



Medical Alumni

▼ NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

▼ Haiti: A Lesson in Humanity

By Cassandra Zagorski '08

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The University's Medical Alumni Council sponsored its sixth annual medical mission to Haiti in January. The group, consisting of three alumni physicians and three undergraduate students in the health professions, traveled to Port-au-Prince and beyond for the annual service trip. Following is an excerpt of reflections by Cassandra Zagorski '08.*

My acceptance to join the medical mission team, which included three physicians and three students, initially prompted feelings of elation; feelings which were gradually met by overwhelming hesitation and uncertainty. I had no idea what to expect for what Dr. Richard Bevilacqua suspected would be "the most eye-opening trip yet." In addition to giving me the opportunity to offer hands-on medical care, the medical alumni medical mission trip to Haiti encouraged me to focus on aspects of healthcare that I had not previously considered.

On the plane destined for Port au Prince, Elise and I were approached by a flight attendant who crouched next to my seat in a secretive manner. "The other girls and I are trying to guess... what are you going to Haiti for?" she asked. Her colleagues were huddled near the back of the plane anxiously awaiting her reply. I explained our medical mission trip and she praised our good intentions. Then she told us, "Gee, two pretty girls like you need to be careful. They don't even let us stay in Haiti anymore. We just drop you guys off and turn right around to come back to the states."

"Great," I thought. "I feel safe now."

Knowing I was under the supervision of three wonderful physicians, two with daughters of their own, I journeyed on, confident that I was in good hands. My growing feelings of uncertainty were diminished once our van entered the gates of St. Damien's Children's Hospital, our residence for the week. The smog-filled atmosphere and rocky dirt roads of Port au Prince led us to

an oasis within the desert. The beautifully constructed children's hospital is truly a saving grace to thousands of poor and malnourished children in Haiti. The facility is run by Passionist priest and doctor, Father Rick Freschette, a legendary humanist among the sick of Haiti.

On our second day in Port au Prince, I pushed the mosquito net from my face as I woke in the dry heat. Father Rick gave Mass at 7 a.m., as he did each morning, and afterward we headed up to the third floor of the hospital. This is where the babies who had died the night before were anointed and wrapped. On this day, we saw the bodies of two innocent babies, both with their stomachs pushed outward, characteristic of malnutrition. I could not understand how

"Little did I know that, in a matter of hours, I was about to serve as a dentist, an internist, a pharmacist, and a pediatrician."

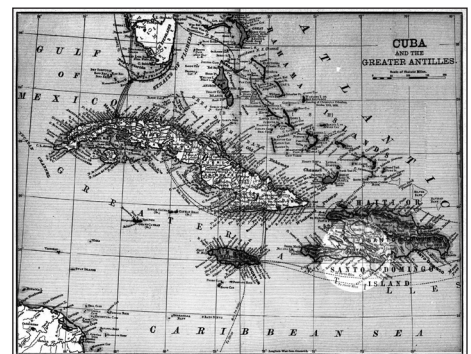
a child could possibly lack sufficient food to survive. In my experience, food had always been an abundant resource. I was used to seeing giant grocery stores lining the streets in the United States. I could not understand how a sweet child could be allowed to starve. I soon learned that it was not a matter of choice.

After the babies were anointed, they were wrapped in cloth and set aside for burial on Thursday. We then headed back to ground level where we prepared a mobile clinic that we would drive into Cite Soleil, the third biggest slum in the western hemisphere, to offer medical care to Haitians living there. The "mobile clinic" consisted of little more than garbage bags filled with vitamins, antibiotics,

cough syrup, blood pressure medication, and a variety of medications donated by local health care providers along with donations that Father Rick had received. We also packed Dr. Bevilacqua's dental instruments and a blood pressure cuff, and slung stethoscopes around our necks. Dr. Chris Jones, who had first gone to Haiti as a Scranton student, gave us a brief tutorial on listening to heart sounds through our stethoscopes and taking someone's blood pressure with our makeshift blood pressure monitor. I almost felt like a doctor, yet I was absolutely scared to death.

We packed our supplies into a tap-tap, the principle form of Haitian transportation. Our tap-tap consisted of a raggedy pick-up truck covered with planks of wood to form what would vaguely resemble a Conestoga wagon. Piled into the back of the pick up truck, we set off for an adventure I will not soon forget. Fortunately for us, a friend of Father Rick, Raphael, accompanied us on our journey. A 25-year old Haitian and former gang member, Raphael spoke broken English, but certainly enough to help us communicate with patients and just as important, he offered us the protection of having a local person on our side.

