



## Time to Rejoice, Time to Reflect

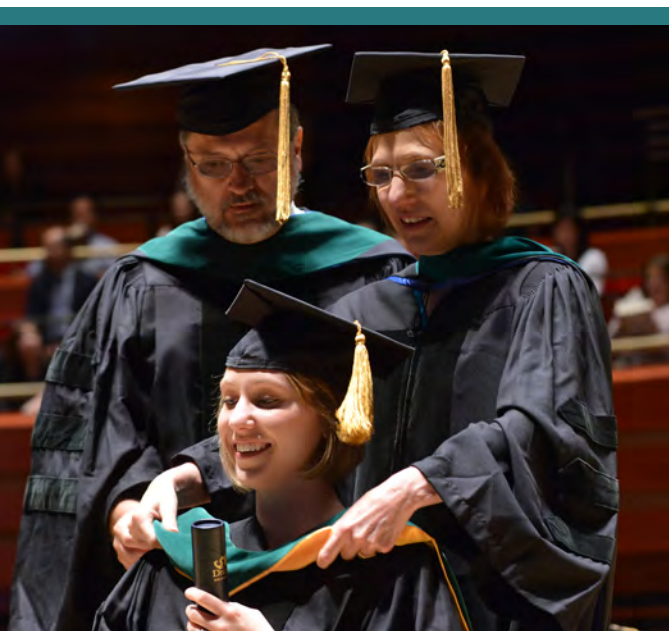
Our graduating students — 475 medical, doctoral, and master's degree recipients — have packed up and headed off to the next challenge with those hard-earned new credentials appended to their names. Most of the M.D.'s began their recent educational adventure a little more than four years ago, but at least one Ph.D. recipient embarked on his journey in 2005. At Drexel University College of Medicine, the light at the end of the tunnel is always the merry month of May.

May is a short month at the College of Medicine and full of festivities, beginning with Alumni Weekend and ending with Commencement. The close of the academic year 2012/13 marked 165 years of our medical school's history and 50 years for the Class of 1963, whose three-day reunion took place during Commencement week. Alumni Weekend, held earlier in May, brought back not only the 25<sup>th</sup> reunion class of 1988 and others from the '60s through the '00s, but also members of the Woman's Medical College Class of 1958, and the Hahnemann Classes of 1957 and 1953.

Past, present and future came together May 17 at the corner of Avenue of the Arts and Spruce Street. Family and friends arriving at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts ran a cheerful gauntlet of sidewalk entrepreneurs offering bouquets trimmed with ribbons and stuffed animals in Drexel colors. Upstairs in the robing room, alumni, faculty, trustees, and officials donned the academic regalia that originated in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The graduates-to-be, also in traditional costume, adjusted their mortarboards and immortalized their friends on

camera phones born this century. Their hoods added splashes of color, lined in Drexel blue and gold and edged in keeping with their degree or field: dark blue for Doctor of Philosophy; green, the color of medieval herbs, for medicine; and golden yellow for the sciences, symbolizing the wealth produced by scientific research (photos in "Behind the Scenes," page 14).

When the processional played, the students entered first, coming from backstage toward the audience, down the steps and into their seats. Once they were in place, the academic procession began. Led by the macebearer, the faculty, trustees, 50-year alumni, and officials came down the aisles of the hall and up onto the stage. Also processing were alumni who would have the joy of hooding family members in the graduating class.



Lauren Borowski was hooded by her parents, Drs. Rosanne Cech Borowski and Gregory D. Borowski, both Hahnemann Class of 1979.

### COMMENCEMENT/REUNION 2013

Vol. 1, No. 6



**4** Alumni came back to the future



**16** The next generation was out in force



**22** Distinguished faculty awards were presented

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# pulse

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• continued from the cover



College of Medicine Chair Stanley W. Silverman; Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.; honorary degree recipients Herbert Lotman and Donald F. Schwarz, M.D., MPH; Drexel President John A. Fry; and College Vice Dean Barbara A. Schindler, M.D.

Before the graduates received their diplomas, two honorary degrees were awarded. Herbert Lotman, chairman of Keystone Foods, was recognized for his impact on health care in this region and around the world. His civic and philanthropic activities include Ronald McDonald House Charities, Children's Cancer Research Foundation, and the Macula Vision Research Foundation, which he and his wife founded.

