During an October 14 ceremony, MCPHS formally recognized the longstanding support and a recent generous gift of alumnus Gregory H. Laham and his wife Debbie, as well as Mr. Laham’s mother, Lorraine K. Laham. The dedication of the Admission Office suite in the name of the Laham family brought several dozen family members and friends to the Boston campus, including Boston mayor Thomas M. Menino. Trustees, faculty and staff also gathered to pay tribute to the Laham family for their outstanding commitment to MCPHS and the community.

President Charles F. Monahan Jr. noted that Mr. Laham has been one of the College’s most loyal alumni, having served on the Board of Trustees and as chairman of the Building Committee for the last ten years, a period of unprecedented growth for the College. Moreover, the Laham family has developed Sullivan’s Pharmacy in Roslindale into an exemplary community resource, serving the entire City of Boston.

Mayor Menino, praising his long-time friends Greg and Lorraine, remarked that he found the dedication of the Admission Office suite particularly appropriate since “this is where it all begins for the next generation of pharmacists, nurses, dental hygienists and other health professionals.” In her remarks that closed the dedication ceremony, Executive Director of Admission Kathleen Ryan noted that upgrades and enhancements to the Admission Office suite made possible by the Laham’s generous support will help MCPHS continue to recruit the “best and the brightest” students for years to come. Following the ceremony, a special reception and dinner were held at the Brant House for invited guests.
Prescription For Success

For the past 12 years, lifelong Worcester resident Charles F. Monahan Jr. has been the president of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The college recently purchased a building at 46-48 Foster St. in Worcester for $1.5 million. Monahan said it will use the 30,000 square feet, including 10,000 square feet of basement space, to add classrooms and academic space. The college anticipates bringing 400 more students to Worcester. Currently, it has about 600 students in Worcester, 3,400 on its main campus in Boston, and 400 at a second satellite site in Manchester, N.H.

"You’re downtown, which is sort of unusual for a college campus. What do you think of the location?"

All our campuses are concrete campuses, like Harvard, like Suffolk, in Boston we’re on Longwood Avenue. We have 120 parking spaces for 3,000 students and 550 faculty and staff. So we take public transportation. Worcester is the same — we don’t have a campus. What you see is what you’ve got. Our students are serious students; they’re older students and this is what they want. They’ve already had their campus life, shall we say.

"How did you end up setting up shop in Worcester?"

We can’t expand anymore in Boston so in 1969 we looked at other options. We looked at Springfield, we looked at Rhode Island, and we chose Worcester, not because I live 5 minutes up the street, but because it’s right across the street from the new Medical Center, which is now St. Vincent. And the UMass Memorial system and the medical school are very important to us as is Fallon Clinic.

"What do you think about the ongoing attempts by some Worcester officials to get colleges off of city property to make payments in lieu of taxes to the city?"

There’s a lot of misconception on what is a PLOV. There’s a 101 McGrath has a PLOV, that’s only on the green construction, but it’s nowhere near where it would be if it were a tax. As you go for new permits you negotiate and they take into consideration the community benefits.

We have a report from the Association of Independent Colleges that 400 students contribute $10 million in spending to the community. That’s in books and tuition and housing and food. You can see we don’t have any cafeterias here, and our students go out to parisonize the local establishments.

"What exactly will you do with the new building? What about the others you own?"

We are in desperate need of large classrooms, so this new building will have our classrooms that will hold 250 students and a second classroom will hold 230 students. We have laboratories in the front windows. You’ll see students in white coats just like in Boston. That’s been our claim to fame.

We also have other buildings (in downtown), and we bought that for future needs and also to solidify our presence here. Down the road our greatest need is parking.

"What new programs of study have you added recently? Are you planning more?"

Worcester really is a satellite campus of Boston although it’s separately accredited from Boston. Boston has 31 degrees and certificates. We bought pharmacy clinical assistant and nursing here, and naturally we’re looking at bringing in some of the other health professions. We have a bachelor’s in dental hygiene so our graduates can teach in the community colleges. Or they could go to work for the pharmaceutical companies. We’re also going to enrol a master’s in public health.

"The health care industry is one of the few bright spots in the current economic downturn. Do you think there’s room for pretty much unlimited growth within the industry?"

Yes. I don’t see any slowdown in this with all the new developments. All the new drugs — I just mentioned all the new therapies and drugs that have come out. Even with an order for 300 and clinics and drugs from Canada, right now the National Association of Chain Drug Stores — just that one faction — has 7,000 open positions. Walgreens are opening up on every corner.

Conducted and edited for length by Linda Gersten
Worcester Business Journal Staff Writer

The Worcester Business Journal ran a profile of MCPHS President Charles F. Monahan Jr. in a recent issue.
College Acquires 2.5 Acre Downtown Manchester Property

Early last summer, the College purchased a parcel adjacent to its current campus at 1260 Elm Street. The property extends 500 feet from Hollis Street north along Fir Street to Dow Street, totaling 2.5 acres, with 69,000 square feet of office space and 154 parking spaces.

“We are continuing our commitment to Manchester, as evidenced by our $6.5M refurbishing of the current campus,” President Monahan said. “This will allow us to gradually expand our physical space as we add more degree programs such as dental hygiene and radiologic sciences. We are here to stay.” President Monahan noted that the College has no immediate plans to develop the buildings or alter any of the five current tenants. The parcel is slated for future growth.

“The College's purchase of this property is a sign of confidence in our city as a first class place for young people to gain a quality education,” said Manchester Mayor Frank C. Guinta. “This is an illustration of how higher education and health care are making significant investments which will benefit the city and the region by training and locating health care professionals right here in Manchester.”

“With the rapid growth of our health sciences programs, and the growing need for highly-trained professionals in northern New England, the College needs to look to the future,” Monahan said. “MCPHS has committed itself to bringing more students and jobs to the Downtown area, and with the cooperation of city officials, the local business community and the many fantastic hospitals and clinical sites in the area, we look forward to continuing towards that.”

MCPHS-Manchester was founded in 2002, after the College took over Notre Dame College’s Physician Assistant Studies program. The campus added a Nursing program in 2007 and offers the only Pharmacy program in Northern New England.

College Acquires Downtown Worcester Property for $1.5M

On August 11, the College announced the purchase of a building across from its current downtown Worcester campus for $1.518M. The property (The Protocol building—40 Foster Street, between Commercial and Waldo Streets) contains 20,000 square feet of office space on two floors. The College plans to renovate the building in order to expand the accelerated Doctor of Pharmacy Program.

“The College has invested more than $50M in the downtown area, and I believe a rich mix of health care facilities and biotech companies help give Worcester a very bright future,” said President Monahan. “The College is very interested in bringing more of its 31 degree and certificate programs to the Worcester campus, and this purchase will allow us to further fill the need for highly skilled health care professionals in Central and Western Massachusetts.” The Worcester campus currently offers programs in pharmacy, nursing and physician assistant studies.

The additional academic space will allow MCPHS to expand the enrollment of the Worcester campus by up to 400 additional students. The new facility on Foster Street will house new lecture halls, teaching laboratories, faculty offices and student study areas.
Griffin Building Right on Schedule

Construction on the Richard E. Griffin Academic Center continues at a rapid pace under the watchful eyes of MCPHS Executive Vice President Richard J. Lessard. “The project team has done a remarkable job, given the challenges of the site on Huntington Avenue,” said Lessard. “All eyes are clearly focused on a January 2009 opening so that our faculty and students can take advantage of the new facility during the spring semester.” The 50,000 square foot building will be the new home of the schools of Nursing, Physician Assistant Studies and Radiologic Sciences, as well as the Alumni, Continuing Education, College Advancement and College Relations departments. Among the striking interior features are a 250-seat auditorium with stadium-style seating and a multipurpose room on the top floor with views of downtown Boston. Perkins and Will designed the building, and Bond Brothers is managing the construction. A formal dedication ceremony will be held in the spring.

Highlights

- 12 days of escorted travel through one of the world’s most magical landscapes
- Overnight stay near the forgotten city of Machu Picchu, high in the Andes
- Sail to the floating cities on the world’s highest navigable lake—Titicaca, birthplace of the Inca religion
- Guided tours of the ancient cultural center of Cuzco, the Spanish colonial city of Arequipa and the bustling Peruvian capital of Lima
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