



THE BREEZEWAY

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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McGovern
Medical School

Cover Photo
Members of the Class of 2017 react with excitement before finding out where they will be matched to their residencies on Match Day, March 17, 2017. (Photo/Dwight C. Andrews)

Photo of Dean Stoll
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Greetings from THE BREEZEWAY

Hello,

As summer starts to sizzle, McGovern Medical School is gearing up to welcome our newest class of medical students.

But before we say hello, we said a fond farewell May 18 at our 44th commencement ceremony as family, friends, and faculty celebrated a most special day in our students' lives. Our keynote speaker, chosen by our graduates, was our own Dr. Jennifer Swails, assistant professor of internal medicine. She reminded our students of their commitment to their profession and their patients. These are uncertain times for health care, but we are confident that our McGovern graduates are well prepared to adapt to a changing world and will care for their patients with compassion and resiliency.

Summertime is also a time to welcome new trainees to our residency programs. With one of the largest graduate medical education programs in the nation, we offer more than 100 residency and fellowship programs, with an enrollment of more than 1,000 trainees.

Our incoming Class of 2021 will join us in late July for orientation, White Coat Ceremony and the first day of classes. Back to school already!

The annual student retreat will be held Aug. 11-12. This time-honored tradition is a wonderful way for our incoming students to learn more about our amazing school and to forge lifelong friends. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the retreat, more than \$116,000 has been raised for the Henry W. Strobel, Ph.D. Freshman Retreat Fund. The fund will support students by keeping registration fees affordable and ensuring the sustainability of the retreat for years to come. To join this effort, or to support our scholarship fundraising, please contact Emily Lutz at Emily.A.Lutz@uth.tmc.edu or 713.500.3595.

We hope to see all of our alumni at Camp Allen for an outstanding retreat this year!

Warm regards,

Barbara J. Stoll, MD
Dean, McGovern Medical School



Drs. Eugene Toy, from left, Marvin Chang, and Clifford Moy, far right, welcome Courtney Chang to the McGovern cousin connection.

MCGOVERN STRENGTHENS FAMILY CONNECTION

written by
Darla Brown
Office of Communications
McGovern Medical School

The Moy-Chang-Toy clan. No, it's not a pop group from the '80s, it's a group of physicians who have two things in common – they are all cousins, and they are all alumni of McGovern Medical School.

"The family tree's a little complicated," admitted Clifford Moy, M.D., '85. "But it is interesting how we have all coalesced around the medical school now."

Moy recently was at a family wedding when he realized the McGovern connection. His father, who is now deceased, is a cousin to both the mother-in-law of Marvin Chang, M.D., '88, and to the father-in-law of Eugene Toy, M.D., R-'94, professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences and assistant dean for educational programs.

"We never knew each other while we were in medical school, but now we have this connection," Moy said.

Chang's daughter, Courtney Chang, M.D., was just added to the connection as a member of the McGovern Class of 2017. Moy, as past-president of the Alumni Association, delivered graduation remarks on behalf of the Association during the ceremony.

The three cousins are all from Houston originally. Chang, who practices pain management, a subspecialty of anesthesia, is still in the Houston area and also serves as a clinical assistant professor at the medical school and was a preceptor for medical students this year. Moy, a psychiatrist, lives in Frisco, Texas.

MCGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 2017 MEETS ITS MATCH



written by
University Communications
Office of Public Affairs

More than 200 students at McGovern Medical School opened white envelopes at the exact same time on March, 17, 2017, to discover where they'll spend the next crucial step in their medical careers.

Approximately half of the students matched to residency programs in Texas, with 26 percent of the class matching to McGovern Medical School. The anticipation-filled annual event is coordinated by the National Resident Matching Program.

In her address at the school's 2017 Match Day ceremony, McGovern Medical School Dean Barbara J. Stoll, M.D., said, "How lucky we are to be a part of this wonderful profession – allowed into the intimacy of people's lives at their most vulnerable."

