

Wisconsin, where he moved from Rochester in 1969.

1985 Jamie Baer-Peterson (MM) sends a photo and reports that she ran “a clean, creative, and ethical campaign” for her borough council in New Providence, New Jersey, last fall. “Though there was a Democratic sweep in neighboring towns, my running mate, Keith Doll, and I lost by a small margin,” she writes. She adds that she remains inspired to work in her community and is considering running again.

1986 Glenn Price (DMA) published a comprehensive resource for conductors, *The Eloquent Conductor* (GIA). Glenn taught undergraduate and graduate conducting for more than 25 years at the University of Calgary and as director of wind studies at the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music, and led conducting workshops around the world. He now lives in Los Angeles, following an appointment as director of performing and visual arts at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). In addition to national and all-state student groups, his recent guest conducting engagements include professional ensembles in Salzburg, Barcelona, and Osaka.

1993 Gary Versace (MM) is featured on singer Kate McGarry’s first trio album, *The Subject Tonight Is Love* (Binxtown Records). Gary performs on piano, keyboards, organ, and accordion.

1995 Peter Fletcher (MM) makes his Detroit classical guitar solo recital debut in May as part of the Cathedral Cultural Series at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The program includes Bach’s Lute Suite No. 3, Paganini’s Caprice No. 24, the Five Bagatelles by British composer William Walton, and *Leyenda* and *Córdoba* by Spanish composer Isaac Albéniz. Peter also performs some of his original guitar transcriptions of French composer Erik Satie.

2006 Jared Schwartz (MM) released an album of songs by Franz Liszt, *Franz Liszt: Songs for Bass Voice and Piano* (Tocatta Classics), last November with the pianist Mary Dibbern. It was awarded best Lieder Recording of 2017 by Voix des Arts and a Best Album of 2017 by TheatreJones.



PIONEER: A faculty member for more than 50 years, Weiss helped create the field of behavioral toxicology.

TRIBUTE

Bernard Weiss '53 (PhD): 'Force of Nature'

When I was a college student majoring in psychology, the name Bernie Weiss was revered throughout the field. Though unassuming, Bernard (Bernie) Weiss '53 (PhD) was a force of nature.

A member of the Medical Center’s faculty for more than 50 years before his death in January, Bernie will be remembered for his pioneering efforts to track the effects of toxic chemical exposures on behavior and helping create the field of behavioral toxicology. It was he who gave voice to the fact that exposure to chemicals in the environment need not leave holes in the brain to have serious consequences. He emphasized the need to look beyond blatant damage to the brain to recognize behavioral dysfunction that arises from such chemical exposures and contributes to developmental and degenerative brain diseases. When Bernie began focusing on these questions, his was the only lab devoted to this research.

Bernie’s views attracted students and postdocs to his lab and led to research investigating the effects of a breadth of environmental chemicals on an array of behaviors. His team examined the addictive properties of organic solvents, like toluene (used in paint thinner, for example) and methanol. They found sensory and motor dysfunctions produced by methyl-mercury in fish and manganese in drinking water. They linked lead exposure during brain development to impaired cognitive control of behavior and investigated the impacts of the air pollutant ozone on behavioral functions.

Later in his career, Bernie became interested

in the neurobehavioral consequences of endocrine disruptors, like phthalates, which are commonly found in plastics and many personal care products. His curiosity led to findings that these chemicals can influence sex-related differences in brain development and behavior.

I was one of those early postdoctoral students attracted to Bernie’s lab by his new ideas. Bernie’s style was not to pigeonhole students and postdocs into his ongoing projects, but to let them pursue their varied interests in the field, providing support, advice, and resources. It was a unique and incredible environment in which to learn, train, and grow.

The breadth of research questions being addressed, the scope of methods and approaches being used, and the translational focus were exciting and thought-provoking. Our research was immediately important and relevant to public health, environmental regulations, and risk assessment. As researchers, this gave us a sense of accomplishment and giving back to the public that few in the scientific community have the opportunity to experience in their lifetime.

I count myself among many whose careers and lives were enriched by having known and been inspired by Bernie. Although he is no longer physically with us, his accomplishments will be remembered, and his words will continue to inspire the field. **R** —DEBORAH CORY-SLECHTA

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