

# Vision

Newsletter of Philanthropy

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Loyola University Medical Center ~ Part of Loyola University Health System

## \$10M Grant Signals New Direction for Nursing School

“Location, location, location,” is the mantra of real estate agents everywhere. Thanks to a \$10 million grant from The Arthur Foundation, a new location for the Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) on the campus of Loyola University Medical Center, in Maywood, is well on its way to realization. The move, and the new geographic position, constitutes a bricks-and-mortar prerequisite to achieving critical institutional objectives and fulfilling the vision for nursing education at Loyola in the twenty-first century.

The grant continues a proud history of cooperation between two organizations with shared goals and commitment to community service. Established in 1999, The Arthur Foundation supports high-quality, leading-edge programs in education, health care and medical research, such as the Hispanic Nurse Initiative at Loyola. This program provides scholarships to recruit and train students from Berwyn, Cicero and the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods in Chicago who pledge to work in Chicago’s Latino communities for two years.

The new grant illustrates The Arthur Foundation’s philosophy that key large grants make a bigger impact than numerous small ones. Foundation officials believe that this grant will have significant impact on the community. As Jeffrey Huml, MD, vice chairman of The Arthur Foundation grants committee, noted, “Our institutions are very much aligned in values, and to be able to bring a world-class college of nursing into our community is a wonderful thing. We really get lots of bang for our buck with a gift to Loyola and Niehoff.” This latest grant constitutes more than 25 percent of the \$37.5 million needed to construct and equip the new state-of-the-art building on the Maywood campus.

Currently, the nursing school’s classrooms, clinics and administrative offices are spread out across the three Loyola University Chicago campuses — Lake Shore, Water Tower and Maywood. After the relocation, the upper level undergraduate program will join the graduate program in Maywood, while freshman and sophomores will continue to benefit from the Jesuit immersion experience with their program on the Lake Shore campus.

“Being able to consolidate nursing within Loyola is a significant opportunity to demonstrate that this is a school of nursing with great talent,” noted Mary Klotz Walker (BSN ’72), RN, PhD, FAAN, dean, “and the school will benefit because that talent can be leveraged in a significant and different way.” Dr. Walker is especially interested in offering undergraduates the role models they need to see the complexity of advanced practice nursing and, thus, realize how nurses are a crucial part of structuring



Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing students (Left to right) Jamie Smith, Diana Rawls, Melissa Fetter (standing) and Jessica Olson will be graduating this spring.

patient care. “We have the capability to advance the careers of our students and nursing practice overall, and this move will help achieve those goals,” she said.

At the same time, Dr. Walker noted, locating a new building on the Maywood campus will provide greater opportunities for nursing faculty and graduate students to use both the existing research facilities and any new ones that may be built. Advancing such research is critically important to increasing the number of faculty with doctoral degrees who, in turn, can help meet the projected demand for nurses to fill the estimated 118,000 currently vacant positions nationwide. “Positioning nursing in the health sciences, where the infrastructure can support full-time research, will help us address that need,” she said.

The nursing school’s new location also will have significant impact on the community and on the western suburbs, according to officials from both organizations. “We are taking the geographical location of the nursing school seriously, and looking to the school to lead on answers to public health issues in this part of the metro region,” said Dr. Walker. Nurses and nursing research are especially effective in addressing these issues, she believes, and Niehoff has a strong track record of community involvement. She points to Proviso East High School’s Adolescent and Family Health Project as a sterling example. The program is in its seventh year of operation, run by Diana Hackbarth (BSN ’68), RN, PhD, FAAN. Using private and government grants, Loyola nurses serve a group of talented, at-risk young people by providing health-promotion programs addressing issues such as diabetes prevention, weight management and smoking cessation.

For an equally pragmatic, but different, reason, “bringing the undergraduate clinical program to Niehoff makes good sense” said Rolf Gunnar, MD, chairman of The Arthur Foundation’s grants committee. Unlike many professions, where graduates move away from the institution to take jobs, nurses tend to settle near the institution where they complete their final years of education, he explained. Offering students from the near western suburbs this opportunity, one previously unavailable to them, is likely to increase the number of nurses who remain local and strengthen existing relationships with other health-care facilities in the area. In addition, the move is expected to develop ties with additional area facilities. Together, the impact of these developments should improve overall health in the community, by increasing the number of well-trained nursing professionals available to fill current vacancies.

“With this grant, the foundation is making a statement that supporting nursing education is critical,” said Dr. Huml. “As we improve health care, we save lives. That is a collective force for good in the world, which is the foundation’s mission.”

From Dr. Walker’s perspective, the partnership is an ideal one, bringing together two organizations that share a similar vision to create synergies greater than either entity could generate alone. This, she believes, is the ideal of philanthropy — matching the interests of individuals or institutions with new opportunities that will make a difference in people’s lives.

For more information on supporting the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, contact Susan Montgomery at [smontgomery@lumc.edu](mailto:smontgomery@lumc.edu) or (708) 216-6576. ~

# Nursing Research 101: Meeting the Revenue Challenge

“**R**esearcher Secures \$2 Million Grant to Study Aging”; “Private Foundation Awards \$5 million for Cancer Research”; “Niehoff School of Nursing Professor Receives \$1.3 Million to Study Adolescent Asthma Management.” Big philanthropic gifts often garner big headlines. But what’s behind headlines like these? Who are the people getting these grants and how are they doing it? Why, in fact, do they need grants at all?