She added, "As our school's namesake, Dr. John McGovern, once said, 'We physicians are a privileged lot – privileged to serve, to share the human drama of our patients, and to contribute to their health and well-being.'"

About a third of the students matched into primary care specialties, with internal medicine topping the list followed by pediatrics and anesthesiology.

Here are stories of some students who received residency training assignments.



NICOLAS CARDENAS, MD

Science and reading were always Nicolas Cardenas' favorite subjects. Consequently, it is no surprise that he chose to pursue medicine. "I can't really point to a particular moment when I knew I wanted to be a doctor," Cardenas said. "It's what I have always wanted to do ever since I can remember." The 25-year-old from Brownsville studied biomedical science at Texas A&M University before moving to Houston in 2013. Two and a half years after beginning his studies at McGovern Medical School, Cardenas developed an interest in interventional radiology. "During one of my rotations, we looked at the chest X-rays of patients. It showed me how much information you can get from them and that really impacted me," Cardenas said. "Interventional radiology pushes the boundaries of what can be done." Cardenas plans to push those boundaries even further. "I hope one day I'll be able to come up with new procedures that decrease patient risks, increase recovery rates and improve overall quality of life," said Cardenas, who is open to the possibility of going back to the Rio Grande Valley to work. Cardenas will train as a resident in medicine and interventional radiology at McGovern Medical School.



ELIEL ARREY, MD

Eliel Arrey's path to medical school has been far from ordinary. Arrey, a 29-year-old father of three boys, was born in Cameroon, a country in West Africa. That is where his interest in medicine began. Witnessing how difficult it was for people to access quality health care pushed him to want to make a difference in the world. Arrey became intrigued with the brain and spine and after completing his undergraduate studies at The University of Texas at Arlington, he decided that neurosurgery was the perfect fit. "I was very curious about how the brain works in regards to coordinating our everyday language, our everyday hobbies and even addictions," Arrey said. "Neurology is a compelling field, but I like the surgical interventions of neurosurgery." Arrey will be completing a neurological surgery residency at Houston Methodist. In addition to recently graduating from medical school, he is also a well-known composer in the electronic/dance music scene. Shortly after taking the Medical College Admission Test, Arrey joined a music group known as "MondoTunes." He has since gone on to join four other music groups. The EA Music Group recently released a 20-track album titled "The Essentials," all of which were composed by Arrey. "I really like music and dancing. I started out as a DJ when I was 17," Arrey said. "One day, I thought to myself 'what if I composed something new instead of playing someone else's music?'"



NIKI JACKSON, MD and WILLIAM JACKSON, MD

Newlyweds Niki and William Jackson matched at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education in Arizona. They met at a block party during their first year of medical school. Niki grew up in Clarendon, a small town in the Texas Panhandle, volunteering over the summers at the local clinic where her uncle worked as a family medicine doctor. "That was one of the things that made me decide to go into medicine," said Niki Jackson, 25. Her husband has a similar story. His mother was a labor and delivery nurse at a Houston hospital and wanted William to explore medicine as a career opportunity. He spent much of his free time doing volunteer work at the hospital. William Jackson, 26, of Deer Park, is pursuing a neurology residency. "The brain is one of the last true mysteries of the body. It's really the 'Wild West' of medicine, and I think in the next 10 years, we're going to see some of the biggest advances," William Jackson said.



LUIS PALOMINO, MD

The United States needs more Latino physicians such as Luis Palomino, 31. Latinos may be among the fastest growing ethnic groups in the country but the number of Latino physicians per 100,000 Latinos recently dropped. "Latinos may feel more connected with people who speak their language," said Palomino, who is from Lima, Peru. "They may be more likely to follow your recommendations and ask questions about their condition." Palomino started his career as a nurse after earning a B.S.N. degree from UTHealth School of Nursing and worked at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital for four years. His sister Lizeth Grun is a nurse as is their mother, Gloria Palomino. "I became interested in being a physician during my nursing career and turned in my application," he said. Palomino will do his residency training in internal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine. "My plan is to work in the Hispanic community in a mid-sized city," he said.



