



ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

PRESENTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL ALUMNAE COMMUNITY

Colleen Dempsey '07, M.D.
Obstetrician/Gynecologist



What inspired you to pursue your current career path in medicine? How did you choose your specialty?

Since I was a young girl, I always had an interest in medicine and science and imagined myself caring for people. This dream developed more during my time at SHA being surrounded by influential role models, family and friends. Early on in medical school, my passion for OB/GYN and women's health quickly came to my fruition from the unique combination of working with my hands during surgery, developing continuity in the office with women throughout all phases of life, and the incomparable privilege of caring for women during labor and delivery. I truly cannot imagine doing anything else.

How did the foundational beliefs and strengths that you learned and developed at SHA help you find your professional voice?

SHA embodies open-mindedness, integrity, and empathy. These values, along with the comradery and spirit of the all girls environment, allowed me to develop the confidence I needed to pursue a tough career path in medicine. While most of my college and professional education was focused on the sciences, I also feel that the strong humanities at SHA played an impactful role in supplementing my passion for women's health and understanding human nature.

Tell us about your path after SHA- what did you study in college? How did you find your first job after residency?

After graduating from SHA in 2007, I studied at Nutritional Sciences at Penn State. As part of the Schreyer Honors College requirements, my research thesis involved investigating the effect of maternal zinc deficiency on breastfeeding. I then went to Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton, PA, for my M.D. I completed my OB/GYN residency at Lankenau Medical Center in Wynnewood, which is a four year program, and then was fortunate to be offered my job from one of the practices there that I had worked with closely, The McConnell Division of AXIA OB/GYN.

What professional achievement are you most proud of?

I am most proud to be to a partner in my practice today. I am blessed to have supportive OB/GYN partners who share the same values as me. Our goal is to care for and help women every day, in both the important, happy moments and during the challenging times of life. The continuity of care within my patient population keeps me going, as I am able to care for women in all phases of life, and the dynamic combination of surgery, delivering babies, and seeing patients in the office keeps every day interesting.

What advice would you give to women aspiring to enter medicine?

Keep going - be resilient, stay grounded, learn from your mistakes or disappointments. It is a long road but if it truly is your passion it is absolutely worth it!

On June 5th, SHA was thrilled to welcome Colleen Dempsey, MD as its 2025 Commencement Speaker. Dr. Dempsey is an obstetrician/gynecologist and partner at the McConnell & Associates, an Axia Women's Health Care Center, in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. During her address, Dr. Dempsey reminded the graduates of the strength of women and the importance of the work they will do for the world in the future. She also fondly recalled her years at SHA and reflected on the impact her teachers and high school friends had on her personal and professional development.