LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Colleges and universities are by their very nature dynamic institutions which continually grow and change. MCPHS University’s student body, faculty, curricula and programs, and its campuses are continually evolving through our constant efforts in the furtherance of our mission—preparing students for successful careers in healthcare through excellence in teaching, scholarship, research, professional service, and community engagement.

The University’s Board of Trustees also experiences changes in its make-up from time to time. The University’s Annual Corporation meeting in October, 2014 was the last meeting for four of our long serving, distinguished Trustees. After many years of dedicated and distinguished service as a trustee, including the last six years as chairman of the board, Jay Bikofsky BSP ’62, ’06 (Hon.) decided not to stand for re-election to the Board for another term. During his tenure, Mr. Bikofsky led the University through record growth as MCPHS expanded from one and a half buildings in Boston to twenty-two buildings on three campuses in three cities, and increased the number of students from a few hundred to almost seven thousand, studying in over sixty degree programs. As chair of the Investment Committee he also oversaw the notable growth in the University’s endowment. The trustees unanimously elected Mr. Bikofsky as chairman emeritus.

Also leaving the Board last October were Gregory H. Laham BSP ’73, Judith P. Ronshagen BSP ’70, and Mark Fuller. Mr. Laham, who served as vice chairman and who was awarded the MCPHS University Medal at last May’s Commencement, has been a sage advisor and longtime teacher of countless MCPHS students at Sullivan’s Pharmacy and Medical Supply, as well as a generous benefactor. Judith Ronshagen, one of our longest standing Board members and also a generous benefactor, served for many years as chair of the Board’s Education Committee, using her dedication to academic excellence to guide the Committee in its formation of new degree programs. Mark Fuller, who served as chair of the Committee on University Advancement, oversaw the expansion of the University’s many student scholarships, and assisted the University through his invaluable advice and counsel in the areas of philanthropy and fundraising. Ms. Ronshagen and Messrs. Laham and Fuller also have been unanimously elected as trustees emeriti.

On behalf of the trustees, students, faculty, staff and alumni, I extend to Mr. Bikofsky, Mr. Laham, Mr. Fuller and Ms. Ronshagen congratulations on their election to emeritus status and the thanks of a grateful University for their service.

I am pleased to announce that Richard E. Griffin BSP ’71, ’08 (Hon.), ’10 (Hon.) has been elected chairman of the Board of Trustees and Maryesther E. Fournier BSP ’75 has been elected vice chair.

Richard Griffin, son of alumnus Wilfred Griffin BSP ’51, brings strong business skills to this important leadership position. He is also one of the University’s most generous benefactors. He has helped to fund numerous capital projects, including construction of the academic center in Boston that bears his name. Mr. Griffin credits his pharmacy education for his success in hospital pharmacy as well as for spawning the scientific acumen and the entrepreneurial vision that led him to create two successful critical care focused corporations. Mr. Griffin has never forgotten his alma mater. He once said, “I’ve always supported the College. … It’s always fun to be involved in positive change.”

Maryesther Fournier, a long-serving board member, operates Smith Drug in Wakefield, MA. Ms. Fournier harbors special affection for the institution that she credits with her success as an independent pharmacist within an operationally competitive and financially challenging business environment. She proudly notes, “The University is a big part of my family.”

As I begin my nineteenth year as President of MCPHS University, I am excited to be working with our new chairman and vice chair, as well as the entire Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff to help move our beloved institution forward. As you will read in this State of the University, we have achieved several notable milestones and established new goals that, when realized, will ensure a secure future that is consistent with our mission.

Best wishes and welcome to 2015.

Charles F. Monahan Jr. BSP ’62
President
HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS of clinical affiliation and residency agreements underlie the real-life healthcare experiences of students and recent MCPHS graduates enrolled on all three campuses. Clinical rotation and residency sites stretch from Boston to Boca, from Worcester to Wyoming, and from Manchester to Malibu. Yet, the need for a larger number of clinical rotation sites never abates. Hence, MCPHS and Tenet Healthcare, a leading national healthcare services company with a coast-to-coast network, continue to work on finalizing an agreement that would provide dozens of clinical rotation positions for MCPHS Physician Assistant Studies students across the United States.

