DEAR SCHOLAR SUPPORTER:

Welcome to the first issue of MCPHS Scholar Support. This newsletter, distributed on a periodic basis to MCPHS Scholar Supporters, is meant to keep you informed about current news in the MCPHS scholarship program and to introduce you to fellow donors and donor representatives, as well as scholarship beneficiaries - high achieving, highly motivated MCPHS students. In the coming months, we will provide you with behind-the-scenes glances at the MCPHS scholarship award selection, notification and recognition process at the same time as you become familiar with members of the MCPHS Scholar Supporter community.

Thank you for playing a profound role in the progress of our students toward their careers as health care professionals. Your support and commitment to their education and maturation is central to their success and inspires even greater achievement.

We also welcome your comments, suggestions and observations about this publication and about the MCPHS scholarship program. Please feel free to call me at 617.274.3377, or email peg.johnson@mcphs.edu.

Sincerely,

Marguerite C. Johnson ’61
Vice President for Development and Chief of Staff

IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY

Although the tranquil days of April are a full winter away, it’s not too early to reserve the evening of Wednesday, April 4 for the seventh annual MCPHS Scholarship Recognition Dinner on the MCPHS-Boston campus. Formal invitations will be mailed later this winter. Please take part in this celebratory event that unites donors, donor representatives and student award winners.

NOW YOU KNOW

- MCPHS awards more than $17 million in financial assistance and external scholarship fund support.
- Nearly 250 MCPHS students will receive more than $250,000 in direct scholarship support from more than 115 scholarship funds during academic year 2011–2012.
- Scholarship awards are being made to students representing more than 14 academic majors during the 2011–2012 academic year.

CAN YOU HELP?

Scholarship award donors make a profound difference. They reward the work, accelerate the drive and inspire greater achievement from top students at a time when educational financing has become one of their greatest challenges. Financial need is growing. Could you provide greater assistance to MCPHS students?

To learn how you can increase your impact on current and future students, call Peg Johnson, Vice President for Development at 617.274.3377 or email at peg.johnson@mcphs.edu.
As members of the Pinkos family from Medford, Massachusetts struggled with the impending, much-too-soon death from cancer of their cherished daughter and sister, Laura Bogdanski BSp ’98 in 2010, the idea for a special tribute took shape. Laura’s father, Joe Pinkos recalls, “Laura truly loved her profession; it was her job and colleagues that helped her through her most difficult days. Establishing an endowed scholarship fund would be a fitting tribute for Laura as she was so proud of her alignment with MCPHS.”

It has been less than two years since the Laura (Pinkos) Bogdanski Memorial Award Fund was established. Laura undoubtedly would be extremely proud of the fund which bears her name. The fund catalyzed the support of more than 100 donors, including family members, friends and colleagues of Laura and her family. These donors have contributed nearly $28,000 to support scholarship awards that benefit students with a professional interest in clinical pharmacy and who have participated in professional or community-service focused activity. Mary Pinkos, Laura’s mother, regards the scholarship fund as a living memorial to Laura that preserves focus on “her professional goals in life.” As a student mentor, Laura “had a vision of expanding the role of clinical pharmacists in the medical community.” Having met the first two award recipients, Yin Wong PharmD ’13 and Ashlee Egan PharmD ’12, both Joe and Mary agree that they “were well qualified and have the drive and ambition to continue the visions of Laura.”

Despite Laura’s quest for professional excellence, Joe Pinkos says that she “did not expect to receive praise or an award for what she accomplished.” Somehow you know that annual scholarship awards to students would provide more than enough satisfaction. Her mother chimes in, “We believe that she would be pleased that we have helped advance her goals.”

Scholarship award recipient Ryan Costantino PharmD ’12

Ryan has mainly financed his education through private loans and a few federal loans that have created a formidable debt burden. Scholarship support has delivered financial relief that has allowed him not only to excel academically, but also, “to get involved in the profession even as a student…through such organizations as APhA, ASHP and ACCP.”

“Being a scholarship award winner has allowed me to continue to focus on my education, rather than my bank account.”—Ryan Costantino

That’s one reason why this PharmD student has cultivated outside-the-classroom experiences. Ryan notes, “What I have found most interesting about my course of study is the sheer amount of opportunities available for me to develop myself outside of the classroom.” Moreover, he adds, “I have been able to gain better insight into what it means to be a pharmacist, and where the profession is heading.” He has served on college committees and in the Student Government Association as well as participated in community service programs. These wide experiences have opened his eyes. He observes, “I am amazed at how many different career paths are available for my program.”

Ryan received scholarship support from the Julius B. (Jay) Rombult Scholarship Fund, a fund that assists student members of the Phi Delta Chi fraternity. Ryan says, “Being a scholarship award winner has allowed me to continue to focus on my education, rather than my bank account,” and to continue to be involved in the College and in the many organizations he has become a part of.” He concludes, “The sustained support of donors for scholarship funds help MCPHS educate outstanding leaders and health care professionals.

Much of the outstanding work that students perform at our College would not be possible without their support.”