

Celebrating 30 years of medical education in Rockford – and beyond

Judging from all accounts, our 30th anniversary

celebration was a considerable success. The broad representation of attendees, faculty, UIC and University administration, alumni and the community pleased us. Dr. Olson's book was well received and everyone had a wonderful time. Our thanks to all who helped make the evening – and the past 30 years – a success.

Now, it is time to begin looking ahead.

This issue of *ROUNDS*, in large measure, focuses attention on our RMED and RPEER programs. I know many of you are familiar with the RMED program that now has affiliations with more than 25 rural hospitals in Illinois. Both these hospitals and the clinical preceptors as faculty



are doing a terrific job, and we are

most grateful. The RPEER

program, conceptualized some two years ago, seeks to duplicate RMED with the other health professions.

In Illinois, as in many other states, there exist not only shortages of rural physicians, but also shortages of nurses, pharmacists, public health workers and social service workers. RPEER, in working with UIC's health professions colleges and schools, seeks to enhance the level of rural matriculants into these programs, ensure their eventual placement, study the dynamics and constraints of rural

practice and recommend appropriate health policies.

Looking further down the road, we believe the RPEER program, now designated as a Center by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, has the potential to become a national model for rural health professions training. Our need for expanded space on Parkview Avenue will be built around this concept as we hope to attract state, federal and local funding toward the establishment of the 60,000-square foot addition.

As you read through the pages of this issue, I think you will agree this is an exciting initiative and one that will further enhance our contribution to medical education and society.

