Many students, parents, and instructors set their alarms Saturday morning in order to get a seat at this semester’s second Suter Science Seminar. The presenta-
tion, entitled “Where is God in Health Care?” drew a large Homecoming crowd, almost fill-
ing the room despite its 9:00 a.m. time slot.
The attendees were treated to the story of Kratz’s struggle to balance commitment to God and to a medical career. Kratz gradu-
ated from EMU in 1987. He began presenting sem-
inars on medicine because he “thought it would be an exciting chance to share
with others from the things that I learned myself.”
K r a t z speaks with the “hope that it will help
people who are dealing with some of the same
issues of overcommitment and of trying to figure out what God’s role plays in your life.”
The EMU alumni did not arrive at his position as anesthesi-
ologist at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
overnight. Kratz finished medical
school in 1995. It was a dif-
cult time for anesthesiologists;
few practices were taking on new
partners. He finally found a
vacant spot at Memorial Hospital
in York, PA.
The working world hurled
him into endless days of commit-
ments at the hospital. Because of
increased demands on his time,
Kratz explained, “I pushed off
significant involvement with
church and God. I definitely
relied on myself, not God …He
drew a large Homecoming crowd, almost fill-
ing the room despite its 9:00 a.m. time slot.

Kratz knew that God was the
center of his life, but it seemed
that his work was taking prece-
dence. He switched hospitals,
beginning work at Hershey
Medical Center where his life
grew even more disorderly. “We
were left woefully understaffed”
Kratz said.

One Friday evening, forced
to abandon pre-arranged social
commitments, Kratz found him-
self at the hospital. “I snapped…I broke down crying in the
operating room,” he contin-
ued. “I was so upset. How can I
serve God if all I’m serving is
this medical program? My life
revolved around patient care and it
was eating me alive,” Kratz
told the audience at the seminar.
He decided to take off one
day a week despite worries about
what his fellow anesthesiologists
would think. He soon found that
others had done the same and it
was accepted among these doc-
tors. The change helped him to
notice two things: “God wants us to
rest and Jesus sought out times to
test.”
Kratz further
explained a con-
scious lifestyle shift. “I really
had to scale back to see what God
wanted me to be involved with,”
Kratz went on. “Since I’ve
opened up, I’ve been able to share
numerous times what God has
done for me.”

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In this age, Kratz believes
that many outside distractions
make it harder to accept God in
health care. “Society in general
places less emphasis on God
working in society and the pro-
essional medical graduate cur-
riculum of today places zero
emphasis on God’s involvement.
So it really de-emphasizes God,”
he added.

He shared his willingness to
“respectfully disagree” with those
who don’t think God has a hand
in medicine. He emphasized that
“if we think God’s not working in
health care it’s because we’re
choosing not to look for him, to
ignore the things that He’s doing
when fellow anesthesiologists
left for proverbial greener pas-
tures,” Kratz said.

Kratz advised students pur-
suing a medical career to,
“never stop looking for God in
the process; always remember
that He is in control in the mid-
dle of the situation. You should
never be too busy to continue
your relationship with God,” he
added.

Fourth-year Biology major
Katie Propst is considering
entering the medical field. She
found Kratz’s seminar pertinent
to her goals. “I want to go to
medical school, so it helped me
think about what I would do in a
certain situation,” said Propst.

“[It] was interesting for me to hear how [stress] permeated several aspects of his life and
how it was a journey.”

Ronald Kratz speaks with audience members at last Saturday’s Suter Science Seminar.

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Staff Writer
By Noelle Selb

God in Medicine
Alumnus Speaks at Suter Seminar

Foot in Mouth

“Now we have some prophets—one that is sus-
pected to be on crack.”

Christian Early
Faith and Praxis

Have a contribution? Send it to wvane@emu.edu along with the professor’s name and class.