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DARTMOUTH MEDICINE is published four times a year—the Fall issue in mid-September, Winter in mid-December, Spring in mid-March, and Summer in mid-June.

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 DMS28M1209LP



# DARTMOUTH MEDICINE

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center  
 VOL. 34, No. 2 WINTER 2009

## FEATURES

### An Uphill Battle By Amos Esty 26

Toxic pollution from small-scale gold-mining. Indiscriminate use of an antibiotic that can lead to hearing loss. Scarce or nonexistent health-care resources. Those are a few of the problems that are drawing more and more people with Dartmouth ties down to Nicaragua.

### "The most unspeakable terror" By Emily Baumrin, William Corbett, Amita Kulkarni, and Lee A. Witters, M.D. 36

In the 1800s, childbirth was often fraught with fear and death rather than joy. But growing knowledge about the cause of puerperal fever—also known as childbed fever—eventually brought the epidemic of maternal and infant mortality under control.

### The Longest Run By Jonathan A. Stableford 44

When a fit-as-a-fiddle marathoner collides with a near-fatal bout of pneumonia, he finds that getting back on his feet takes far longer than he had imagined. In fact, his recovery calls for more fortitude, emotionally and physically, than a grueling road race.

## ONLINE

Check out our online edition at [dartmed.dartmouth.edu](http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu) and all of the multimedia WEB EXTRAS for this issue at [dartmed.dartmouth.edu/w09/we](http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/w09/we).



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## COVER

These hard-of-hearing children, plus thousands of other Nicaraguans facing health challenges, are a bit better off thanks to the efforts of a web of Dartmouth-related initiatives. The associated feature starts on page 26. The photo was taken by DARTMOUTH MEDICINE's managing editor, Amos Esty.