

THE BREEZEWAY

Summer 2022

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



 UTHealth[®] Houston
McGovern Medical School

JOIN

UTHealth[®] Houston ALUMNI COMMUNITY

More than 500 McGovern Medical School alumni and students are making connections through UTHouston Alumni Community, the official online platform for all alumni and students. Create your profile and reconnect with classmates, give back by mentoring our students, or expand your professional network by meeting fellow alumni!



STEPS TO GET STARTED



Capture
Open up the camera on your phone.

Scan
Position your phone over the QR code.

Launch
Launch the code.

Sign up
Sign up in less than two minutes by importing your LinkedIn or Facebook profile.



Greetings from THE BREEZEWAY

Hello,

I am pleased to tell you that it has been a busy spring and summer at McGovern Medical School at UTHouston.

All of our fourth-year students, along with their supporters, were happy to be back on campus to celebrate Match Day in Webber Plaza. It was a great success for our amazing students—62% of the class will stay in Texas for their first year of postgraduate training, and 28% will train right here at McGovern Medical School. We also held in-person White Coat Ceremonies for the Classes of 2024 and 2025 in an outdoor venue at Rice University.

It was fantastic to see so many of our alumni at our Alumni Weekend—we had our best turnout ever. Congratulations to our Distinguished Alumni of 2020 and 2021, Dan Atkins, MD '75 (2020); John Cangelosi, MD '05 (2020); Arnold dela Cruz Paulino, MD '89 (2021); and Greg Swanson, MD '85 (2021).

In May, we also ushered in 226 new alumni to the McGovern Medical School family with our 2022 commencement. It was a beautiful day of celebration at Minute Maid Park as family and friends gathered to honor our new graduates. Brené Brown, PhD, the prominent author and Huffington Foundation Endowed Chair at the University of Houston, inspired all attendees as our distinguished speaker.

We also welcomed our first patients to the John S. Dunn Behavioral Sciences Center at UTHouston. This facility, which is administered by our Louis A. Failace, MD, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, is now part of the largest academic psychiatric hospital in the nation, helping us serve a growing patient population throughout Houston and beyond.

I hope you all enjoying a safe and healthy summer. **Thank you for your continued support.**

Richard J. Andrassy, MD

Executive Dean *ad interim*
Jack H. Mayfield, MD, Distinguished University Chair in Surgery
Denton A. Cooley, MD, Chair in Surgery
H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences
Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery
McGovern Medical School at UTHouston

McGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Distinguished Alumnus Awards Reception and Ceremony

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

McGovern Medical School celebrated the 2020 and 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients during this year's Alumni Weekend. Dan Atkins, MD '75, and John Cangelosi, MD '05, were the 2020 honorees while Arnold dela Cruz Paulino, MD '89, and Gregory Swanson, MD '85, were the 2021 recipients.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award honors alumni of McGovern Medical School who have made significant contributions in the areas of medical science and education or the prevention and treatment of disease, as well as those who demonstrate a continued interest in the medical school and its students. The Distinguished Alumnus Award has been presented by the Alumni Association since 1987.



Arnold dela Cruz Paulino, MD '89; Dan Atkins, MD '75; John Cangelosi, MD '05; and Greg Swanson, MD '85

Kickoff Reception

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Bringing together alumni in person for the first time since 2019, the Kickoff Reception provided networking opportunities for alumni to meet their fellow graduates.



Culinary CME Brunch

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Beginning the second day of Alumni Weekend, a group of alumni participated in a sold-out Culinary CME brunch course in conjunction with the Nourish program at UTHealth School of Public Health. Alumni used sustainable ingredients to make simple, quick, and affordable dishes using recipes from the School of Public Health cookbook.

Conversations with the Executive Dean *ad interim*

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Richard Andrassy, MD, executive dean *ad interim*, shared updates on the medical school. Alumni were encouraged to ask questions in an intimate Q&A setting.



Mark Chanay, MD '92; Richard Andrassy, MD; Priscilla Alfaro, MD '89; and Roger Khetan, MD '94

Reunion Dinner

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

At our most well-attended reunion dinner ever, alumni were able to catch up with fellow graduates over dinner at Brennan's of Houston. As the culminating event of Alumni Weekend, the dinner brought together graduates for an evening of reminiscing and fun.



MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

FROM FELLOW ALUMNI

This year's Alumni Weekend included new digital class yearbooks from alumni who were celebrating their milestone reunion. **Get to know some of your fellow graduates below!**



1977

LEM ARNOLD, MD

Lives in LaFayette, Georgia

WHAT HE'S UP TO NOW

Pediatrician at Primary Healthcare Centers

FAVORITE MEMORIES

Surviving the great flood during residency.



1992

DEENA GANDHI, MD

Lives in Sugar Land, Texas

WHAT SHE'S UP TO NOW

In private practice

FAVORITE MEMORIES

Friendships, fellowships, and the days with cadavers going on forever. Also getting to know our professors, acquiring the knowledge of medicine, and learning how to incorporate medicine into a good, balanced life.



1997

KAREN (SALO) MEADOR, MD

Lives in Ithaca, New York

WHAT SHE'S UP TO NOW

President at Advisors in Healthcare, LLC, and Executive in Residence for the Master of Healthcare Administration program at Cornell University

FAVORITE MEMORIES

My future husband Bobby was the first person to welcome me at the first-year welcome party. We married before fourth year.



2002

COURTNEY LANDRY, MD

Lives in Sugar Land, Texas

WHAT SHE'S UP TO NOW

ER physician and practicing interior designer with Calla Designs LLC.

FAVORITE MEMORIES

One was the fun, casual interactions with Dr. Red Duke and so many folks while working at the UHealth Houston Rec Center. Another was gathering with the lively Student National Medical Association members at our school. A third memory was being in clinical rotations when 9/11 happened... everything paused as we stared at the news reporting. It was a somber day. My final favorite memory was finding out I was pregnant and giving birth to my first child at the end of my second year. I pressed on with school and motherhood and graduated on time. Still working hard to this day!



2007

SHELLEY KOHLLEPPELE, MD

Lives in Lakehills, Texas

WHAT SHE'S UP TO NOW

Physician at Medina Lake Clinic

FAVORITE MEMORIES

The times I spent with all of the friends I made during medical school.



BETTING ON THE FUTURE

ALUMNI COUPLE ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP INSPIRED BY THEIR TIME AT MCGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL



“It was a photo finish, and we lost. That’s when we found out we were exponentially bad at gambling together.”

Azreena “Reena” Thomas, MD ’88

Written by
John Evans
Office of Development

The road to a new scholarship started at a horse racing track.

As first-year students at McGovern Medical School in 1984, John “JT” Thomas, MD ’88, and Azreena “Reena” Thomas, MD ’88, met during a trip to Delta Downs Racetrack in Louisiana as part of a social fraternity at the school.

Both low on cash, they combined their money for a bet.

“It was a photo finish, and we lost,” Reena says. “That’s when we found out we were exponentially bad at gambling together.”

While the horses may not have run their way, JT and Reena still came out winners, marrying four years later just before graduation. After more than 30 years and two children—daughters Jenna and Alyssa—they look back on their time at McGovern Medical School as the most formative in their lives.

Reena also completed her neurology residency and fellowship at the school through the Texas Comprehensive Epilepsy Program. When she started her second year of fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, she found that her time at McGovern Medical School had prepared her well for the task.

“I would come back and tell my professors how grateful I was for their training,” she says. “They were touched. A lot of them teared up.”

Reena continued her passion for treating patients with epilepsy by returning to serve on faculty at McGovern Medical School for five years before going into private practice. JT entered the field of interventional radiology, where he served on faculty first at Baylor College of Medicine and then The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center before entering into private practice.



“Being a physician is so completely key to who I am, and the medical school gave me the opportunity for that,” JT says. “I think both of us can look back and say that it allowed us to pursue our dreams.”

While Reena’s parents were able to pay for her medical education, JT needed multiple student loans to finance his dream of becoming a physician.

“We were in our 40s before we paid off those loans,” Reena says.

