ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
George Perry, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, ’82

I am pleased to present to you the newly redesigned Alumni Connections newsletter. While our communication with you has been on hiatus, the myriad of accomplishments of Baylor College of Medicine, and of our fellow alumni, have not. We have so much to be proud of. In the 2018 rankings, U.S. News and World Report rated Baylor College of Medicine #1 medical school in Texas, tied for #5 in Primary Care, #10 in Pediatrics and #16 overall in the United States for Research.

When I received the call asking if I would serve on the Alumni Board, I was honored that a postdoctoral fellow could be included, only to learn of Baylor College of Medicine’s inclusion of graduates from every school. And now I am honored to serve as president. In a non-scientific survey of other medical schools I found no other includes such a broad array of alumni.

To Baylor’s highest standards of education, research, patient care and community service, we must add trailblazing in embracing all who serve the medical profession. Working with Baylor enriches my career now, as it did 30 years ago. Baylor’s cooperative and demanding environment is unique, making betters doctors, researchers and professionals for a lifetime.

It is remarkable that Baylor has maintained these values through leadership succession and challenges that would have doomed a lesser institution but instead have positioned Baylor for another 75 years of success in Houston. Our pride in Baylor is well placed.

We can all look forward to further collaboration of alumni, students and faculty to build on our success.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS IN HOUSTON

On June 12, 1943, Baylor University College of Medicine moved from Dallas to Houston to become the academic heart of the Texas Medical Center. In the years since, Baylor and the city have flourished, with Baylor contributing many improvements to the quality of life for the community. Read stories and memories from Baylor faculty and staff at www.bcm.edu/75-years-in-houston.
DEAR BAYLOR ALUMNUS,

In the fall 2018 edition of the Alumni Newsletter, we welcome Baylor College of Medicine’s incoming class and pause to reflect on one year since the arrival of Hurricane Harvey in Greater Houston. Although devastating, we describe how Tropical Storm Allison’s lessons helped Baylor to prepare for Harvey. We also highlight updates to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the newly named School of Health Professions. In addition, this newsletter profiles a School of Medicine trainee whose education, in part, was made possible by the generosity of Baylor alumni.

As we look back on the institution’s 75 years in the Texas Medical Center, we shine a spotlight on an individual who has spent his entire career advancing Baylor’s educational mission, Major Bradshaw, M.D.

Dr. Bradshaw, though technically retired, remains a valued mentor to Baylor’s faculty and staff.

I hope you will enjoy this edition’s content as much as I have. As always, please contact me at svpadvancement@bcm.edu with your questions and comments.

Sincerely,

James P. Digan
President
The Baylor Medical Foundation
Senior Vice President
Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs

Alumni Awards Recognition Ceremony and Dinner
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019 • ST. REGIS HOUSTON

Tickets may be purchased for $125 at connect.bcm.edu/2019-alumni-awards
TRANSFORMING THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE recently enhanced the program structure of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to fully integrate our collaborative research culture. Starting in the 2019-2020 academic year, seven new interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs will use our strengths in diverse biomedical research and tap into the wide resources available at Baylor and the Texas Medical Center. These programs include:

- Cancer & Cell Biology
- Chemical, Physical & Structural Biology
- Development, Disease Models & Therapeutics
- Genetics & Genomics
- Immunology & Microbiology
- Neuroscience
- Quantitative & Computational Biosciences

With these diverse and cross-disciplinary program options, students will be able to contribute to Baylor’s vast research enterprise by investigating the processes that govern molecules, cells and organisms in health and disease. This program structure also builds on our faculty members’ ability to leverage close collaborations between basic, translational and clinical researchers; to build an extensive infrastructure of research resources; and to train the next generation of scientists.

What sets Baylor’s graduate school apart from others is our commitment to cultivating each individual’s research interests and encouraging scientific exploration across disciplines. By giving faculty members and students the creative freedom to explore, the graduate school pushes the boundaries of research.

BROADENING THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Baylor College of Medicine changed the name of the School of Allied Health Sciences to the School of Health Professions to better encompass the comprehensive programs we offer and to expand our platform of degree programs. When it was established in 2005, the School of Health Professions administered the Physician Assistant Program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program in Nurse Anesthesia but has since grown to include the Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics Program and the newly launched Genetic Counseling Program.

The Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics Program recruited experts in the field to teach students about the latest advancements and techniques. Faculty members also send orthotics and prosthetics students abroad to deliver global care. This fosters collaboration and provides perspective into other areas of the world where they can see the immediate impact of their work.

In the Genetic Counseling Program, which just welcomed its first class this fall, students learn to engage individuals and families who are at risk for or affected by conditions that have a genetic cause. Genetic counseling services will be consistently sought after in future healthcare practices, so it is crucial to prepare Baylor students for the coming demand.

These program additions enhance the School of Health Professions by placing our faculty and students at the forefront of the future of healthcare delivery.
CURRENT US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS
for Baylor College of Medicine

BEST MEDICAL SCHOOLS

1ST IN TEXAS

16TH 5TH 10TH IN THE NATION FOR RESEARCH PRIMARY CARE PEDIATRICS

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE NURSE ANESTHESIA

1ST IN TEXAS 2ND IN THE NATION

PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT PROGRAM

1ST IN TEXAS 13TH IN THE NATION

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

1ST AMONG FREE-STANDING MEDICAL SCHOOLS WITH ASSOCIATED GRADUATE SCHOOLS

26TH IN THE NATION FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN CANCER CARE

bcm.edu/cancer
A MAJOR RETIREMENT, ALMOST

*A major retirement, almost*

Few individuals have a history with Baylor College of Medicine that stretches back in time as far as Major Bradshaw, M.D. A former Baylor Professor, Senior Vice President and Dean of Medical Education, Dr. Bradshaw has seen and participated in immense changes at the institution since he arrived as a medical student in 1962.

AN UNLIKELY START

Hailing from the small mineral spring-rich town of Marlin, Texas, Major, as he is known to colleagues he advises in the Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs, did not set out to become a physician.

“None of the things I have done along the way were things I had planned to do,” said Major, commenting on his decades-long achievement-filled career. “I considered becoming a marine biologist.” A discussion with his marine biology professor at The University of Texas at Austin and subsequent experience as a researcher changed his mind. Medicine it was.

Major says there was no question as to what medical school he should attend, “Baylor was the best in Texas.” After obtaining a medical degree with the highest honors in 1967, he undertook a residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and was appointed Clinical Associate at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

COMING HOME

In 1972, Major returned to Baylor to serve as a physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine.

One of Major’s most memorable moments occurred during an afternoon meeting with pioneering heart surgeon and then Baylor President Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., in June 1976. With his trademark Louisiana gentleman’s drawl, Dr. DeBakey said “Major, on July 1, you’re going to be a Dean at the medical school.” This would be Major’s role for the next three decades.

A HISTORIC CAREER

Major is proud of his time leading education at Baylor, which included overseeing programs for students from kindergarten to the doctoral level. During his tenure as Dean, Baylor strengthened and expanded initiatives like the South Texas Magnet School Affiliates, which serve as pipelines to healthcare careers for underserved students.

One of Major’s most adventurous and impactful professional roles began in 2006. In that year, he and his wife, Susan, moved to Botswana, where Major became Founding Dean of that country’s first medical school. The couple remained in Botswana for three and a half years and were present when the southern African nation graduated its first class of physicians in 2014.

On June 30, 2018, Major retired from his longtime post as an advisor to Baylor’s alumni relations team, his last paid gig at the institution. “I’ve only retired from receiving a pay check,” he says. He still keeps an office in the Cullen Building, and likely will continue presiding over Baylor’s alumni reunions like a rock star.

Looking back on the entirety of his experience at Baylor, Major said, “It’s been overall a really good ride.”
ALUMNI REUNION UPDATE

AFTER MANY YEARS of successful springtime reunions, Baylor College of Medicine is implementing a slight but important change starting with the 2019 Alumni Reunion. Beginning with the reunion from May 2 – 4, 2019, we will honor graduates from years ending in -0, -4, -5 and -9.

By doubling the class years for reunions, we expect to have a more robust and engaged gathering of alumni. We also will be able to provide more in-depth and topical programming, as well as provide more opportunities for alumni to network with fellow professionals.

