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THE COMMONWEALTH
MEDICAL COLLEGE

Journal

SPRING 2012



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Message from the Dean



Dear Friends of TCMC,

Few things are more special than celebrating the end of year accomplishments with students, their families and friends. I am proud of our students' and faculty members' many successes and am pleased to share with you some of the important high points of the past few months at The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC).

Our students continue to deepen their ties within our communities with their professional and educational efforts and through their commitment to service and volunteer work. More than 9,500 community service hours have been logged by our students organizing blood drives, mentoring REACH-HEI students, starting community programs, participating in flood recovery clean-up days, and much more. Our students' enthusiasm for service is truly remarkable while they maintain their commitment to rigorous academic programs.

In May, our students' success was highlighted at our annual Celebration Weekend events. The third annual Research Symposium highlighted student research projects conducted with our community partner agencies and was followed by TCMC's third commencement of the Master of Biomedical Sciences Program and the White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2014.

In addition to our students' success, our faculty and staff have had numerous achievements. From research papers to conference presentations and keynote addresses, our faculty and staff have represented TCMC in local, regional and national arenas. Their success is also highlighted in the pages that follow.

This is my last letter to you as Interim President and Dean. It has been a wonderful year at TCMC. I am in awe of the faculty, staff and volunteers who are bringing our founders' transformational dream to reality. I am so proud of our students and know that the community-based model of education at TCMC will influence who they are as physicians, health professionals, scientists, and community leaders in the future. I am grateful for the many kindnesses extended to me during the past year and look forward to TCMC's many successes in the years ahead.

Best wishes for a great summer.

Sincerely,

Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD

*Interim President and Dean
The Commonwealth Medical College*

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Celebration Weekend

Research Symposium

The third annual Research Symposium was held on Thursday, May 10, and Friday, May 11, in the lobby of the Medical Sciences Building. The event was a culmination of the year-long research projects conducted by masters and medical students in conjunction with community agencies.

Quality Improvement Community Collaborative Projects (QuICCS) are conducted by second-year medical students and focus on a quality improvement initiative within a community agency. Sixteen projects this year included laboratory follow up rates, screening initiatives among the elderly, primary care needs of patients with mental health issues, and more.

Community Health Research Projects (CHRP) are conducted by MBS and first-year medical students and typically answer a particular question within a community or agency. This year's fourteen projects included burn injury rates within the Amish community in central Pennsylvania, health literacy and library usage, health needs of patients utilizing free clinics, and more.

Throughout the symposium, community members are invited to review the research work and discuss the projects in detail with students and community mentors.



TCMC researcher Dr. Bill McLaughlin talks with Dr. Sam Lesko, medical director of the NRCI, and Dr. James Mold, Research Symposium keynote speaker.



MBS student Aroba Sadaf discusses her poster with Dr. Janet Townsend.



Dr. Dan Flynn speaks with first-year medical students Kristina Zimmerman and Stephanie Kim.

Research Day Winners

Research Day first place winners in front of their poster: volunteer clinical faculty advisors Terri Lacey, RN, and Michael Kondash, DO, with second-year medical students Ozan Toy, James Ackerman, Jennifer Chao, Michael Faretta and Samantha Conroy.





Master of Biomedical Sciences Class of 2012

MBS Commencement

“It has been a rigorous but exceptional year... these students are outstanding and are well on their way to pursue their future endeavors.”

- Dr. Jennifer Smith, director of the MBS Program

On Saturday May 12, officials of TCMC held the third commencement ceremony for the Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) Program. Forty students completed the intensive one-year program and were awarded a graduate degree by Dr. Lois Margaret Nora, TCMC interim president and dean.

The inspirational keynote address was delivered by worldwide leader, businessman, and local farm owner Keith W. Eckel. He encouraged the students to take risks and to make a difference. He also cautioned the graduates not to be discouraged with



Worldwide leader and businessman Keith W. Eckel delivers the keynote address.

what appears to be a failure because success often comes when it's least expected.

“Anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple but no one knows how many apples are in a seed,” said Mr. Eckel quoting Robert H. Schuller.