In accepting his degree, Lotman spoke movingly about the discovery of a gene that causes blindness and the thrilling results of a clinical trial of gene therapy that restored the participants' sight. Both the initial research and the clinical trial were supported by the Macula Vision

Research Foundation. Lotman received the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

Donald F. Schwarz, M.D., MPH, deputy mayor for health and opportunity, and health commissioner for the city of Philadelphia, also received an honorary Doctor of Science degree, and was the Commencement speaker.

Schwarz invited the graduates to join him and others "as partners in maximizing the health of those who are most in need." May 17 is a significant day in the history of American social justice, he noted: the date of the Supreme Court decision in

**"It is within our responsibility as physicians and scientists to assure that all people have the opportunity to live healthy lives."**

*Brown v. Board of Education* and the date that Massachusetts, acting on a court order, became the first state to allow same-sex marriage.

"In recognition of this date and its significance in the history of American social justice in the last century, I want to entreat you to incorporate the concept of social justice into your practice of medicine and into your advocacy as professionals for the health of our nation," Schwarz said. "It is within all of our responsibility as physicians and scientists to assure that all people have the opportunity to live healthy lives."

The edited College of Medicine Commencement ceremony will be available as a digital download linked from this page: <http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/webcast/commencement2013.asp>

# Golden Apples

Given in recognition of excellence in teaching and outstanding service to the student body, the 17th annual Golden Apple Awards were presented on April 10. The recipients are listed according to the student groups who selected them.

## Class of 2016

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Interdisciplinary Foundations of Medicine*

Dr. Kirsten Larson, Immunology & Genetics  
Dr. Janet Smith, Microanatomy

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Program for Integrated Learning*

Dr. Francis Sessler, Neurobiology & Anatomy  
Dr. Michael White, Pharmacology & Physiology

## Class of 2015

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Interdisciplinary Foundations of Medicine*

Dr. Cheryl Hanau, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
Dr. Donna Russo, Microbiology & Immunology

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Program for Integrated Learning*

Dr. Michael White, Pharmacology & Physiology  
Dr. Kim Kahng, Director of Women's Health Pathway

## Class of 2014

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Attending Physician*

Dr. Sam Reynolds, Family, Community &  
Preventive Medicine, Saint Vincent  
Dr. Neil Blumenthal, Ob/Gyn, Easton Hospital

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Resident Physician*

Dr. Syed Shah, Psychiatry,  
Hahnemann University Hospital  
Dr. Panagiotis Kratimemos, Pediatrics,  
Monmouth Medical Center

## Class of 2013

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Attending Physician*

Dr. Joseph Costic, Cardiothoracic Surgery,  
Hahnemann University Hospital  
Dr. Harbhajan Chawla, Pediatrics,  
Hahnemann University Hospital

### Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching

*Resident Physician*

Dr. Gilbert Mbeo, Neurology,  
Hahnemann University Hospital  
Dr. Alex Yu, Neurosurgery,  
Allegheny General Hospital

## Student Body

### Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Service to the Student Body

Dr. Amy Fuchs, Student Affairs  
Dr. Steven Rosenzweig, Community Experience  
Ms. Erin Clark, Health and Immunization Office

## Student Government Association

### Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Service to the Student Body

Ms. Shay Myers, Director of Student Affairs  
Dr. Daniel Schidlow, Annenberg Dean and Senior VP  
Mr. Brian Lynch, Director, Maintenance & Operations



Front (l-r): Drs. White, Costic, and Kahng; Mses. Myers and Clark; Drs. Mbeo, Shah, and Fuchs. Back: Drs. Blumenthal and Rosenzweig, Mr. Lynch, Drs. Chawla, Kratimemos, Smith, Larson, Russo and Hanau. On screen: Dr. Schidlow.

