

A Living Legacy

The tradition of alumni helping those who follow is important to the life of any school. Today's average Upstate Medical University student graduates with an indebtedness of \$120,000. Thanks to an active and effective Alumni Association, the number of scholarships for Upstate students is ever increasing, helping to alleviate that burden. The 2003-04 scholarship presentations were made at Reunion. Here's what some donors had to say at the podium about the motivation for their gifts and students' thanks for that generosity and the impact it made.

ZAVEN AYANIAN, MD '59, a retired New Jersey internist and native Syracusan, endowed a scholarship to support a student from Onondaga County. *"The four years I spent at Upstate were very meaningful. When I retired after 40 years of practicing internal medicine, I wanted to do something tangible for the medical school that provided not only my education and livelihood, but the opportunity to meet my future wife."*

JAMES TUCKER, MD, directs the Department of Family Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital and the Upstate Family Medicine Residency Program. He is also trustee of a bequest from his late aunt, Jean Bertram Burke Underhill, which provides three scholarships to Upstate students. *"My aunt wanted to provide funding for excellent students who might not be able to attend medical school were outside funding not available. It was her lifelong dream to attend medical school, which she never did attain. She grew up in an era when women typically did not attend medical school. This is her way of helping excellent students who have significant financial need."*

Thank You!

I am a recipient of this year's Jean Bertram Burke Underhill Scholarship and I would like to thank you for your generous donation toward my education.

Currently, I am a fourth-year medical student. My future plans include becoming a neurologist and I am particularly interested in epilepsy.

Your scholarship comes at a very good time for my family. My father was retired on a disability from his federal police job in Brooklyn, New York. My sister is currently at the University of Central Connecticut, and my brother will begin college in 2005.

Thank you again for your contribution. I am honored to be a recipient of this year's award.

Cathryn Broderick, '06



Tracey E. Duble received the Zaven Ayanian, MD '59, Scholarship from Dean Steven Scheinman, MD, and Dr. Ayanian.



Cathryn R. Broderick received the Jean Bertram Burke Underhill Scholarship from Dean Steven Scheinman, MD, and James Tucker, MD.



SAMUEL GERSTEN, MD '39, and his wife, Martha

Gersten, funded the first named scholarship at Upstate in 1991.

Their grandson, Aaron Skiles, made the scholarship presentation. *"My grandfather graduated from the medical school in 1939. With the great depression in full swing, he had to work several jobs to support himself through school. Scholarships in those*

days were very rare. He wanted to make sure that medical school was more affordable for other students and so he and my grandmother established the first named scholarship at Upstate. He was proud to lead the way and happy to see other scholarships follow his example. If he could see how many scholarships were being awarded today, he would be thrilled. I hope that some of you receiving these scholarships will be able to follow my grandfather's legacy by establishing your own scholarships some day."



Jason L. Freedman, Jennifer E. Bashant and Rhonda Aboulafia received the Samuel Gersten, MD '39, and Martha Gersten Scholarship from the Gersten's grandson, Aaron Skiles, and Dean Steven Scheinman, MD.

Dear Mrs. Gersten,

I am writing to express my thanks for your extreme generosity in honor of your husband. I was truly touched to be selected as this year's recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. Gersten Scholarship.

After reading about the Gersten Endowment in an article in the *Alumni Journal*, I feel even more honored to have been selected for this award. I can certainly relate to the financial difficulties that your husband faced to pursue a quality medical education. It is quite apparent, however, that despite the adversity he faced, his passion for medicine and commitment to helping others did not waver. Dr. Gersten never forgot his roots and the obstacles he had to overcome.

Thank you for continuing his legacy in such a generous way. This endowment has enabled medical students like me to make our dreams a more affordable reality. As I continue my studies and the practice of medicine, it is my hope that I will be as dedicated and committed to excellence as your husband was throughout his career.

Jason Freedman, '06

Dear Dr. Rosenthal,

Thank you so much for your generosity in setting up a scholarship through the Medical Alumni Association. It is very much appreciated. I am currently in my 4th year of medical school and my residency applications for surgery have just been sent out. I'm feeling very excited about starting a whole new phase of my educational experiences and I'm very excited about getting the chance to pursue surgery as a career. Thank you again for giving to the students.

Tracy Duble, '05

SAMUEL ROSENTHAL, MD '64,

a Jacksonville, Florida, plastic surgeon, established a foundation that has funded a scholarship endowment at Upstate for a student whose conduct is the paragon of honor and integrity. *"My medical school experience intoxicated me with a life-long love of medicine. This profession has given me a very enjoyable life and I owe that profession to Upstate. I want this scholarship to go to an individual who has a true joy for medicine and conducts himself with his peers and his patients as if they are kin. This person may not be at the top of the class, but is the person you would trust your spouse or your child with."*

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Tracey E. Duble received the Samuel Rosenthal, MD '64 Scholarship from Dean Steven Scheinman, MD, and Dr. Rosenthal.

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Signa Perkins received the Sarah Loguen Fraser, MD, Class of 1876, Scholarship from Sharon Brangman, MD '81, Dean Steven Scheinman, MD, and Gregory Threatte, MD '73.

To Alumni and Friends,

Thank you kindly for enabling me to receive the Sarah Loguen Fraser Scholarship. I had the opportunity to have previously read her story. Last year, as we celebrated the achievements of women in medicine, I organized the posters that included, among many others, Dr. Fraser. She paved the way for many others such as myself. Every day that I enter Weiskotten Hall, I will do so with renewed spirits as I know the goal I have set for myself will soon be realized, as it has been for so many before me.

Her relentless drive and hard work are attributes I too share. As an African American, I am pleased to have her as an example to follow. I regard it as a great honor to receive this award in her name.

Signa Perkins, '07

SUSAN CRONIN presented the Gustave P. Milkey, MD '43, and Janet B. Milkey Merit Scholarship, named in memory of her father, and for her mother, who was unable to attend. Each year, merit scholarships are given to the four top students in each class. One year there was a tie, bringing the number of honorees to five. This scholarship is now given to the fifth-ranked second-year student. ***"My father valued his medical school experience and he would love knowing that he is continuing to help talented students pursue a career in medicine."***



Shannon Whitaker received the Gustave P. Milkey, MD '43, and Janet B. Milkey Merit Scholarship from Dean Steven Scheinman, MD, and the Milkey's daughter, Susan Cronin.

Dear Mrs. Milkey,

My name is Shannon Whitaker and I am a second-year medical student originally from Rochester, New York. I wish to thank you for the Gustave P. Milkey, MD '43, and Janet B. Milkey Scholarship, for your kindness, generosity, and support of my medical education. Second year is challenging, but I am continuing to work hard and trying to do so while helping to coordinate SCHOPE (Salt City Health Outreach Program), Pediatrics Relief, and the Medical Spanish Association, an as-of-yet unrecognized group. I am also interviewing prospective students and attending Jewish Medical Association events.

It is wonderful to know that someone has recognized my efforts and I will certainly benefit from the substantial reduction in my loans that you have given me. Thank you very much. I look forward to meeting you.

Shannon E. Whitaker, '07