



# Medical Alumni

▼ NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

## ▼ Plans for New Medical School in Scranton

Robert E. Wright, M.D., '59 is Chairman of the Board of the Medical Education Development Consortium, which is implementing plans for a medical school in Scranton. Dr. Wright is also the founding director of the Scranton Temple Residency Program and a Professor of Medicine at Temple University School of Medicine. The residency program operates an internal medicine residency that functions out of Mercy and Moses Taylor hospitals. In recent months, Dr. Wright addressed both the Alumni Board of Governors and the Executive Committee on the Medical Alumni Council.

In his remarks, Dr. Wright noted that there are 126 allopathic medical schools and 20 osteopathic medical schools in the United States. Only one new allopathic medical school was started in the past 20 years, and the last new medical school in Pennsylvania opened in Hershey in 1962. Northeastern Pennsylvania is the only region of the Commonwealth without a medical school.

The size and scope of the Medical School envisions 360 students: 90 per class, 4 years; 123 faculty FTEs, a \$35 million operating budget (including \$11 million in research grants), \$70 million annual economic impact in the region and 1,000 total new full-time jobs.

The Medical Education Development Consortium has identified 15 or 16 specific proposed locations in the city and the considerations that go into site selection include the availability of adequate land for the startup and continued development of the medical school, economic impact, convenience to sites where clinical training will take place – hospitals and outpatient facilities.

In addition to Dr. Wright, other Scranton alumni serving on the MEDC Board of Directors include Mr. Michael M. Costello '70, Vice President of Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton; Mr. Gerald P. Joyce '73, President and CEO, Normandy Holdings, LLC; Linda Thomas, M.D., '90, Scranton-Temple Residency Program; and Gerald P. Tracy, M.D., '63, Board Member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

The **Medical Alumni Newsletter** was first published in 1994 following the incorporation of the Medical Alumni Council as an affiliate of the Alumni Society. With the advent of the World Wide Web and other electronic means of communication, the mailing piece was discontinued. At its April 2006 meeting, the Council recommended that the University reinstate a paper newsletter. This newsletter will heretofore be published bi-annually and mailed to all Scranton alumni in the medical professions. Comments, suggestions and news items may be directed to the editorial staff in care of: Medical Alumni Council, The University of Scranton Alumni Society, O'Hara Hall, Suite 500, Scranton, PA 18510-4624. Address changes may be reported to the same office or by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-SCRANTON or [alumni@scranton.edu](mailto:alumni@scranton.edu).

## ▼ Medical Alumni Symposium Planned



Dr. Gerald Tracy

The Medical Alumni Council is sponsoring an on-campus Medical Alumni Symposium on May 4 and 5. The event is being chaired by Gerald P. Tracy, M.D., '63, H'99, past President of The University of Scranton Alumni Society, former Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees and recipient of the Frank J. O'Hara Award (Medicine, 1983).

The keynote address will be provided by the Founding Dean of the Medical College of Northeastern Pennsylvania, with an introduction by Robert E. Wright, M.D., '59, of the

Medical Education Development Consortium and Chairman of the Scranton-Temple Residency Program.

The schedule includes an open meeting of the Executive Committee of Scranton's Medical Alumni Council and five CME-approved sessions. Sessions will include presentations on National Trends in Healthcare: Pay for Performance, Quality Care and Information Technology; Community Service Initiatives and their impact on International Medicine; and Initiatives for Transforming Medical Education. University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., will be the featured speaker at lunch.

Brochures are being mailed to all medical alumni. Further information is available from the Alumni Office, 1-800-SCRANTON or [alumni@scranton.edu](mailto:alumni@scranton.edu).

### Referrals Made Easy

Professional referrals can be made easily via the Online Alumni Community. This password-protected Web site, designed for exclusive use by The University of Scranton, allows health professionals and other alumni to search for Scranton grads by class year, geographical location and career. Just log on to [www.scranton.edu/alumnicommunity](http://www.scranton.edu/alumnicommunity).