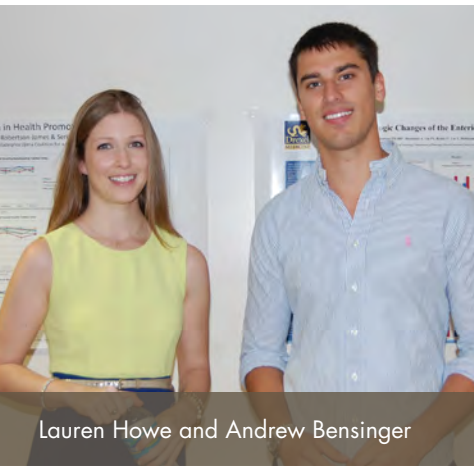


## Alumni Weekend

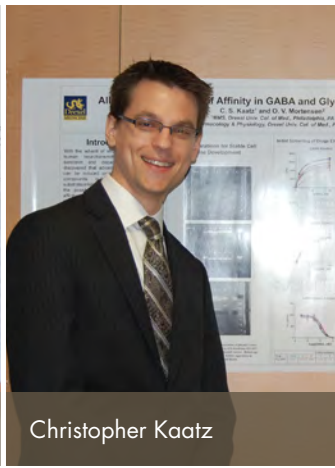
Classmates shared memories, went "back to the future" as medical students, toured the Legacy Center, and imagined dancing in Las Vegas at the University Gala. Mark H. Wholey, M.D., HU '53 (photo below), received the Lifetime Achievement Award.



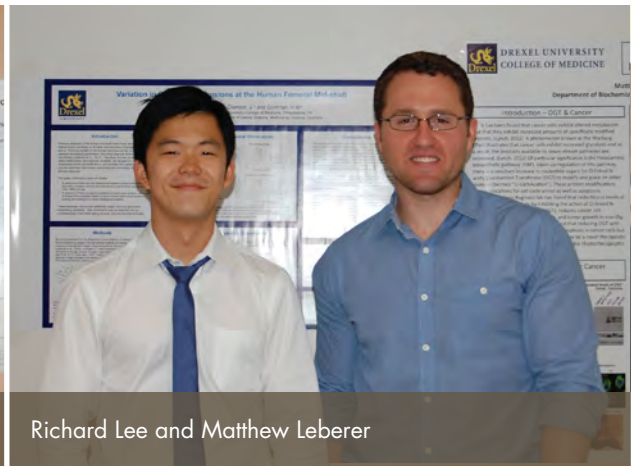




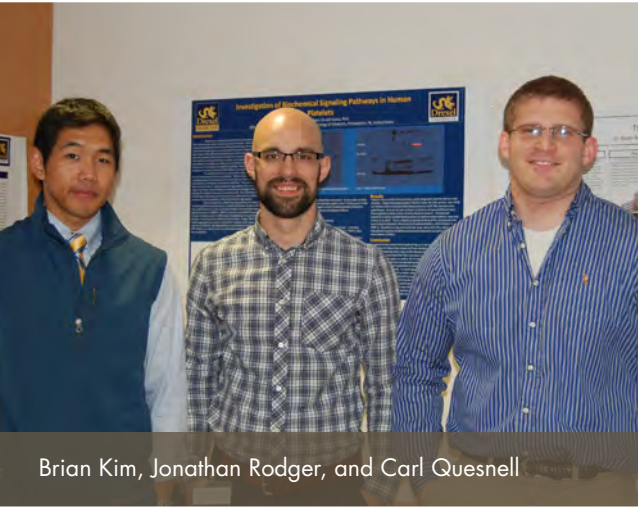
Lauren Howe and Andrew Bensinger



Christopher Kaatz



Richard Lee and Matthew Leberer



Brian Kim, Jonathan Rodger, and Carl Quesnell

# Professional Studies

The Office of Professional Studies in the Health Sciences held a poster session for students in the Medical Science Program on May 8 in Philadelphia and Sacramento.