To read the piece in its entirety, visit the MAC Web site at www.scranton.edu/mac



▼ Living Healthier

Carl E. Bartecchi, M.D. '60, Pueblo, Colo., has co-authored with his colleague at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Dr. Robert Schrier, a sequel to their 2000 publication, *The Science and Art and Science of Living a Longer and Healthier Life*, a new book entitled *Living Healthier and Longer – What Works, What Doesn't*. With an aging population and rapidly increasing health care costs in today's medical climate, Dr. Bartecchi wrote that there is a need to concentrate more on preventive medicine and health maintenance strategies. "The education of our population is the key to any effort that will bring about changes that will significantly influence the health of our population," he says. The publication is being distributed, free of charge

to each of 60,000 households in Pueblo. This was made possible by large volume printing and the support of foundations, hospitals, the *Pueblo Chief-tain* newspaper, and the Colorado Health Department. The authors are donating this text to the project and information in the book is also being made available to everyone through a free download in an Adobe PDF format (<http://healthierlongerlife.org/index.html>). This will provide quality, accurate and timely information to everyone at no cost. Dr. Bartecchi's books are included in the University's Alumni Authors Collection.



Medical Mixer Members of the MAC Executive Committee including Lt. Col James Cummings M.D. '88, Walter Reed Army Research Center, right forefront, cluster with groups of medical students following the MAC meeting in Philadelphia.

MAC Executive Committee

Joseph P. Bannon, M.D., '83 ▼ *Scranton*
Richard Bevilacqua, D.M.D., M.D., '83 ▼ *West Hartford, Conn.*
Jean-Paul Bonnet, D.O., '76 ▼ *Sparta, N.J.*
Joanne Calabrese, D.O., '91 ▼ *Jim Thorpe*
Paul R. Casey, M.D., '71 ▼ *Gwynedd Valley*
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 ▼ *Washington, D.C.*
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 ▼ *Wallingford*
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 ▼ *Boston, Mass.*
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. ▼ *Associate Provost
Academic Affairs (Interim)*
Mary F. Engel, Ph.D. ▼ *Director of Medical School Placement*
Gerald C. Zabolski '87, G'95 ▼ *Vice President,
Alumni & Public Relations*
Lynn King Andres '89 ▼ *Assistant Director Alumni Relations*

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 28, 2009

Medical Alumni Symposium at The University of Scranton

For more info call 1-800-SCRANTON
or email alumni@scranton.edu



▼ 2008 Frank O'Hara Award Presented to Former MAC Chair.

Richard Bevilacqua, D.M.D., M.D. '83, West Hartford, Conn., received the University's Frank J. O'Hara Alumni Award in Medicine at the awards ceremony in June and on the occasion of his silver anniversary reunion. The award, named for the late administrator who served the University with love and devotion for 53 years, is the highest honor bestowed jointly by the University and its Alumni Board. It recognizes Scranton graduates who have achieved distinction in their professional or personal endeavors.

Dr. Bevilacqua is a craniofacial surgeon on the cleft team at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and has written on new surgical procedures in treating adult cleft patients in the *Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University; a dental degree from Harvard University; a medical degree from the University; and a medical degree from the University of Connecticut.

Having served as a member of the University's Medical Alumni Council since 1999 to include a term as Chairman, Dr. Bevilacqua had spearheaded and participated in the MAC medical mission trips to Haiti for several years. As late as January of this year, together with his fellow alumni physicians and undergraduate students in the health professions, he coordinated efforts to secure donations of medical supplies which were hand-carried aboard aircrafts destined for Port au Printe and driven to remote areas of Haiti to treat victims of accidents, violence and disease. Dr. Bevilacqua and his wife, Elena-Lee Ritoli-Bevilacqua, D.M.D., M.D.S. have three children, Marialena, Christiana and Michael. Dr. Bevilacqua and his brother, Atty. Michael '78, established the Michael J. Bevilacqua Scholarship in 1989 in memory of their late father. The Bevilacqua Scholarship is available to students from families who have more than one student in college at the same time.



Medical Mixer This group of young alumni physicians and alumni in medical school were among those gathering for a reception at the Annenberg Conference Center, Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia, following the MAC Executive Committee meeting in April.

From left; **Pamela Q. Taffera D.O. '02**, **Ryan Rusnok M.D. '02**, medical school students **Katie Terrana '05**, **Kevin McHale '05**, **Jim Bailey '04**, **Keren McCarthy '05** and **Christopher A. Jones, M.D. '02**.

This chart indicates matriculating classes of Scranton grads in health professional schools over the past several years. This information was provided by the University's health professions advisor and the med school placement of the Class of 2007 as reported to the Office of Career Services. It is not a comprehensive list. A list of names of Scranton alumni in med school is available from the Office of Alumni Relations.

*An application has been submitted to the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a name and status change from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) to the Pennsylvania Health and Science University.