One answer to the question “Why do researchers need grants at all?” is based in the goals of the academic enterprise itself: to create new knowledge that serves humanity. And to conduct research that creates new knowledge and serves humanity requires funds far greater than not-for-profit institutions have available internally.

Another answer to the question follows from the first: because creating new knowledge through research is a basic academic goal, teachers and academic leaders must be trained to conduct, evaluate and analyze research at all levels. That is especially true now in the nursing field, as 30 percent of nursing faculty positions nationally are vacant. To fill those vacancies, institutions like Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) must find the financial resources to underwrite the research that produces new faculty members. Those funds typically come from state and/or federal sources, private foundations, individuals or a combination of these.

But those new faculty members are not needed just to create new knowledge. Without qualified nursing faculty, there will be no one to teach the nursing students who are needed to address a national RN vacancy rate of 8.5 percent. That vacancy rate affects patient care everywhere.

A look at the work of Niehoff professor Barbara Velsor-Friedrich, RN, PhD, can begin to illustrate the who, how and why of some nursing research currently being pursued at the nursing school. In particular, Dr. Velsor-Friedrich’s work illustrates the kind of public health issue that nursing research at the advanced level can undertake.

The success of Dr. Velsor-Friedrich’s grant application to the National Institute of Nursing Research — the one that garnered a headline — did not just happen. Like most successful research undertakings, it resulted from years of clinical and scholarly work, informed by personal interest and leavened by a pressing contemporary issue.

Dr. Velsor-Friedrich began her career as a staff nurse. While working at Evanston Hospital and at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago, she had noticed many repeat admissions due to complications of asthma. Since asthma is a treatable disease, but not a curable one, she thought a lot about what could be done to promote self-care among asthma patients. Although she could not know it then, those musings would eventually contribute to writing a grant proposal to study just this issue. That would be after she had addressed her long-held interest in how organizations make decisions and implement policies. To do that, she intended to complete her graduate work in administration and policy studies with a focus on health policy.

This combination of interest and expertise resulted in her offering asthma self-care programs in Chicago primary schools for thirteen years. When the Chicago Public Schools approached her about offering a similar program in high schools, she readily agreed. Asthma is a critical public health issue, affecting 9 million youngsters under the age of 17. Asthma is responsible for 14 million lost school days and \$14 billion in health care and lost productivity costs yearly. Hospitalization and death rates for African-Americans are nearly triple those of Caucasians. Yet, a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate asthma management program for urban, African-American teens does not yet exist. Dr. Velsor-Friedrich’s research aims to rectify that.

The \$1.3 million grant, allocated over four years, is being used to fund an interdisciplinary, collaborative study. Together with graduate students in psychology, nursing and medicine, the goal is to create a program that teaches asthma-specific behavior modification, conflict resolution, coping strategies and communication strategies for teens living with the disease.

As there is no cure, finding effective management strategies is critical to improving the quality of life for asthma patients.

Dr. Velsor-Friedrich’s experience and skill set in conducting a larger research study made her project a good fit with the goals of the National Institute of Nursing Research. Among its goals, the Institute focuses on funding research that promotes quality of life in individuals with chronic illnesses, especially underserved groups.

Depending upon the results of their research for this phase, Dr. Velsor-Friedrich

anticipates that her group will likely reapply for a grant to broaden the scope of their study. She is eager to continue the work. “I feel so fortunate to be a guest in these schools and to be a small part of the students’ lives. We hope that our work will have some wider policy implications for school-based health programs throughout the city,” she said.

Traveling the path to fundable research requires organization, perseverance, hard work, inspiration, institutional support, a timely topic and the ability to make a case for one’s project. And then the work really starts.

For more information on supporting research at the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, contact Susan Montgomery at [smontgomery@lumc.edu](mailto:smontgomery@lumc.edu) or (708) 216-6576. ~



Barbara Velsor-Friedrich, RN, PhD

## Nursing School Welcomes New Dean

**N**ewly appointed dean of the Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff), Mary Klotz Walker, (BSN ’72), PhD, RN, FAAN, shared stories of her undergraduate days at the university and her plans for the future of Niehoff during a reception celebrating her arrival. More than 100 friends, alumni, faculty and staff members attended the event on November 27. ~



(Left to right) Dean Walker and Judith A. Scully, (BSN ’62), RN, PhD, emeritus faculty, Niehoff, Loyola University Chicago trustee



Dr. Whelton and several members of the Niehoff Dean’s Search Committee (Left to right) Angela Tosaw, president, Nursing Student Council Executive Board, president, Nursing Student Council Class of 2008; Paula Hindle, RN, vice president & chief nurse executive, Loyola University Health System (Loyola); Judith Scully, (BSN ’62), RN, PhD, emeritus faculty, Niehoff, university trustee; Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president & CEO, Loyola; Ida Androwich, (BSN ’78), RN, PhD, FAAN, professor, Niehoff; Elaine Gorczyca Klein, (BSN ’69); Holli DeVon, (BSN ’76), RN, PhD, associate professor, Niehoff; and Linda Paskiewicz, RN, PhD, CNM, associate professor, Niehoff

# It's a Kid Thing! Loyola Center for Children's Health Now Open

Loyola University Health System staff hosted an open house at the Loyola Center for Children's Health at Oakbrook Terrace on March 14. The newly opened center offers a wide range of pediatric specialties including: adolescent medicine, developmental pediatrics, allergy, cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, genetics, nephrology, neurology, nutrition, psychiatry, pulmonology, rehabilitation therapies and surgery. The center, which also houses clinics for autism assessment, cystic fibrosis treatment, Marfan syndrome treatment and neonatal follow-up visits, will operate as an extension of Ronald McDonald® Children's Hospital of Loyola University Medical Center. 



