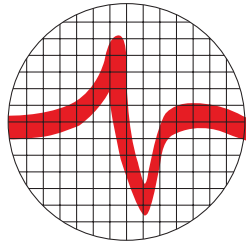


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Medprep

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Southern Illinois University School of Medicine



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
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January 2005

# News from the Medprep Program

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine



**MEDPREP** is not only a very important program for our **School of Medicine**; it is an essential program for health professions schools all over this nation. **MEDPREP** students achieving their goals and succeeding in their careers is the highlight for me. I feel honored that we can offer the opportunity to succeed to so many fine young men and women each year.

There are many things to learn in the course of training for careers in the health professions and many new skills that we gain. For each of us, however, being a health care professional also must mean making a commitment to learning for a lifetime. It demands a willingness to invest the time and the energy to become truly excellent—living up to our highest possible potential.

It requires dedication, respect for others, and empathy for the human condition. These are core values for all of us at SIU School of Medicine. They are core values in MEDPREP training as well.

As a small group studying together for two years, you were cohesive - relying on each other's support, gaining friendships, helping one another. With this newsletter we pledge to keep you informed of advancements in the **MEDPREP** program and of news about your colleagues and fellow alumni. We ask that you please tell us about yourselves, about your progress, interests, family and community involvement and your achievements. Contacting MEDPREP with those updates will ensure communication with friends and classmates from the past. MEDPREP

For those of us here at the program, hearing about your successes helps us inspire the next generation. So, even if it's just once a year, let's all pledge to stay in touch.

My sincere wishes for an interesting and exciting year.

J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.  
Dean of the School of Medicine



Wheeler Hall

## *Greetings from Dr. Bardo,*



Few people in 1972 would have believed that the Medical/Dental Education Preparatory Program (MEDPREP), which began as a fortuitous social experiment, would be alive and well today some 33 years later. MEDPREP arguably has become the best postbaccalaureate program of its kind in the country.

Slightly over one thousand students have participated in MEDPREP. Of that number, some 122 former MEDPREP students graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and 21 former MEDPREP students are currently enrolled. Over that same period of time, 15 former MEDPREP students graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. Former MEDPREP students have attended 62 different allopathic medical schools and 16 different dental schools. It certainly has taken talented MEDPREP students to amass such statistics. In addition to the talented students, it has taken an equally talented faculty and staff to accrue those statistics. Two former staff whom many of you know retired recently. Jim McKinley retired five years ago. Evelyn Jackson, Ph.D., retired two years ago. Their replacements, our new counselor Don Patton and new Reading and Study Skills Specialist Regina Paul, Ph.D., have integrated well with the existing faculty and staff. So despite the two retirements, our faculty and staff have been relatively stable.

In the group picture of the MEDPREP faculty and staff, you will recognize many of us. The four individuals whom many of you may not recognize are two new hires Regina Paul, Ph.D. and Don Patton and our current Civil Service staff Glenda Sullivan, secretary to the Director and Tom Shea, secretary for the faculty. Other than those changes, the remainder of the faculty and staff are as stable as the front steps of Wheeler Hall where this photograph was taken. Welcome to the first of a series of attempts to maintain contact with you.

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## *News from Dr. Evelyn Jackson, Associate Professor (now retired):*



I have many wonderful memories of my years teaching in MEDPREP. The students were bright, highly motivated and hard working, so eager to meet the challenges that faced them. Their deep faith and their commitment to serve others helped keep them on track and persevere. They shared their lives with us and we were all enriched by their presence. MEDPREP was/is an opportunity. It's very heartwarming to think of hundreds of young people making good use of that opportunity and achieving their dreams.

Everyone benefited from the mission of the program remaining the same over the years and the administration supporting the program so well. These factors were no small part in the success of the program. MEDPREP's 33-year history has provided a basis for hundreds of young people to network, find mentors and serve as mentors to others. As a faculty, we had the time and space to hone our expertise. There have been a number of great payoffs from this significant institutional investment and commitment. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of all this.

Retirement is also proving to be a very rewarding chapter of my life. I have read more books and watched more movies than I had in many years. I took some classes (upholstery, gardening, and water aerobics) and we have traveled quite a bit. I volunteered in our daughter's pre-kindergarten classroom. I thoroughly enjoy the freedom of how to use my time. A favorite part of this new lifestyle is to be at home in the morning hours. It had been my habit to go to school early and I do like not leaving home in the morning, so I now enjoy sitting in my chair, reading the paper, and watching the birds and squirrels.

I am so pleased that a newsletter is being revived. I hope many former students let us know how they're doing and where they're practicing and living. I look forward to reading about you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Evelyn Jackson

## Dear Fellow **MEDPREP** Alums:



My name is Wes McNeese. I am a 1982 graduate of the MEDPREP program, an emergency physician, currently serving as Executive Assistant to the Dean of SIU's School of Medicine (my alma mater) for Diversity, Multicultural and Minority Affairs.

I came to MEDPREP from East St. Louis, Ill., the product of a socioeconomic and academically deprived background. Experiences as a military medic and hospital orderly had convinced me to become a physician, but there were glaring deficits in my past education, especially the sciences. Plus, I knew little about the medical school application process. MEDPREP was a godsend for me! The instructors there took me in hand, strengthened my science knowledge, taught me how to navigate the application route, and generally nurtured my dream. They did a real spit and polish job on my portfolio and me!

The "can-do" spirit of MEDPREP is with me to this day. Even before the program I had a healthy dose of drive and ambition, but now perseverance is one of the watchwords of my life. I am the first physician in my family. Becoming such vaulted me to a totally new lifestyle and socioeconomic level, and I've sampled much of the accoutrement that comes with the position. But, more importantly, being a physician has put me in the challenging place of being able to dramatically affect lives on a daily basis and help direct the quality of health care in these United States.

Because of MEDPREP's influence, I've devoted a portion of my career toward helping other students realize their dream. I am nothing if not an advocate for those underrepresented minorities who come to the premedical process needing encouragement and direction. To that end, I give money regularly toward a scholarship for MEDPREP students, and support the program through lectures and workshops whenever possible.

Won't you remember MEDPREP as well and do whatever you can to help keep the program fresh and vital for its students? Think of what you needed when you were in those students' positions, then give what you can. After all, many of you would not have the careers that you currently enjoy, were it not for MEDPREP.

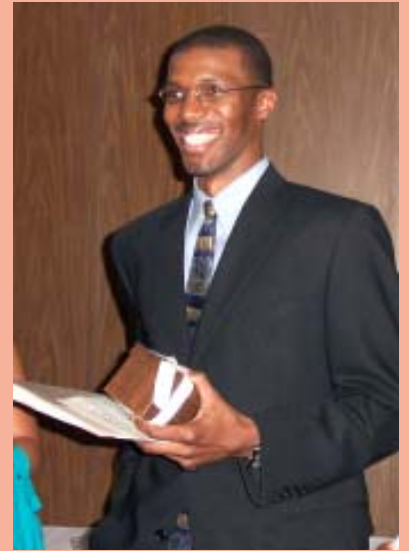
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. G. McNeese". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

The  
**MEDPREP**  
Staff

Front: (l to r) Mary Chaklos, Vera Felts, Harold Kaplan, Glenda Sullivan, Thomas Shea  
Second: Shirley McGlinn, Kathleen Jones Third: Lida Herrold, Don Patton, Gina Paul  
Back: Harold Bardo, Paul Henry Not Pictured: Barbara Szary

**“He that would have the fruit must climb the tree.” Thomas Fuller M.D. (1732)**



## *Alumni Updates*

Let us know what's happening in your personal and professional life. Please call 1-877-435-7766 with address changes or your important news.

Monetary support for the MEDPREP program can be donated online at [www.siumed.edu/foundation](http://www.siumed.edu/foundation) or call toll free 877.435.7766-Thank you



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Wheeler Hall  
MC 4323  
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine  
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