## Medical Alumni Council Executive Committee

Joseph P. Bannon, M.D., '83 ▼ *Scranton*  
 Richard Bevilacqua, D.M.D., M.D., '83 ▼ *West Hartford, Conn.*  
 Rachel Bogner '04 ▼ *Philadelphia*  
 Jean-Paul Bonnet, D.O., '76 ▼ *Sparta, N.J.*  
 Joanne Calabrese, D.O., '91 ▼ *Jim Thorpe*  
 Paul R. Casey, M.D., '71 ▼ *Gwynedd Valley*  
 Kevin J. Corcoran, D.O., '78 ▼ *Greenville, N.C.*  
 LTC James F. Cummings, M.D., '88 ▼ *Chevy Chase, Md.*  
 W. David Fitzpatrick, M.D., '88 ▼ *Scranton*  
 Lawrence F. Gallagher, D.M.D., '82 ▼ *Scranton*  
 Patrick J. Kerrigan, D.O., '80 ▼ *Hanover Township*  
 James J. Kuchera, M.D., '72 ▼ *Convent Station, N.J.*  
 Karen Langan, O.D., '98 ▼ *Annapolis, Md.*  
 John J. Lepore, M.D., '88 ▼ *Lafayette Hill*  
 Gregory J. Lynch, D.O., '79 ▼ *Philadelphia*  
 John R. Mariotti, D.D.S., '75 ▼ *Scranton*  
 James T. McGlynn, M.D., '77 ▼ *Wallingsford*  
 John F. McGurrin, M.D., '78 ▼ *Hummelstown*  
 Joseph J. Mowad, M.D., '57 ▼ *Danville*  
 David J. Nagurney, D.D.S., '74 ▼ *Scranton*  
 Robert J. Noto, V.M.D., '93 ▼ *Dunmore*  
 Sheryl Lynn Oleski-Kim, D.O., '97 ▼ *Breinigsville*  
 Michael P. Platt, M.D., '98 ▼ *Albany, N.Y.*  
 Mary Reed-Johnson, M.D., '82 ▼ *Mercer Island, Wash.*  
 Kara J. Suche, M.D., '99 ▼ *Philadelphia*  
 Erin E. Tracy, M.D., '88 ▼ *Stoneham, Mass.*  
 Gerald P. Tracy, M.D., '63 ▼ *Clarks Summit*  
 Anthony J. Yanni, M.D., '88 ▼ *Scranton*  
 Amy Yavorek, M.D., '84 ▼ *Highland Falls, N.Y.*

## University Personnel

Joseph H. Dreisbach, Ph.D. ▼ *Dean, College of Arts & Sciences*  
 Mary F. Engel, Ph.D. ▼ *University Director of Fellowship Programs*  
 Gerald C. Zabolski '87, G'95 ▼ *Associate Vice President, Alumni & Public Relations*  
 Robert P. Zelno '66, G'77 ▼ *Executive Director, Alumni Society*



## MAC Executive Committee

Members of the Executive Committee of the University's Medical Alumni Council gather for a meeting at the Pyramid Club in Philadelphia prior to a reception they hosted for Scranton alumni in medical schools in the city. Seated, left to right: Fr. Timothy J. Cadigan, S.J., Assistant Professor of Biology and a member of the University's Health Professions Advisory Committee; James J. Kuchera, M.D., '62; Kara Suche, M.D., '99; and Joanne Calabrese, D.O., '91. Standing: Anthony Yanni M.D., '88; Lt. Col. James F. Cummings, M.D., '88; W. David Fitzpatrick, M.D., '88; Michael P. Platt, M.D., '98; Gregory J. Lynch, D.O., '79, Council Chair; James Costanzo '06, Student Liaison; John Lepore, M.D., '88; Lawrence F. Gallagher, D.D.S., '82, immediate past chairman; Gerald P. Tracy, M.D., '63; Paul R. Casey Jr., M.D., '71; James T. McGlynn, M.D., '77; and Jean-Paul Bonnet, D.O., '76.

## ▼ Message from the Chair

### Gregory J. Lynch, D.O., '79

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure of serving as the Chairman of the University's Medical Alumni Council and experiencing first-hand the unity that has emerged through our professional contacts in the medical constituency of Scranton alumni. True to its self imposed mission, the Council, through the work of the Executive Committee and particularly through the work of my predecessors Gerry Tracy, Tony Yanni, Rich Bevilacqua, Larry Gallagher and Barry Noone, has showcased Scranton's long-standing and excellent health professions programs, enriched our own careers through continuing education programs and community service projects, increased the financial support to the University from our special constituent group, and assisted hundreds of students



Dr. Gregory Lynch

seeking information on and access to medical schools and the lifestyle to which we have been called. Indeed, the reputation that Scranton enjoys, particularly in terms of the number of students who plan to further their education in medicine, can be at least partially attributed to the relationship between our medical alumni and pre-professional undergraduate students with whom we meet on a regular basis.

I am pleased with the decision to resurrect this newsletter in order to share news and periodic updates that should be of special interest to you. And, there is more to come with a number of additional initiatives of "the MAC" that will be addressed in future issues. Finally, as an affiliate of The University of Scranton Alumni Society, we are indebted to its officers, the staffs of alumni and public relations, career services and health professions for their combined efforts on our behalf.



## Reception for Alums in Medical School

Joseph H. Dreisbach, Ph.D., left, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and other members of the MAC Executive Committee greet Scranton alums in medical schools after the committee meeting in Philadelphia.

