

Remarks

Protagoras N. Cutchis, M.D. '83

Investiture Ceremony

Good afternoon everyone,

On behalf of the Medical Alumni Association it's a pleasure to welcome you to Davidge Hall for today's ceremony. In particular, we wish to extend a warm welcome to our alumni past presidents and board members in attendance. Many of our presidents are donning their bronze presidential medallions with black & gold bands—not to be confused with others you might see here this afternoon with red and gold bands. These belong to faculty holding endowed professorships and chairs.

This is a very special day for the Medical Alumni Association. Many of you know we were founded by a handful of graduates following graduation ceremonies in 1875. These were financially-trying times for our school, which was unable to provide seed money to cover our start-up costs. So, our founders decided that we would probably be most helpful to the school if we were independent and supported entirely through outside contributions of our members. Here we are 139 years later, one of the most active and supportive associations in the country.

Today's investiture is right in line with our mission of serving the medical school, as one of our primary objectives is to help preserve and promote the rich heritage of our institution. As we install the inaugural Carolyn Frenkil and Selvin Passen History of Medicine Scholar, we also recognize two supporters who continue to play pivotal roles in the life of the Medical Alumni Association. I hope you have had an opportunity to read the brief biographies of Ms. Frenkil and Dr. Passen in the event program. There's so much more to say about them. Ms. Frenkil's late husband, Jimmy, was also past president of the Medical Alumni Association. Their familiar faces were ever-present at alumni and school activities, and Ms. Frenkil continues to underwrite about 75% of our alumni-sponsored events for students. Dr. Passen and his son Marty, class of 1990, are only the second father-son combination to serve as president of the Alumni Association. For nearly four decades their leadership has served as a rudder, helping us navigate through waters which at times appeared quite treacherous. As a result, in addition to serving as one of the most active and supportive associations, we are on the verge of becoming the first perpetually-funded medical alumni association in the world.

Perhaps what makes this investiture most special is that our inaugural scholar, who was the unanimous choice of both the Alumni Association and the Dean, is one of our very own. To Dr. Mackowiak, congratulations on this wonderful accomplishment. To our donors, we remain eternally grateful for your support. This is a wonderful gift to leave to our successors.

Thank you.