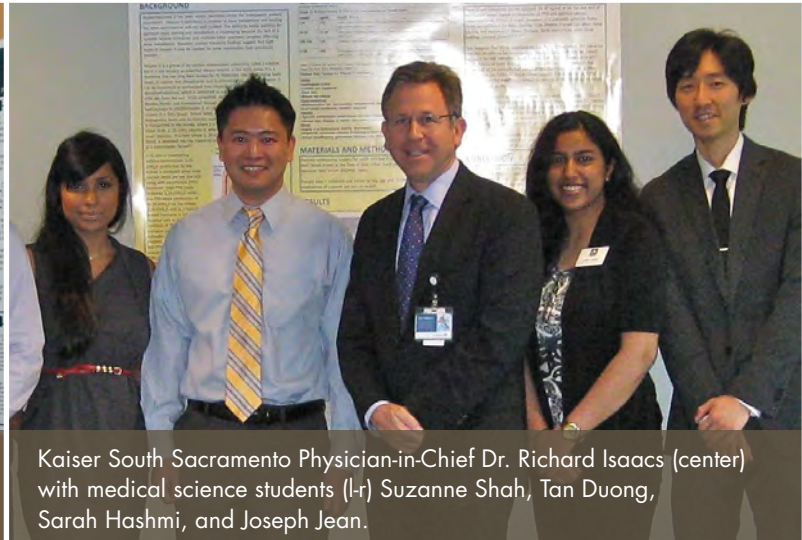
On May 15, graduating students were honored at lunch in Philadelphia (facing page).



Nerissa D'Silva



Ishan Garg and Ronald Devera



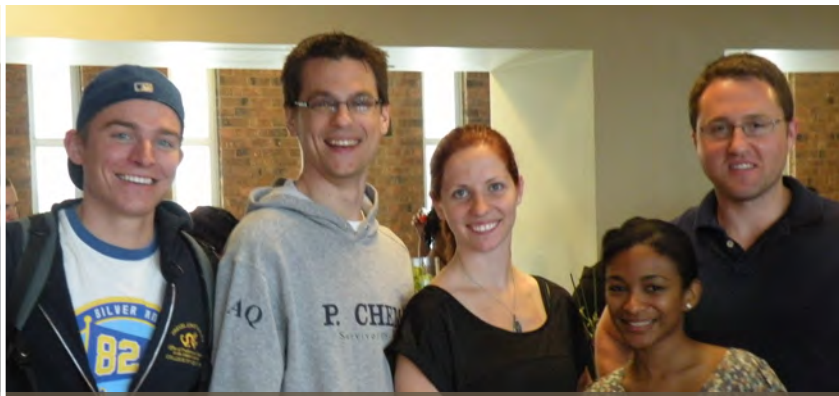
Kaiser South Sacramento Physician-in-Chief Dr. Richard Isaacs (center) with medical science students (l-r) Suzanne Shah, Tan Duong, Sarah Hashmi, and Joseph Jean.



Sarah Hashmi and Joseph Jean, Sacramento, share a laugh with Dr. Richard Isaacs



Christian Czmielewski, Botros Shenoda, and Dr. Seena Ajit



Michael Lindeke, Christopher Kaatz, Alexandria Kragie, Kimberly Campbell, and Matthew Leberer



Charlene Nortey and Erica Morrison



Matthew Eki Okoh, Kelvin Monroe, and Vandeepp Bagga



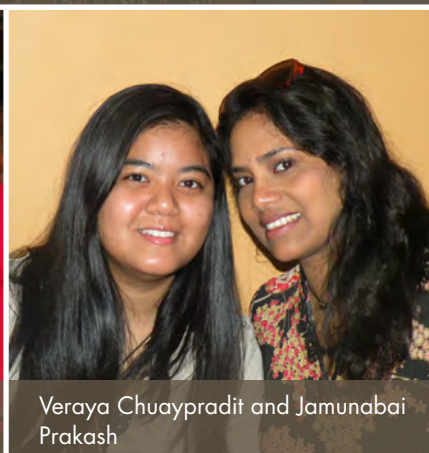
Indira Jain-Figueroa, Michael Gwiazdowski, Margaret-Ellen Johnson, and Jennifer Leveque



Adena Shahinian, Charlene Nortey, Veraya Chuaypradit, Pilin Dhoieam, Corey Simmons, Jeffrey Pierre-Louis, and Jessica Brown