Left to right - Dan Walsh, chair, Loyola University Health System (Loyola) Board of Directors; Doug Porter, CEO, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana; Elizabeth Frye, MD, senior vice president & medical director, Ambulatory Services, Loyola; Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, President & CEO, Loyola; Jerold Stirling, MD, professor & chair, Department of Pediatrics, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.



Dr. Stirling shows Michael Quinlan, chair, Loyola University Chicago Board of Directors, member, Loyola Board of Directors, former CEO, McDonald's Corporation, one of the developmental screening rooms. The rooms are designed to accommodate physical therapy and developmental screenings in one area where physicians and therapists can observe children play and interactions.

## Loyola, Gottlieb Plan to Join

Loyola University Health System (Loyola) will assume governance of Gottlieb Health Resources in Melrose Park this summer, pending state approval. Gottlieb will remain a full-service community hospital with its separate cancer center and fitness center while joining forces with a world-class teaching and research institute located only minutes away. Loyola will gain access to a greater number of available beds to help relieve critical capacity issues. However, both institutions' patients and the communities they serve will be the principal beneficiaries of the affiliation. Loyola plans to relocate most of its general obstetrics and general gynecology services as well as the orthopaedic joint program to the Gottlieb campus. Those patients will benefit from shorter wait times for procedures and private rooms. The name of the Melrose Park campus will change to Loyola University Health System at Gottlieb.

## LOYOLA NEWS IN BRIEF

## First Cancer Survivorship Center in the Midwest Opens at Loyola

The high cancer survivorship rate in recent years has led to millions of Americans living with a personal history of cancer. Although they have

completed their treatments and are deemed low risk for cancer recurrence, the rigors of the experience leave patients in need of more extensive support from health-care specialists than was previously available to them. To address this

vacuum, Loyola's Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center has opened the Cancer Survivorship Center to assure they receive the best care for their distinct needs. Staff members, under the direction of Patricia Robinson, MD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, provide patients with recommendations for appropriate screenings and follow-up care. Patients also have access to social workers, genetic counselors, nutritionists and members of pastoral care.

## Loyola First in the Nation to Use 3-D, Real-time Heart Mapping

Patients with abnormal heart rhythm, known as atrial fibrillation (AF) are benefiting from a new three-dimensional (3-D) heart-mapping technology that helps guide ablation. Loyola is the first health center to diagnose and treat AF using this technology, a software image integration

module and 3-D catheter. Cardiac ablation is the procedure of using radiofrequency energy to destroy abnormal electrical pathways in heart tissue. Cardiac electrophysiologists traditionally use X-rays to guide the proper placement of the energy. While helpful, X-ray reconstructions can be time consuming, difficult to produce and can expose patients to additional radiation. With the newly installed software, electrophysiologists use ultrasound imaging to produce pictures of the heart during the ablation procedure. The ultrasound technique produces 3-D images of the heart's anatomy within a few minutes at the bedside, and allows real-time, simultaneous monitoring of catheter position and orientation during the procedure, improving both precision and patient safety.

## Screenings Reduce Occurrence of Antibiotic-resistant Bacteria

To reduce the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, Loyola University Hospital is now screening every patient with a planned admission to the hospital. This super bug, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, commonly known as MRSA, is the cause of dangerous infections in hospitalized patients. The screening process involves analysis of a nasal swab sample at the time of admission, and results are returned within two hours. Positive test results indicate the need to use special precautions to avoid spreading the bacteria.

## Cancer Specialists Bring Expertise to Central DuPage Hospital

Cancer specialists from Loyola will treat patients at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Ill., under a 10-year agreement between the two medical systems. In addition to supplying both inpatient and outpatient care services, the Loyola Cancer Care & Research Program at Central DuPage Hospital will include an on-call system so that a Loyola oncologist is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to counsel patients who may have questions or concerns. An on-site research director will ensure that eligible patients have the chance to participate in clinical trials and have access to investigational drugs. 



Loyola University Health System (Loyola) employees, donors and guests celebrated the completion of the Loyola University Hospital Tower on April 6. The tower features 64 private patient rooms and 12 state-of-the-art operating suites. The celebration included a Mass, tour and ribbon-cutting. Cutting the ribbon were (Left to right): Michael Scheer, senior vice president, CFO & treasurer, Loyola University Health System (Loyola); Daniel Walsh, chair, Loyola Board of Directors; Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president & CEO; Trisha Cassidy, senior vice president, System Development & Strategy; and Martin Massiello, executive vice president & COO. Look for complete coverage of the event in our summer issue.

# Providing a Diversity of Experiences for Residents

## Endowments Enhance Education, Patient Outcomes

Reconstructing the nose of a patient injured in an accident or disfigured by cancer or a birth defect is a delicate operation, with no set procedure. Plastic surgeon James Banich, MD, considers himself highly privileged that, as a resident in the Department of Surgery at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) last year, he was given the opportunity to visit a renowned expert in nasal reconstruction.

