

## Medical Advisory Board Plays Vital Role to Pre-Med Center

As an undergraduate pre-med student, **Kathleen Ang's** exposure to the medical profession compares to that of any graduate student. Thanks to the Canisius College Medical Advisory Board, she has already observed emergency pediatric medical procedures with **Kathleen A. Lillis '82, MD** and followed Steven J. Lana, MD, on rounds at Women and Children's Hospital.

"My shadow experiences have been invaluable to me," says the senior biology major. "They're experiences you just can't get in a classroom."

Established in 2004, the Medical Advisory Board consists of more than 40 medical professionals, nearly all of whom are Canisius alumni.

"Our goal is to engage medical alumni and friends in meaningful

ways with students," explains **Mark J. Lema '71, MD, PhD**, chair of the Canisius Medical Advisory Board and the Roswell Park Anesthesiology Department. "We not only want to enhance student academic experiences but encourage them to stay in Western New York for medical school or to return home afterwards to practice." Lema adds, "When we invest in these students, we invest in our community."

The Medical Advisory Board serves as a liaison between the Dr. George E. Schreiner '43 Pre-Medical Center at Canisius College and the Western New York medical community. In addition to shadow opportunities, the board provides feedback to faculty on the curriculum and how to prepare students for MCAT performance. Members counsel students through the rigorous medical school application process. They even conduct mock interviews. Many more share their expertise as speakers in pre-med classes or at lectures. Mark Lema recently served as the guest lecturer for the Dr. George E. Schreiner Distinguished Speaker Series.

"We want to cultivate relationships between students and medical professionals," says **Margaret W. Paroski '76, MD, MMM**, executive vice president and chief medical officer of Kaleida Health. Paroski oversees the board's Talent Retention Committee, which explores ways to minimize the area's looming physician shortage. "We want students to know there are interesting and promising opportunities here in Western New



Medical Advisory Board Member John C. Corbelli '75, MD, a cardiologist with Buffalo Cardiology Group, shows Alexandra Holland '03 a catheter as he prepares for a heart catheterization. Faculty from the college's pre-med school have been assisting Holland in her application process for medical school.

York. We want them to know they are wanted and valuable, and that people are willing to put their support and resources behind them so they stay."

To lead by example, the board established the Medical Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, in 2005. With nearly \$60,000 accrued, the goal is to increase the endowment to \$200,000 and provide one \$10,000 scholarship or two \$5,000 scholarships, each year.

"The Medical Advisory Board contributes to the lifelong learning and leadership development of our students," says **Marguerite D. Kermis '72, PhD**, professor of psychology and director of the Pre-Medical Center. "Moreover, it develops greater professionalism in our students and helps slow the migration of our best and brightest talent."

Kathleen Ang is considered to be among the area's best and brightest talent. She hopes to one

day practice medicine alongside her Canisius mentors in Buffalo. She also plans to pass on what she has learned to the next generation of pre-med students.

"The board's efforts really come from the kindness of their hearts," she says. "They remember the help and guidance they received as students and now they provide that to today's students. It's about giving back."

Margaret Paroski '76, MD, MMM, executive vice president and chief medical officer of Kaleida Health, attends an early-morning meeting at Canisius with the Medical Advisory Board.



Mark J. Lema '71, MD, PhD, chair of the Canisius Medical Advisory Board and the Roswell Park Anesthesiology Department.

## Stranczeks Support New Science Center with \$1 Million Gift

The development of an interdisciplinary science center at Canisius College received a \$1 million boost of support this fall from **Chester Stranczek HON '01** and his wife, Diane. Chester Stranczek is the former mayor of Crestwood, IL. He and Diane are also founders of Cresco Lines Inc., a \$31.5 million, over-the-road trucking service. Diane Stranczek currently serves as secretary and treasurer for the company.

“Father Cooke and his team have done an outstanding job in developing Canisius into a first-rate Catholic institution that is a powerful presence in the Western New York community and beyond,” said Stranczek, a member of the college’s Board of Trustees. “Diane and I are proud of our association with the college and happy to support Father Cooke’s vision.”

The Stranczeks are longtime friends of Canisius. In 1998, they established the Chester Stranczek Scholarship Fund. The couple later donated \$1 million for the renovation the Koessler Athletic Center arena. In 2001, Chester Stranczek received an honorary degree from the college.

“Chet and Diane have played a key role in the Canisius success story,” said Father Cooke. “We are very grateful for their generosity, their continued interest and their support of the college.”

As mayor of Crestwood for 38 years, much of Chester Stranczek’s work focused on the economic development of the small village. He secured the funds to build a multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art baseball field and brought minor league baseball to Crestwood. Stranczek also made history in 1993 when he became the first mayor in Illinois to refund 26 percent of residents’ property taxes.

Chester and Diane Stranczek reside in Crestwood, IL and have two children, Robert and Michael.



Canisius President Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J. (far right) and Executive Vice President and Vice President for College Relations John J. Hurley '78 (far left), received a mayoral welcome when they visited Chester HON '01 and Diane Stranczek in Crestwood, IL, this fall.



More than 300 members of the Canisius community attended the formal dedication of Dugan Residence Hall on September 28, 2007. Named for **Rev. Paul J. Dugan, S.J.**, moderator of athletics, “Doogs” is one of the college’s most beloved and legendary figures. The residence hall naming opportunity was the result of a historic \$5.1 million gift to the college from the family of **Carl J. '64, HON '04 and Carol Montante.**

*Pictured (l-r) are: Carl Montante Jr., Wendy (Daigler) Montante '89, Father Cooke, Carol Montante, Carl Montante '64, HON '04, Father Dugan, Alejandra Montante, Michael J. Montante '91 and Laura (Montante) Zaepfel '86.*