Corey Simmons, Jessica Broussard, and Kevin Diaz



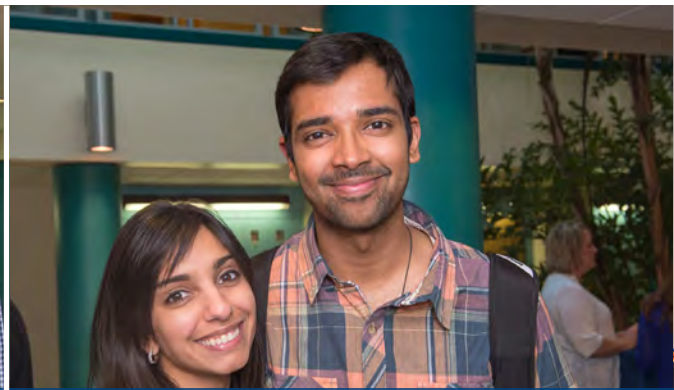
Veraya Chuaypradit and Jamunabai Prakash



Lea Adelman and Alexandria Kragie



Kristina Shahriari, Qing-Xin Liu, and Fei Shen



Sonia Shah and Gokul Swaminathan



Jennifer Creed with her daughter; Sharron Manuel; Dr. Jane Clifford; Angela Richardson; and Vladimir Ratushny

## Biomedical Graduate Studies

Graduating doctoral students received their hoods at an awards ceremony and reception on May 16, hosted by Vice Dean Barry Waterhouse, Ph.D., and the Office of Biomedical Graduate and Postgraduate Studies.



Kimberly Urban and her fiancé, John Carter



Jennifer Creed, her husband, Johnny Korn, with their daughter, and Ann Mae Dileonardi and her daughter



Richard Chu, Anand Rao, Christopher Gutoskey, Dr. Jed Shumsky, Dr. James Barrett, and Rachel Navarra



Patrice Worthy (right) and guest, her sister Alexandra





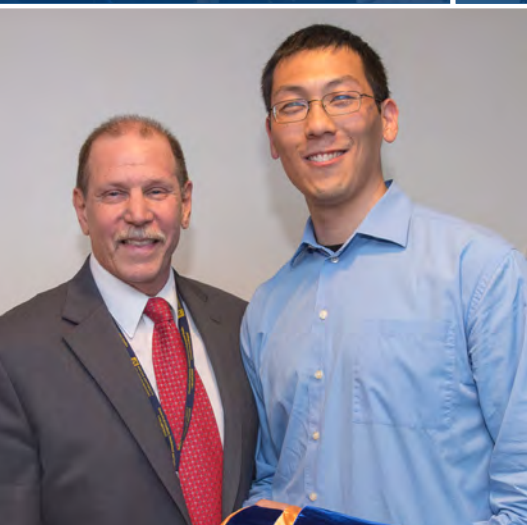
Hollie Flick and Dr. Patrick Loll



Aditi Falnikar and Dr. Ramesh Raghupathi



Ryan Eberwine and Dr. Elizabeth Blankenhorn



Dr. Barry Waterhouse and Richard Chu



Donald Gracias, his brother Ronny, Gokul Swaminathan, and Jennifer Hope



Diane Keene and Dr. Jane Clifford



Sonia Shah, Marianne Strazza, Drs. Michael Nonnemacher and Pooja Jain, and Benjamas Aiamkitsumrit



Rosemary Bastian, Lauren Bailey, and Lina Maciunas



Sinan Ferit Tuzer and Dr. Irwin Chaiken



## Alumni Induction Luncheon

The graduating medical students were honored at lunch on May 15, a tradition representing their induction into the Alumni Association. Eugene Santillano, M.D. '03, was the speaker.





## Class Gift

A conference table for the Office of Student Affairs was presented to the College by the Class of 2013 with support from the 50-year reunion Class of 1963.





## 50 Year Reunion

Members of the Hahnemann and Woman's Medical College Classes of 1963 gathered to reconnect and reminisce, then donned caps and gowns to welcome our newest graduates during Commencement.