Dr. Banich was one of two recipients of the John L. Keeley, MD, Surgical Resident Traveling Fellowship, an endowment created to allow residents and fellows in the Department of Surgery to travel to national and international medical institutions to further their training.

Like Dr. Banich, residents practicing in the various departments within Loyola University Health System (Loyola) have the opportunity to visit other health-care institutions, attend national and international seminars and receive other necessary educational training thanks to the funds they receive from endowments established to support the resident program. These endowments not only provide the educational experiences critical for training new doctors, they help free up funds for other projects within the departments where these residents work.

Although Loyola pays residents' salaries and benefits, the residents' departments pay for their travel, books and other educational costs, explained John M. Lee, MD, PhD, dean of Stritch. Not all departments have the money in their operating budget to pay for educational travel for residents and depend on endowments to provide for this need.

"It is vital for the residents to get a diversity of experiences both on and off this campus," Dr. Lee said. "They need to get out the door to see first hand any new medical techniques other health-care institutions are employing and compare their research here at Loyola to that of other residents. The resident endowments play a large part in helping to create physicians trained in treating the whole patient."

An endowment is a gift that is invested in perpetuity. Interest earned by the fund is used for a purpose chosen by the donor. The most effective type of endowments are those without tight restrictions because departments can use these to fund areas where the need is greatest. Stritch currently holds approximately \$140 million in endowment funds. Several of the endowments set aside specifically for Loyola residents are detailed below.

### John L. Keeley, MD, Fellowship

A native of central Illinois and a 1929 Stritch alumnus, the late John L. Keeley, MD, received additional surgical training at various institutions, including University of Wisconsin Hospital, Madison, and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. It's fitting that an endowment named for Dr. Keeley, the chair of the Department of Surgery at Stritch from 1958 – 1969, enables residents in that department to travel to other medical institutions to enhance their surgical training. "My father was a great believer in education. He was very skilled in his craft due to all his



(Left to right) Keeley Award recipient Ian Villanueva, MD, and Guy Hubens, MD, a surgeon with expertise in using a surgical robot, at University Hospital of Antwerp in Belgium. Dr. Villanueva traveled to Europe to meet with several world-renowned specialists in minimally-invasive surgical procedures.

training, and he expected the same of others," recalled his son, John L. Keeley Jr.

The endowment was started by Dr. Keeley more than 20 years ago with a donation of some stock from the now defunct Wieboldt's department stores. Mr. Keeley, who is president of Keeley Asset Management Corp., adds to the fund regularly.

The endowment provides awards to two residents and/or fellows annually based on proposals they submit detailing their plans to use an award. Recipients visit medical institutions and physicians around the globe specializing in the type of surgery they want to pursue. "There is probably not a continent other than Antarctica that Keeley Fellowship recipients haven't visited," said Tim O'Hern, director of administration, Department of Surgery.

When the recipients return from their trips, they give Grand Rounds presentations detailing their experiences and write articles for the department newsletter.

Past recipients have visited physicians specializing in all types of surgical procedures. They have traveled as far as Italy and Australia and as near as Cleveland. "The one thing they all have in common is they have found their travel to be one of the most educational and enriching experiences in their training," said Mr. O'Hern.

Dr. Banich traveled to Tucson, Ariz., to visit the private practice of Fred Menick, MD.

"For more than 30 years Dr. Menick has been a leader in nasal reconstruction, and he has co-written books on making noses from scratch," Dr. Banich said. "He can make a nose from the skin of a patient's forehead, and his work is very artistic."

Dr. Banich currently practices general plastic surgery at Luther Midelfort, a hospital in the Mayo Health System serving Eau Claire, Wis., and surrounding communities. He is blending surgical techniques he learned from his time at Loyola with methods adapted from experts such as Dr. Menick to create a style that is all his own.

"Plastic surgery is a lot more flexible than other surgical disciplines because there are no right answers and many ways to approach a procedure. That's what some physicians hate about plastics but I love," said Dr. Banich. "It's critical to get out and see how other plastic surgeons approach the same problem. That's why I'm so grateful to have been given the

opportunity to learn from Dr. Menick."

Without the funding from the endowment, Dr. Banich would not have been able to spend time with Dr. Menick in Tucson. "Last year the department was short a resident in our program, and my time was stretched thin," he recalled. "For me to have done anything besides

patient care would not have been considered if I had not received the award."

### Peter Girgis Resident Endowment

Samuel Girgis, MD, a resident in the Department of Otolaryngology from 1981 – 1986, credits his experience in the department with helping him to establish a successful practice in Chicago's western suburbs. He created an endowment to help current otolaryngology residents, naming it after his brother Peter who died at age 21 of lupus.

"Loyola's otolaryngology specialists have a strong reputation and have improved health care in the western suburbs," said Dr. Girgis. "I'm appreciative of what working in the department has done for my career, and this is a small way of saying 'thank you' while keeping the memory of my brother alive."

Every January the department's second-through fifth-year residents present their research projects on Research Day. Three are chosen to participate in a city-wide competition. The resident whose presentation is deemed best of the three receives the Girgis award and is encouraged to use it toward the purchase of books.

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*"The resident endowments play a large part in helping to create physicians trained in treating the whole patient."*

John M. Lee, MD, PhD

*"Working with these world-renowned specialists helped me fine-tune my skills in minimally invasive surgical methods that will allow my patients to return to their everyday activities sooner."*

Ian Villanueva, MD, fellow, Carolina Medical Center, Charlotte, N.C.

