President’s Message

By Esther Pierce Kooiman, President

This edition of the Bulletin provides information on the Reunion in Chicago, the Election of new Officers to the Board of Directors, In Memoriam, a new fund supporting Project HOPE, and other articles of interest.

This October, Chicago is hosting the next Alumni Reunion and we have included the Registration Form, Hotel Information, Program Highlights and details about the Silent Auction. Should you have any questions please contact me or the reunion committee members.

Those who register before August 10 will save. Also, a block of rooms are being held at both the Union Club of Chicago (the site of the event) and the Palmer House Hilton, two blocks away. Please register early as the rooms will be released after a specific date.

It is time for the election of new officers to the Alumni Board. We will be choosing the next President, Vice President and the Secretary/Treasurer. You will find a sample ballot along with a brief resume for each candidate. Do not vote now as we will be sending you the official ballot by email in June along with the voting instructions.

As part of the 3-year plan, the board of directors has made it a priority to continue giving financial support to Project HOPE. In January 2012, the board unanimously voted to create a new fund to provide assistance with travel expenses for medical volunteers. It will be called the Bill Kooiman Medical Volunteer Fund. All money donated since his death has been put into the fund, along with future donations and the proceeds from the Silent Auction at the Chicago Reunion.

Also included in this edition is news of a new book written by a new member of the association. It should be of interest to those who go on disaster missions where the methods of care might need to be adapted to the situation.

2012 marks 50 years since the voyage to Peru and we have included the story written by Teresa Tsu sharing her memories as a 10-year-old patient on the ship. It is rare to have the opportunity to hear from a former patient telling their personal story.

Finally, remember to stay in touch with the association. Over the past year I have heard from many HOPIES who have lost contact with Project HOPE. If you know of someone who no longer receives the Bulletin, please have them contact me and I will see that their name is added to our directory. If you move or change your email, we want to hear from you.

I hope we see you in Chicago.
Alumni Board Creates New Fund
The Bill Kooiman Medical Volunteer Fund

It has been a goal of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association to continue to find ways to support the work of Project HOPE where needed. In correspondence with HOPE Center, it was suggested that there was a great need for funds to help support volunteer transportation to worldwide missions.

On January 23, a unanimous vote was cast by the members of the Alumni Board and a new fund was developed to serve this need. The name chosen is The Bill Kooiman Medical Volunteer Fund honoring his many years as Chief Purser on the SS HOPE. All gifts made in memory of Bill, direct donations, and money solicited through fundraising events will be placed in this account. These funds will support a portion of the travel expenses incurred by medical volunteers at the discretion of HOPE Human Resources.

Photos This Page
(above) Bill Kooiman, Chief Purser on the way to Maceio, Brazil, 1973.
(right) Bill Kooiman aboard the SS HOPE -- on arrival in Ecuador, 1963.
I contracted polio in April 1962 during Easter weekend. I was 10 years old and in the fourth grade. While I was in the hospital, doctors from the HOPE ship began to arrive in my hometown of Trujillo, Peru in the state of La Libertad. They were preparing for the arrival of the ship itself. My father requested one of the doctors to see me and to talk about the possibility of me getting treatment in the ship that was to arrive shortly.

After one month in the hospital, and two months at home (I had to be isolated from my siblings for a total of 3 months), I was taken to the HOPE ship by ambulance. I still could not sit at all. I was paralyzed from head to toe. The only thing I could do was move my head. I was fortunate to not need an iron lung. I could breathe on my own. It was mid-July when I was admitted to the ship, and I left four days before the ship and medical crew left Peru on February 14, 1963.

While in the ship, I had physical therapy every day. I went from being flat on my back to being able to sit up in a wheelchair, with help, of course. A few weeks after I arrived, I was able to feed myself. My mother was given special permission to come see me every day. She would take a bus from downtown Trujillo to the port of Salaverry (about half hour ride), then she would take a tender to the HOPE ship. She would come daily without fail, except on visiting days -- Wednesdays and Sundays -- when my father would come.

I was in the women’s ward: C5. My bed was on the opposite corner of the entrance to the ward. A few months after my arrival, I became the “official” bingo announcer. We played bingo once a week. The nurses taught me how to play checkers and I became such an avid player and got to be so good that at the end no one wanted to play with me. I enjoyed going to the weekly movies in English, even though I didn’t understand much. On sunny days we’d go to the stern or the bow of the ship for fresh air.

