



## Residents salute their mentors

**T**he following articles are the first of a series of brief essays the *Bulletin* will publish in the coming months under the theme “My mentor.” These essays are the result of efforts made by the Resident and Associate Society (RAS) of the American College of Surgeons in launching its first essay contest asking residents, fellows, and new faculty to describe in 500 words or less the role that a mentor has played in their development.

In this series, you will read what several outstanding surgical trainees who responded to the contest have to say about the individuals who have mentored them. Through this series, members of the College and other *Bulletin* readers will learn about 10 extraordinary mentors who have provided both personal and professional guidance for their mentees at various stages of their training.

The leadership of the RAS believes that these mentors are more than just role models—they are pillars of strength and good examples for future generations of surgeons who are attaining technical and clinical skills, while also advancing their interest in research, education, and outreach in an increasingly challenging health care environment. The winner of this year’s essay contest will be announced at the 2009 Clinical Congress in Chicago, IL.