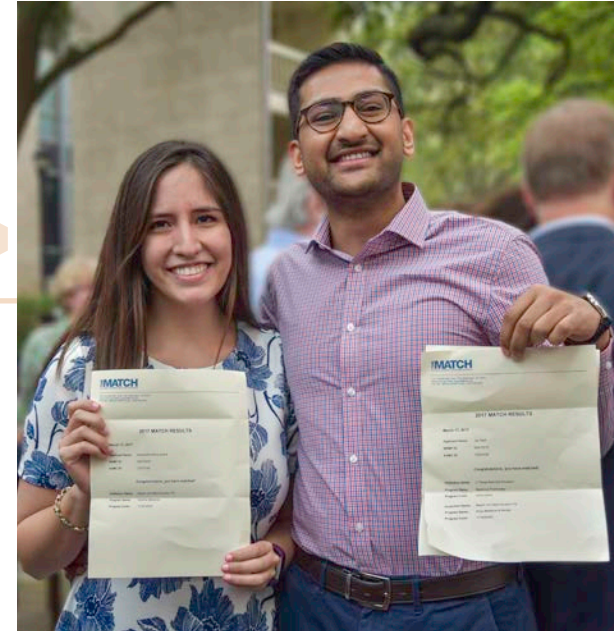
COURTNEY CLUTTER, MD

It would be an understatement to say that Courtney Clutter, 25, is from a U.S. Air Force family. Her father Keith Clutter, Ph.D., is a colonel; her mother Paula Clutter, Ph.D., is a retired lieutenant colonel; and her grandfathers were in the Air Force. Following their example, the younger Clutter commissioned as a second lieutenant and will do a 3-year internal medicine residency at the San Antonio Military Medicine Center. "My mom was a nursing professor, and I've always been interested in health care," said Clutter, who went to Sandra Day O'Connor High School in Helotes, Texas, and The University of Texas at Austin. "I shadowed a dermatologist while in high school." During her time at McGovern Medical School, Clutter was drawn to internal medicine in part because of the breadth of the field and plans to focus on the treatment of people with diabetes, a growing health issue affecting millions. "This is a big health problem," she said.



EVAN JOHNSON, MD

If at first you do not succeed, try, try again. Evan Johnson, 39, did just that. And now thanks to perseverance, the father of two is a doctor. After earning an undergraduate degree at William & Mary, he was not initially accepted to medical school. His father, Richard, had graduated from McGovern Medical School and the younger Johnson wanted to do the same. Switching gears, he earned a master's degree from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and worked in a research lab at MD Anderson. Seeing firsthand how doctors relieve suffering, Johnson wanted to do the same. Revisiting his dream of being a doctor in his 30s, Johnson applied again and was accepted. "I've enjoyed every minute of it," said Johnson, who ran a student recruitment program at the school. Gravitating toward neuroscience during his time at McGovern Medical School, Johnson will do a residency in neurology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. "I want to help people with Parkinson's and other movement disorders," he said.



ALEXANDRA GRAND, MD and JAY KARRI, MD

Participating in the couples match, Alexandra Grand, 27, and Jay Karri, 26, will be staying in Houston with Karri assigned to a medicine residency at McGovern Medical School and a physical medicine and rehabilitation residency at Baylor College of Medicine and Grand assigned to an internal medicine residency at Baylor College of Medicine. The couple, who has been dating for three and a half years, met through a mutual friend during Grand's first year in medical school. Karri grew up in Lufkin, graduated from Texas Tech University and recently completed his master's of public health degree as part of the 5-year dual-degree M.D./M.P.H. program at McGovern Medical School and UTHealth School of Public Health. Now that he has received his medical degree, Karri is a third generation physician. "You see patients at their worst state, after they have suffered a brain or spinal cord injury, and work closely with them for an extended period of time to help them recover their functionality – that really inspired me," Karri said. Grand, an Austin native who graduated from The University of Texas at Austin, found her love of medicine during her undergraduate years as a molecular biology major and through volunteering at local hospitals. "I realized that I loved internal medicine because of the diversity of clinical practice and the opportunity to work closely with patients," said Grand, who picked her specialty after rotations at Harris Health System's Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital.

