PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Moseley H. Winkler, Class of 1953

It was a cold December morning in 1952. The occasion was the groundbreaking ceremony for the new four-year Medical School and Teaching Hospital. Among the many dignitaries present were Governor Okey L. Patteson and Governor-elect William C. Marland.

I, as a second-year medical student, was privileged to know some of this distinguished group. Key among them were Dr. Edward J. VanLiere, dean of the two-year school, Drs. Gideon S. Dodds and Clark K. Sleeth.

WVU’s leaders successfully worked with the legislature to pass a one-cent per bottle “pop tax” to finance this project. For a time, this was known as the school that pop built. After long years of construction, the first class of students enrolled in the four-year West Virginia University School of Medicine in 1958.

After graduation in 1953, my brother Charles and I, along with most of our classmates, moved on to the Medical College of Virginia for our third and fourth years of medical school. With internship, military service, residency and practice, I lost contact with the School of Medicine for some years.

On finally returning for an Alumni Weekend, I was absolutely amazed and overwhelmed. I saw a modern, highly-evolved, thriving Medical Center that is second to none. Under continuing able leadership, this WVU School of Medicine trains and sends forth future leaders, teachers, researchers and practitioners of medicine. I had to pause and remember for a moment – this all began on that cold December morning in 1952.

Yes, an Alumni Weekend brought me back to this great medical complex after a long absence. I was, and continue to be, so impressed with this annual gathering and I have not missed one in nearly twenty years. Lynda Nine and her highly professional staff run the most effective and successful Medical Alumni Association anywhere. Attendance at the annual Weekend increases every year. Attend one—you will want to return every year.

Thanks for the opportunity to be your alumni president this year.
AWARDS

ASSOCIATION AWARDS AT 2016 CONVOCATION

Dr. Anne Cather, member of the Alumni Association’s Executive Council, presented three Association awards at the School of Medicine Awards Convocation in May. She is pictured here with the 2016 President’s Young Alumnus Award recipient, Katie Seachrist. Cather also presented the MacLachlan Basic Sciences Award to Andrew K. Shiemke, PhD, associate professor in Biochemistry, and the David Z. Morgan Mentor Award to Jeffrey Neely, MD, professor in the Department of Medicine.

2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Michael B. Edmond, MD, MPH, MPA, a 1986 graduate, is the Chief Quality Officer and Associate Chief Medical Officer for University of Iowa Health Care and Clinical Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. He previously served as the Richard P. Wenzel Professor of Internal Medicine, Chair of the Division of Infectious Diseases, and Hospital Epidemiologist at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Dr. Edmond’s areas of research focus on the epidemiology of healthcare-associated infections and the public policy implications of infection prevention. He has published 400 papers, abstracts and book chapters, and co-writes a blog entitled Controversies in Hospital Infection Prevention. Dr. Edmond has been named to Richmond Magazine’s Top Doctors, America’s Top Doctors, US News and World Report’s Top Doctors, awarded Our Health Richmond Magazine’s Best Bedside Manner Award, and Health Leaders Magazine’s 20 People Who Make Healthcare Better.

He was chief resident in Internal Medicine at West Virginia University Hospitals, completed a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and a fellowship in Hospital Epidemiology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

2016 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT RECEIVES UNIVERSITY AWARD

The WVU Alumni Association honored Cynthia Clarkson, MD, during half time ceremonies at the WVU Homecoming game in October. She received the James McCartney Community Service Award, recognizing her dedicated efforts in the care of West Virginia residents, in particular patients in her hometown at WVU Medicine’s Preston County Pediatric and Internal Medicine Clinic.
Sidney Sisson, a third year medical student from Sissonville, West Virginia, plans to practice pediatrics somewhere in the Kanawha valley. She says, “I can be close to my family and give back to the State that has given me so much.”