They have seen how medical students today routinely take on significantly more debt than they did, a burden that could not only delay key life goals like buying a house and having children, but also pressure students into choosing more lucrative specialties.

In concert with the UTHealth Houston *Many Faces. One Mission.* campaign and its focus on training the next generation of health professionals, they endowed The JT and Reena Thomas (Class of 1988) Medical Student Scholarship at McGovern Medical School in 2019. The fund has provided financial aid to a student each year since 2020.

“It’s not a full ride scholarship, but it will allow students to take on a little less debt,” JT says. “Out of all the medical schools in Texas, McGovern isn’t as high up as some others in terms of scholarship money offered. We’re happy to do our part to improve that.”

As alumni representatives for the Class of 1988, they stay connected with the school and have played key roles in planning major events such as the class’s 30-year reunion. Their oldest daughter, Jenna, has followed in their footsteps, beginning her second year at McGovern Medical School in the fall of 2022.

“We’re over the moon about it because the school holds such a special place in our hearts,” Reena says.

They hope to see more scholarships endowed so that students like Jenna can attend McGovern Medical School without the burden of debt, because they know how valuable the education they received has proven in their lives and careers.

“It’s all about taking care of patients,” Reena says. “They taught us to treat everyone like we’d treat our mother, and that really does make all the difference. It’s important that new generations of doctors learn these values, too.”



“Out of all the medical schools in Texas, McGovern isn’t as high up as some others in terms of scholarship money offered. We’re happy to do our part to improve that.”

John “JT” Thomas, MD ’88



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MCGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AND WHERE WE RANK AMONG PEER INSTITUTIONS, VISIT THE LAST PAGE.

CLASSES OF 2024 AND 2025

RECEIVE THEIR WHITE COATS



“This ceremony is a great reminder of the responsibility that comes with being a physician. Our students each sign the ethical pledge and recite the Hippocratic Oath. We look forward to sharing this milestone with our students.”

LaTanya Love, MD
Dean of Education *ad interim*

written by
Roman Petrowski
McGovern Medical School Office of Communications

The McGovern Medical School Classes of 2024 and 2025 received their white coats in a pair of ceremonies on May 5 and 6, 2022, at the Wendel D. Ley Track and Holloway Field on the campus of Rice University. The ceremony returned after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are truly elated that we were finally able to safely host this White Coat Ceremony for our first- and second-year students,” said LaTanya Love, MD, dean of education *ad interim*. “This ceremony is a great reminder of the responsibility that comes with being a physician. Our students each sign the ethical pledge and recite the Hippocratic Oath. We look forward to sharing this milestone with our students.”

Generally taking place among the initial days of orientation, the White Coat Ceremony welcomes students to health care practice and shows the value of humanism at its core.

Incoming students hear from guest speakers before receiving white coats with the McGovern Medical School logo that were provided by alumni and friends. Students then participate in the most important element of the ceremony, the Hippocratic Oath, which acknowledges a central obligation of caring for patients.

Since 2018, the McGovern Medical School Alumni Association has rallied to raise funds needed to purchase white coats for the next class of medical students. This year, our goal is to raise \$18,000 for 240 white coats. Each gift of support launches the career of a medical student in the best possible way. A white coat that is funded by donors like you is a symbolic vote of confidence for these students as they begin their medical careers.



Scan the QR code to support the next class of medical students.

COMMENCEMENT

written by
Roman Petrowski
McGovern Medical School Office of Communications

McGovern Medical School celebrated 226 graduates at the 2022 UTHealth Houston Commencement Ceremony on May 13 at Minute Maid Park. Joining classmates from UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics and MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, our medical school graduates crossed the stage while family, friends, and supporters cheered from the stands.

Brené Brown, PhD, research professor and Huffington Foundation Endowed Chair at the University of Houston, served as the commencement speaker. The author of six No. 1 New York Times bestsellers and host of two award-winning Spotify podcasts, she provided insight and guidance for our graduates as they embarked on the next chapter of their medical careers.



Honoring

H. RANDOLPH BAILEY, MD



In May, Bailey was honored at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons meeting in Tampa, Florida, with the 2022 Masters in Colorectal Surgery Lectureship, which is the society's highest honor. We invited former residents and fellows to a reception to celebrate this remarkable achievement.