White Coat Ceremony



Dr. Gerald Tracy cloaks second-year student Catherine Bradshaw.

Sixty four students of the Class of 2014 received their white coats on Saturday, May 12, in the annual White Coat Ceremony. The symbolic cloaking of white coats, the mantle of the medical profession, impresses upon medical students the importance of professionalism and their obligation in the patient-doctor relationship.

The historic rite of passage also marked the beginning of the students' third year of study and their transition to living and working full-time with physicians throughout our 16-county region.

Dr. Margrit Shoemaker, a practicing endocrinologist in Williamsport and clerkship director for TCMC's west regional campus, delivered the keynote address. During her address she told students, “The most important things to carry in your white coat pockets are a love of learning, professionalism, understanding and empathy.”



From left, Mike Gordon, Linda Gordon, Jamileh Hanna and Lani Hossian.

Community-based. Patient-centered.

TCMC medical students and the volunteer families in the Family Centered Experience (FCE) Program work together to define community-based, patient-centered education.

Local families support education with their time, knowledge

The FCE Program is a unique part of TCMC's curriculum that matches a local family with a pair of medical students for the first two years of the students' education. The family unit contains at least one person with a chronic disease or illness. First-year medical students meet the family during the fall semester to learn about their story, the effects that the chronic illness has on them both socially and emotionally, and then follow the family for two years to see the long-term effect of illness on the patient and his or her family unit.

Jennifer Joyce, MD, Program Director, says, "The family experience almost immediately brings awareness to how disease affects the whole person. Students learn about the disease process in the classroom, its biological features, drug intervention, the science of disease progression and more. But this program teaches students patient-centered medicine. It makes the student think about the larger impact of disease."

For volunteer families, it's an opportunity to participate in the educational process and to help shape future doctors. For Linda and Mike Gordon of Wilkes-Barre, the decision to participate was natural. A wife, mother, foster mother, and former teacher, Linda, 52, was diagnosed with sarcoidosis in September 2002 and since then has been diagnosed with several other illnesses including asthma and congestive heart failure.

Her husband Mike, 53, and their three children along with family and friends comprise their family unit and help take Linda to doctor appointments, run errands, and manage daily life.

Medical students Jamileh Hanna, 23, and Luana (Lani) Hossain, 22, have met with the family multiple times to date.

During visits, Lani and Jamileh listen and observe. They've learned about the Gordon's good and bad healthcare experiences, the toll of chronic illness on her energy level, the isolation of being sick, and how the family makes healthcare decisions.

When asked why they chose to participate in the FCE Program, Mrs. Gordon explains, "It feels good to talk to people who actually know something about the disease I have. The students already know what I have and I talk about what it's like to be a patient - the waiting I do, the wondering I do, and bouncing between specialists."

While each student and family experience varies slightly, the learning process between The Gordons and that of the medical students is mostly through conversation and sharing experiences. During the discussion Mrs. Gordon smiles and quickly quizzes Lani and Jamileh, "What are you going to do if you have no time? What if you have to see ten patients in one hour?"

The students quickly offer ideas of how they'd handle the situation and The Gordons share their experiences with physicians who've only had five minutes but made them feel as though they had 30 minutes just for them. Lani and Jamileh start creating a mental list of things like positive body language, the importance of a smile, questions to ask, strategies to build trust, and the power of a positive touch - all things that they've learned from The Gordons.

"Now I always begin a patient encounter with a handshake and I let the patient know that I'm not here to judge them, that they are in a safe place and that I'm here to help," said Jamileh.

Back in the classroom, students share their family's obstacles navigating the health care system and how they manage the social and financial aspect of illness including access to transportation, affordability of medications, and various decisions a family makes each day.

"The experience with real patients is important to help mold students from the beginning of their education. Our volunteer families are instrumental to help us carry out our mission of community-based, patient-centered care," said Dr. Joyce.

Working with a volunteer family has reinforced Lani's dream of practicing family medicine. "I always wanted to practice family medicine and now I want that even more. I see additional opportunities of where I can go now and how I can impact the community," she said.

"Our volunteer families are instrumental to help us carry out our mission of community-based, patient-centered care."