In thanking alumni for their support through the Association’s Clark K. Sleeth Memorial Scholarship, she said, “This scholarship generously provided to me by the alumni allows me to focus fully on my coursework without the added stress of worrying about my finances. I cannot thank you enough for your selfless donation to further my academic career. I truly appreciate the help I have received, and hope one day to be able to pay it forward to future students in my position.”

Victor Greco, fourth year student from Wheeling, West Virginia, relates his personal thoughts and thanks to the alumni. He said, “I would like to thank the alumni and the Alumni Association for the impact you have made on my medical school education. As recipient of the Clark K. Sleeth Memorial Scholarship, my medical school financial obligation is less of a burden. For this, I am extremely thankful.

“We all know medical school is a long, arduous road filled with times of fear, fun, perplexity and excitement. The journey begins with the Oath of Integrity Ceremony. I remember how nervous I was when Dr. (Scott) Cottrell called me to the podium. I thought to myself, ‘All you have to do is stand up there, smile and sign your name.’ As I nervously walked to the front of the room and signed my name, Dr. (Norman) Ferrari placed a stethoscope around my shoulders and the nervousness ceased. I was abruptly filled with a feeling of joy and enthusiasm that I will never forget. Not only had I been accepted into medical school, but I was given a gift from the Alumni Association that made me feel like I had become part of something great. Many of my classmates and I still use that stethoscope. It will forever remain a cherished item.

“Besides the scholarships, donations and gifts the alumni provide for students, it is your compassion and kind-heartedness that keeps us moving forward and remembering to pass it on. We are taught in class about being empathetic, but it is through your generous actions that we truly see how we can become better physicians and better people. On behalf of the students of the WVU School of Medicine, thank you for your hard work in creating the quintessential academic establishment that our School has become today. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. I hope that one day I can provide the same acts of charity and compassion that you have given us. Thank you, and Let’s Go Mountaineers!”
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

David Z. Morgan, MD, more commonly known as D.Z., was a physician and community leader whose life and career paralleled the growth and successes of a grateful University, Medical School and State. He served the citizens of West Virginia with his heart and hands for more than 30 years. Dr. Morgan wrote this timely message to alumni regarding the importance of membership in the School of Medicine Alumni Association.

Alumni are an integral part of the WVU School of Medicine – the heart of our external relationships. You are our allies, ambassadors, and advocates, exerting significant influence on the continuity of medical care in West Virginia and on the perception of our institution in the nation and world.

As a graduate, you have a great stake in the quality and viability of this School. You have reason to care, to be involved and to be served. To this end, the mission of the School of Medicine Alumni Association is to inform, inspire, encourage, engage, recognize and reward alumni. Your dues in the School of Medicine, combined with that of hundreds of other graduates, enables us to provide programs and services to alumni and students that otherwise would not be available. Your membership really matters.

“If an active, vigorous alumni association reflects the affection and concern a school has for its alumni, it follows that those who join the association identify with and return these feelings with physical, emotional and financial support.”

We appreciate the generosity of West Virginia University Hospitals Inc., Albert Wright Jr., President & CEO and our many special members and friends for their gifts to the Alumni Association to support our endowment for the future, the White Coat Ceremony, stethoscope project, scholarships and programs for the year 2016.
MEMBERSHIP . . . celebrating 43% for 2016

Join the WVU School of Medicine Alumni Association and become part of an organization of alumni dedicated to helping students become great Mountaineer docs, while keeping you connected to WVU.

Your 2017 membership application is enclosed. Please return it in the postage-paid envelope, or join online at medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/alumni

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Reservations call Lakeview Golf Resort & Spa at 800.624.8300
Registration materials will be mailed in August
Tuckwiller Memorial CME Seminar
Pre-game tailgate party
Football Game - Texas Tech vs. WVU
Events planned for all graduates
Special reunion dinner for all Two-year School Graduates

Anne Cather, class of 1983, was high bidder on autographed football during the 2016 Alumni Banquet.