay I may have helped a few realize it is right for them."

**Brian Iutzi, MD '14,** writes, "I'm currently the medical director for EMS, co-medical director of Ilanka Clinic, SART medical director, ER physician and clinic physician in a small town in Alaska. Training for my sixth marathon. My advice for current medical students and recent graduates: Know your limits. Limits can be pushed for some of us, but make sure to know who you are and push the limits in residency when there is a safety net to know what you are able to do and not."

## Residency/Fellowship

**Phillip F. Chance, MD, Res. '85** (neurology), **Fel. '85** (medical genetics), writes, "Retired from the UWSOM in 2010, I am enjoying returning to music as a founding member (contrabass clarinet) and technical director of the Seattle Wind Symphony. I am also the regular audio engineer for a dozen orchestral and choral groups in the greater Seattle area, producing recordings for archival purposes, CD production and FM broadcast." ●



## STAY CONNECTED

Every month we share an email that features news about alumni, the UW School of Medicine and healthcare. Make sure we have your email so you never miss out.

[uwmedalumni.org/connect](http://uwmedalumni.org/connect)

# FROM FIRST RESPONDER TO FIRST-GENERATION MEDICAL STUDENT

How scholarships are helping Kathrynne Mitchell, a former firefighter and paramedic, pursue her dream of becoming a doctor and giving back to her Alaska community.

**A**laska is an amazing place to live — but it's a challenge to get health-care. In a village, you might have only one part-time doctor. Urgent care can be a big problem. As people grow older, they wonder if they can get the care they'll need.

It's a big reason why I want to go back and be part of the solution.

## **A childhood dream becomes a reality**

Since first grade, I wanted to become a doctor, but that dream didn't seem realistic. I didn't know anyone from my community who had gone to medical school.

However, I did have friends who'd become first responders, so after high school, I earned my certification. We handled fire and medical emergencies. I loved it!

But then I met other paramedics who were applying to medical

school. I learned I could attend UW School of Medicine and train in Alaska through WWAMI.

Suddenly, what seemed like a childhood fantasy became real.

## **Scholarships help me care for my community**

I've been very grateful for scholarships like the Alaska WWAMI Endowed Scholarship. It makes a huge difference. Thanks to scholarships, I won't have to worry so much about the cost of my education.

For me, medicine means bringing all the things I've learned back to Alaska. I also want to inspire more young people to enter healthcare.

I look at being a doctor as community service that I get to do, not that I have to do. And that's awesome. ●

Read more of Kathrynne's story at [give.uwmedicine.org/kathryne](https://give.uwmedicine.org/kathryne)



*As told to Nicole Beattie*

PHOTO BY BRIAN DALBALCON

## **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON HUSKY GIVING DAY**

**April 4** is Husky Giving Day, when our community comes together to generously support our mission. Giving is stronger when everyone gives together! Your caring gift to the UW Medicine Alumni Fund will support in-person, community-building events for students, ones like the White Coat Ceremony that create lasting memories and impact.



**MAKE YOUR HUSKY GIVING DAY GIFT** now by scanning this QR code or online at:

[uwmedalumni.org/alumni2024](https://uwmedalumni.org/alumni2024)