The faculty of the USC School of Medicine is comprised of a unique group of professionals that contributes a rich blend of skills, expertise, and personalities to the students and patients they serve. This issue presents ten of the School of Medicine’s new full-time clinical faculty members and the individual interests and outlooks that each brings to the job.
Dr. Alfredo Gei
Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

What Drives My Work:
To make a difference for patients and their unborn children.

My Most Important Role With Patients Is:
To gain their trust, to educate them about their condition, and to minimize their fears to carry them through difficult times with calmness and a positive outlook.

I'm Determined To:
Honor my profession and my teachers by passing along what was given to me by patient and dedicated mentors.

I Will Never Forget The Patient Who:
Told me that her child was blessed that my hands touched them first at the time of her delivery. I felt very honored and humbled by that comment.

Dr. Franklin McGuire
Assistant Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine

What Drives My Work:
Knowing that the prognosis for patients diagnosed with lung cancer has not changed significantly in over 40 years.

I Can't Work Without:
Coffee, a good nurse, and a respiratory therapist.

What Amazes Me About My Patients:
How strong they can be in the face of adversity.

What I'd Want My Epitaph To Read:
He was a spiritual man who loved nature, his parents, brothers, and wife. He spent his time on this earth caring for his fellow human beings. His work will continue to ease the suffering of those faced with lung disease.
Mary Ellen Warren, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neuropsychiatry

The Turning Point In My Career Was:
When I decided to focus on treatment in the Department of Neuropsychiatry instead of assessment in the Department of Pediatrics.

Colleagues Say That I:
Am a team player and that I have a calming presence.

My Most Important Role With Patients Is:
Making sure they see that I care. I've had a quote by Will Rogers in my office for years that says "People don't care what you know until they know that you care."

I Can't Work Without:
Time to reflect on my work, my long term goals, and the big picture of what I'm trying to accomplish. I also need a daily dose of chocolate.

Kerry Lachance, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neuropsychiatry

What Drives My Work:
Knowing that I'm contributing to the preparation of tomorrow's counseling workforce.

I Truly Enjoy:
Spending time with students.

The Turning Point In My Career Was:
When I accidentally landed an undergraduate internship in a community mental health center - when I was an English major.

What Amazes Me About My Students:
Their dedication and enthusiasm and the grace with which they meet challenges in life.

My Most Memorable Mentor Taught Me:
That learning should be fun.
Dr. Sangita Dash
Assistant Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine

I First Thought About Medicine When:
I saw the lack of medical care many had during my stay in India.

Medicine Fascinates Me Because:
Each patient is different.

Colleagues Say That I:
Am too quiet.

I Truly Enjoy:
Sitting with a good book.

I Wouldn't Have Picked Another Specialty Because:
There is nothing more interesting and challenging than infectious diseases.

Dr. Edward Cheeseman
Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

The Biggest Professional Challenge I Faced:
Was making the transition from military lifestyle and practice to civilian lifestyle and practice.

My Motivation Is:
To try to make a contribution with regard to the visual development of children to improve their long-term quality of life.

Colleagues Say That I:
Am quiet but love a practical joke.

What Amazes Me About My Patients:
Is watching children mature and develop in front of my eyes from one visit to the next.

What I'd Want My Epitaph To Read:
That I was a caring husband and father that did the very best of my ability to care for my family and every one of my patients.
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Dr. Charles Walvoord
Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

What Attracted Me To Ophthalmology:
The opportunity to learn about and play with expensive toys and serve humanity at the same time.

What Appealed To Me About USC:
An opportunity to continue the full-time practice of medicine, yet relinquish the administrative headaches of private practice.

Experience Has Taught Me That:
No doctor gets it right every single time.

A Good Physician Needs To:
Always address the patient’s chief complaint no matter what their other medical issues are.

If I Had To Do It All Over Again:
I would have taken singing lessons in college.

Yolanda Edwards, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neuropsychiatry

What Attracted Me To Rehabilitation Counseling:
Helping others to become independent.

What Drew Me To Columbia:
Being closer to my family was a real draw for me. I am very family oriented.

When I Retire, I Want People To Say That:
I was hard working and always fair.

I Truly Enjoy:
Teaching. It is a part of my life that I am passionate about.

My Greatest Inspiration Has Been:
When I see students I have taught go on to accomplish their dreams.

Has A Passion For Singing

Has A Soft Spot For Miniature Schnauzers
**Dr. Thomas Federici**
Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

What attracted Me To Ophthalmology:  
The instant gratification of restoring someone’s vision.

**My Greatest Inspiration Has Been:**  
My mentors in ophthalmology in medical school, residency, and fellowship. They were truly fine physicians and good people.

Experience Has Taught Me That:  
Experience alone is good, but greatness comes when it is paired with diligence, responsibility, and intelligence.

Physicians Can Impact Patients’ Lives By:  
Adopting an attitude of life-long medical education while simultaneously putting that education into practice on a daily basis.

If I Had to Do It All Over Again:  
I would do it all over again.

**Dr. Julie Tsai**
Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology

Medicine Never Bores Me Because:  
There is always something new developing in research and technology.

It Pains Me To See Patients Who:  
Need to choose between paying for the gas in their car or the food on their table and the cost of medical care.

Every Day In Medicine Is:  
A humbling experience.

My Best Mentor Taught Me That:  
I should always follow my gut instincts.

Words I Live By:  
"Deliberate with caution, but act with decision; and yield with graciousness, or oppose with firmness.”
   ~ Charles Caleb Colton

A publication of University Specialty Clinics®  
University of South Carolina School of Medicine  
Loretta O. Cafferty,  
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