WHO’S INVITED

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
-0, -4, -5, -9

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
-0, -4, -5, -9

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
All programs

INTERESTED IN RECRUITING YOUR CLASSMATES TO ATTEND REUNION?

CONTACT US AT alumni@bcm.edu or (844) BCM-ALUM.

Baylor College of Medicine
ALUMNI REUNION 2019
May 2–4, 2019

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
TRAVEL

Travel with us! Treat yourself to the adventure of a lifetime with the Alumni Travel Program.

Upcoming trips:

- European Coastal Civilizations; D-Day Remembered
  May 5 – 14, 2019

- Arctic Expedition Under the Midnight Sun
  June 21 – July 1, 2019

- Village Life Around the Italian Lakes
  Sept. 28 – Oct. 6, 2019

Call 1.800.922.3088 for more information.

For brochures on our 2019 cruises, see www.bcm.edu/alumni/events

THE ALUMNI STUDENT AMBASSADOR BOARD (ASAB)

WHO

A cohort of P.A., M.D., graduate and nurse anesthetist students dedicated to strengthening the bonds between BCM alumni and students.

WHAT

Career panels, mentorship, volunteering, networking events, our Alumni Mixer… Anything to connect students and alumni!

SAVE THE DATE!

- BCM 5K RUN
  OCT 13, 2018

- VOLUNTEER EVENT
  NOV 2018

- ANNUAL ALUMNI MIXER
  FEB 28, 2019
DID YOU KNOW?

**BAYLOR’S CENTER FOR DRUG DISCOVERY CREATES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES**

The Center for Drug Discovery (CDD) at Baylor College of Medicine creates a new level of chemistry and biology synergism that is not being replicated anywhere else in our country. This change in protocol and drug discovery “thinking” will lead to more specifically designed drugs. New drugs will have a better chance of success because of the highly precise nature of their design and likely increased longevity. These traits will produce drugs that, in the long run, will be less expensive to the consumer.

The CDD has amassed a remarkable collection of chemical libraries that will help Baylor and Texas scientists uncover novel drug-like molecules on the way to important therapeutics.

The Center is led by Marty Matzuk, M.D., Ph.D. ’93, who holds the Stuart A. Wallace and Robert L. Moody, Sr., chairs.

It is a resource for investigators in all Baylor departments and complements efforts in the Department of Pharmacology, the Gulf Coast Consortia and the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. It is integral to the Experimental Therapeutics initiative at Baylor College of Medicine.

The CDD includes a state-of-the-art screening facility to perform screening for a wide range of cell-based phenotypic and target-based biochemical assays in high-throughput or follow-up screens.
SIMILAR STORMS, DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

By the time Hurricane Harvey reached Greater Houston in August 2017, its winds reduced significantly. Nonetheless, the storm’s extreme rainfall made Harvey the second most expensive weather event in U.S. history.

Damage to the region was unprecedented. However, the actions taken by Baylor College of Medicine after a previous flood of epic proportions ensured that the institution’s patients and valuable research would remain unscathed when the clouds cleared.

ALLISON

Tropical Storm Allison, which struck the area over a period of five days in June 2001, hit the Texas Medical Center (TMC), and Baylor in particular, hard. Of $5 billion in damage caused by Allison in Houston, $2 billion was to the TMC alone. Baylor’s losses hovered near $500 million.

The total impact of Allison on Baylor – and the field of academic medicine – may never be known. The institution lost one of the world’s most extensive stores of breast cancer specimens. Over 25 years, more than 60,000 specimens were collected. It all was destroyed by flooding.

THE RESPONSE

Allison’s devastation was significant enough to shut down Baylor’s operations for about a month. However, the Baylor community pulled together like never before to clean up and to make sure that future Allison-like weather events would not wreak the same havoc on the institution.

Harvey

The storm was a turning point for both Baylor and the Texas Medical Center in terms of hazard mitigation and planning. Major TMC institutions, including Baylor, installed a network of floodgates to protect patients, research and property.

Other actions taken by Baylor included moving important equipment and study items out of basements to higher floors.

HARVEY

Baylor’s and the TMC’s flood planning efforts were tested 16 years after Allison, when Harvey parked over Houston for several days, dumping even more rain than the 2001 tropical storm. As the city’s creeks, rivers and bayous, including Brays Bayou, which hugs the TMC, burst their banks, Baylor, for the most part, remained dry.

