

October 2006

Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues,

I hope 2006 has been a good year so far for all of you. I am honored to have been re-elected to serve our Alumni Association of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary as President. Thank you for your support and for your annual membership dues. I am pleased to have a dedicated Alumni Association Board of Directors to work with me. [Dr. Richard DeLuca](#) is our Vice-President-Treasurer and [Dr. Anthony Sclafani](#) from the Department of Otolaryngology, is our Vice-President-Director of Communications. With Anthony's position we continue to highlight our commitment to expanding our activities and therefore relevance to our alumni community.



The Alumni Association is here for YOU-enabling you to reconnect with fellow alumni and augment your relationship with the Infirmary. We want YOU to participate with the Alumni Association and to be an active alumnus. The current annual dues structure of \$150.00 was maintained for USA members, as was \$75.00 for International members. We also continue to invite all New York Eye and Ear Infirmary staff to become non-voting members of the Association with all privileges and benefits of a full member once dues are paid.

The Alumni Association benefits you in many ways and some of the highlights include:

Every year at the AAO we host the Annual Alumni Reception. [Last year's superbly catered event](#) was enjoyed by over 120 alumni and friends at the Four Seasons in Chicago. [This year's cocktail reception](#) will take place on Sunday, November 12th, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the luxurious Petrus Room at the Wynn Hotel Las Vegas. This is an unique opportunity for you to renew friendships with your past fellow residents, former fellows as well as active and retired faculty. We strongly encourage you to attend. Please review the enclosed announcement and note that paid members are welcome to attend with one guest at no cost. All others will be charged \$50.00 at the door.

Each spring we host an awards dinner in New York City. Please save Thursday, May 10th for our Annual Spring 2007 event. This year we are again planning to combine our annual dinner with simultaneous ENT and Eye research grand rounds immediately preceding the evening festivities.

At this year's [Annual Spring Award's Dinner](#), which was attended by over 170 alumni, staff, spouses and friends at the Colony Club on Park Avenue, we had the great pleasure of honoring two giants of our community, [Dr. Melissa S. Paschow](#) '80 from otolaryngology and Dr. Alfonso Ponce Lopez '74 from ophthalmology. The Infirmary family was able to celebrate its rich traditions of patient care, teaching and research by honoring these two Infirmary icons: Mahendra K. Shah, M.S., A.S.C.P. was our Distinguished Service Award recipient for his many years of dedicated service as Director of the Microbiology Department.

For the second consecutive year the Alumni Association financially supported the Joint Otolaryngology Program Alumni Party. The Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery continues its remarkable and robust expansion and it has become one of the premier academic and clinical programs in the country. Trends point to an average increase in patient visits and surgical procedures of 32% and 22%, respectively over 2005.

Highlights in ENT for 2006 included continued growth by the [Voice and Swallowing Institute](#) and establishment of satellite offices in Queens and Brooklyn. The Ear Institute, set to open in early 2007, will be only the second such center of excellence dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of ear diseases, encompassing both the otology faculty as well as communicative sciences. [Dr. Steven D. Schaefer](#) and his superb staff of physicians and support personnel are to be congratulated for the continued growth and excellence of this world class department.

Once again the [Department of Ophthalmology was listed as one of the top ten programs in US News and World Report's annual Top US Hospitals](#). This much deserved and long overdue accolade is due in large measure to the enlightened and unwavering leadership of our chairman, Dr. Joseph Walsh, together with his dedicated cadre of alumni, volunteer staff and full time faculty.

[The Jorge N. Buxton, MD Microsurgical Education Center](#) has proven to be an outstanding educational resource offering our residents, fellows and staff alike a world class microsurgical training facility and is a fitting tribute to one of the Infirmary's grand mentors.

Unfortunately, not all the news is positive. For financial reasons the Hospital Administration came to the conclusion that it could no longer subsidize the substantial losses incurred and subsequently closed the Vision Correction Center earlier this year. This has proven to be not only a major inconvenience to the attending staff involved in refractive surgery, but also threatens the character, quality and integrity of the resident teaching program. The Alumni Association joins Dr. Walsh and the Department in expressing our deep sadness and disappointment by the closing of the VCC.

[Dr. Donald Wood-Smith](#), Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery, reports that the plastic teaching service is now the busiest in the country with two full time fellows. We of course welcome all former fellows to our alumni ranks.

Please view our recently updated online [Alumni Directory](#) and verify the accuracy of your listing and inform us of any changes or additions via email at: asclafani@nyee.edu. This is especially important at this time, as your Executive Committee has taken the important step of retaining an alumni directory-publishing firm to update our database. We plan to print a fully researched alumni directory beginning in 2008. Please watch your mail for a biographical questionnaire in the upcoming months. We have also recently added an [Alumni Marketplace](#) to facilitate the exchange of job opportunities among alumni, fellows and residents. Please feel free to visit the site and post any job offerings or other pertinent information at your discretion by contacting our webmaster at pcrandall@nyee.edu.

Future projects include a small version of our annual cocktail reception at the ASCRS and a ballot issue regarding full membership status in the Association for staff members with over 5 years of service to the Infirmary. I urge you to respond to these upcoming questionnaires at your earliest convenience and to keep abreast of all future events by visiting our website's Future Events section.

On behalf of the entire board we invite you to share your thoughts on how we are doing and what we could do to serve you better. If you are interested in participating on our Alumni Association Board or on any volunteer committees, please be in touch. I can be reached at dbuxton@nyee.edu or (212) 979-4410.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. We look forward to seeing you at our 2006-2007 upcoming events. God Bless the Infirmary, America and those who protect them.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas F. Buxton, MD, '87
President, AANYEEI
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