- Jennifer Joyce, MD
Program Director

▶ For more information on the FCE Program and how to volunteer your time, please visit www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/family

Students Test Tablets in Medical Education

In December 2011, TCMC received a \$10,000 grant from National Network of Libraries of Medicine - Mid-Atlantic Region (NNLM-MAR) to fund a tablet computer project. This project focused on increasing the use of library resources, expanding library resource access to volunteer clinical faculty, assessing the usefulness of point-of-care resources via mobile devices in a primary care setting and enhancing patient education. Nine second-year medical students participated in an orientation session and a pre-test to gather baseline data on how medical students accessed information for patient care, education and research. Students used the Dell tablets from February through April 2012, which included their community week experience. The project concluded with a group discussion and post-test to determine if the tablets enhanced the clinical experience. This month, Library Director Joanne Muellenbach and Public Services Librarian Bridget Conlogue will present the results of the project at a poster session at the Canadian Health Libraries Association Conference in Hamilton, Ontario.

TCMC Introduces Professional Science Masters Program

“The goal of the Professional Science Masters Program is to develop a highly trained workforce in the biomedical sciences that will support regional growth in biomedical research and prepare students for jobs in an emerging growth industry.”

- Daniel Flynn, PhD, TCMC Associate Dean of Research and Economic Development

TCMC is expanding its degree offerings to include a Professional Science Masters Degree Program led by Gregory Shanower, PhD. The 21-month program prepares students for careers in biomedical research as laboratory technicians or technology specialists in academic research labs at colleges and universities, government research labs or in the private sector such as biotech, life sciences, and pharmaceutical companies. This highly specialized interdisciplinary program offers a combination of biomedical courses, business courses and extensive research training with a required “real world” internship in an academic or biotech company laboratory followed by completion of a project thesis.

Students enrolling in the program will be fully immersed in scientific research as well as being trained in laboratory management and business



TCMC laboratory technicians Eric Drago and Jeanette Mackey perform testing in the laboratory.

leadership. This combination of skills is focused on making students competitive in both academic and industrial job settings. Currently, there are 175 Professional Science Masters programs offered at 89 universities in the United States. Of these programs, only 27 have an emphasis on biotechnology.

▶ To apply or learn more, please visit www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/psm

First Residency Fair Held



Medical student Ronald Bogdasarian speaks with a residency program representative from Lankenau Hospital.

TCMC recently conducted the first residency fair which hosted representatives from nearly 20 residency programs across the state. The fair created a conversation between medical students, residency programs, and hospitals regarding opportunities for further study in Pennsylvania.

The inaugural class will begin their fourth year of medical school in June 2012 followed by a residency program in June 2013. Students will begin applying and interviewing with residency programs in the coming months and will learn which program they are matched with during TCMC's first Match Week, held in March 2013.

Development News

Scholarship Supporters Share their Story



Gene and Erin Donahue

Born and raised in Scranton and a graduate of the University of Scranton, Gene Donahue has spent his time in *The Electric City* working in the printing and banking industries and working toward the

improvement of the communities around him. When TCMC was created, Mr. Donahue saw one more way to help his hometown. "The Commonwealth Medical College is an amazing addition to our region and a wonderful opportunity to address the physician shortages in our area. This is why we have chosen to contribute to the scholarship opportunities at TCMC; Erin and I see it as an investment in the healthcare of our region," remarked Mr. Donahue.

Mrs. Erin Donahue added, "I work closely with 52 physicians on a regular basis and I witness the struggles with which they are faced regarding physician shortage in the area. I am excited to see local physicians take the time to help educate the future physicians who will hopefully remain in our area." Mrs. Donahue has worked with Intermountain Medical Group for more than 24 years and currently serves as their Director of Clinical Services.

Become a Scholarship Supporter

- Contribute to the 2012 Annual Fund
- Create an endowed scholarship
- Make TCMC part of your estate planning
- Participate in TCMC special events in support of scholarship funding

Scholarships are invaluable to the medical students they support. For many students, the dream of attending medical school and pursuing a career in medicine cannot come true without a scholarship. Donors who give generously to the scholarship fund support students who will become caring, compassionate, patient-centered physicians.