Last fall, MCPHS and Reliant Medical Group forged the first nurse practitioner/physician assistant residency educational program for primary care in the Northeast. The mission of this innovative program is straightforward: “To maximize the growth and development of highly qualified primary care nurse practitioners and physician assistants through the use of a structured program providing didactic lectures and trainings in a safe and nurturing environment.” This new program, which will launch in spring 2015, will prepare recent nurse practitioner and physician assistant graduates for employment through rotations in primary care in addition to the more traditional specialty care rotations. Over the course of one year, residents who are employed as full-time Reliant staff will work with advanced practitioners, physicians, and MCPHS faculty in clinical settings and attend classroom lectures. This is one more example of the expanding strategic roles for students that are secured from the clinical rotations and didactic preparation within area hospitals, community health centers, and medical groups such as Reliant.

On-campus developments in the past few months match the significance of these off-campus achievements. The three-year Doctor of Physical Therapy academic program, designed for students who already hold a bachelor’s degree and who seek careers in the profession of physical therapy, achieved full accreditation last spring. This accomplishment speaks to the insight, commitment, and experience of the physical therapy faculty who introduced this discipline to MCPHS less than four years ago. The School of Optometry recently introduced Joseph Zinkovich, OD as its new acting dean while the School of Physician Assistant Studies welcomed Salvatore Barese, EdD, PA-C, as its program director. These Worcester-based academic programs continue to thrive as students enrollment growth trends accelerate coincident with favorable employment forecasts for physical therapists, physician assistants, and optometrists.

With seventeen buildings under MCPHS ownership in or near downtown Worcester, the University is well positioned to accommodate growth both within and beyond the current eight academic programs, which include Dental Hygiene, English Language Academy, Medical Imaging and Therapeutics, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant Studies. The MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach Program has moved to dedicated office space adjacent to MCPHS Online, a transition that facilitates enhanced access to members of the general public who seek the assistance, guidance, and support of Pharmacy Outreach professional case managers and pharmacists. With this move, the Office of Admission now occupies significantly expanded street-level office space thereby improving access for prospective students and their families. Finally, in addition to the two on-campus residence facilities housing students in the Borysek Living and Learning Center and the 10 Lincoln Square Academic and Student Center, MCPHS has invested in residential facilities that provide convenient access for graduate students to all MCPHS—Worcester campus programs.

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“LAST FALL, MCPHS ALSO INITIATED A NEW FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR POST-PHARM D GRADUATES AT BOSTON CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL IN PHARMACOGENOMICS/BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS.”

“THE CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT (CPCD), A RELATIVELY NEW DEPARTMENT YET ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ON ALL THREE MCPHS CAMPUSES, PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE PROFESSIONS.”

The School of Pharmacy introduced new academic programs to accommodate the more than 4,700 students enrolled on the Boston campus. MCPHS conducted extensive facility renovations that created new, technologically enhanced study space in both the Marracca Academic and Student Center and the Griffin Academic Center as well as expanded the operation of the Academic Resource Center to enhance academic advising and counseling, tutoring services, and peer mentoring. MCPHS also has established a writing center, a math center, and English as a second language instruction on the Boston campus, and continues to invest in new academic programs and services designed to meet the professional needs of an ever-evolving healthcare career environment.

The study of how genetic regulated variations may impact one’s ability to respond to, or develop side effects from, medications.

The School of Pharmacy introduced new academic programs for students interested in non-traditional careers including a bachelor’s program in Biomedical Informatics, a master’s program in Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy. Last fall, MCPHS also initiated a new fellowship opportunity for post-PharmD graduates at Boston Children’s Hospital in Pharmacogenomics/Biomedical Informatics.

MCPHS also continues to bolster the ranks of its faculty and staff to meet academic, professional, and residential/student life needs. Last spring, Maryann Clark, EdD joined MCPHS in the role of professor and executive dean of health sciences. Last December she was named associate provost for health professions. Dr. Clark recently played a major role in preparing students for their respective professions.

