

Health Scholars Fund Honors Alumni Executive Board President Michael H. Barnett, MS '70, JD '72

In June, the Mailman School's fifth annual Public Health Scholars Fund event was held at Columbia University's Low Library. Nearly 100 friends, colleagues, and leaders in hospital administration, healthcare, and healthcare law joined Mailman School alumni, faculty, and staff to honor the 2007 award recipient, Alumni Executive Board President Michael H. Barnett, MS '70, JD '72, president and CEO of Barnett, Ehrenfeld, Edelstein & Gross, PC.

Mr. Barnett was recognized for championing high-quality healthcare for over three decades and for his selfless generosity in service to the Mailman School. In May, he also received the 2007 Columbia University Alumni Medal for his extraordinary service to the University, the highest award bestowed by Columbia University's Alumni Association.

The Public Health Scholars Fund was established by James Harden, MPH '83, MBA '78, chairman of the Mailman School's Board of Overseers, president and CEO of Catholic Health Services of Long Island, and vice chair of the Columbia Alumni Association's board, to provide financial aid awards, benefiting generations of Mailman School students.

Said Andrew Davidson, PhD, MBA, executive vice dean, during his welcoming remarks, "For his vision in creating this endowed fund and for his generosity, which will benefit generations of Mailman School students, we deeply appreciate Jim's support of the Mailman School over the years and particularly thank him for helping to make tonight possible."

James Harden spoke about Mr. Barnett's distinguished service on several state healthcare associations and councils, and his overall contributions to the School. "Much of Michael Barnett's career achievements have earned him well-deserved respect in the field; his service to Columbia and the Mailman School has earned him the respect and admiration of students, faculty, and his alumni peers alike," said Mr. Harden.

Following Mr. Harden, colleague and fellow alumnus Mark Mundy, MS '70, president and CEO, New York Methodist Hospital, reminisced about his long friendship with Mr. Barnett, and summed up by saying, "Mike is an exemplary individual who truly cares about people. The School of Public Health at Columbia was an excellent beginning to his highly distinguished career."

Dr. Davidson joined Mr. Harden and Mr. Mundy to present the award to Mr. Barnett, noting that over \$60,000 was raised in Michael Barnett's honor, bringing the Public Health Scholars Fund total to over

\$430,000. This year's fund participation comprised the largest list of supporters in the Fund's five-year history.

For more information about the Public Health Scholars Fund, please contact Lauren Lavine at (212) 305-1793, or lwl6@columbia.edu.