Seventy percent of TCMC medical students are from Pennsylvania. When a donor makes a gift directed toward the scholarship fund, they are also investing in a healthier tomorrow for their neighbor, their family, and their friends. Together, we can address the region's physician shortage.

By considering a gift directed toward scholarships, you are meeting a community challenge that will transform virtually every aspect of our region's healthcare.

- ▶ For more information on how you can become a scholarship supporter, please contact Nina C. Dei Tos, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at ndeitos@tcmedc.org or (570) 504-9619, or return your contribution in the enclosed envelope.

Dr. D'Alessandri Portrait Unveiled

On February 27, the lobby of TCMC's Medical Sciences Building was filled with students, faculty, staff and friends of TCMC who gathered to honor Robert M. D'Alessandri, MD, the school's Founding President and Dean.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of Dr. D'Alessandri's portrait, which was created to commemorate his work and dedication in support of TCMC. The piece was painted by nationally recognized American portrait artist John Ennis and was sponsored by local entrepreneur and businessman Alan Goldstein.



Third-year medical students Meg Mathewson of Dallas and Joseph Marchese of Scranton unveil the portrait of Dr. D'Alessandri, TCMC Founding President and Dean.

- ▶ For additional photos from the unveiling, visit us at www.facebook.com/TCMCnepa

Save the Date

4th Annual Golf Tournament September 14, 2012

Huntsville Golf Club
www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/golf



A golfer tries his luck and tests his skill on the putting green.

Proceeds from the golf tournament are used to support the TCMC Student Scholarship Fund. For event sponsorship opportunities please contact Nina C. Dei Tos at (570) 504-9619.

Research News

Research Scholar Visits TCMC



Jun Ling, PhD Assistant Professor, Basic Sciences and Director of Research Compliance,

received the award for best presentation at the Regional Research Conference on Interdisciplinary Research at Marywood University on April 4. Dr. Ling's paper "Glucocorticoid promotes breast cancer cell survival via functional interaction with NFκB signaling pathway," was co-written by Raj Kumar, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry. The meeting was attended by students and faculty from all of the regional colleges and universities in northeast Pennsylvania and was sponsored by the Institute of Public Policy Research.



Hani Atamna, PhD



Raj Kumar, PhD

The Department of Basic Sciences is pleased to announce that **Hani Atamna, PhD**, has been promoted from Assistant Professor of Neuroscience to Associate Professor of Neuroscience, with tenure. We also congratulate **Raj Kumar, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry who has been awarded tenure.

Nationally and internationally renowned molecular biologist Bruce Ames, PhD, and TCMC faculty participated in the second Conference on Aging hosted at The University of Scranton on Thursday, April 12. The day-long conference highlighted issues, best practices, challenges and opportunities related to the nation's increasing aged population. Dr. Ames, a leading researcher in aging and the impact of nutrition on age-related diseases and disorders, delivered the keynote address.

The conference began with opening remarks by The University of Scranton President Kevin P. Quinn, SJ, and TCMC Interim President and Dean Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, followed by panel discussions on research, community health,



Mario Cornacchione, DO, TCMC Regional Education Coordinator for the south campus, Secretary Brian Duke, Dr. Janet Townsend, and Thomas Snedden, Director of the PACE Program tour the Medical Sciences Building.

education and clinical practice. State Senator John Blake and Brian M. Duke, Secretary of Aging for Pennsylvania, addressed the attendees during the luncheon. Discussions were presented by Hani Atamna, PhD, TCMC Assistant Professor of Neuroscience; Samuel Lesko, MD, Director of Research and Medical Director at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute and TCMC adjunct faculty member; Raymond Smego, MD, TCMC Associate Dean for Educational Development and Professor of Medicine; and Janet Townsend, MD, TCMC Founding Chair of the Department of Family, Community, and Rural Health. Support for the conference was provided by Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



Dr. Bruce Ames, senior scientist at Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute and professor emeritus at University of California at Berkeley.

