



Neufeld Society Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 1

Spring 1999



From the President

Robert L. Horner '53-A

Several important events occurred in early March and all of them concern our

own Virchel E. Wood '60:

• *March 6, 1999*—The Happy 65th Birthday Party for Dr. Wood. Hosted by Philip Reiswig '61 and the department, many former residents and at least half of sixty-seven hand surgery fellows, along with family members, friends, and faculty attended. For photos and the story, turn to page 3.

• *March 7 - 8, 1999*—The well-attended Annual Orthopaedic Symposium Program, chaired by Dr. Wood, was very

successful and featured outstanding speakers.

• *March 9, 1999*—The APC Banquet, held at the Ontario Convention Center. Dr. Wood was recognized as an Honored Alumnus by the Loma Linda University School of Medicine Alumni Association.

What an inspiration Woody has been to all of us in the Neufeld Society. He has brought credit and honor to us, to our society, and the LLUSM orthopaedic surgery department. We have recognized him with words and now it is time for each of us to contribute personally to the Virchel E. Wood Fund. We need to find other sources of funds from our patients, companies, publishers, and foundations. *As of May 31, 1999, the fund*

has received \$45,108 of its \$500,000 goal.

I, too, have goals for the Neufeld Society:

• Committing at least 50% of the Virchel Wood Fund.

• *Doubling the number of the Neufeld Society's life members.* Right now, we have 29 with two having joined just this year. The three-year payment option makes the \$1500 life membership dues more affordable than ever.

• Publishing *The History of Orthopaedic Surgery at Loma Linda University.* Under the guidance of Managing Editor George Summers, PhD, the book is well on its way to completion. Submissions of photographs, memories, and other written materials may be sent to the LLUSM orthopaedic surgery department until the July 1, 1999, deadline.

It is an honor to be your president this year and I appreciate the help of the society board in meeting our goals. □



From the Chairman

William P. Bunnell, MD, Chair
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, LLUSM

APC '99 was a great success. Virchel Wood

'60 organized an excellent program on current issues in hand surgery, anchored by James Doyle, MD, who delivered the Harold Boyd lecture entitled "Surgical Approaches in the Upper Extremity." (See APC '99 photos on page 2.)

The department hosted a 65th birthday celebration for Dr. Wood attended by over 250 people. (See story on page 3.) Family, friends, and colleagues gave wonderful tributes to his clinical expertise and commitment to teaching. Dr. Wood inspired the crowd when he spoke on the "holy work of medicine" which we undertake every day.

We are in the midst of numerous faculty changes. Micheal J. Coen '95-Res, joined

our group this past April, after completing a sports medicine fellowship at the University of Kentucky. Prior to his fellowship, he had practiced in Ohio for two and a half years. Karim Abdollahi '99-Res, will complete his hand fellowship in August and join our faculty. He is a graduate of University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School and completed an orthopaedic residency at USC. Barry E. Watkins '93, a 1998 graduate of our program, who has been working in a staff position this past year, will begin a hand fellowship with us in August.

Since joining our group in August 1998, Wayne Pan, MD, PhD, and former resident Timothy Peppers '92 have had a very successful start to their practices. We are also recruiting a trauma surgeon in anticipation of Philip Reiswig's '61 retirement

at the end of this year.

Four orthopaedic residents and three hand fellows will graduate in June and August, respectively. One of these residents scored in the 98th percentile and another in the 99th percentile on this year's orthopaedic in-training exam. Overall, our program scored in the 80th percentile.

Bobby Dagostino, RN, retired this spring, having served as the department's nurse manager for twenty-seven years. Though she will be sorely missed, we wish her many happy and fulfilling years in retirement.

We recently opened a satellite office just off Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino. This facility has greatly enhanced our ability to deliver orthopaedic care, and patient satisfaction levels have increased dramatically. The same building also houses the Peterson Tribology Laboratory, which had outgrown its former facilities. The Peterson Lab continues to make excellent progress in establishing itself as one of the premier tribology labs in the world. □

APC '99



Neufeld Society



SNAPSHOTS

Peterson Tribology Lab: Research Update

Ian C. Clarke PhD, Director of Orthopaedic Research

In the last two years the Peterson Tribology Laboratory has been very active in evaluating proposed alternatives to 2.5 Mrad UHMWPE for hip implants. We have run one study on extensively cross-linked PE (100 Mrad) from Japan (H. Oonishi, MD) and two hip-simulator wear studies of the all-metal (M-M) 28mm Metasul hip joints (Sulzer, Inc.). The latter was a collaboration between LLUMC and Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden.

We also conducted an all-ceramic (C-C) wear study with 28mm alumina femoral heads and cups (Kyocera, Inc.) as a collaboration between LLUMC and Osaka Minami National Hospital, Osaka, Japan. Both studies represented the most extensive set of wear

data published to date. In collaboration with Biomet, Inc., we have also studied experimental combinations of zirconia heads/alumina cups and all-zirconia THRs using implants (C-C) from French and German ceramic companies (Norton, Inc. and CeramTek, Inc., respectively). As a result of this work, the laboratory has developed several new techniques and now uses 50% concentration of alpha-calf serum (a low protein lubricant) to measure accurately the ultra-low wear rates unique to ceramics.