## ▼ Health-Care Opportunities Explored in Haiti

In October 2006, the Medical Alumni Council approved a motion to explore opportunities for physicians and medical students in Haiti. Dr. Greg Lynch and Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet traveled to Port-Au-Prince and the southern part of Haiti from January 12 to 18, 2007, as part of an effort to identify new medical options. In addition to representatives from the Medical Alumni Council, Rev. Scott Pilarz, S.J., President of The University of Scranton, and Daniel West, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Health Administration and Human Resources, joined the Scranton team. Also working on the assessment team were George Drobinski and Joanne Kuehner from Hope for Haiti. Mrs. Kuehner, founder and President of Hope for Haiti, organized the trip to examine medical clinics, educational facilities, universities and hospitals in southern Haiti. Dr. Soltes and Dr. Holeckova, two physicians from St. Elizabeth University in Slovakia, contributed to the evaluation of opportunities in Haiti for alumni, faculty and students.

Dr. Lynch and Dr. Bonnet toured hospitals in Les Cayes, Aquin and Port-Au-Prince. Meetings were held with Haitian physicians who served as medical directors in the health-care facilities as well as meeting with Dr. Louissaint, a representative from the Ministry of Health. Opportunities for medical specialists to participate in activities in Haiti were identified in discussions with Dr. Danielle Cuoma, Medical Director of the Aquin Government Hospital, and with Fr. Rick Frechette at the new Pediatric Hospital in Port-Au-Prince.

New opportunities were identified for members of the Medical Alumni Council, especially specialist physicians who can spend time in hospitals in Les Cayes and Aquin. Other objectives of the trip included building partnerships with existing physicians and health-care facilities, agreeing on areas for safe housing and determining areas where other faculty and students from The University of Scranton could participate in future activities. Fr. Scott Pilarz participated in a special meeting with Bishop Alex Verrier of the Diocese of Les Cayes. Both leaders discussed the importance of education, health care, housing and nutrition for people living in the Les Cayes Diocese. Meetings with Fr. Nerestant, Fr. Max Maitheu and Fr. Frechette opened up additional venues for continuing education, involvement in community health efforts, public health, expansion of existing services, and developing allied health services in the southern part of Haiti.



In February, representatives from the Scranton delegation met with Hope for Haiti officials and members of the Catholic organization serving the medical needs of Haitians on one of several mission trips sponsored by the University's Medical Alumni Council. Third and fourth from left are John-Paul Bonnet, D.O., '76 and Joanne Kuehner H'01. In the back right are Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., President of the University; Gregory Lynch, M.D., '79, MAC Chairman; and Daniel J. West, Ph.D., Chairman of the University's Department of Health Administration and Human Resources.

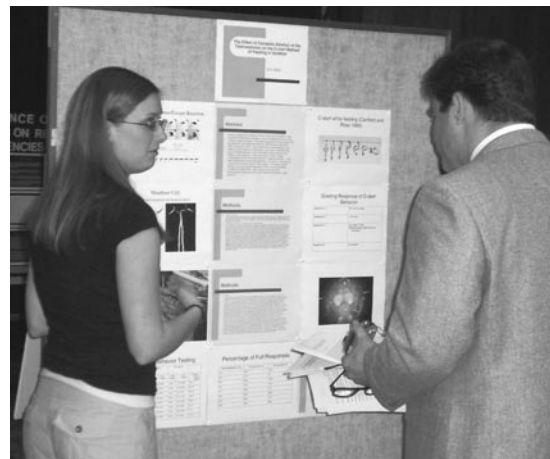
## ▼ Faculty/Student Research Program

The principal purpose of the Faculty/Student Research Program (FSRP) is to offer students the opportunity to be involved in faculty research activities. The FSRP offers a powerful learning experience that transcends the traditional roles of faculty-student relationships.

This University-wide program covers all academic departments. Participation is open to all undergraduate and graduate students in good academic standing. Although this program is offered on a non-credit basis, students receive transcript recognition for their participation. The FSRP is currently being administered by the Office of Research Services and the Registrar's Office.

### Benefits of FSRP

- ▶ FSRP supports and encourages increased research activities at the university level.
- ▶ Collaborative efforts of the faculty and students create an environment in which students can conduct research, develop research skills, and apply knowledge gained in course work.
- ▶ Meaningful dialogue between students and faculty is at the core of the learning process. This dialogue is enhanced by the opportunity for faculty and students to interact outside the classroom.
- ▶ Faculty benefit from the assistance of capable, motivated students.



The outcomes of FSRP projects and other independent student research are displayed each May at the Annual Celebration of Student Scholars.