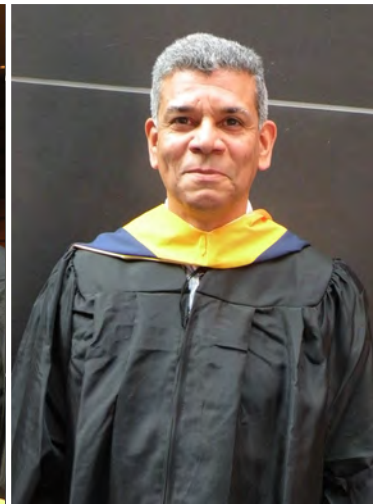




## Commencement Behind the Scenes

8 a.m. robing: Put on the gown, help friends with their caps, try on full regalia for a photograph. Then drape the hood over one arm, ready, set, wait, process!







## The Ceremony

The joyous and solemn celebration follows longstanding custom, while hundreds of personal moments add magic that transcends tradition.











# Graduation Awards

## Graduate Student Awards

### **The Amedeo Bondi, Ph.D. Endowed Graduate Award**

to a Ph.D. graduating student for excellence in research performance during the training experience:

*Donald Tom Gracias*

**The Alumnae and Alumni Association Award** for services to graduate programs and student body:

*Arthi Amin*

*Ryan Eberwine*

*Angela Richardson*

**The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Scholarship Award** for humanism in medicine:

*Tania Lugo, Erica Christine Scott*

Honorable Mention:

*Julian C. Remouns, Suzanne Kamal Shah*



Donald Gracias and  
Vice Dean Waterhouse



Erica Scott and  
Vice Dean Soslau



Ryan Eberwine and  
Angela Richardson



Chancellor Emeritus D. Walter Cohen  
and Emily Greenwald

## Medical Student Awards

**The Dr. Elias Abrutyn Award** for excellence in infectious diseases: *Jessica Ann Meisner*

**The Award for Excellence in Anesthesiology:**

*Katie C. Blenner*

**The O. Eugene Baum Memorial Prize** for excellence in psychiatry: *Raman Kevin Madan*

**The Paula Bernocchi Memorial Award** for excellence in the field of emergency medicine: *Meghan Eileen Maslanka*

For excellence in the field of psychiatry:

*Alice Danforth Caesar*

**The Iain F. S. Black, M.D. Award** for excellence in pediatrics, presented by the Department of Pediatrics and the Medical Staff of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children: *Hannah Connolly Neubauer*

**The Elizabeth Blackwell Memorial Prize** to an outstanding woman in the graduating class:

*Lauren Elizabeth Borowski*

**The Mark A. Blatt, M.D. HU '56 Memorial Prize** for Excellence in family medicine: *Christopher Chong*

**The Charles Block, M.D. HU '42 Memorial Prize** for excellence in internal medicine and cardiology:

*Kunal Brahmhatt*

**The Leopoldo Canales Award** for excellence in neurology: *Rohini Dhananjay Samudralwar*

**The Ronald P. Caputo, M.D. HU '62 Memorial Award** for outstanding clinical skills and humanitarianism in the care of medical patients: *Meaghan Christina Henrici*

**The Harris R. Clearfield Award** for excellence in gastroenterology: *Aaron Rosenblatt Scheagle*

**The Maurice C. Clifford, M.D. Leadership Award** for student achievement and service: *Emily E. Greenwald*

**The Donald R. Cooper, M.D. Award** for excellence in surgery: *Meryl Aubrey Simon*

**The Dean's Award** for a universally high level of accomplishment, professional maturity and outstanding potential: *John James Griffith*

**The Department of Dermatology Award** for excellence in dermatology: *Sean Christopher Condon*

**The Drexel University College of Medicine Alumni Association Award** for dedication and contribution to the community and university: *Olga Timurovna Filippova*

**The Drexel University College of Medicine SGA Award** for outstanding dedication and loyalty to the school and the student body: *Sarah Elizabeth Foster*

**The David Dunn, M.D. Award** for excellence in neurology: *Scott Daniel Caganap*

**The Alan Edelsohn Memorial Prize** for outstanding leadership and service to the class and the College of Medicine: *Visish Mani Srinivasan*

**The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award** for excellence in emergency medicine: *Aaron M. Wonnacott*

**The Endocrine Society Award** for special achievement and interest in the general field of endocrinology: *Emily Kathryn West*

**The Barbara Epstein Creativity Award** for creativity in the arts: *Vanessa Prokuski*

**The Eva Fernandez Fox Award** for personal integrity, stability, responsibility and loyalty to the College of Medicine: *Anjali Sethi*