With these new wear data, I have been waving the flag for the LLUSM orthopaedic surgery department in various countries. This year's venues have included the Orthopaedic Research Society in Anaheim, Cali-

fornia, the "Twenty-fifth Year Anniversary of CeramTek" symposium in Stuttgart, Germany, and invited lectures at the Sicot meeting in Sydney, Australia, and the American Ceramics Society in Indianapolis, Indiana, this past April. In May, the Tribology Lab will be presenting at the American Lubrication Society meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Upcoming invited talks include the Japanese ORS and International Ceramic Symposium in Nara, Japan, in November 1999. I have frequently referred to the Peterson Tribology Lab at LLU as the "yet-to-be-famous tribology lab." My goal this year is to change that phrase to the "most well-known tribology lab in the world."



Celebrating Woody's 65th Birthday

by Philip H. Reiswig '61

Dr. Hanson's jazz band, Big Gospel, provided good music and the Wong Kerlee catering staff provided the good food for a wonderful celebration honoring the 65th birthday of Virchel "Woody" E. Wood, Jr. '60. Guests traveled from as far away as Florida, South Carolina, New Jersey and Alaska to pay tribute to Dr. Wood.

Orthopaedics Chair William P. Bunnell, MD, after describing what he thought was the perfect faculty member, noted Dr. Wood

better treat him well because things have gone really well for us." Sharon Kalina '93-Res related her experiences when she first came here to interview and how awed she was by the variety of clinical materials she saw and how humbly Dr. Wood went about his business. Former fellows, including Drs. Ling, Grindel and Kirschenbaum told of their experiences in the clinic in a very humorous manner by way of comedic skits to describe Dr. Wood's meticulous record keeping. School of Medicine Dean Brian S. Bull '61, brought to light the broad range of Dr. Wood's accomplishments, including his extensive and well-recognized publications in peer-reviewed journals and his keen interest in and contributions to the natural sciences, especially geology. Dr. Bull pointed out that as a young man Dr. Wood was quite an accomplished athlete, gaining some recognition in tennis, table tennis and softball. In addition, Dr. Wood possesses a fine singing voice which he has put to good use in several choral groups.

Later in the evening, Dr. Wood's oldest son, Gary, and his youngest daughter,



David Wood III congratulates his colleague.

Victoria, presented an informative and lovingly prepared life sketch of their father.

In spite of Dr. Wood's many achievements it became apparent as the evening progressed that he is most loved and respected as a teacher. It is his personal relationships with the residents, students and fellows that was most appreciated and is what brought them together from near and far to honor him. In spite of his national and international professional stature, the students repeatedly

emphasized how he goes about his work in an unassuming manner.

Dr. Wood was presented with two gifts: a scrapbook containing over fifty letters of tribute from his former students, residents, fellows and colleagues and a photo portrait of himself with one of his small patients smiling at him in obvious appreciation.

This truly was a night to remember for all those who attended and a fitting tribute to an accomplished and wonderful physician and individual. □



Philip Reiswig sings while Virchel Wood prepares to blow out the candles.

fit the description perfectly. Dr. Adams related how he had told his son that he was going to a dinner to honor the man who taught him hand surgery. His son said, "You





The Neufeld Society

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- Regular \$100
- Resident, Retired, Honorary, and First Year in Practice = Dues-Free
- Life Membership \$1,500 (Full Payment Enclosed)
- OR** \$500 initial payment enclosed. Bill me \$500 annually for the next two years

DONATIONS:

- Unrestricted donation to the Neufeld Society (operating budget) \$ _____
- Virchel E. Wood Fund: \$ _____
- Neufeld Society Tietack/Lapel Pin \$30

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Received MD degree from _____ in 19 _____
 Currently a Resident at _____ Completing in 20 _____
 Completed Residency at _____ in 19 _____

Make your check payable to **Alumni Association, LLUSM**

Return this form to **Neufeld Society Membership Chair, 11245 Anderson Street, Suite 200, Loma Linda, CA 92354**

Our apologies to President Horner for misspelling his name in the last issue.



Neufeld Society NEWSLETTER

The Neufeld Society Newsletter is produced by the Alumni Association, School of Medicine of Loma Linda University, and is free to all orthopaedists. Your written request will place you on the mailing list.

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All Neufeld Society correspondence and manuscripts should be directed to the Editor, Neufeld Society Newsletter, 11245 Anderson Street, Suite 200, Loma Linda, CA 92354.

CONGRATULATIONS!

1999 Graduating LLU Orthopaedic Surgery Residents & Fellows

RESIDENTS

- **Rodney D. Brandt, MD**, will be entering private practice at Medford Clinic in Medford, Oregon.
- **Jeffrey R. Cummings '94** will begin his military service at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington.
- **Tyler E. Harris '91** has accepted a hand fellowship at Loma Linda University Medical Center.
- **Duane D. H. Pitt, MD**, has accepted a spine fellowship at the University of Southern California.

FELLOWS

- **Karim Abdollahi, MD**, has accepted a position with the Hand Service of LLU Orthopaedic Medical Group.
- **Semira Bayati, MD**, has accepted a position with Plasticos Institute for Plastic Surgery in Huntington Beach, California.
- **Stephen S. West, MD**, will join the department of plastic surgery at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Fontana, California.