## Residents, from page 4

“There is a lot of good-natured competition among the residents vying for the award,” said Carol Bier-Laning, MD, assistant professor, Department of Otolaryngology. “They take the competition very seriously, and although it is a modest award, there is great pride in winning.”

“I’m happy that the endowment gives residents something to look forward to each year,” said Dr. Girgis. “Presenting their papers at Research Day is a good way for them to practice making presentations at meetings later in their careers.”

## Kremper Foundation Endowment

Joseph G. Kremper, MD, was one of the first residents to work in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology when Stritch opened on the Maywood campus in 1969. He later established a private practice in Oakbrook Terrace and delivered babies at Loyola. He was a favorite mentor among Loyola’s residents, including current department chair John Gianopoulos, MD. “Joe’s sense of humor and vast knowledge base made him the ideal teacher,” Dr. Gianopoulos recalled. “He had a gruff exterior, but we soon found out he was a marshmallow inside.”

In the prime of his career, Dr. Kremper was diagnosed with a heart condition, which forced him to retire. After his untimely death, an endowment was established in his name in the early 1990s using the proceeds from several fundraisers, including golf outings and horse races.

The endowment supports resident travel costs to medical conferences and seminars. “The department combines the endowment with a department fund to allow each of our residents to travel to at least one meeting, usually in his or her fourth year,” said Dr. Gianopoulos. “Without the Kremper Endowment, the department would not be able to offer this opportunity to all our residents. They would be missing out on the vital new information and networking opportunities available at these meetings.”

Janice Melian, Dr. Kremper’s widow, has been active with fundraising events for the fund and understands the financial needs residents face. “Many residents are married and have children and other financial responsibilities,” she said. “I understand their situation because Joe and I were married 12 years before he paid off his student loans.”

Mrs. Melian believes the endowment is the best way to honor her late husband’s memory. “His calling was in medicine, and it was so difficult for him to retire because of his health,” she recalled. “He would have been pleased to provide residents with the opportunity to travel to conferences and professional development meetings. He enjoyed working with the young physicians and made the department a challenging yet fun experience for them.”

## Shea Neurosurgery Endowment

John Shea, MD, professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, considers his parents his greatest mentors. So when former residents attending a party celebrating his retirement from surgery proposed establishing an endowment in his honor, he only agreed if the award would be named after his parents.

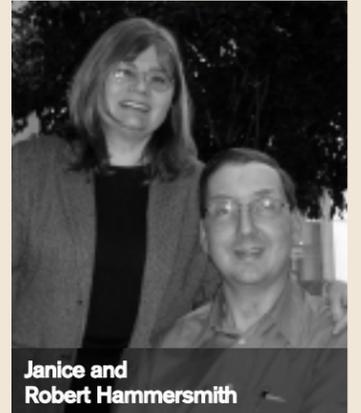
“I had wonderful parents who were committed to the education of their 12 children,” Dr. Shea said. “They would be pleased to have their names on an endowment dedicated to educating new physicians.”

Residents have used the James Del & Ruth Shea Resident Research Endowment in Neurological Surgery to offset travel costs for professional meetings and to purchase books and surgical loops (magnifying glasses surgeons wear when performing surgery). “There is not a lot of money in the department’s budget to pay for these educational expenses, and the residents can’t afford them since they are paid a modest stipend,” said Dr. Shea. “The endowment helps make all these vital learning experiences possible.”

## Recovery from Mining Accident Inspires Donation

In 1986, 20-year-old Robert Hammersmith was working in a mining tunnel at his family’s limestone quarry in Elmhurst when a stone weighing one ton fell on his head. Mr. Hammersmith was flown by LIFESTAR to Loyola University Medical Center with severe head injuries. He was fortunate to be alive; his work partner was killed.

John Shea, MD, performed brain surgery on Mr. Hammersmith and placed him in a medically induced coma for three months to give his brain time to recuperate. He cautioned the patient’s parents to spend the night at the hospital so they wouldn’t miss what would possibly be their last opportunity to see their son alive.



Janice and Robert Hammersmith

“I remember Bob Hammersmith very well. He came into the Emergency Department in very serious condition, and he made a better recovery than we expected,” recalled Dr. Shea, more than 20 years later. “When he woke up from his coma, the first thing he did was ask for pizza and beer.”

“I’m here on earth because of Dr. Shea,” said Mr. Hammersmith with emotion, turning the interview over to his wife Janice. “If it wasn’t for Dr. Shea, Bob and I would have never met,” said Mrs. Hammersmith, explaining they met five years after her husband’s accident and were married in 1993.

The couple has kept in contact with Dr. Shea, even after moving to Spring Grove, Ill., near the border of Wisconsin. When Mr. Hammersmith’s late parents, George and Audrey Hammersmith of Glen Ellyn, left him money to use for philanthropic purposes, the couple asked Dr. Shea if he had any suggestions as to a worthy fund. He suggested the James Del & Ruth Shea Resident Research Endowment in Neurological Surgery. The Hammersmiths have pledged \$200,000 to the fund.

“We believe the best way to honor the memory of Bob’s parents is to make a gift to the hospital that gave their son a second chance at life. We think they would heartily approve of our choice,” said Mrs. Hammersmith. “We hope our gift will help other physicians have the same success that Dr. Shea had in treating Bob.”

