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## Looking back with an eye to the future

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*A soon-to-graduate medical student takes time to reminiscence about his four years of medical school and the deeds of his class.*

**By Daniel H. Fulkerson**  
**President, Class of 1998**

I remember the first day of medical school when Dr. Robert Harris informed us that if we did not know the structure and category of every amino acid by now, we had better know it tomorrow. This was one of the many times I reconsidered law school.

We muddled through and by second year, we were unleashed on the unsuspecting hospital wards. Strong on book knowledge but short on experience, we interviewed patients. One of my classmates spent an hour exploring his patient's diabetes, heart problems and social situation. Finishing, the student asked, "Is there anything else?" The man replied, "Doc, haven't you noticed that I'm completely blind?"

We began third-year eager and confident. We were quickly shown our place. I spent a month on the pediatric surgery rotation at Riley. I had to re-learn how to drive in traffic after weeks of arriving at the hospital at 3:30 a.m. and leaving after 10 p.m.

Someone had asked one of the faculty why we had to get there so early. The faculty member replied, "So you get a good parking spot."

"Buy why do we have to leave so late?" the student queried.

"So you can always find your car," replied the faculty member.

This was another time I reconsidered law school.

Fourth-year came and we all got serious about our career choices. Our class is very talented academically and we matched people to residencies in places such as the Mayo Clinic, Michigan and Harvard. Many chose to remain in Indiana.

In characterizing our class, I am most proud of our commitment to charity and service.

Students helped provide medical care to the homeless with work in shelters and through the Evening of the Arts, an annual variety show and fundraiser. Through a clothing drive, our class was one of the largest contributors to the Family Support Center in 1996.

Two of our classmates organized the Spring House Calls, where medical students perform construction, painting, planting and maintenance in a low-income community. This project grows each year. Our class officers established a position of “volunteer service coordinator” in the Medical Student Council to ensure continued support for charitable events.

It has been a great four years for me. I would recommend this medical school to anyone. I am confident that IU has prepared me for my career. I also leave knowing that I have made many lifelong friends. I look forward to seeing my classmates pursue academic careers, do missionary work and thrive in primary care practices.

I’m graduating, but I never did learn those amino acids.

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## **BRIEFS**

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### **IUSM graduation**

On Sunday, May 10, 280 of Indiana’s newest physicians will take the Hippocratic oath after graduation ceremonies at the RCA Dome and Indiana Convention Center.

The processional for students receiving degrees from IUPUI will begin at 2:30 p.m. with formal ceremonies beginning at 3 p.m.

The event should conclude by 4:30 p.m., at which time IUSM graduates, their family and friends will adjourn to Hall A at the Convention Center for the awarding of their diplomas and taking of the oath.

# Clinic dedicated

The Lilly Research Clinic on the IU Medical Center campus was dedicated April 30.

The 90,000-square-foot facility is located on two floors atop the Outpatient Center of Indiana University Hospital. Cost of the new clinic was \$17 million.

The new Lilly Clinic is designed to be the nation's most advanced center for initial evaluations of new medicines. The facility has examining rooms, laboratories, pharmacy and computer centers, living quarters and recreational facilities for up to 58 volunteers who participate in the clinic's studies.

"The scientific collaborations and interactions between Lilly Clinic and IU scientists have long benefited both organizations, said Robert Holden, MD, IUSM dean. "Faculty members in the medical school enthusiastically welcome the presence of this prestigious facility on our campus."

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## Introducing --

## Associate Dean Joseph Chu

On May 1, Joseph Chu, MD, MPH, assumed his new position as associate dean for student and curricular affairs. He succeeds Ann Richmond, PhD, who resigned in August 1997.

His appointment includes professorships in medical education, public health, and obstetrics and gynecology.

Dr. Chu said he will assess the needs of the students before forming any plans. He is, however, a strong advocate of computer literacy and student research.

"My main hope is to be able to give students the opportunities to learn things that they need to know to develop their careers," he said.

Dr. Chu, a native of Chicago, most recently has been assistant dean for curriculum at the University of Washington School of Medicine. A faculty member since 1981, he served serving as an associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Department of Epidemiology with the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and the Division of Public Health Sciences at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Dr. Chu received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine and his master's degree in public health from the University of Washington School of Public Health. He completed an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Washington.

He and his wife Jeannie have one daughter, Emily, 11.

## **Chairman Michael Koch**

Michael Koch, MD, began his duties as the new chairman of the Department of Urology on April 23.

He succeeds John Donohue, MD, who served as chairman of the department for 23 years, resigning in 1994.

Dr. Koch said he is very interested in developing the urology oncology program by building the clinical practice and by increasing the focus on both clinical and basic science research.

“I am interested in expanding the urology practice at IU, particularly in prostate and bladder cancers,” he said. “Indiana currently is a world leader in the treatment of testes cancer. I would like to bring its reputation for the treatment of prostate and bladder cancers up to the same level.”

Dr. Koch received his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School. He completed an internship and residency at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

Dr. Koch has been on faculty at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine since 1987 where he was an associate professor and the vice chairman of the Department of Urology. He was actively involved in redesigning hospital functions to improve efficiency and patient care. He also has served as the chief of urology at Veterans Administration Medical Center in Nashville for the past 11 years.

He and his wife Hannah are the parents of two daughters, Sarah, 15, and Emily, 13.

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## **Alumni weekend includes honors, luncheon and golf**

**Dozens of IUSM graduates will be on campus Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, for the annual alumni weekend.**

Events for Friday will include a CME course, a golf outing, and dinner receptions in the evening for all alumni, the J.O. Ritchey Society and individual class reunions.

Saturday's events will include a walking tour of the campus, and the 51st annual "strawberry shortcake" awards luncheon.

The unveiling of the bust of Walter J. Daly, MD, dean emeritus of IUSM, will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in the lobby of the Medical Research and Library Building. The sculptor, Ben Wilson, MD, a 1948 IUSM graduate, will be present at the unveiling. Dr. Wilson also sculpted the bronze bust of Dean Emeritus Glenn Irwin Jr., MD, which already graces the lobby. He is sculpting the bust of Steven Beering, MD, former dean at IUSM and current president of Purdue University.

During the weekend of events, Jane Henney, MD, class of 1973, will receive a distinguished alumni award, and Stuart Kleit, MD, and Panayotis Iatridis, MD, will receive the Glenn W. Irwin Distinguished Faculty Award.

David Wolfe, MD, class of 1982, will receive a distinguished alumni award during the Friday, May 8, senior banquet at which he will be the keynote speaker.

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## History of Medicine lecture slated

The JSB History of Medicine Society will present "Highlights of the Development of Neurosurgery: Focus on Indiana University Medical Center," at 4 p.m. Monday, May 4, in room 301 of the Ruth Lilly Medical Library.

Robert Campbell, MD, professor of neurosurgery, will present the lecture.

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