**The James P. Fullin, M.D. HU '76 Memorial Award** for outstanding clinical and academic performance in hematology and oncology: *Colin Michael McHugh*

**The Van Buren O. Hammett Memorial Award** for an outstanding performance in psychiatry: *Sherri Sara Spector*

**The Hahnemann Physicians Society Award** for community service: *Simeng Sun*

**The Beatrice Sterling Hollander, M.D., WMC '41 Memorial Award** to the student in the graduating class who shows promise of leadership, high character and creativeness in her profession: *Sarah Elizabeth Foster*

**The Johnston Award** for excellence in pulmonary and critical care medicine: *Nathan Punwani*

**The Eichi K. Koiwai, M.D. HU '47 Award** for an outstanding performance during the pathology clerkship: *Joseph Andrew Vallone*

**The Joan Kornblum Memorial Prize** for excellence in internal medicine: *Serena Marie Day*

**The Elizabeth D. Labovitz, M.D. WMC '63 Award** for excellence in renal and electrolyte studies: *Kenneth Chi-Hin Lau*

**The Joseph A. Langbord Memorial Prize** for humanitarianism in medicine: *Angela Phuong Pham*

**The Samuel Levit Award** for outstanding skills and humanitarianism in medicine: *John Michael Rossette*

**The William Likoff, M.D. Award** for distinction in the care of medical patients and commitment to academic excellence: *Eric Scott Christenson*

**The George D. Lumb, M.D. Award** for outstanding achievement in the pathology course: *Michelle Moh*

**The Daniel Mason, M.D. HU '44 Award** for cardiovascular clinical work: *Lakshmi Devi Gowda*

**The Dr. Judith Mausner Award** for excellence in community and preventive medicine: *Aaron Rosenblatt Schelegle*

**The Medical Humanities Award:** *Vanessa Prokuski, Austin David Williams*

**The Alma D. Morani, M.D. WMC '31 Award in Gross Anatomy** for excellence in anatomy during the senior year: *Meryl Aubrey Simon*

**The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Award** for overall academic excellence in obstetrics and gynecology: *Kavitha Krishnamoorthy*

**The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Award** for academic excellence in the obstetrics and gynecology clinical clerkship: *Scott Daniel Caganap*

**The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Award** for leadership in the field of obstetrics and gynecology: *Sarah Elizabeth Foster*

**The Office of Student Affairs Award** for service to fellow students: *Michael Chase Rubin*

**The Axel K. Olsen, M.D. Neurosurgery Award** for excellence in neurosurgery: *Angela Mae Richardson*

**The Oscar Corn, M.D., and HU '43 Award** for excellence in orthopedic surgery: *Matthew Andrew Chin*

**The Gerald Pearson Memorial Award** for excellence in child psychiatry: *Meera Simmi Patel*

**The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, Philadelphia Branch Award** for performance and leadership in family medicine: *Lauren Elizabeth Borowski*

**The Rigberg Family Award** for excellence in the fields of hematology, oncology, obstetrics or gynecology: *Sharron L. Manuel*

**The Joel J. Roslyn, M.D. Award** for outstanding leadership, while demonstrating a notable level of commitment and service to his/her fellow students: *Paulas Madhusudan Vyas*

