Longer daylight hours, ever so slightly milder temperatures, even a few unusual bird calls perhaps signal the approaching conclusion of a rather prolonged and somewhat brutal Northeast winter. These cues also mean that the much-anticipated wrap up of another MCPHS University scholarship award program is on the horizon.

On April 9, scholarship award winners and scholarship fund donors and donor representatives will gather on the MCPHS-Boston campus to celebrate another noteworthy year of scholarship awards which exceeded $340,000 distributed to more than 300 worthy and deserving students. This event may be my favorite among all university events. The gathering attracts MCPHS University students who demonstrate the traits that lead to both personal and professional success, largely in service to others: academic proficiency, outstanding personal character, commitment to community service, career-focus and devotion to improve human health. Our scholarship award winners are achievers who deserve recognition and merit the opportunity to meet the generous donors who make their scholarship awards possible.

I urge you to attend this year’s 10th Annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner. The process of educating our students begins in the classroom, and continues in laboratories, practice sites, community service centers, and even social events. As a donor who supports MCPHS students, one of your most valuable rewards could be an inspirational encounter with a scholarship award winning student. It gets to me every time.

I hope to greet you at this wonderful event on April 9.

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

A Year for the Record Books

It looks like a record breaking year.

Although final results won’t be in until next month, preliminary tallies related to the number of academic scholarship awards, the number of scholarship award recipients and total external funding for scholarship awards during academic year 2013 – 2014 all indicate record-setting performances.

Only a few years ago, total scholarship funding for all externally-funded academic scholarship awards rarely reached $300,000. Available funding was distributed among approximately 250 awards. In contrast, during this academic year at least 317 students will share in the distribution of restricted and endowed scholarship fund awards that exceed $340,000. Both of those numbers also could grow before the books close on academic year 2013 – 2014.

Growth in the number of scholarship awards and in the amount of funding available for awards results from several key factors. Chief among these factors are an improving economy and a larger number of generous donors.

As the economy improves, returns on endowment fund investments have grown, thereby influencing the growth of endowment fund principal which directly impacts the funds’ recommended awards.

Yet, no single factor other than expanding donor generosity explains the impressive rise in the number and total value of awards, thereby leading to a record number of recipients. Just within the past couple of years, MCPHS has worked with donors to create and to fund more than two dozen new scholarship funds. These funds have resulted from the distribution of assets from estates, donors seeking to honor and/or memorialize family members or friends, and donors who wish to ensure that current and future students receive a financial boost that will help to ensure their focus remains on academics.

The various factors that underlie donor decisions to support scholarship funds represent great opportunity for the sustained growth of these vital student financial resources. Clearly, continued and growing donor support for scholarship funds makes it all happen.
Thomas H. Borysek BSP '65, '07 (Hon.)

Thomas H. Borysek BSP '65, '07 (Hon.) is a proud alumnus who easily identifies the root source of his pride. "I was...and still am...very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to obtain my education in the time honored profession of apothecary through the hard work of my parents and the auspices of having dedicated professors." After nearly five decades of dedicated service, and still serving as the FDA Liaison Pharmacist with the Veteran's Administration, Dr. Borysek credits his MCPHS education for his professional success which has, he says, allowed him “to give back in endowed scholarship actions as a measure of my appreciation.”

In addition to providing financial support that facilitated the creation of the Living and Learning Center which bears his name on the MCPHS–Worcester campus, Dr. Borysek has established two endowed scholarship funds in honor and in memory of family and close friends: The Henry P., Helen I., Victoria and Thomas H. Borysek Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Scholarship Fund and the Harold James Lane, MD/Thomas H. Borysek Memorial Scholarship Fund. The funds were created to foster recognition of, and to reward, MCPHS students enrolled in the pharmacy degree program who also demonstrate strong academic aptitude, financial need and career interest in specific health sciences and healthcare disciplines.

How times have changed since his college days! Dr. Borysek remembers, “The tuition costs were far less. I didn’t need special help since I was employed during the summer and was able to pay for the college years. Today, in 2014, I know the tuition/campus living costs are dramatic.” Reflecting on his career of professional challenges and the rewards that he has accrued, Borysek notes, “It is very important to me to encourage graduates to give something back to the college to help new students. I hope that by giving back to the college that today’s graduates will be so generous to remember Mother College.”

Among the various rewards that Dr. Borysek receives as a scholarship donor, he says that one stands out. “I receive a note from each scholarship recipient thanking me for his or her award; it warms my heart just like my Mum’s hand-made lemon pie did years ago. I am glad I have a warm hand to give something back to MCPHS, and in turn, to students in need of a helping hand.”

Michael Rose PharmD ’15

Michael Rose PharmD ’15 has his eyes wide open because it works for him. Indeed, the fifth year pharmacy student says that he finds “the immense number of career options for pharmacists” to be the most interesting and compelling aspect of his course of study. He reports, “I’ve learned so much more about the jobs that a pharmacist can take on after school, and am excited to see where the expanding roles lead my profession in the future.”

For the time being, at least one of Michael’s feet is always firmly planted in the present. In addition to his rigorous course load, he serves as Rho Chi Treasurer for the Class of 2015, volunteers as a patient partner at Children’s Hospital, founded the Luke Capistran Fund and, in his spare time, trains for his second Boston Marathon as a member of the Miles for Miracles Children’s Hospital Marathon team.

As a recipient of a National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation (NACDS) Pharmacy Partners Scholarship award, Michael says that he wants to pursue a career in pediatric oncology, and would “love to work for a hospital such as Children’s Hospital or one of the many St. Jude research hospitals. He credits MCPHS for building bridges with the types of institutions at which he might someday build his own career. “I believe that the most beneficial aspect of MCPHS University is its relationship with so many top hospitals in the New England, the internships that are offered to students, and the countless opportunities of which we are able to take advantage.” He says that the close ties with Children’s Hospital that he has developed since arriving at MCPHS have helped him to find “a career path that is extremely interesting and rewarding.”

As a multiple year scholarship award recipient, Michael has experienced the reward of financial support throughout his MCPHS career, yet economic challenges remain, “I was fortunates enough to receive a few scholarships from the schools and donors, but the difference is made up with loans that I will need to pay back after graduation.” Yet, he concedes, “Each year that I have received a scholarship has made it a lot easier to make ends meet, and helps to limit the amount of loans that I had to take out.” He adds, “they also give us incentive to continue striving for excellence in the classroom and the community.” He says that these rewards are universally shared among scholarship award winners, and he can only say “thank you to all of the donors for supporting our educational careers and our futures as healthcare providers.”