A ride out team, led by Cindy Buckmaster, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Comparative Medicine, agreed to be locked in behind Baylor’s 52 flood gates to make sure that vital research would not suffer during Harvey. Through their efforts and the work of highly efficient pumps, no animals were lost. The planning worked.

Baylor benefits greatly from being situated in the largest enclave of health sciences institutions in the world. A price of this prime location is the weather that we must endure – more often than we’d care to – from time to time. However, Baylor’s dedicated faculty, students, staff and volunteers have demonstrated that when the next Allison or Harvey strikes, the institution will be able to weather the storm.
MEDICAL SCHOOL IS DEMANDING. But earning a bachelor’s degree summa cum laude, like fourth year medical student Nhon Le did, is an indicator that a trainee might be up to the challenge. Aided by a Baylor College of Medicine Alumni Scholarship, Nhon is on track to realizing his goal of becoming an ophthalmologist. His first stop: graduating from the School of Medicine in May 2019.

Science and medicine always have attracted Nhon, a native of Dallas who came to Houston in 2011 to study biology at the University of Houston (UH). The son of Vietnamese parents who immigrated to the United States in 1986, Nhon was in UH’s Honors College and graduated with a 4.0 grade point average in 2015.

Throughout his time as an undergraduate, Nhon knew he wanted to be a doctor but hadn’t yet made up his mind on a medical school. “Baylor was intimidating at first,” said Nhon. “It has such an excellent reputation.”

However, when Nhon came to Baylor to interview, he was sold. “I saw the passion of Baylor trainees and how happy they were to be here. I didn’t see that at other schools,” he said. “Their enthusiasm had an impact on me.”

Nhon experienced firsthand the Baylor difference in his initial year as a student in the institution. His favorite class was his anatomy lab, which also was one of his most meaningful Baylor experiences. In particular, he was moved by the patience and unquestioning help offered by more senior students to newcomers like Nhon.

To help fund his medical school education, Nhon applied for financial aid and became the recipient of a four-year alumni scholarship. The scholarship helps him to focus on his studies without worrying about the costs associated with attendance.

“The scholarship makes the process of completing medical school much less stressful, especially because I’ll have less in student loans afterward,” said Nhon.

Nearly four years have passed since Nhon began his medical school odyssey. He is happy to have spent these years at Baylor, where he participates on the intramural basketball team. He also is fortunate for the opportunities afforded by his alumni scholarship.

When asked what he plans to do after graduation, Nhon said, “I hope to go back to an institution like Baylor. I’d like to both practice as a physician and teach students and residents.”

Baylor College of Medicine is a health sciences university that provides the best care, educates the best minds and develops the best treatments.
Are you interested in mentoring new residents as they transition from Baylor to their residency? Are you volunteering with students, or do you volunteer your time already to benefit Baylor?

LET US KNOW!

PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, OR EMAIL US YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION TO ALUMNI@BCM.EDU.

To ensure you are receiving the most up-to-date news, please share your updated contact information.

NAME: ______________________________________

GRADUATION YEAR: __________________________

EMAIL: ______________________________________

PHONE: ______________________________________

ADDRESS (if different): _______________________

CURRENT SPECIALTY: _______________________

EMPLOYER: _________________________________
COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU

OCTOBER 12
TxANA Reception: Galveston, Texas

NOVEMBER 3
AAMC Reception: Austin, Texas

EARLY MARCH
Alumni Reception: Washington, D.C.

APRIL 11
Alumni Reception: Orlando, Florida

MAY 17
TxMed Reception: Dallas, Texas

MAY 20
AAPA Reception: Denver, Colorado

We also plan visits to Miami, Phoenix, St. Louis and Santa Fe. We will let you know when and where.

ARE YOU WILLING TO HOST AN ALUMNI RECEPTION? LET US KNOW!

You have the right to decline future education and development communications. If you do not want us to contact you for development efforts, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs at 713.798.4714 or optout-development@bcm.edu. Please note that when you opt-out, you will no longer receive mailings, phone calls or any communications from Baylor College of Medicine Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs.