DEAR SCHOLAR SUPPORTER:

What a special evening!

Last April I had the privilege of presiding over the annual MCPHS Scholarship Recognition Dinner, an event that exceeded my expectations. A record number of scholarship fund donors and donor representatives attended. Scholarship award recipients became engaged with donors and donor representatives. Donor and student speakers delivered thoughtful presentations that touched many hearts.

This event shines a light upon a most significant student assistance program. Scholarship awards are both financially meaningful and academically inspirational. Students repeatedly report that awards build pride and spur a drive to achieve that has profound motivational impact. While our students’ financial investment is substantial, their commitment to progress academically toward career goals is another far-reaching responsibility. In so many ways, our scholarship award recipients demonstrate outstanding character and meet academic qualifications that predict future career success.

I am grateful for your ongoing interest in the development and growth of our scholarship award program…yet no more grateful than the students who are the beneficiaries of your altruism.

Please join us for next year’s very special evening.

Sincerely,

Marguerite C. Johnson ’61
Vice President for Development and Chief of Staff
New MCPHS alumnus Courtney Penny DH’12 calls the Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene faculty “amazing.” She continues, “all professors, as well as the instructors in clinic, are extremely knowledgeable and willing to help...They treat students as future peers; I know that they respect us as soon-to-be registered dental hygienists.”

Courtney was twice named recipient of the Northeast Delta Dental Scholarship award, a credit that points to her excellent grade point average and residency in Yarmouth, Maine where she grew up and graduated from high school as a varsity athlete, distinguished scholar and student government representative. Northeast Delta Dental Foundation’s Treasurer, Kathleen B. Walker, APR noted, “The availability of trained dental hygienists has a direct bearing on the accessibility of oral health education and services, so we provided MCPHS with an endowment scholarship to award students who live in our market territory, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.”

Courtney seems pre-destined to give back. “I would like to work in a pediatric office and in public health dental hygiene. Thousands of children and adults in New England are not receiving oral health care that they need and deserve.”

Courtney points out, “Oral health can impact one’s overall health, a dental hygienist must be well-versed in many aspects of patient care. Fortunately, we are educated in microbiology, pharmacology and nutrition.”

Courtney relied upon scholarships, grants and loans. She said, “I come from a middle class family and paying out of pocket was not an option. What an honor it is to receive scholarships, especially... for academic excellence when you are recognized for your hard work and dedication.” She praises donors who “help students with the knowledge and determination, but not the means, to fund their education.” She is extremely grateful that she just happens to be one of those students.

Arnold M. And Barbara P. Briggs Scholarship Fund

When Arnold Briggs BSP ’49 graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, a gallon of gas cost 17 cents, a new car $1,420 and a new home $7,500. Things have changed! Or maybe not so much, since it made it much easier, financially, to be able to graduate from MCP with the assistance of the G.I. Bill. Annual tuition ran about $600, and Arnold was grateful for every penny of support. That’s why this former proprietor of Brigg’s Pharmacy in Damariscotta, Maine, decided 59 years later, with his wife Barbara, to establish an endowed scholarship fund for students from Maine.

As a Maine native, young Arnold Briggs made lifestyle adjustments to thrive in Boston. Life was hectic, the curriculum challenging and faculty supportive. Yet Arnold jokes that a favorite MCP memory includes “contemplating the nurses from the lecture hall overlooking the roof of Boston Lying-in Hospital where nurses sunbathed in the summer.”

After a pharmacy career of more than 30 years, he contemplated the financial challenges that students face. “It’s never too late to try to help the next generation of health care professionals,” he says.

Arnold concedes that his motivation to establish the fund had deeper significance. “Giving is a spiral that should continue on and on through the generations,” he notes. He expects that students who benefit from donor generosity will someday repay as alumni. “When their lives are more settled, I think it is very important to try and help others to share in the success that they have been able to achieve.” Meanwhile, as the number of awardees from the Briggs scholarship fund grows, Arnold boasts, “It is satisfying to know that I can help another pharmacist achieve the success that I experienced.”