Before the SS HOPE left Peru, one of the physiatrist on board, Dr. Nancy Kester, made arrangements for me to go to Gonzales Rehabilitation Center in Gonzales, Texas for treatment with her colleague and friend, Dr. Marjorie Kirkpatrick, director of the center. I stayed at the center for 17 months. During my stay, I went to physical therapy and occupational therapy twice a day. I learned to transfer to and from bed and toilet, get dressed, and walk short distances with braces and crutches, mainly

Continued on Page 4...
for exercise. I also went to school. I didn’t speak much English when I arrived, but went from a third-grade reading level to seventh-grade reading level before I returned to Peru.

In February 1965, my mother came to Gonzales, TX to take me home. The physical therapist taught my mom the exercises she should do with me every day.

My parents and family continued to help me with my physical therapy, and also supported me with my education. I finished high school in December 1969 studying from my sister Ana’s notes and taking exams at school every two months. In a class of about 35 girls, I finished near the top of my class.

I went on to graduate with a double major in English and Spanish from the then Pan American University (now The University of Texas-Pan American) in Edinburg, Texas, earned my M.A. in Foreign Language Education and high school teaching certificate from The University of Texas at Austin in 1977, compiled and arranged publication of an accessibility guide for the University of Texas at Austin in 1980.

From 1980-1984, I taught Spanish at The University of Texas at Austin as an Assistant Instructor. After trying for four years, I was finally given a chance to teach a class. I was the first “disabled” Assistant Instructor in the department. During that time, I also learned to drive a van with customized hand controls.

Continued from Page 3...

Continued on Page 5...
I earned my Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education from The University of Texas at Austin in 1984, and taught Spanish at The University of Texas at Austin as lecturer and worked at Austin Community College as adjunct faculty until 2002.

Currently, I work as a Spanish Tutoring Specialist at Austin Community college, and manage a small startup company, xThink, Inc., a handwriting recognition software for math, based in Round Rock, Texas. Periodically, I translate, edit, transadapt materials from English to Spanish for various publishing companies.

I’ve had many other wonderful experiences, including marrying my husband Matt Lesher in 1991. I owe a big debt of gratitude to the HOPE Ship program and the people who staffed it. They played a pivotal role in my success. For that I am very grateful.
In Memoriam

Marcia Davidoff, Medical Librarian, v. 1, Egypt

Richard Chace, M.D.--v. 2, v. 5, v. 6

William L. Easley, DDS--v. 11

Harvey Gass, M.D.--v. 1

Charles Geraci, M.D. --v. 2, v. 7, Ganado

John Hubbell, M.D.--Grenada

Rosslyn W. Kessel, M.D.--v. 8

Robert Koch, M.D.--Peru 1970, land-based

Fredric W. Reichardt, M.D.--Brazil

Harold Rosenbaum, M.D.--v. 5

Charles A. Stump, M.D.--v. 6, v. 11

Herman Roscoe Weed, M.D.--v. 9

Project HOPE’s Millwood Campus Wishes you a Happy Spring!
Election of Officers

By Valerie Cook, Immediate Past President

Elections of officers will be on the agenda at the general meeting of the alumni association on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012 at the Chicago Reunion. Per the bylaws of the organization, we are publishing the nominees for President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.

There are 2 candidates for President, one each for the other 2 offices. You will only vote for one per office.

Below is a SAMPLE of the election ballot that will be available in your registration packet that will arrive by email in June. Please bring a copy of your ballot with you as you enter the general meeting or if you are unable to attend the reunion you may mail a ballot to me at the following address: Val Cook, 23005 N 74th St., Unit 1112, Scottsdale, AZ 85255. Ballots will be counted at the meeting with results announced at that time.

Candidates for Alumni Board President

Robert Morrow, M.D., MPH

Dr. Robert Morrow (known as “Bobby” to the first generation of HOPIES) was on the Ship with his parents Drs. Rufus and Dorothy Morrow and then land-based projects from 1960 to 1978. He was in Peru, Ecuador, Guinea, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Cartagena, Laredo, and Jamaica.

After an early career of international medical service, he re-connected with HOPE as the US Navy representative to HOPE in 2001 proposing collaborative missions using Navy hospital ships. He and Dr. Howe, with HOPE Board endorsement, developed and promoted this partnership, whose first fruition was the USNS Mercy Tsunami Mission of 2005, a collaboration continuing today with over 18 joint missions.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, consultant for Navy Medicine with Battelle Memorial Institute, and is on the faculty of George Washington Medical School. He has been member-at-Large and Vice President of the Board of the Alumni Association from 2006 to the present.