## ▼ Three Perspectives on Medical Education

### Kevin Brazill '95

After graduating from The University of Scranton, I worked for a few years, earned a master's degree in forest resources management, worked some more, and (naturally, logically) enrolled in medical school last fall.

Now I'm a 33-year-old, first-year student at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. On top of CCOM's benefits, the state of Illinois offers a limited number of medical scholarships each year. The catch is that new doctors must specialize in primary care fields and practice in underserved parts of Illinois after residency. Considering that I wasn't a state resident at the time of application – and they prefer their own – I was shocked and honored to receive the scholarship.

My goal is to become a family practice doctor in a rural area. Several factors contribute to my commitment: the woods, the prairie, the lifestyle that accompanies open space; the need for doctors in the country. The idea of serving a sparsely populated county, not far from the Mississippi River, not far from the Ozarks, not far from Chicago... seems as close to contentment as I can conjure.

I've completely changed my life. I get up at 5 a.m., read all the time, use new language, and often wonder how I got here. I've learned to accept that I am *non-traditional* (read: old). I got looks for not having a MySpace page and not knowing how to send or open a text message. But these kids do know their science and are nice enough to teach this old dog a few new study habits. I still refuse to download any music they recommend, but at least now I know the difference between MySpace and Facebook.

### Chris Jones '02

Average high school students will tell you that they have too much work, too much stress and too little time to relax. College students sneer at this immature naivety, knowing that workloads increase, balancing social and academic lives becomes a challenge, and the constant echo of the "real world" tapping can become deafening as you transition to adulthood. I, however, was a pre-med student with no intention of heading anywhere near the real world for at least seven years. I simply prepared myself for the next step in what feels like a never-ending educational march.

At Thomas Jefferson Medical College, the course work was akin to intellectual bulimia, a constant gorge on vast plates of knowledge, only to purge it every three weeks in a flurry of No. 2 pencil lead. If high school was like drinking leisurely from a tall, cool glass, medical school was more like sipping from a garden hose.

Now, in my residency in Internal Medicine at Brown University, theory is finally put into practice and medicine becomes real. Every day I examine, contemplate and integrate all I've been taught. Far from intellectual bulimia, everything I have ever learned needs to be brought to bear for the sake of the patients.

I feel as though I am suffering from the academic equivalent of metabolic syndrome. I am expected to know so much but, in reality, I am simply reaching back to information and experiences gathered along my educational yellow brick road. Weighing the benefits of invasive treatment and the futility of so much of today's technology-driven medical care harkens back to debates we had in Fr. Ron McKinney's Medical Ethics course. Protecting patients from high drug bills reminds me of Dr. Michael Cann's Organic Chemistry. I still haven't found a use for Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, but I await the day when I can amaze everyone with my knowledge of the mudpuppy! Until then, I will keep my ears open, keep the lessons of Scranton in my heart and on my mind, and daily keep myself hydrated by drinking from the fire hose of knowledge.

### Michael Platt, M.D., '98

As chief resident in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at Albany Medical College, I am most fascinated by the expanding role of trans-nasal endoscopic surgery. These minimally invasive and technologically advanced techniques offer excellent outcomes with decreased morbidity compared to older methods. Next year I plan to continue my studies in Boston as a Fellow in Rhinology and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery at Harvard.

I am grateful to The University of Scranton for an excellent pre-medical education, diverse academic opportunities and lifelong friendships, including my wife, Judy (Bognet) Platt, M.D., '99, an attending

physician within the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Albany Medical Center.

Of all of my experiences, I am most thankful for the opportunity to accompany Scranton students and alumni on medical missions to Haiti. Amidst the constant struggle we face within the system of medical practice, treating patients in Haiti allows a fresh perspective that reminds us of why we became physicians: to help individuals in need.

## ▼ Medical School Placements for 2006 Matriculation

Fifty-seven individuals gained acceptance to health professions schools for matriculation in 2006. This group includes 43 graduates of the Class of 2006 and 14 individuals who were graduate students or alumni who graduated before 2006. Of the 57 alumni who received acceptances in 2006, 37 students reported matriculation to the schools listed in the chart to the right.

School	DDS	DMD	DO	DVM	MD	OD
Drexel University College of Medicine					1	
George Washington University					1	
Georgetown University					2	
Harvard University					1	
Jefferson Medical College					1	
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine			2			
Penn State College of Medicine					1	
Pennsylvania College of Optometry						4
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine			4			
Ponce School of Medicine					1	
Ross University				1		
Ross University School of Medicine					1	
SUNY New Paltz					1	
Temple Medical School					3	
Temple University	1					
The University of Medicine and Dentistry					1	
Thomas Jefferson University					7	
University of Pennsylvania	1	1				
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine					1	
University of Rochester					1	