For more information on making a donation to support resident education programs contact the Office of Development at [development@lumc.edu](mailto:development@lumc.edu), or (708) 216-3201.

## Meet the Newest Additions to a Loyal Loyola Family

Jack, Maeve and Owen Farrell (left right) are the latest additions to the Trantowski/Farrell family — a clan whose members include Loyola University Health System (Loyola) patients, donors and an employee. The triplets were born July 17, at Loyola University Hospital to Rebecca Farrell, a part-time physical therapist who formerly worked full-time in the Burn Unit. Despite being born five weeks early, all three babies were healthy. In honor of their birth, proud grandparents, Ken and Mary Trantowski of Glen Ellyn, made a \$5,000 donation to Loyola’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Services. “Our gift was a thank you for the excellent care our daughter, Becca, and the babies received at Loyola,” said Mrs. Trantowski.



Although this is the first time the family has donated to the NICU and

Maternal Fetal Medicine, they have made several donations to the Burn Unit totaling more than \$4,000 and recently pledged a \$25,000 gift, payable to the unit in the next five years. “Becca started working in the Burn Unit in January of 2003 and has been very enthusiastic about her job. She is always saying how impressed she is with the level of patient care and dedication shown by the entire Burn Unit staff so we decided it was a good place to support,” explained Mrs. Trantowski.

This is the first medical system the family has supported. They have given donations to Catholic institutions in the past and value organizations that provide charity care. “We are happy to help Loyola financially because we know patients are not refused care despite their ability to pay,” said Mr. Trantowski. “And we can’t say enough about the quality of care in the Burn Unit.”

# Volunteer Leads Burn Survivors on the Path to a New Ordinary

As a burn survivor, Tony Gonzalez knows first hand the trials facing patients recovering from catastrophic burns. He is committed to making their lives better through financial support of the Burn Unit at Loyola University Health System (Loyola). He has organized an annual golf outing that raises funds to send burn survivors to a national advocacy meeting and made monetary gifts to the burn survivor support group and burn education program. But by far the most generous donation he makes to the Burn Unit is the gift of himself — as a volunteer peer supporter for burn patients.

Mr. Gonzalez, of Naperville, is a co-coordinator and peer supporter in the Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery (SOAR) program. This national program trains burn survivors to visit with burn patients in the hospital, offering information and support.

“Most people can sympathize with you, but they can’t explain the road you’ll travel as you recover,” said burn survivor Jamie Nieto, a patient and now a volunteer in the SOAR program. “Having another survivor’s perspective on life helped me know what to expect in my own recovery.”

In 2004, Mr. Nieto was prepared to enter Monmouth College, a liberal arts college in Monmouth, Ill., to study history and political science and play golf. Then on his 20th birthday he was burned on 40 percent of his body in an accident with paint thinner.

“I remember looking at my burned hands, wondering how I would ever play golf again,” he recalled. “At that point I was an amateur player and wanted nothing more than to pursue a career in golf.”

He had never met another person with severe burns. Meeting Mr. Gonzalez was the first step in his acceptance of himself. “I was taken aback at first by his appearance. I hadn’t looked at myself in the mirror yet,” Mr. Nieto said. “But once he started talking, I didn’t even see his scars anymore.”

After several visits with Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Nieto was especially heartened to learn that his peer counselor also was an avid golfer and was able to play using specially-designed clubs. After undergoing reconstructive surgery on his hands, Mr. Nieto pursued his career aspirations. He received a scholarship from the Phoenix Society, an advocacy group for burn survivors, which he used to earn an associate’s degree in golf operations at the Golf Academy of the Carolinas in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He is currently taking classes through Virginia College Online to finish a bachelor’s degree in golf course management.

Mr. Nieto works as a golf instructor and course operator at Chalet Hills Golf Club in Cary, Ill. As an assistant golf professional, he gives lessons and supervises the golf course staff.

“I’m doing what I want to do with my life, so it’s very easy for me to get up and go to work every morning,” he said. “The best piece of advice Tony gave me was to not ever think about getting back to normal because there is no normal. You just get back to who you are and who you want to be.”



Tony Gonzalez and his brother, Mark, review blueprints for a home they are remodeling.

## Reinventing Himself Twice

A college graduate who had already experimented with careers until he found his niche, Mr. Gonzalez knew who he was and what he wanted to be. In 1997, he was a 33-year-old carpenter who enjoyed working with his hands and playing sports.

A graduate of Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, he worked for a couple of different mortgage companies before pursuing his real interest. “I processed loans and did customer service but I didn’t care for the work,” he said. “I began to realize I enjoyed physical labor more than pencil-pushing.”

So when the opportunity arose to remodel his brother’s basement, Mr. Gonzalez, with the help of a friend, seized the challenge. When that project turned out well, he started working for local builders, remodeling homes and framing new homes. In his spare time he built shelves and bookcases for family members and played a variety of sports including softball, floor hockey and bowling. In good weather, he rode his bike an average of 60 to 80 miles each week.

His active lifestyle was put on hold that winter when flames from a propane gas accident burned 93 percent of his body during a snowmobiling trip with friends in northern Wisconsin. Although he was not expected to survive, 11 years and more than 70 operations later, he is still working with his hands, buying homes with his brother, Mark, to rehab and sell. “The hardest part of recovering from a burn is the loss of the ordinary,” Mr. Gonzalez said. “I enjoy my rehabbing job because it’s one way to go back to what I was before.”