**The Walter Rubin, M.D. Award** for academic and clinical excellence in medicine: *Diana Dougherty*

**The Nathan L. Samuels, M.D., HU '51 Prize** for excellence in family medicine: *Timothy John Gill*

**The Richard Shuman Award** for excellence in pathology and laboratory medicine: *Sherri Sara Spector*

**The Dr. Lee Winston Silver Award** for excellence in pediatrics: *Emily Kathryn West*

**The Maurice Sones Award** for excellence in primary care medicine: *Ruwanthi Nirmali Wijesinghe*

**The Winifred B. Stewart Memorial Award** for excellence in psychiatry: *Elizabeth Anderson Still*

**The Jane Stuart Prize** for excellence in radiation oncology and clinical oncology: *Payal Dilip Soni*

**The Department of Surgery Award** for excellence in the surgery clerkship:

Abington Memorial Hospital: *Joseph James Titano*

Allegheny General Hospital: *Marta Melnyk*

Easton Hospital: *Luiz Felipe Araujo*

Lehigh Valley Hospital: *Swetha Narahari*

Monmouth Medical Center: *Vanessa Prokuski*

Philadelphia Area: *Emily E. Greenwald*

PinnacleHealth: *Margarita Kats*

Saint Peter's University Hospital: *John James Griffith*

York Hospital: *Bertram Richter*

**The Department of Surgery Award** for excellence in the surgery pathway: *Ilya Shnaydman*

**The Charles Swartz Award** for academic and clinical excellence in medicine: *Minh-Chau Tran*

**The Daniel M. Tabas Award** for outstanding scholarly achievement by a student pursuing a career in primary care: *John Jacob Lembeck*

**The Arthur and Bertha Weisman Award** for excellence in child psychiatry: *Reena Ardeschna*

**The Woman One Scholar Award:** *Sharron L. Manuel*

**The Women's Health Education Awards** in recognition of outstanding leadership and community commitment in the field of women's health:

For outstanding leadership:

*Krystilyn Lamese Austin Washington*

For outstanding leadership: *Margarita Litvak*

For community commitment: *Jennifer May Chen*

**The Dr. Margaret Gray Wood Award** in recognition of a student who has made significant contributions to alumnae and alumni student relations: *Sarah Elizabeth Foster*

**The Dr. Mary Yankosky Award** for excellence in endocrinology: *Megan Jean Ritter*

**The Dr. Mary Yankosky Award** for excellence in radiologic sciences: *Akash Manoj Patel*

# Distinguished Faculty Awards

## Blockley-Osler Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Allan R. Tunkel, M.D., Ph.D., Monmouth Medical Center



## Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching

Haviva M. Goldman, Ph.D.



## Dean's Special Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching



**Abington Memorial Hospital**  
Dimple C. Patel, M.D., Medicine



**Albert Einstein Medical Center**  
Susan Summerton, M.D., Radiology



**Allegheny General Hospital**  
Barbara A. Clark, M.D., Medicine



**Capital Health System**  
Rajeev R. Shah, M.D.,  
Pediatrics



**Coatesville VA Medical Center**  
Mohammad Qasim, M.D.,  
Psychiatry



**Easton Hospital**  
Neil C. Blumenthal, M.D.,  
Obstetrics and Gynecology



**Friends Hospital**  
Karriem L. Salaam, M.D.,  
Psychiatry



**Hahnemann University Hospital**  
David A. Bernstein, M.D.,  
Medicine



**Lancaster General Hospital**  
Philip J. Billoni, M.D.,  
Medicine



**Mercy Health System**  
Salman A. Wali, M.D.,  
MPH, Neurology



**Monmouth Medical Center**  
Richard J. DeGroot, M.D.,  
Pediatrics



**Pinnacle Health Hospital**  
Ayesha S. Ahmad, M.D.,  
FACP, Medicine



**St. Christopher's Hospital for Children**  
Leonard Levine, M.D.,  
Pediatrics



**Saint Peter's University Hospital**  
Marygrace Zetkovic, M.D., Medicine



**York Hospital**  
Ebondo Mpinga, M.D.,  
FACS, Surgery



**Clinical Teaching by a Family Practice Site**  
Abington Family Medicine  
Residency Program  
Represented by Adam Chrusch, M.D.

**The following recipients were unable to attend:**

**Chambersburg Hospital**  
Satyajit Mukherjee, M.D., Psychiatry

**Crozer-Chester Medical Center**  
Emily Choi, M.D., Neurology

**Lehigh Valley Health Network**  
David Schwendeman, M.D., Psychiatry



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## Past Forward – A Special Connection

The Woman's Medical College Class of 1900 included Mary Fitch Tooker (born Mary Elliot "Minnie" Fitch), back row, third from right. On May 17, 2013, Minnie's great-granddaughter Alice Dodds received her medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine, successor to Woman's Medical College. Look for a story about Minnie's life in a future issue. The photo is from the College of Medicine's Legacy Center (<http://archives.drexelmed.edu>).