Accelerated growth in the number and scope of institutions of higher learning devoted to healthcare careers education has fostered unprecedented opportunities for students to pursue their educational and career-focused dreams. The Center for Professional Career Development (CPCD), a relatively new department yet one of the most popular on all three MCPHS campuses, plays an essential role in preparing students for their respective professions. Just a few of the many CPCD services include personalized advising, counseling with industry-specific information and resources, development of job search skills, and making hands-on professional experiences available to students to support personal goals and career success. During the past year, CPCD staffing grew to be able to offer career services support for the expanding number of international MCPHS students, provide a dramatic increase in the number of workshops and class visits related to career exploration and preparation, and meet the ever-growing demand for personalized career counseling and advising services.

With the assistance of a new alumni career advisor, the CPCD soon expects to offer career-related services and support to MCPHS alumni. ■

Craig Mack, EdD joined MCPHS as the new dean of students on the Boston campus. With more than twenty years of experience in student affairs and student success initiatives, Dean Mack has focused his effort and resources on the strengthening and expansion of all student services as well as the development and growth of the University’s student clubs and organizations, which number more than ninety. Dennis Camacho, EdD also joined the University as associate dean to lead Academic Support and Resources. Dr. Camacho’s more than ten years of leadership experience in academic and student affairs will serve him well in the management of all academic support services on the Boston campus.

The University and Seton Hall University at times of significant academic discipline growth, program diversification, and curriculum expansion.
“The closing of New Hampshire Lane certainly helps create more of a feeling of community by joining the campus together physically.”

by working closely with deans, senior administrators, faculty, and staff of the Manchester campus community, to replicate operational success on the Worcester campus. Mr. Wall issplitting his working time on each campus and, among many objectives, is focused on streamlining operations, identifying and taking advantage of opportunities for growth and development of campus properties, and enhancing community-based working relationships with dozens of organizations, institutions, and enterprises.

Seth Wall, Executive Director, Worcester and Manchester campuses

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will further unite, soften, and enhance the outdoors on-campus experience at the MCPHS University–Manchester campus. While the Worcester and Manchester campuses have shared academic programs in Nursing, Physician Assistant Studies, and Pharmacy since the founding of the Manchester campus in 2002, the two campuses have rarely shared common administrative leadership—until now. In a significant organizational transition, Seth Wall was recently appointed executive director of operations for both Worcester and Manchester campuses.

Mr. Wall, who has served a directorship role on the Manchester campus for more than eight years, now brings operating vision and managerial expertise to his new dual role in Manchester and the rapidly growing Worcester campus. He plans to use his considerable institutional experience, gained with outstanding faculty members who are devoted to preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders. To support its students and faculty members at the heart of the MCPHS experience, the University’s capital investment program is largely focused on the creation of leading-edge academic facilities, provision of student residence facilities, and the continuous upgrade of the infrastructure that contributes to world-class teaching and learning.

In short, MCPHS invests almost exclusively in the “people, places, and things” that keep teaching and learning as the core principles upon which it has operated for nearly two centuries. These investments, which are constantly taking place on all three MCPHS campuses, yield graduates whose consistently high passage rates on national licensing board examinations stand as a ringing endorsement of MCPHS's strategic approach and unwavering commitment to its academic mission.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

are big parts of everyday life. Students receive grades. Consumers have credit scores, and business entities earn ratings. Ratings cover an ever-widening range of business measures. Yet a credit rating, an evaluation of the credit worthiness of a business, provides a prized snapshot measurement and evaluation of its long-term economic prospects.

Last fall, Moody’s Investors Service, a leading provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis, upgraded to A1 from A2, with a positive outlook, the MCPHS University rating on outstanding revenue bonds. This upgraded rating places the University among the upper tier of thousands of Moody’s-rated entities and speaks to the University’s strong capacity to meet financial commitments. In its rationale for implementing the upgrade Moody’s reported, “The upgrade to A1 rating reflects MCPHS’s sustained trend of exceptionally strong operating performance … as well as the university’s business-minded management and steady enrollment growth. The university has significant financial flexibility. … The positive outlook reflects our expectation that the university will continue its trend of healthy profitability leading to unrestricted resource growth that outpaces that of peers.”