▶ Dr. Ames' research interest lies in preventative medicine using nutrition as a way to improve the quality of health in the aging population. To learn more about Dr. Ames' visit to TCMC and the importance of sharing his work with the TCMC community, go to www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/ames

Students Win Regional Research Award

In March, TCMC faculty members and students attended the annual Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) Research Day in Hershey. Team members presented five posters and three research presentation sessions on community health research projects (CHRP) completed during the second year of study and clinical research projects completed during the third year of study.

Second-year medical students Ashley Leberfinger, Upal Sarker and Sean Wallace received the PAFP award for Best Student Research for their



Research awards winners and second-year medical students Upal Sarker, Ashley Leberfinger, Mark White, MD, assistant professor of epidemiology, and Sean Wallace.

collaboration with Susquehanna Health System and TCMC faculty studying the health needs of an Amish community near Williamsport.

Also attending PAFP Research Day on behalf of TCMC were Mark White, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Family, Community, and Rural Health and faculty-lead for CHRP; third-year

medical students Hassan Ahmad, Jeffrey Farrell, and Tadeusz Witek; and second-year medical students Megan Gooch, Matthew Kongkatong, Cara Lyle, Amanda Moyer, Keri Ann Stevenson and Allison Young.

New Appointments

John Graham has been named to the TCMC Board of Trustees. Mr. Graham is a local businessman and entrepreneur with interests in a number of local businesses and organizations and also serves on the board of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He resides in Shavertown, PA, with his wife Patricia. Mr. Graham replaces founding board member Denise Cesare.



Christian Adonizio, MD, MLA, has been named Assistant Dean for Clinical Education. In this new role, Dr. Adonizio oversees years three and four of the MD curriculum. Dr.



Adonizio also holds the title of Professor of Medicine and Medicine Education Director in the Department of Clinical Sciences. He earned his MD from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and a Master of Liberal Arts with a concentration in medical anthropology from University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Adonizio completed his residency in internal medicine at The Lankenau Hospital and completed a combined fellowship in hematology and medical oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center and Temple University Hospital.

Nina Cecelia Dei Tos, MPA, has been named Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving in the Institutional Advancement Office. Ms.



Dei Tos brings more than six years experience in managing alumni relation programs and developing annual giving campaigns for both educational institutions as well as non-profit organizations. She is responsible for establishing TCMC's first alumni relations program and coordinating a robust annual giving program. Ms. Dei Tos holds bachelors degrees from The Catholic University of America and a Masters Degree in public administration from Marywood University.

Andrea DiMattia, MEd,



has been named Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development. The newly established Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development provides leadership of the broad range of faculty-related activities of the institution. Prior to her appointment, Ms. DiMattia was Director of Faculty Affairs and Graduate Medical Education. She received her Masters Degree from Clemson University in higher education administration.

Maureen McLeod, PhD, has been named Chair of Basic Sciences. Dr. McLeod joined TCMC in 2007 as Professor of Molecular Biology, Director of the Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences and Course Director of Cellular and Molecular Basis of Life. She earned her PhD from Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, and completed her postdoctoral training at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. She was a staff scientist at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory prior to joining the faculty of Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY. There, she led an active research laboratory, developed an interdepartmental PhD program in molecular and cellular biology and served as interim chairman of the microbiology and immunology department. Many thanks to the Advisory Search Committee chaired by Dr. Kathleen Doane, and to Dr. Dan Flynn and Dr. John Szarek who have served as interim chairs of the Department of Basic Sciences.



Anna Rusnak Noon, CPA, MBA,

has been named Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration. Ms. Noon is responsible for all accounting transactions, philanthropy and grant accounting, as well as financial reporting, audits, tax reporting and billing functions. She also has responsibility over budget and financial planning as well as facilities, human resources and information technology. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Noon served as Controller. She is a Certified Public Accountant and received her Masters Degree in business administration from The University of Scranton.



Valerie Weber, MD, MS,

Founding Chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences, has also been named Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. In her new role, Dr. Weber's primary responsibility is building hospital relationships and developing patient safety and quality initiatives. In addition, she oversees physician leadership development and the clinical teaching environment. Dr. Weber will continue her role as Chair of Clinical Sciences which includes clinical faculty in medicine, surgery and psychiatry. Dr. Weber received her MD degree from University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Science Degree in health care management from Harvard School of Public Health.