Like many of the patients he visits, Mr. Gonzalez never expected he would return to an active life after suffering such a disfiguring burn. “The first time I saw my hands, I thought I would never be able to work with them again,” he recalled. What helped him believe he could reclaim his life again was meeting other burn survivors.

Surfing on the web one day, Mr. Gonzalez came upon the Phoenix Society burn advocacy group. He had never before met anyone who had suffered burns as severe as his, but now he was able to chat online with other burn survivors from around the world. He attended the Phoenix Society’s annual conference in 1999, where he met survivors who were living full lives. “That experience opened my eyes to a whole new world, and I met so many people who inspired me,” he said, recalling a race car driver who lost two arms when his car caught on fire after rolling over, yet returned to his racing career.

Mr. Gonzalez began making public speaking appearances for the Phoenix Society. “Appearing before the public was the hardest part of my recovery. I was shy, and all of a sudden, I found myself speaking in front of all these people,” he said. “But I believe it was a necessary part of my healing.”

He also went back to school, earning an associate’s degree in architecture and design at the College of DuPage. “I almost quit with just two classes to go because I had just undergone hand surgery on my dominant hand and had to learn to do everything with the other hand,” Mr. Gonzalez recalled. “My professor convinced me to stay. He told me ‘You of all people should know there is no right or wrong way to do things in this business.’”

In 1998, Mr. Gonzalez began attending Links of Hope, Loyola’s support group for burn survivors. Although he was initially treated for his burn at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., Mr. Gonzalez underwent his follow-up care and surgeries at Loyola. When the Phoenix Society began the SOAR program in 2001 and chose Loyola as one of the six burn units in the nation to pilot the program, Mr. Gonzalez was involved from the beginning.

## Spreading a Message of Hope

Mr. Gonzalez spends one afternoon each week at Loyola as a SOAR volunteer. “There is a new challenge every week, whether it’s a new patient and family I can get to know or staying connected with a patient who is going through a rough spell,” he said. “Every week is different, and that’s what keeps me coming back.”

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*“The best piece of advice Tony gave me was to not ever think about getting back to normal because there is no normal. You just get back to who you are and who you want to be.”*

Jamie Nieto

## Survivors, from page 6

As the co-coordinator of the program, Mr. Gonzalez works to assure that the program runs smoothly. The first step is determining whether burn patients would like to participate (a visit from a peer supporter is never forced on a patient). If and when a patient is ready to receive a peer supporter, Mr. Gonzalez will match him or her up with a volunteer of the same gender and around the same age who has recovered from a similar injury. About 16 volunteers serve as peer supporters in Loyola's SOAR program.

Mr. Gonzalez enjoys the flexibility of visiting with a patient himself or finding another volunteer. "If I'm going through a difficult time and can't get too close to a patient, coordinating a peer supporter-patient visit is another way to stay involved," he said.

But Mr. Gonzalez often chooses to get close, and in his six years working in the program, he has not only touched the lives of numerous burn patients but their families as well.

"I'll always be grateful for Tony's warmth and his desire to help my son," said Lori Walton, of Burbank, Ill., whose adult son, John, was burned on 65 percent of his body in June 2005. "My son

was in a coma for six weeks, and as soon as he came out of it Tony was there to connect with him. John couldn't talk, but he could listen."

John Walton was given only a 20 percent chance of living, and he came close to death three times, his mother recalled. "He pulled through, and today his faith is stronger than ever, his attitude is completely changed and he's so grateful to be alive," she said. "The wonderful care he received in the Burn Unit is what made a difference, and Tony was an important part of that care."

Mr. Gonzalez thrives on hearing patient success stories. "The best part of my job is hearing from a patient that my visit helped make their recovery a little easier or took away a little bit of their pain," he said.

Part of the skill in being a peer supporter is learning when to speak and when to just listen. "I might not say anything in a 20-minute visit, and that may be a very good visit," he said.

One of his favorite volunteer memories is receiving a thank-you letter from a former patient who had included his name along with those of the Burn Unit staff. "I felt much appreciated, like I was a member of the unit."

Barry Bennett, a social worker in Loyola's Burn Unit and co-coordinator of the SOAR program, would argue that Mr. Gonzalez should already consider himself a valued member of the Burn Unit. "I've worked with thousands of burn patients, but Tony brings them something I can't. He brings them proof that they will someday live independent lives.

"Tony is popular with the patients because he tells it like it is; he doesn't sugarcoat things. He is a genuine person, and the patients pick up on that."

Mr. Gonzalez admitted that sometimes his peer support work can bring back painful memories. "It can be hard to watch a patient's recovery without thinking, 'that was me a few years ago.' But reliving my experience helps me realize how far I've come and how far I can still go," he said. "Even though it's been 11 years since my injury, I continue to heal all the time and I continue to learn," he said. "One of the things I've learned is I have something valuable to give."

For more information on supporting the Burn Unit at Loyola, contact Peggy LaFleur at [mlafleur@lumc.edu](mailto:mlafleur@lumc.edu) or (708) 216-5197. 

## Wrigley Scholars Model Foundation's Healing Mission

A fall that left her father temporarily paralyzed and hospitalized for six months and the nurses who helped him walk again were the catalysts guiding Kristie Quinn to choose a career in nursing.