H. Randolph Bailey, MD, serves as professor in the Department of Surgery at McGovern Medical School and leads UT Physicians Colon and Rectal Clinic – Texas Medical Center. He has devoted his career to improving the way we care for patients with colorectal diseases and training the next generation of surgeons

Bailey's leadership has shaped UTHealth Houston into a premier center for colorectal surgery, where our experts perform more procedures for colorectal cancer than any other group in Texas. He also expanded the field by building one of the country's largest and most distinguished colon and rectal surgery residency programs, which has trained experts who now practice across the United States.

With Bailey preparing to retire, UTHealth Houston has created a special initiative to establish the H. Randolph Bailey, MD, Endowment as a tribute to his remarkable service and exceptional care for patients. This endowment will forever honor Bailey's legacy while continuing his life's work to improve the lives of patients with colorectal diseases. UTHealth Houston has provided a generous matching opportunity so that every gift to the endowment will be matched dollar for dollar.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT
JENNIFER M. CLARK, JD,
AT 713-500-3601 OR JENNIFER.M.CLARK@UTH.TMC.EDU.



Scan the QR code to learn
how your commitment will
make a difference.

UTHEALTH HOUSTON ESTABLISHES

JOHN S. DUNN BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES CENTER

TO ADDRESS GAPS IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE



written by
Deborah Mann Lake
the Office of Public Affairs

The John S. Dunn Foundation made a transformative \$25 million commitment to UTHealth Houston to bolster the university's behavioral health initiatives and address significant gaps in mental health care services in our communities.

In honor of the foundation's generosity, UTHealth Houston established the John S. Dunn Behavioral Sciences Center to support innovative behavioral health research, education, and patient care. The pledge embodies the commitment of UTHealth Houston's faculty and trainees in the Louis A. Failace, MD, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at McGovern Medical School to provide comprehensive care to patients throughout our campus, in addition to UT Physicians clinics, Harris Health outpatient clinics, and Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital. Together, the Dunn Foundation and UTHealth Houston mental health specialists are working to ensure a comprehensive array of health services are delivered to patients in all phases of care.

"Our behavioral health experts provide the highest levels of care to patients from across our community, and are also on the forefront of developing innovative and personalized treatments for psychiatric and mental health conditions," says Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, UTHealth Houston President and Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair. "The generous support of the Dunn Foundation will provide UTHealth Houston with the critical resources needed to realize our shared vision of improving behavioral health in our communities and setting new standards in excellence of care."

The commitment is part of the university's first comprehensive campaign, *Many Faces. One Mission*. The campaign, representing the largest philanthropic effort in UTHealth Houston's history, aims to raise \$500 million to address pressing health challenges and advance brain and behavioral health, and to secure the institution's future as a top health science center. Since the campaign's quiet phase began in 2015, the university's closest friends have given nearly \$475 million toward this goal.

"The generous support of the Dunn Foundation will provide UTHealth Houston with the critical resources needed to realize our shared vision of improving behavioral health in our communities and setting new standards in excellence of care."

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD
UTHealth Houston President
and Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair



CONVERSATIONS

FROM THE LEATHER LOUNGE

An interview with
Devin Greene, MD '17

RESIDENCY
General Psychiatry, Vanderbilt University

FELLOWSHIP
Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CURRENT JOB TITLE
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University



What is your fondest memory of your time at McGovern Medical School?

My fondest memory would be participating in the annual pageant (named "Mangeant" at the time, hosted by AMWA) during my second year of medical school. I actually taught myself to play the ukulele to perform a Taylor Swift medley. While I didn't win, I did get an award for "Most Likely to Be a Model," which obviously didn't pan out.

What are your hopes for today's McGovern Medical School students?

I hope they all match into psychiatry! But seriously, I hope that they are able to find meaning in the work that they do. Medical school, residency, and fellowship are very arduous endeavors, and it can be easy to lose yourself in the kerfuffle. Figuring out what you value and doing things to move yourself toward those values are really important, and they foster resilience!

What's a day on the job like?

As a consult psychiatrist, the day is pretty unstructured and can be very chaotic. You never know when you'll be asked to see a patient for consultation. We see all kinds of interesting cases for medically hospitalized patients, with the goal of helping the patients get the medical care they need by addressing psychiatric issues. As a fellow, I see cases with the residents as a supervisor and do some teaching where I can.

What skill is most vital to your job?

The ability to communicate! Not only with patients, but with teams. Oftentimes, we help teams gain a better understanding of their patients' needs and help facilitate much-needed medical care.

What do you enjoy doing on your day off?

Being honest, sleeping! Outside of that, I'm a very avid gamer!

Where is your favorite lunch spot?

While living in Houston, I would frequent Local Foods quite a bit. Nowadays, I've been really into eating at CAVA. Honestly, anywhere that serves good Vietnamese or Korean food will be a good bet too!

What is your proudest accomplishment?

It's going to sound really cliché, but becoming a psychiatrist!

VOLUNTEER

Our alumni are a great asset to the McGovern Medical School community. We have numerous opportunities that will allow you to share your knowledge, create meaningful relationships, and grow your network. Find the right opportunity for you at med.uth.edu/alumni.

SEND IN YOUR CLASS NOTES!



Let us know what is happening with you and find out what your classmates have accomplished. Please visit go.uth.edu/ClassNotes to submit your personal and professional accomplishments for our "Class Notes" section of med.uth.edu/alumni.

UPDATE YOUR INFO



Have a new phone number? Changed your email address? Want to receive the electronic version of The Breezeaway? If so, please take a moment to update your contact information at <https://go.uth.edu/UpdateInfo>.

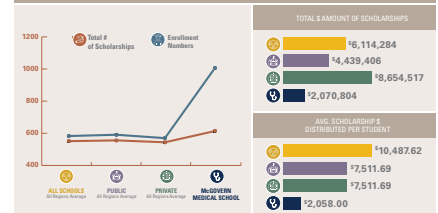
THE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Derrick Miller, Senior Director of Annual Giving and University Alumni Engagement
Brynn McGarry, Associate Director of University Alumni Engagement
Sarah Holloway, Assistant Director of University Alumni Engagement
Alyssa Camet, Senior Development Coordinator of University Alumni Engagement

AAMC SCHOLARSHIP BENCHMARKS ACROSS INSTITUTIONS

Below is information on where McGovern Medical School ranks in available scholarships for medical students among our peer institutions, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Database Benchmarks

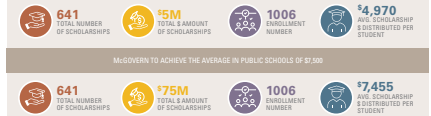


Database Texas Benchmarks

Texas School	School Scholarship Ranking	Total # of Scholarships	Total \$ Amount of Scholarships	Enrollment Numbers	Avg. Scholarship \$ distributed per student
UT Austin-Dell	64	308	\$1,565,412	148	\$10,577
UT Rio Grande Valley	67	297	\$1,614,347	156	\$10,348
Baylor College of Medicine	104	640	\$4,895,007	757	\$6,466
Texas Tech-Fester	120	476	\$2,102,982	420	\$5,007
UT Health San Antonio-Leag	123	784	\$3,945,434	876	\$4,504
UTMB Health-Sealy	126	587	\$4,198,584	958	\$4,383
UT Southwestern	129	888	\$3,975,438	929	\$4,279
Texas Tech	147	1,819	\$2,188,338	742	\$2,949
Texas A&M	154	658	\$1,767,599	698	\$2,532
UTHealth Houston-McGovern	158/164	614	\$2,070,804	1006	\$2,058

Scholarship Goals

McGOVERN TO ACHIEVE ROUGHLY \$5,000



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SCHOLARSHIP WORKING GROUP OR GIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MCGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS, CONTACT MS.ALUMNI@UTH.TMC.EDU.



McGovern Medical School

Office of Development

7000 Fannin Street, Suite 1200
Houston, Texas 77030



NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT NO. 209

THE BREEZEWAY

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston

Summer 2022



UTHealth Houston
McGovern Medical School