John L. Wilhelm, M.D., MPH

Dr. Wilhelm was trained as an obstetrician-gynecologist-endocrinologist in Chicago and has a Masters Degree in Public Health. As a senior medical student, he was with the Ship in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) for three Months (1968).

Dr. Wilhelm’s land-based assignments with Project HOPE include Jamaica as a clinician (1976 and 1977), Brazil as program director (1980 and 1981), San Diego State University School of Public Health as a consultant (1982 and 1983), Grenada as program director (1984 to mid-1987) and HOPE Center as Regional Director for the Americas (mid-1987 to mid-1990).

From 1990 until 2005 he worked with the Chicago Department of Public Health serving as health commissioner for the city of Chicago from 2000-2005. Since July 2005, Dr. Wilhelm has been the executive director of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, is a governor of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago and a member of the Chicago Board of Ethics.
Candidate for Vice President

Debbie Reister, RHIA

Debbie is on the Project HOPE Alumni Board as the “at large representative for the Central Region” and is the 2012 Project HOPE Alumni Reunion Committee Chairman.

Until January 2009, Debbie was an advisor to the Project HOPE Russia/Eurasia Region, her last fulltime position was as Regional Director for that region. Over a period of 25 years she worked in a variety of administrative roles at HOPE Headquarters and in the field. She worked with programs in the Central Asian Republics, Russia, Ukraine, Central and Eastern Europe, Indonesia, China, Grenada, Panama, Egypt and Portugal. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Information Management.

When she retired from international work with Project HOPE in July 2007, Debbie became the Director of Health Information Management at the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, a non-profit Maternal Child Health clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer

Michele Okamoto, RN, BSN, CEN

Michele is a registered nurse whose career has blended emergency, intensive care, and humanitarian nursing. While living in New York, she was actively involved in the World Trade Center Disaster on 9/11. Michele now resides in the San Diego area.

In Jan 2005, Michele volunteered for 4 months with Project HOPE for the Tsunami Mission in Indonesia. Later in 2005 and in 2006, she volunteered for 2 Katrina missions and since then has volunteered for several other Navy/ HOPE missions.

Michele is very dedicated to the mission of Project HOPE and wants to continue to help build a strong proactive alumni association. Currently, she is serving as Secretary/Treasurer and would like to continue to serve in that position for another term.

SAMPLE

Project HOPE Alumni Association Officer Election Ballot 2012

President: ( ) Robert Morrow, MD
Vice President: ( ) Debbie Reister, RHIA
Secretary/Treasurer: ( ) Michele Okamoto, RN

( ) John Wilhelm, MD
Program Highlights

Friday, October 19, 2012 PM

- Registration
- Reception – No Host Bar
- Free Evening out for Dinner

Saturday, October 20, 2012 AM/PM

- Meeting of the Alumni Association with guest speakers
  - Followed by a Panel Discussion of the Past, Present and Tomorrow with Project HOPE. There will be an open microphone during the Lunch Break for audience participation.
- Silent Auction
- Banquet, includes Introduction of Guests, Honorary Alumni Awards, Keynote Speaker, and a Memorial to Helen Walsh.

Sunday, October 21, 2012

- Free Day

Please Note

We have identified some group activities for Sunday morning, and would like to know what you would enjoy. What would you like to do: boat ride, bus tour of Chicago, brunch at a restaurant with jazz or other music or suggest another activity? Please write your preference on the back of the registration form. These activities would be paid for outside of the Reunion registration.
PROJECT HOPE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION
54TH YEAR CELEBRATION
OCTOBER 19-20, 2012
UNION LEAGUE CLUB OF CHICAGO
65 W Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-435-4814

Name(s) __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

Email Address _________________________________________

Mailing Address _______________________________________

City ___________________________ State_______ Zip________

Voyages/Programs Served ___________________________________

Registration for All Activities
General Registration: $235 per person before 8/10/12   # ______ Total $ ________
$275 per person after 8/10/12   # ______ Total $ ________
(includes Friday night reception, Saturday breakfast, lunch and banquet, T-Shirt and bag)

T-Shirt Size S M L XL XXL

Select from the following for the Saturday evening banquet
Beef Short Ribs __________
Salmon __________
Vegetarian __________

Business/Cocktail Attire for Saturday evening

Additional person to attend the Saturday banquet @ $100 per person # ______ Total $ ________