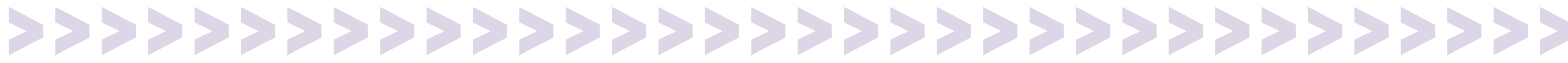


JOCELYN LAMBUTH, MD

If you hear a bird call in a pediatrician's office, it could be Jocelyn Lambuth, 32, allaying the fears of one of her young patients. "I pretend to see a bird when I look into one of their ears and they love it," said Lambuth, who will do her residency training in pediatrics at McGovern Medical School. "The first thing they say is 'really' and then let me check their other ear for a bird." Always interested in health care, Lambuth earned an undergraduate biochemistry degree from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in health policy at The University of Edinburgh. She subsequently worked for Doctors Without Borders, as well as in the area of brain tumor research. Originally from Virginia, when Lambuth moved to Houston, she took a job at Baylor College of Medicine. Lambuth committed herself to pursuing medicine as a career. "I decided that being a doctor was the best fit for my skills, and I want it to be my life's work," said Lambuth, the mother of a 4-year-old daughter. "When people are sick, they need the human touch," she said. And sometimes, a bird call, too.



BREEZEWAY SCRAPBOOK



Distinguished Alumnus Awards



Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Grant Fowler, MD, '84, with family and friends



McGovern Medical School Alumni Association President Shelby Melton, MD, '04, with Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients Grant Fowler, MD, '84, and Jane Fitch, MD, '88



Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Jane Fitch, MD, '88, with husband, John Fitch and her nominator, Sal Vitale, MD, '87



From left, Director of Alumni Relations, Derrick Miller, Alumni Association Board Member Rainer Khetan, MD, '94, Associate Dean of Alumni Relations Mark Chassay, MD, '92, and Alumni Association Board Member Roger Khetan, MD, '94



George Massingill, MD, '85, Robert Jones, MD, '87, and his wife, Stephanie Jones



Erica Swegler, MD, '83, Alan Howell, MD, '01, and his wife, Martha Howell and Alumni Relations Executive Assistant Jennifer Allen

TexMed Alumni Reception

Reunion



Ranee Shenoi, MD, '91, Sheila Coogan, MD, '91, and Norse Bear, MD, '91, at 2016 Alumni Reunion



Harold Taylor, MD, '86, and wife Melissa Taylor at 2016 Alumni Reunion

Commencement





STROBEL CHALLENGE WRAPS UP

written by
Jessica Vanderpool
Office of Development

The class-based challenge to raise money for the Annual McGovern Medical School Student Retreat for freshmen is set to conclude in August. Thank you to the men and women who have helped raise more than \$116,000 to keep registration fees affordable and ensure the retreat's sustainability so students can continue to enjoy this life-changing tradition for years to come.

So far 187 donors from 34 classes, as well as a group of non-alumni donors, have participated in the challenge. Currently, the largest total commitment from a class is \$10,003 by the class of 1979, and the largest overall commitment comes from the McGovern Medical School Alumni Association with a kick-off gift of \$25,000.

The Alumni Association, in conjunction with McGovern Medical School, set forth the funding challenge in celebration of the retreat's 40th anniversary in 2016. Each class was challenged to raise \$25,000 for the purpose of fully endowing the Henry W. Strobel, Ph.D. Freshman Retreat Fund. The school's fourth-year students also joined the challenge.

Strobel, retired associate dean of alumni relations and faculty affairs and professor emeritus, organized the first retreat in 1977. Traditionally hosted by the second-year class, the retreat is a place where freshmen hear from faculty members, enjoy games and skits, form lasting relationships and learn how to survive medical school.