Faculty & Staff Awards & Achievements

Jennifer Joyce, MD, FAAFP, Professor of Family Medicine, was selected for the Emerging Leaders Program of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM), a national leadership development program for family medicine educators. The program provides training, networking opportunities, and encourages participation in service projects. Dr. Joyce started the program in April 2012 during STFM's annual meeting.

In addition, Dr. Joyce is completing her five year term as Commissioner for the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the national body that accredits physician assistant programs. She served as the American Academy of Family Physicians designated appointee.

John Kearney, MS, Director of Administrative Systems, was a featured speaker at the May 22 Jaspersoft Corporation regional networking event in New York City. He represented TCMC to discuss how the College has creatively utilized Jaspersoft's Business Intelligence software to transform our means of data reporting into useful self-service tools accessible across multiple functional units in the organization.

Joe Ross, MPA, Director of Facilities and Public Safety, was recently honored by Marywood University with its Alumni Achievement Award. The award is presented annually to an alumnus who has exhibited outstanding leadership, community service, commitment to his/her alma mater, professional accomplishments and a dedication to his/her chosen profession.

Olapeju Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Epidemiology, was selected to participate in the Erasmus Mundus program of the Europubhealth program, a consortium of European schools of public health. Dr. Simoyan will serve as a teaching scholar for international students in Rennes, France from June 11- July 6, 2012 and will participate in a public health research project at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom during the 2013-2014 academic year.

In addition, Dr. Simoyan will serve on the Oral Health Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in recognition of her interest and curricular work in the integration of oral health into medical education and practice.

Commitment to Community Service

TCMC students volunteer, plan and execute events throughout northeast and north central Pennsylvania.

TCMC Students 'Shoot' for Autism



▶ Alley-Oop for Autism participants take a shot while on the court. For additional photos, visit us at www.facebook.com/TCMCnepa

On March 31, students from TCMC's Basketball Club and MD Class of 2015 hosted the first Alley-Oop for Autism 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Proceeds from the event benefited the Northeast Regional Autism Center at the Friendship House in Scranton.

The event raised nearly \$1,200 and was enjoyed by participants, spectators and beneficiaries alike. Thank you to everyone who made the event a success.

MBS Students Start Mentoring Program



This spring, SEWAG volunteers hosted The University of Scranton's Urban Beats dance troupe to perform and teach program participants to dance.

This winter, TCMC students began the Science, Entertainment, Writing and Arts Group (SEWAG) with a mission to work with youth who would not typically participate in extracurricular activities due to financial burdens and other social barriers.

Students coordinated Saturday sessions designed to foster community, build confidence and leadership, and improve academic success through sports, theater, writing, dance, arts, and tutoring. Run completely on volunteer time, thirty students participated throughout the winter and spring.



Advocacy Day in Harrisburg

TCMC medical students attended Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in May to discuss key issues with state legislators. Participating in the event were students Cham Santé, Lani Hossain, and Steven Aussenberg.

TCMC Students Help Save Lives

On March 12, TCMC students hosted their second community blood drive for the American Red Cross in the Medical Sciences Building on the north campus. Nearly 75 people turned out to support the cause.

Spearheaded and organized by Masters of Biomedical Sciences students Joshua Kaminski and Nicholas Russo, blood drives became a very popular event at TCMC and nearly 150 pints of blood were collected this academic year. In recognition of their hard work, the American Red Cross presented them with service awards this spring.



Julia Kolcharno, Director of Student Affairs; Mary O'Neill, MD, Division Vice President of Northeast American Red Cross; students Nicholas Russo and Joshua Kaminski; Lori Fehlinger, Senior Account Manager, American Red Cross; Gerry Tracy, MD, Associate Dean of North Regional Campus.

First Skin Cancer Screening a Success



In January, TCMC medical students organized and hosted a free skin cancer screening. Nearly 100 community members participated in the screening and physicians identified several skin cancers in need of treatment. On behalf of the student body, we thank the clinical faculty members and dermatologists, who volunteered their time including Dr. Christine Cabell, Dr. Dirk Elston, Dr. Paul Long, Dr. Mark Marsili, Dr. Michael O'Donnell, Dr. Gregg Severs, and Dr. Joanne Zenker.