Select Beef Short Ribs
Salmon
Vegetarian

Please check here if you do not want your name listed in reunion materials______

TOTAL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION
Please make check payable to Project HOPE Reunion
Return this form with your check to:
Irene Machado
4770 Wellington St
Hudsonville, MI 49426
616-669-0596
machado.irene@gmail.com
Project HOPE Alumni Association Reunion
54th Year Celebration

Hotel Information

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the following two hotels for October 19 and 20:

The Project HOPE Reunion events are being held at the Union League Club:

Union League Club of Chicago
65 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Room Rate: $175 plus 20% tax, the same rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the event. Reserved rooms are King (1 King bed) or Double/Double (2 Queen Beds). Type of room is based upon availability on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please call 1-800-443-0578 or 312-427-7800 to make a reservation, refer to the “Project HOPE Alumni Association”.

Reservations must be made prior to September 20, 2012.

Please see the following website for more information on the Union League, including dress code, parking, directions, and transportation: http://www.ulcc.org/

Alternative rooms have been blocked at:

The Palmer House Hilton
17 East Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60603

Make reservations directly with the Hotel room reservation department by calling 800-HILTONS (800-445-8667) remember to ask for the group rate by referring to the Group Code: PHR “Project HOPE Reunion”.

Room Rate: $199 plus 20% tax - the same rate is good for 3 days before and 3 days after the Reunion. All rooms are 2 Double beds, 1 bath.

Reservations must be made prior to September 19, 2012.

The Palmer House is approximately a 2 block walk from the Union League.


Please Note

We are looking for group activities for Sunday morning; we will supply further information at a later date. If you have suggestions, let us know. These activities would be paid outside the Reunion registration.
I hope you all have been going through old trunks and closets and finding some things that may be good buys for all you HOPIE shoppers. Please let me know what treasures you are willing to donate. Some suggestions include airline (frequent flyer) miles - a weekend/week in your lovely time share or vacation beach cottage or big city condo - hotel discount vouchers - autographed copies of best selling books by authors in our HOPE family - art work from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Navajo rugs, etc. This is a good time to downsize and donate items you have enjoyed for years but now would love to share with your fellow HOPIES. And our more recent volunteers have no doubt brought home memorabilia from Haiti, Indonesia, and other ports of call on HOPE missions with the Navy. These are sure to be popular with all reunion goers.

Proceeds from the Auction will be used to fund HOPE programs

Please let me know what you will be donating and if you have any questions. I can be reached by email at nancy.savage@uc.edu and by phone at 513-621-3504. My mailing address is:

Nancy Savage
427 Oregon St. #18
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Donated items may be mailed or shipped in advance (August 1st to October 1st) to:

Ms. Debra Reister
Infant Welfare Society of Chicago
3600 W. Fullerton Ave.
Chicago IL 60647
773-782-5006

Please note “Auction” on the outside of the wrapper. Each donated item must be accompanied by a completed Donation Form. You may photocopy the form if needed. Please give complete information as we will use it after the Reunion to send out thank you notes with the tax-deductible status included.

If you are bringing items with you, please let me know in advance so that we can arrange to have them displayed as soon as possible. Grace Tucker, Michele Okamoto, and Diane Speranza have volunteered to work with me in Chicago. There will be items to price, tables to be set up and then the exciting purchasing and picking up by the Auction winners. I hope a few more of you will volunteer a couple of hours during the reunion to help.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you all in Chicago. Thank you in advance for helping make this a fun and successful activity.

Nancy Savage
SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM
PROJECT HOPE ALUMNI REUNION
CHICAGO
OCTOBER 19-21, 2012

One form must accompany each item. Please print legibly.

Name of donor: ________________________________

Address ______________________________________

____________________________________________

Phone number ________________ Email ______________

Description of Donated Item (include where it is from if appropriate)

Value __________________________ (estimated dollar value if possible)

SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM
PROJECT HOPE ALUMNI REUNION
CHICAGO
OCTOBER 19-21, 2012

One form must accompany each item. Please print legibly.

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—Troy A. Lettieri (Amazon.com ****)
ADDRESS CHANGES

The alumni directory is updated monthly by one of our regional directors. If you change your address or email, please contact Irene Machado at machado.irene@gmail.com so you will receive the newsletter and all communication from the Alumni Association.

The information in our alumni directory is kept confidential and is NOT shared with any other organization. If you want to change the amount of donor mail that you receive from Project HOPE, contact dcombs@projecthope.org.

Project HOPE Alumni Association

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Carol Fredriksen 2004 - 2007
Valerie Cook 2007 - 2010

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Contact the Alumni Board of Directors 2010-2012

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