



A Message from the President

Welcome to the latest issue of the Drexel University College of Medicine online alumni magazine! Here on campus, the talk is still of Commencement and our pride in our new graduates. As these students – our largest class yet – pass into the ranks of alumni, they are inheriting another tradition of our medical school – a lifelong intellectual curiosity and dedication to patient care. That educational torch is passed from generation to generation. Far from being a stale repetition, the awareness of continuity challenges our creativity, pushing us, as teachers and students, to attain greater levels of excellence.

This issue of the Alumni Magazine pairs two seemingly unrelated themes – stewardship and creativity – in a way that presents a very nuanced and exciting portrait of the College of Medicine.

With the idea of stewardship, the steward is entrusted – like no other – with the full responsibility of safeguarding another's treasure. At the College of Medicine, we see this enacted two ways. Our alumni are stewards of their own academic legacies and traditions, preserving them for future generations. The generosity and support of alumni ensure the continuity of the broad, clinically focused medical education and innovative problem-solving that have become hallmarks of our institution. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the profiles of John Po, M.Sc., M.D. '03, Ph.D. '02, and donors Ruth Rizzo Savarese Gambescia, HU '77, and Richard Gambescia, M.D. HU '71. Similarly, our current students see themselves as beneficiaries of this "treasure" – a superior medical education – and do their utmost to take advantage of every opportunity available to them. This issue's student and resident profiles highlight the ways in which a unique Drexel experience is shaping their promising careers.

The issue's other theme, creativity, actually complements the dynamic of stewardship at the College. Medicine may not seem an inherently creative endeavor, yet its practice calls for continual innovation, critical thinking, an ability to see connections, unconventional problem solving, and a willingness to take risks – all creative acts. All strategies that can be associated with our predecessor institutions and Drexel's well-known "tradition of non-tradition." As several of the articles in this issue show, this type of creativity is flourishing at the College of Medicine.

The Independence Blue Cross Medical Simulation Center is a cutting-edge clinical tool that blends the art and science of medicine, creating new ways of teaching and learning. As many of you have seen firsthand at Reunion events, it sets a new standard for medical education. Likewise, the Clinical Memory Disorders Program at the College of Medicine is on the cusp of profoundly changing the brutal course of cognitive degenerative disease. There is great hope



because of their unrelenting, outside-the-box research. Finally, an overview of the current admissions process at the College of Medicine perhaps most fittingly reveals the dynamic between stewardship – caring for our legacy in the 21st century – and creativity – adapting and being responsive to change to the point of becoming national leaders in this competitive field.

As always, we want to hear from you! Please let us know what aspects of the Drexel University College of Medicine you would like to see us cover in future issues. What topics interest you? Whom and what would you like us to feature? In addition, we invite you to share your professional and personal stories with us. Graduates of the Drexel University College of Medicine are spread throughout the globe and have touched many lives as physicians, researchers, and healthcare providers. When you read the online Alumni Magazine, we want it to instill pride in our achievements and in the more than 155-year history underlying Drexel University College of Medicine. We look forward to the future with excitement and the greatest of expectations.

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