Above: The Boston Globe Magazine's December 16 Medical Issue featured a two-page photo spread and extended caption about the Chemical Principles Lab (CHE 131) class of 60 first-year students, led by instructor Ed DePierro. The photograph of the chemistry labs in the Ronald A. Matricaria Academic & Student Center was taken in the early evening hours of November 26, 2007.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Since my last President’s Update, I have focused on expanding the College’s international presence by visiting Hangzhou Medical College in China, King Saud University in Saudi Arabia and the University of Havana in Cuba. Through collaborations with these and other institutions around the world, MCPHS is helping its faculty, students and alumni develop a global understanding of health care systems, complementary and alternative medicine, contemporary health care practice and pharmaceutical distribution.

Of the many trends in higher education today, globalization is one of the most important. In the years ahead, more and more of our students will be participating in study abroad opportunities, and a growing number of international students will be enrolling in the College’s degree and certificate programs. In order to maintain its competitive edge, MCPHS must take a leadership role in fostering a global perspective on health care delivery.

Speaking of leadership, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Michelle Kalis has been appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost. Dr. Kalis has done an excellent job as Acting Provost during the last year, and I know she will continue to do so in the future.

I hope you will have an opportunity to meet Dr. Kalis at the Alumni Reunion Weekend in June, or at another College event.

Charles F. Monahan Jr.
President
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has received a $450,000 grant from King Saud University (KSU) in Saudi Arabia to assist KSU’s College of Pharmacy in developing clinical practice faculty, implementing a Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum, creating post-graduate residency and fellowship programs and conducting research. On January 7, 2008, MCPHS President Charles F. Monahan, Jr. and KSU Rector Abdullah A. Al-Othman signed the agreement at a ceremony on the University’s sprawling campus in Riyadh.

“We are very impressed with the quality of pharmacy education and practice at King Saud University and its clinical sites,” said President Monahan, who was accompanied by Dr. George Humphrey, Vice President for College Relations, and Dr. Caroline Zeind, Chair and Professor of Pharmacy Practice at MCPHS-Boston. “This collaboration will provide both institutions with a unique opportunity to develop cross-cultural and international perspectives on pharmaceutical care.”

In addition to meetings at King Saud University, the MCPHS delegation met with officials at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, King Khalid University Hospital, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority and the Ministry of Health. With almost 80,000 students on several campuses, King Saud University – established in 1957 as Riyadh University – is the largest institution of higher education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its College of Pharmacy is the oldest in the country.

The collaboration has already begun to bear fruit. On March 25, Dr. Yousif Asiri, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at King Saud University, delivered the 12th Annual Michael J. Ordman Memorial Lecture in Reed Hall. The presentation was titled “Pharmacy Education in King Saud University: Past, Present and Future.” The annual event, which is held in memory of the late Michael Ordman, an alumnus and adjunct faculty member, was co-sponsored by the School of Pharmacy-Boston, the Department of Continuing Education and Tufts Medical Center.

Dean Asiri received his B.S. Degree in Pharmacy at KSU, and completed both a Master of Science degree in Hospital Pharmacy and a Pharmacy Practice Residency at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his PhD in Pharmacy Practice from the University of Pacific in California. He has held several faculty and administrative appointments at King Saud University during the last 10 years. Dean Asiri’s research has been in the area of Poison Control and Prevention and Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

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Above: William Gouveia, Director of Pharmacy at Tufts Medical Center, Dean Asiri and President Monahan
Above left: Dr. Caroline Zeind signs a copy of her textbook for Dr. Mohamed N. Al-Arifi, Director of the KSU Drug and Poison Information Center
Background: King Saud University
MCPHS Delegation Visits University of Havana

On February 13, President Charles F. Monahan Jr. returned from a successful visit to Cuba, where he and other MCPHS representatives consulted with officials regarding the College’s collaboration with the University of Havana. Accompanying the President were Dr. Michelle Kalis, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost, Dr. George Humphrey, Vice President for College Relations, and Alejandro Pino, Instructor in Pharmacology. The delegation discussed possible study abroad programs on the Cuban health care system and research opportunities in alternative medicine and natural products.

During the visit, President Monahan was one of twelve university presidents from around the world to speak at a special convocation celebrating the 280th anniversary of the University of Havana, which was founded in 1728 by Spanish missionaries.

“International collaboration is the best way to ensure the future success of pharmacy and the health professions,” he told the audience of 1,500 academics assembled at Havana’s Convention Palace.

MCPHS is one of the few universities in the United States to have a license from the U.S. Treasury Department to conduct educational programs in Cuba. Between 2001 and 2003, over 150 MCPHS faculty, students and alumni participated in College-sponsored trips to Cuba to exchange ideas on health care topics.

Above left: President Monahan with Dr. Juan Vela Valdez, Cuban Minister of Higher Education and former Rector of the University of Havana
Right: MCPHS officials were greeted by Josefina Vidal Ferreiro of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

China Collaboration Enters New Phase

President Charles F. Monahan Jr. led a second visit to China last November, accompanied by Provost Michelle Kalis, Vice President for College Relations George Humphrey, Vice President for College Advancement Marguerite Johnson and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Xiang Qian Chang. The purpose of the trip to Hangzhou, Shanghai, Xian and Beijing was to discuss collaborative educational programs and to plan an alumni tour of China to be held in November 2008. The visit was developed in conjunction with Dr. Guo Qing, President of Hangzhou Medical College, as part of a five-year collaborative agreement with MCPHS. In addition to conferring with Dr. Guo, President Monahan and the delegation met with officials of the Hangzhou municipal government, a hospital of traditional Chinese medicine in Shanghai, and officials from China’s Ministry of Health and the Chinese Medical Association in Beijing.

During spring break week in March, Professor Chang and six MCPHS pharmacy and nursing students visited Hangzhou Medical College. They attended classes and visited cultural sites in Hangzhou and Shanghai. “We had an amazing time,” said Helen Chu PharmD ’10, who is President of the Asian Student Association at MCPHS–Boston. Next October, six students and a faculty member from Hangzhou Medical College will spend a week on the Boston campus.

Eighty-seven alumni, spouses and friends have signed up for the College’s 10-day sightseeing tour of China scheduled for this November. The group will visit most of the important cultural sites in China—including the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven and Great Wall in Beijing; terracotta soldiers and city walls in Xi’an; West Lake and Chinese medicine museum in Hangzhou; and the Shanghai Museum and the Bund in Shanghai. President Monahan will receive an Honorary Professorship from Hangzhou Medical College at a special ceremony during the trip.

Above left: Vice-President Peg Johnson awards the gold medal in the women’s track event at Hangzhou Normal University last November. The University sponsored the all-day event as part of China’s celebration of the 2008 Olympic Games to be held in Beijing next summer.
Left: MCPHS students explore Hangzhou’s scenic West Lake with newfound friends from Hangzhou Medical College.

Above: MCPHS officials were greeted by Josefina Vidal Ferreiro of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs.