



Holy Cross Physicians Association
Lifetime Achievement Award 2022

Michael G. McGrath, Ph.D.

Compiled by Dr. Donna LaFontaine '81

September 17, 2022

Michael Glennon McGrath was born October 12, 1941, and grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended the Jesuit prep school, St. Louis University High, where he was offered a full, four-year Presidential Scholarship to Holy Cross. He graduated cum laude in 1963 as a chemistry major. From there, he went on to earn his doctorate in Organic Chemistry from MIT in 1967.

Dr. McGrath returned to Holy Cross to teach Chemistry and in 1972, he additionally assumed the position of Pre-Medical/Dental Advisor. The selection of Mike McGrath was quite fortuitous for the hundreds of students he mentored during the twenty-five years he held his position. During his tenure, Mike received numerous national honors including “Outstanding Educator” as well as “Outstanding Advisor”. During his time at Holy Cross, medical school admission procedures began to change, and Mike situated himself to be a key contributor driving the change. He founded and served on the executive board of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. He also worked tirelessly to revise the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and served as a consultant to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

In 1997, Holy Cross’ tremendous loss would be Allegheny College’s gain, when Mike moved to Pennsylvania to teach Chemistry alongside his wife, Professor Alice Deckert. Alice and Mike still reside in Pennsylvania where they raised their two daughters.

Under Dr. McGrath’s advisement, hundreds of Holy Cross Pre-meds were accepted to medical schools, including the most prestigious institutions in the country. Medical schools respected and trusted Mike’s advocacy for pre-medical students and Holy Cross developed a well-deserved reputation for graduating distinguished, well-rounded and compassionate physicians.

Anyone who is lucky enough to know Mike, however, recognizes that his real legacy, transcends his acceptance stats. Mike both lives and teaches Ignatian values. He spent countless hours getting to know his advisees as individuals. He accompanied students on their discernment journeys and challenged them to make thoughtful decisions putting them in a position to achieve a meaningful life. Mike reinforced *cura personalis*- the pursuit of high grades should not cost in terms of mental health or isolate students

from healthy relationships. For many, he continues to remain an important mentor, a trusted friend and even an extended family member.

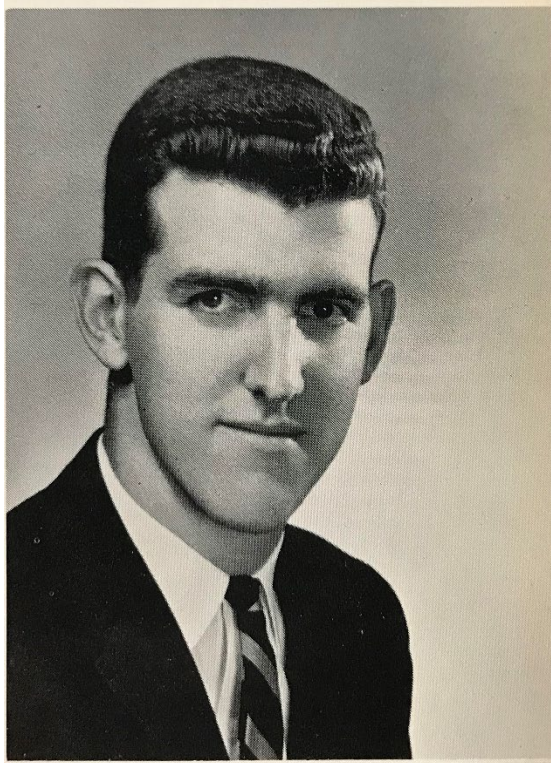
One could reasonably argue that no single graduate of Holy Cross has made a bigger impact in the field of medicine than Dr. Michael McGrath. Although he never personally received a Doctor of Medicine degree, Mike was vital in the formation of an entire generation of Holy Cross physicians. The medical leadership positions, scientific discoveries and medical education contributions by Mike's advisees easily number into the several thousands. Perhaps even more valuable, are the countless patient encounters where a Holy Cross Physician demonstrated extraordinary compassion in the face of a difficult medical situation.

Just like the ripples of a rock thrown into a pool of water continue to expand outward, Michael McGrath's legacy continues to flourish through the generations of doctors he helped to form.

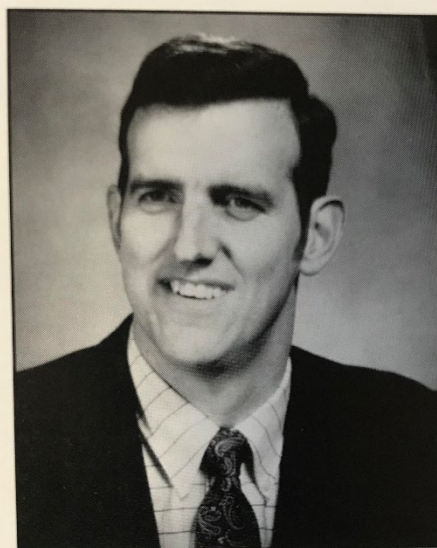
MICHAEL G. McGRATH

B.S. Chemistry
11 Hanover Place
Wayne, N. J.

Dean's List 1, 3; Purple Key; Student Congress; Class Council; **Purple Patcher**; WCHC; Sodality; Cross and Crucible; **Cross and Crucible**, Assistant Editor; Outing Club; Senior Brother Program; St. Louis Club; Junior Prom Committee, Hotel Chairman.



1963 Yearbook



MICHAEL McGRATH
CHEMISTRY

1989 Yearbook



Mike and his wife, Alice Deckert, in Patagonia, Chile



Mike and his family

DL 9/17/2022