CLASS of 2007						
Graduates Reporting Med School Placements to Career Services						
GSchool	Total	DMD	DO	DPM	MD	OD
AT Still School of Medicine	1		1			
Drexel University College of Medicine	1				1	
Georgetown University School of Medicine	1				1	
Jefferson Medical College	1		3		1	
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine	3					
New York Medical College	2				2	
New York University School of Medicine	1		1		1	
Nova Southeastern University	1					
Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine	1			1		
Pennsylvania Health and Science University*	1					1
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	10		10			
SUNY Downstate Medical School	1				1	
Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry	1	1				
Temple University School of Medicine	1			1		
The University of Connecticut School of Medicine	1				1	
	27	1	15	2	8	1

▼ Joseph F. Lydon M.D. '43 Named 'Pillar of Medicine'

The Board of Directors of the Cleveland Clinic has selected **Dr. Joseph F. Lydon '43** as a recipient of the Pillars of Medicine Award, for a lifetime devotion to medicine and a significant and everlasting impact on patient care. The award is given to physicians who have been retired for two or more years and who have made outstanding professional contributions to the Clinic's hospitals throughout their medical career. In his selection for the Award, the Clinic recognized his long history and dedication to the medical staff and its communities, his significant impact on patients and hospitals and his leadership in mentoring young physicians and professional colleagues.

Dr. Lydon attended the University on a full scholarship and graduated in absentia during World War II. While in the U.S. Army, he attended Temple University School of Medicine and completed a residency at Philadelphia General Hospital. In 1950, he went to the Cleveland Clinic as a surgical resident, but again another conflict, the Korean War, took him overseas in an Army infantry unit serving in the medical section. Later, he met his wife, the late Kathleen, at the GI desk at the Cleveland Clinic. Together, they had five children. Dr. Lydon has contributed a great body of knowledge to the field of surgical medicine and educating the surgeons of tomorrow is important to him. He has a sense of satisfaction that new surgeons are perfecting in the field. Dr. Lydon was awarded the Frank J. O'Hara Award in Medicine in 2003.

▼ Five Appointed to MAC Executive Committee

With the level and variety of activities and the anticipated growth of the medical alumni constituency, the Executive Committee approved the appointment of five new members.

A search committee under the leadership of **Paul R. Casey Jr. M.D. '71**, Council Chair, reviewed the list of medical alumni who had indicated an interest in serving as a result of the MAC medical survey last year and announced the following new members who were welcomed at the MAC Executive Committee meeting this past spring. New members are: **Mark V. White, M.D., M.P.H., '95**, Elizabethtown, an epidemiologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg; **Joyce A. Petrini, M.D. '76**, Meadowbrook, an emergency room physician at Jeanes Hospital, Philadelphia; **Joseph A. Nebzydowski, V.M.D. '74**, Jeffersonville, N.Y., Youngsville, N.Y. Veterinary Clinic; **Christopher A. Jones, M.D. '02**, Providence, R.I., an internal medicine resident, Brown Medical School, Rhode Island Hospital; and **Philip J. Dzwondzyk, M.D., FACP '75**, Norwich, N.Y., Chief of Medical Services at the New York State Veterans Home and Clinical Associate Professor, Upstate Medical at Syracuse University. New members serve a three-year renewable term. Additional appointments are anticipated to increase the Executive Committee members to 35.

▼ Health Clinic for the Uninsured Opens On Campus

The University and Lackawanna County Medical Society announced the opening of a free health clinic providing non-emergency health care to uninsured Lackawanna County residents who do not have, and cannot afford, private health insurance and who do not qualify for public health insurance.

The Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured is the only free clinic in Lackawanna County. It provides services usually given by a primary care physician, such as treatment of fevers, influenza or respiratory infections. Located in the University's 4,000 square-foot Leahy Community Health and Family Center in the lower level of McGurrin Hall, the clinic is open

from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. The clinic may serve 20 to 24 patients each week.

The clinic fits well with the University's Jesuit mission by combining learning with service and by engaging our resources, faculty and students with professional collaborators to meet a pressing community need. It offers new opportunities for faculty and student teaching, learning research and service in the fields of health, human services and education.

The Edward R. Leahy Jr. Endowment at the University honors of the late son of Atty. Edward R. and Patricia Leahy.

Mission Statement

The Medical Alumni Council (MAC) seeks to assist undergraduate pre-health professional students through education in health-related programs, networking assistance and guidance on admission to health professional schools, and access to role models in various medical careers. The MAC also keeps alumni health practitioners informed about campus developments, nominates students and alumni for scholarship and awards, conducts symposia for alumni in the health professions and encourages financial support for the University from these alumni. The Medical Alumni Council is dedicated to securing The University of Scranton's place as the recognized leader in pre-health professional education in Pennsylvania.