"My father was determined to walk again and the nurses were determined to get him there. Witnessing these nurses who cared so much to put him back on his feet moved me," Ms. Quinn recalled. "So I decided this is what I'm going to do for other people and their families."

Ms. Quinn, a senior at the Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff), is one of three nursing students chosen as Wrigley Scholars. The William Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation has provided scholarships for students, like Ms. Quinn, at Niehoff since 1995. The foundation is providing three \$5,000 scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year. Founded in 1987, the foundation's mission is to support the development of today's youth into tomorrow's leaders, with an emphasis on educational initiatives and those that encourage wellness and diversity.

Since her sophomore year, Ms. Quinn has been a mentor in the Niehoff Crew, a group of student volunteers who help new nursing students become accustomed to the program, school and extracurricular activities. She has done volunteer work with the American Cancer Society and with the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation, a support group that was founded in her hometown of Algonquin, Ill.

One of seven children, including two siblings in college, Ms. Quinn is paying her own way through school. "With an apartment in Chicago to pay for, along with utilities and other bills, I am so grateful

for the scholarship," she said. "It will help lessen my loan burden when I graduate this spring."

Ms. Quinn is planning a career in pediatric nursing with a focus on oncology. She also would like to participate in animal-assisted therapy for young patients.

Laura Majewski, the second 2007-2008 Wrigley Scholar, would like to work in an intensive care unit after her graduation in 2009. Her long-term career goals involve earning a master's degree and teaching nursing students.

Ms. Majewski has a part-time job working at the university bookstore on the university Lake Shore campus. During the summer she worked as a nursing assistant at Evanston Hospital. "Working as a nursing assistant definitely contributed to my respect for the nursing profession; it is hard, but extremely rewarding work," she said.

A Magis Scholar, Ms. Majewski is recognized in the Loyola University Chicago Magis Program that encourages students to get involved in academic and co-curricular activities. It is fitting that she is the recipient of a scholarship as she has taken time out from her studies to raise funds for several charitable organizations

herself. A member of Colleges Against Cancer since her freshman year, Ms. Majewski has participated in the Relay For Life, running laps during an overnight fundraiser to raise money for the American Cancer Society. She also is an executive board member of Up 'til Dawn, a student-led, student-run fundraiser hosted by more than 180 college campuses nationwide, which raises money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Students who lead Up 'til Dawn on their campuses educate

the community about St. Jude while raising money through a variety of activities. At the end of the program, campuses host a finale event and stay "Up 'til Dawn," celebrating their achievements and honoring the patients at St. Jude. Last school year Niehoff students raised more than \$15,000 for the hospital.

Ms. Majewski is the second oldest of five children, three of whom are currently attending college, and grew up in Barrington, Ill.

The third Wrigley Scholar, Scarlett Lambert, is also one of five children, and one of three attending college. Like the other Wrigley Scholars, she is relying heavily on scholarships, grants and school loans to fund her education.

"I was shocked this past summer when my lender sent me the amount of debt I had accrued. I knew I would have to take out even larger loans because grants I have received from the state of Illinois have been cut the past three years," Ms. Lambert said. "So I breathed a sign of relief when I heard I had received the 2007-2008 Wrigley Scholarship."

Ms. Lambert, a native of Mundelein, Ill., has volunteered as a nurse's aid at Children's Memorial Hospital and Condell Hospital in Libertyville. As a member of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, she helped organize service projects that benefited the Rogers Park neighborhood in Chicago as well as food and toy drives during the holiday season.

Upon graduating in spring 2009, Ms. Lambert is planning a career in labor and delivery nursing. She would like to return to school in the near future to earn a master's degree in midwifery.

For more information on supporting scholarships at the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, contact Susan Montgomery at [smontgomery@lumc.edu](mailto:smontgomery@lumc.edu) or (708) 216-6576. 

*"My father was determined to walk again and the nurses were determined to get him there . . . So I decided this is what I'm going to do for other people and their families."*

Kristie Quinn  
Wrigley Scholar

# What a Difference a Gift Makes

How would you like to make a difference — to make your mark on the future of medicine? You can make an impact on the future of the health sciences at Loyola for generations to come through an endowment gift to the Loyola University Health System, Stritch School of Medicine or Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing. By investing in Loyola's endowment, you are providing physicians, nurses, students, faculty and staff with the resources they need to succeed while helping to ensure the financial stability of the institution.

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- Enhance and enrich the education of health sciences professionals through lectureships, resident seminars or other educational programs.

Donors who establish endowed funds receive regular financial updates on the value of their funds as well as reports from Loyola related to the individuals and activities which benefit from these generous gifts. If you are interested in establishing a gift that will make an impact on the health sciences at Loyola in perpetuity, please contact the Office of Development at [development@lumc.edu](mailto:development@lumc.edu) or (708) 216-3201. 

## For More Information

Loyola is committed to disciplined research and planning concerning both the purposes for which a gift will be used and the impact a gift makes on your personal and financial goals. The Office of Development will be happy to formulate a plan with you and/or your financial advisor that takes full advantage of the available tax benefits, while at the same time fulfills your desire to benefit Loyola.

We understand that your charitable gift intentions are a personal matter. We encourage you to contact us for help with answering or researching any questions about clinical or academic activities or for more information on making your gift to Loyola. All discussions will be treated confidentially.

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