Although the official funding challenge is drawing to a close, gifts will continue to be accepted in an effort to fulfill the ultimate \$1,000,000 goal. The retreat serves as a springboard that launches students into the next stages of their lives, and the generosity of those who have given facilitates future students' involvement in this impactful tradition.

To see where each class is to date toward its \$25,000 goal and to learn more about the challenge, visit go.uth.edu/strobelchallenge or contact Derrick Miller, director of alumni relations, at Derrick.J.Miller@uth.tmc.edu or 713.500.5181.

This year's retreat will take place at Camp Allen on August 11-12. All alumni are welcome. For more information, contact Miller via the phone number or email address above.



PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS MEET ALUMNI at STUDENT WELCOME RECEPTIONS in *Austin* and *College Station*

written by
Derrick J. Miller
Office of Alumni Relations
McGovern Medical School

Last year, two receptions were held for prospective medical students in Austin and College Station. Students who attended have been offered pre-match acceptance at McGovern Medical School.

On December 3, 2016, Shannon Abikhaled, M.D., '92, and her husband, John, hosted the central Texas area event. Students representing The University of Texas at Austin and surrounding schools enjoyed food and refreshments along with alumni stories regarding the medical school. On December 8, 2016, prospective students attending Texas A&M enjoyed a reception held at the home of alumnus Tom Wagner, M.D., '90, and his wife, Jeanne.

Many of the students strongly believe that McGovern Medical School is the right place to begin their medical careers. Derrick Miller, director of alumni relations, Kisha Kohl, admissions administrative coordinator, and Mark Chassay, M.D., '92, associate dean for alumni relations/assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, attended the events to answer questions and provide counsel for the students and alumni.



College Station Student Welcome Reception



Austin Student Welcome Reception



Austin Student Welcome Reception



Austin Student Welcome Reception



CONVERSATIONS

From The Leather Lounge



An interview with
Erin McHugh, MD
Class of 2017

Photo courtesy of
Katelyn Bruce Photography

written by
Derrick J. Miller
Office of Alumni Relations
McGovern Medical School

What are your plans after graduation?
I will be a pediatric resident at the University of Minnesota! Go Golden Gophers!

What is your fondest memory of your time at McGovern Medical School?
Some of my favorite memories were the retreats, both first year and then planning and “hosting” second year. I also loved every minute of my clerkships. I made some of my closest friends in the “trenches,” friends that will be life long.

What are your hopes for today's McGovern Medical School students?
I hope they stay curious, not just while in school, but in their careers too. I hope they continue to learn and always seek out opportunities for growth and learning.

What inspires you?
My family. My parents sacrificed a lot to ensure I had the education I needed to get where I am today. And my sister who has never let an obstacle prevent her from reaching her goals.

What would you want to tell alumni about the students at the school?
They're excited to be McGovern students and are proud of the accomplishments of the people who graduated ahead of them. They are in awe of you and they want you more involved. They want the opportunity to broaden their education and get connected beyond the classroom.

CONTACT

Send in your Class Notes.
Let us know what is happening with you and find out what your classmates have accomplished. Please email us at ms.alumni@uth.tmc.edu regarding your personal and professional accomplishments for our “Class Notes” section of the website, med.uth.edu/alumni.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 11-12** McGovern Medical School Student Retreat at Camp Allen
- October 20** Distinguished Alumnus Awards at Third Coast (formerly Trevisio)
- October 21** Alumni Reunion at La Colombe d’Or

For more information on these events, please visit our website at med.uth.edu/alumni or contact Derrick J. Miller at Derrick.J.Miller@uth.tmc.edu or 713.500.5181.

UPDATE YOUR INFO

Have a new phone number? Changed your email address? Want to receive the bimonthly electronic version of The Breezeway? If so, please take a moment to update your contact information at www.uth.edu/index/alumni-form.htm or fill out the enclosed form and return in the pre-paid envelope.



Photos
McGovern Medical School 2017 Commencement (Photo Top and Bottom/Dwight C. Andrews)
and 2017 Match Day (Photo Center/Hannah Rhodes)



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