We will soon bid adieu to our graduating students as they become new MCPHS University alumni. I recently paused to wonder how many of these students would be left behind had they not received financial assistance from loans, grants and scholarship awards.

Most of them, it turns out.

Among numerous sources of financial support for students, scholarship awards are unique. Elizabeth Bart MPAS ’13, the student who delivered remarks at the recent Scholarship Recognition Dinner, stated, “Until you’ve experienced the financial relief and the personal pride that such an award inspires, you can’t fully appreciate its significance. I speak for scholarship award winners…in saying that the selfless generosity of donors only reinforces our commitment to succeed and validates our decision to pursue careers in health care.”

Every student who benefits from scholarship award support, and who later devotes a career to the advancement of health care service, could positively impact either one person’s life at a time in a very small town, or perhaps millions of people simultaneously around the world. The benefits of a leading-edge health sciences education are virtually limitless, and of extreme value to humankind.

Without the sustaining financial support and commitment of scholarship fund donors, many students would never have the chance to become the 21st century health care professionals that we all need. We are grateful to be able to honor our graduates as they leave MCPHS with optimism, qualifications and responsibility for service.

Thank you for your support,

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

Scholarship Recognition Dinner Celebrates Student Achievement

On April 3, approximately 150 student scholarship award recipients, donors and donor representatives, attended the ninth annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner. Nearly 100 students who received financial support from more than 60 scholarship funds attended the gathering, along with scholarship donors and donor representatives. During academic year 2012 – 2013, MCPHS delivered in excess of $300,000 in student scholarship award assistance, part of more than $19 million in institutional support provided to students.

President Charles F. Monahan Jr. BSP ’62 observed, “Scholarship awards are prizes of incomparable value not only for their economic benefit and but also for the inspiration that they provide.”

Kathleen Walker, director of Marketing & Communications for Northeast Delta Dental, the first institutional donor representative to deliver remarks during the event’s nine year-history described her company’s philanthropic motivation by saying, “We provide funds for awards to dental auxiliary students because we want students to continue their education, become valuable contributors to their profession, and most importantly, to benefit society...We strongly believe that we must play a role in encouraging and supporting future dental hygiene professionals.” Indeed, that last motivation resonates with every donor who provides scholarship support for MCPHS University’s future health care professionals.
Emily Barker PharmD ’13
David P. McQuaid ’80, FACHE Restricted Scholarship Fund

Emily Barker PharmD ’13 grew up in big city, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and then came to Boston, another big city, to attend a small college at MCPHS University. Or at least that’s how she views her progression from grade, middle and high schools to the School of Pharmacy—Boston campus where for the last six years she flourished academically within a “close knit environment.”

This past fall, Emily received one of two scholarship awards made possible through the David P. McQuaid ’80, FACHE Restricted Scholarship Fund. The award arrived at a truly fortuitous time in Emily’s academic career since, as she reports, “I am on rotations so I have less time to work, so I am grateful for any form of assistance.” That’s not to say that Emily already hasn’t overcome significant obstacles. The personal, family and financial challenges that Emily faced while growing up underlie why she sought an academic environment in which she found faculty “who care about the success of each individual student and want to see each one excel.” She grew up in a single-parent household, and has financed her enrollment in the six-year PharmD academic program without any family financial assistance. She serves as a work-study student, a tutor of 6th – 8th graders and as a weekend pharmacy intern. Meanwhile, she has carried a full academic course load that, she reports, has validated her decision to earn a PharmD degree. But that’s not the end of the story.

Emily proudly notes, “After I graduate this year I plan on completing a PGY-1 residency and then going on to a PGY-2 residency specializing in ambulatory care or critical care.” She says, “The things I find most interesting about pharmacy are the mechanisms through which various drugs work in the body… Pharmacists play a major role in making sure patients understand why they are on specific medications, how to take them and what to expect from them.”

Scholarship donor generosity has also captured Emily’s gratitude. “The financial assistance I have received has helped to pay for an exceptional education at MCPHS that has prepared me to be a successful pharmacist.” While she has thrived within the comparatively small MCPHS academic environment, Emily sounds well-prepared for the real-world challenges that know few boundaries.

Dr. Robert S. Crisafi
The Joseph and Letty Crisafi Scholarship Fund

“Like father, like son” may sound cliché. Sometimes it’s not. Robert C. Crisafi, son of alumnus Joseph C. Crisafi PhG ’27, makes sure of that.

Dr. Crisafi, an alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from Northeastern University and a PhD from University of Florida represents and supports the Joseph and Letty Crisafi Scholarship Fund—a fund that his father created in 1978 in memory of his wife, Dr. Crisafi’s mother. Now it’s family tradition, but hardly the only one.

Dr. Crisafi took his father’s advice to follow him into the pharmacy profession. He first worked as a faculty member at Northeastern University, and later created Lyne Laboratories, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, in addition to 11 other health care businesses. A self-described “serial entrepreneur,” Dr. Crisafi pioneered liquid unit-dose applications, and serves as Chair of Lyne Laboratories. Since his father’s death in 1997, and true to his father’s wishes, Dr. Crisafi has sustained award selection criteria that deliver financial assistance to “hard working and needy students” from Revere, Mass., the city in which his father was raised at the turn of the 20th century.

Dr. Crisafi says, “Dad... was very fond of his alma mater.” That’s why the elder Crisafi started the scholarship fund, and why Dr. Crisafi “began to embellish the scholarship in honor of both my Mom and Dad.” Dr. Crisafi notes, “It is extremely satisfying for me to know I have helped students, in some small way, as they journey through financial difficulties.”

Student award winners have noticed. Dr. Crisafi remarks, “Over the years, I have enjoyed getting thank you letters... I feel that my father’s intentions have been met.” He adds, however, “College graduates who have received financial awards should express thankfulness by making contributions that will help others who follow.”

Although his dad graduated in the late 1920s, Dr. Crisafi concludes, “Through the Joseph and Letty Crisafi Scholarship” at MCPHS, his name will forever be attached to MCPHS... the College he loved so much. Nothing more than this has to be said in terms of being rewarded!” And that’s definitely no cliché.