Students Deliver Valentines



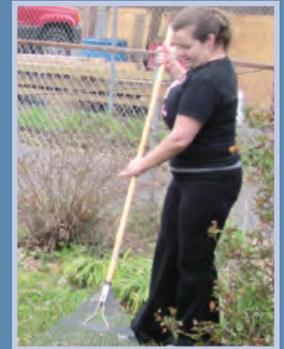
TCMC students visited the telemetry unit at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, an affiliate of Commonwealth Health, to provide cardiac patients with valentines on Valentine's Day. Shown from left are Denise Calabrese, RN, Clinical Leader, Telemetry; Stephanie Ferimer, third-year medical student; and Tom Norton, Director, Cardiovascular Services.

Students Get Hands on During Community Day of Service



Volunteers from the north and south campuses start cleanup work near the Susquehanna River in Wilkes-Barre.

The MD Class of 2013 participated in community-wide service days in their regional campuses this spring. Students from the north, south and west campuses got hands on cleaning up the watershed areas of Wilkes-Barre's Riverfront Parks and completing yard work at the AIDS Resource Center in downtown Williamsport.



Above: Volunteer and third-year medical student Jessica Warnke rakes leaves in Williamsport.



Lucas Gilbride, volunteer and third-year medical student, mows the lawn at the AIDS Resource Center during Community Day of Service.

Students Spend Spring Break in Honduras on Service Trip

Several TCMC students spent their spring break working and serving with a public health brigade in El Canton, a rural village in the mountains of Honduras. The trip was planned and sponsored by TCMC students working with the American not-for-profit Global Brigades.

Students worked with three generations of one village family to concrete their dirt floor home, install an eco-friendly stove, and build a hygiene station consisting of a latrine, shower and water storage system. The improvements help prevent several illnesses and diseases including chronic respiratory and parasitic infections and Chagas disease.

In addition to working alongside the family to improve their home, TCMC students taught school children about the lungs and respiratory system and played with children at a local orphanage.



TCMC students with the Garay Ferrera family.



Watch us on PALive!



Dr. Lois Nora and Dr. Mark White discuss Research Day on PALive! in April with guest host Ralphie Aversa.

Dr. Nora and TCMC leadership, faculty and students have been monthly guests on PALive!, WBRE-TV's hour-long community show covering northeast and north central Pennsylvania. This year's topics have included:

- Community skin cancer screening
- Professional Science Masters Program
- REACH-HEI Program opportunities
- Third Annual Research Symposium
- Family Centered Experience Program

▶ Video clips are available in the video library online at www.thecommonwealthmedical.com

REACH-HEI Academic Year Programs Going Strong

TCMC welcomes King's College and Hazleton Area School District

Currently in its second year, Regional Education Academy for Careers in Health - Higher Education Initiative (REACH-HEI) provides opportunities for local high school, undergraduate, and pre-matriculating students who are typically underrepresented in higher education and medical professions. It is funded by the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This year, more than 200 students from areas throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike and Wayne will receive science, math, career planning and college preparation program services taught by TCMC faculty and students.

REACH-HEI maintains productive sub-grantee partnerships with East Stroudsburg University



Brother George Schmitz, CSC, Sub-grantee Director at King's College and Ida L. Castro, REACH-HEI Principal Investigator, are surrounded by program participants during a recent session.

and Scranton Area School District. In January 2012, TCMC welcomed King's College as a REACH-HEI partner. King's College now hosts more than 25 students representing Coughlin, Crestwood, Nanticoke and GAR high schools.

In March 2012, TCMC launched its first program for ninth graders in partnership with Hazleton Area School District's Cyber Science and Health Program. Currently, 27 students attend Saturday sessions and weekly online sessions that focus on anatomy, physiology, math and reading. REACH-HEI students are mentored by TCMC medical students and REACH-HEI undergraduate students.

▶ Learn more about the REACH-HEI program at www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/reach-hei