

On September 11, 2001,

Barry M. Goldstein, M.D., Ph.D., was in his apartment in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, preparing for his first official day as Artist-in-Residence at NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Goldstein, an accomplished photographer, had a one-year appointment as Visiting Professor of Humanism in Medicine, the first to be sponsored by the Master Scholars Program. He had come to teach medical students about the history of photography in medicine, but as it turned out, it was they

who would become his teachers. Forty-five minutes after the second tower of the World Trade Center collapsed, Dr. Goldstein headed into Manhattan on the L train, its only passenger for the entire trip. He spent the next year chronicling the aftermath of the disaster with his camera.

While teaching on campus, Dr. Goldstein learned that some 20 NYU medical students formed the largest contingent of medical student volunteers who had shown up at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York, Charles S. Hirsch, M.D., (Hon. '05) Chairman of NYU's Department of Forensic Medicine. He was in desperate need of aides who understood anatomical nomenclature. So he enlisted these students to take notes dictated by forensic pathologists and law enforcement personnel. But they also helped to sort, catalog, and identify the 19,915 human remains retrieved from Ground Zero.

"No group of volunteers touched my soul more deeply than the medical students," says Dr. Hirsch. "Many of them had been in medical school less than one month. In contrast,

I had more than 35 years of professional life devoted to forensic pathology to prepare for 9/11. The students performed admirably."

In May 2002 Dr. Goldstein—still on sabbatical from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, where he is Associate Professor of Medical Humanities and of Biochemistry and Biophysics—began to interview and photograph 16 of the student volunteers to learn more about their time in the morgue. For their portraits, he asked them to wear the same kind of clothes they had worn during their service, and to pose with something that had helped them get through the ordeal.

The result was *Being There*, a book published by the Master Scholars Press. It was distributed to members of NYU's Class of 2005, as well as students who graduated from other local medical schools this year—all of whom began their studies in September 2001. (To obtain a copy, call (212) 263-2671.) Some of the students featured in the book appear in words, below and images, on the following page.

**ARTHUR BOYKIN ('03),
AGE 26, WITH HIS BOOK OF
COMMON PRAYER**

Everything was gray. But when you found a person with their wallet, the police would take everything out to photograph it. That's when you'd see who these people really were—what they looked like.

I can be 90 years old, delirious in the ICU with other old timers, and I will still remember the smell.

Top left

**ELSPETH KINNUCAN ('05),
AGE 24, WITH PICTURES OF
HER TWO SISTERS, ALLISON
(LEFT) AND CHALLIS (RIGHT)**

I pretty much grew up a Quaker. It's a very pacifist view. I have a few guiding ideas about how to get through life. They're being really challenged by the people around me now.

Top right

**MICHELLE MENDOZA ('05),
AGE 22, WITH PATRICK**

The first night I came back from working at the ME's office, I was really afraid to close my eyes. I kind of felt like, "If I keep my eyes open, then I'll see just what's there and I won't see what's in my head." But when you close your eyes, you're left with this blank canvas for a second, and then you start seeing things.

Bottom left

**DORON STEMBER ('04),
AGE 27, WITH PICTURE OF
VIEW OF TWIN TOWERS**

My great aunt Sylvia, who passed away my senior year of college, was like my grandmother. She lived in this apartment on the Lower East Side. I've visited there since I was little. She worked on the 80th floor of one of the Twin Towers. We'd go out on her balcony, which had a beautiful view of the towers, and count the floors.

Bottom right