In the increasingly competitive business environment of higher education, the ability to outpace or at least to keep pace with peer institutions becomes the crucial element of a strategy that ensures longer-term prosperity. While the number of colleges of pharmacy across the nation has nearly doubled in ten years to almost 150 (with more on the way), MCPHS University introduced new schools for healthcare professions in physical therapy, medical imaging, dental hygiene, physician assistant studies, and optometry. Moreover, the University further diversified by adding a rich mix of specialized academic programs within these schools such that it now offers sixty-eight degree and certificate programs. These are only a few of many proactive steps that the University has taken to address the ever-evolving workforce needs of a healthcare industry in significant transition under the Affordable Care Act and to meet student enrollment growth goals. In fact, at a time of declining student enrollment throughout higher education, MCPHS experienced growth of 5 percent in overall student enrollment, bringing the total to nearly 7,000 students who hail from forty-two nations and every state.

While the potential to secure rewarding, career-oriented healthcare positions motivates many students to select MCPHS, the average tuition charge is extremely competitive with all private four-year liberal arts institutions and less than the tuition of most. These factors help contribute to a diverse pool of qualified and highly motivated prospective students who seek MCPHS’s technology-resource-rich academic environment and the opportunity to engage with outstanding faculty members who are devoted to preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders. To support its students and faculty members at the heart of the MCPHS experience, the University’s capital investment program is largely focused on the creation of leading-edge academic facilities, provision of student residence facilities, and the continuous upgrade of the infrastructure that contributes to world-class teaching and learning.

MCPHS University offers an urban campus to end up landing its own city street. But that’s just what happened at the MCPHS University–Manchester campus when the city of Manchester ended ownership of New Hampshire Lane to the University. The street, which runs between the two buildings on campus, presented a vehicle traffic safety risk for pedestrians who frequently cross between the two MCPHS campus buildings. Moreover, the roadway served to divide rather than to unify the campus and its community of students, faculty, and staff.

Since MCPHS assumed ownership of New Hampshire Lane last fall, it has been closed to vehicle traffic. A student services staff member recently noted, “The closing of New Hampshire Lane certainly helps create more of a feeling of community by joining the campus together physically. It also is much safer for the students, faculty, and staff without the traffic driving though the campus.” These comments, echoed throughout the University community, validate the decision to acquire New Hampshire Lane. Furthermore, once winter relaxes its icy grip, plans call for property beautification improvements that

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IN A SOCIETY awash in devices that facilitate instantaneous communication, MCPHS University remains at the forefront among institutions of higher education that support interconnectivity of alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff. Last fall, the Office of University Advancement introduced a newly designed and content-rich alumni website. This interactive information resource delivers news about University and alumni events; provides program schedules for alumni and continuing education activities; presents essential information about alumni benefits, services, and volunteer opportunities; informs about MCPHS charitable giving programs; and lists contact information for senior administrators and University Advancement staff. The new website is also the hub for communication among and about alumni. Megan Brown PharmD ’12 reports, “The new website conveys useful information for MCPHS alumni of every generation. It is the place to connect with classmates, check out job openings, register for continuing education programs and learn how I can help MCPHS students.” Brendan Raftery BSPHCB ’12 puts it succinctly: “The old site felt like Web 1.0; the new site feels like Web 2.0.”

Traffic has been busy. Meredith Lavine, University Advancement’s digital content and social media coordinator who led the development of the new website, reports that visitors have recorded more than 30,000 sessions and logged nearly 145,000 pageviews. Alumni have logged onto the online community more than 1,400 times, and more than 200 alumni have registered. Visitors hail from across the United States and around the globe. They are using desktop, laptop, mobile, and tablet devices to connect to information about, and to register for, continuing education programs and Reunion activities, join the interactive alumni community, update personal profiles, learn about alumni benefits, connect with MCPHS social media channels, and make charitable gifts. And, that’s just the start.

While a student’s MCPHS tenure is time limited, every graduate is an alumnus for life. alumni.mcphs.edu is all about learning about, and enjoying the benefits of, lifelong membership in the MCPHS Community … wherever you go, here we are.