Students Receive Fulbright and Osler Honors

If These Walls Could Talk—Heritage Hall Display

‘The Big Man’—Dean Wilburt C. Davison
Second-year medical student Crystal Reynolds knew she had to be a doctor when she shadowed an OB-GYN and watched him deliver twin babies via C-section during high school career day. “I was awed by everything,” she says. Duke's hands-on learning style was exactly what she wanted. But with all seven of Crystal's siblings either in college or planning to attend college, finances were an issue. Thanks to the generous supporters of The Fund for DukeMed, Crystal earned scholarships to pay for 80 percent of her college expenses.

To make a gift online, please visit http://fundfordukemed.duke.edu. Thank you for your support!

Last year 3,759 friends joined the Davison Club or contributed to The Fund for DukeMed and raised $1.65 million for student scholarships and fellowships, research and patient care, student life enhancements, and the Duke Medical Center Library. All gifts are appreciated. Annual gifts of $1,000 or more ($500 for students and MD graduates 1996-2005) are recognized with Davison Club membership.

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Alumni News

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In Brief

Alumni News

Morsberger Named Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs

Michael J. Morsberger has been named vice president for Duke Medical Development and Alumni Affairs. In this position, he will head fund-raising for all of Duke Medicine, which includes Duke University Health System and the academic and research efforts associated with the School of Medicine and School of Nursing.

Victor J. Dzau, MD, chancellor for health affairs and president/CEO of Duke University Health System, announced the appointment on June 1. Morsberger will begin work on August 1.

Morsberger comes to Duke from the University of Virginia (UVa) Health System and UVa Health Foundation in Charlottesville, Va., where he was executive director and associate vice president of development. Prior to that he was at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore, where he oversaw advancement for the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Morsberger succeeds Steven Rum, who left Duke in August 2005 to lead development and alumni affairs at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. Morsberger holds a BS in journalism from Radford University and an MA in philanthropy and development from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota. He is married and has two children, ages 11 and 14.

Med Students Select Three for Golden Apple Awards

A trio of Duke University School of Medicine doctors have been singled out by medical students for 2006 Golden Apple Teaching Awards for their exemplary qualities as accomplished physicians and engaging and effective educators.

Anthony Galanos, T’75, HS’89–92, was the recipient of the award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction by Clinical Faculty. Greg J. Stashenko, MD, HS’04-current, was the recipient of the award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction for House Staff. Christopher Newgard, T’78, PhD, was the recipient of the award of Excellence in Basic Science Instruction. Awards were presented in March at the Medical Student–Faculty Show.

Medical Families Weekend

More than 350 faculty, students, and parents attended “Charlie and the Doctorate Factory,” the annual student-faculty show during Medical Families Weekend in March. The play followed several applicants getting a tour of the fictitious eccentric tobacco baron Dudley Duke’s Doctorate Factory and the opportunity to win the golden ticket: a chance to become a Duke doctor. More than $9,000 in proceeds from the show benefited Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers (TROSA), a Durham-based residential rehabilitation program. Parents also were given a tour and demonstration at the Human Simulation and Patient Safety Center, where computerized, high-tech mannequins allow students to hone their skills before going live with real patients.
Fulbright Scholar Is Bound for London
Project Will Focus on Child Poverty

Few things are as synonymous with the term “best-and-brightest” as the words Fulbright Scholarship, and second-year Duke medical student Deipanjan “Deip” Nandi can count himself among America’s elite.

The Fulbright Program is the United States government’s flagship international educational exchange that each year sends several hundred graduate students, scholars, and professionals to other countries not only to study, teach, do research, or lecture, but to act as ambassadors to help bridge cultural gaps across the globe.

In September, Nandi travels to London, England to attend the London School of Economics as his third-year research project. He will earn an MSC degree in health, population, and society, focusing on child poverty. He eventually hopes to become a pediatrician.

“I’ll be working directly with groups that work with youths and homelessness groups in London,” he says. “The London School of Economics is one of the strongest in terms of looking at health policy and how communities can work together to solve health problems.” Via phone and Internet, he’ll also be working with the Duke Department of Community and Family Medicine to learn about health disparities in Durham and see if he can draw correlations between the two cities.

“I’ve always been interested in health policy,” says the 24-year-old from Fort Worth, Texas, “and think that more physicians need to be involved with health policy like Medicaid and Medicare. I hope (this experience) will allow me to be more involved with shaping health policy.”

According to Nandi’s advisory dean, Phil Goodman, MD, a professor of radiology, Nandi is a perfect choice to win a Fulbright.

“He’s one of those individuals that when you first meet him he seems like he’s been a friend for a while,” Goodman says. “He has a calm and cheerful demeanor about him and is very enthusiastic about what he does. He’s a hard worker, disciplined and insightful. It’s not surprising that he was awarded this great honor.”

The Fulbright Program will pay all of Nandi’s expenses, from tuition to travel, housing, and food.

Nandi says he’s never lived abroad before and is looking forward to his time being immersed in British culture. He can make some quick trips back home, but the program mandates he can’t be away from London for more than a total of three weeks during his 10 to 11 months there. His parents still live in Fort Worth, and his older brother is a physician, currently interning in internal medicine at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.

The application process for a Fulbright is similar to the college application process, Nandi says. He had to write a series of essays—the longest of which was about research he hopes to carry out. He also secured various letters of recommendation from advisors and instructors.

The Fulbright Program was proposed in 1945 by then-freshman Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. He saw the program as a much needed vehicle for promoting “mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries of the world” following World War II. His proposal was approved by Congress and signed into law by President Truman in 1946.
August Deadline for 2007 MAA Awards Nominations

Nominations are being accepted now through August 2006 for 2007 Medical Alumni Association Awards.

The 2007 awards will be presented during Medical Alumni Weekend, October 12-14, 2007. Nominations are being accepted for Distinguished Alumnus/a, Distinguished Faculty, Humanitarian Service, Distinguished Service, Honorary Alumnus/a, and the William G. Anlyan, MD, Lifetime Achievement Award.

Letters of nomination should include the candidate’s name, his or her class year and/or house staff years and specialty, the award category, a detailed statement of why the nominee should be considered, up to three letters of support, and your name, address, telephone number and/or e-mail address, class and/or house staff years, and specialty.

Please submit nominations by August 15, 2006—by mail, to MAA Awards Nomination, Duke Medical Alumni Association, 512 S. Mangum Street, Suite 400, Durham, NC 27701-3973, or online, at http://medalum.duke.edu by clicking Awards Program, then Make a Nomination.

Display Honors Wyngaarden

James B. Wyngaarden, MD, former Duke associate vice chancellor for health affairs and Frederic M. Hanes Professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine, emeritus, was honored in May with a reception and the unveiling of a display celebrating his distinguished career as a scientist and educator. A pioneer in the genome sciences, Wyngaarden served as director of the National Institutes of Health from 1982-1989. He is the author of medical textbooks, including five editions each of The Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease and the Cecil Textbook of Medicine. A recent gift from his daughter Patricia Wyngaarden Fitzpatrick, WC’69, and her husband Michael Fitzpatrick, T’70, to Duke’s Trinity College of Arts and Sciences established the James B. Wyngaarden, MD, endowed fellowship fund in the Duke Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy. The fellowships will be awarded to exemplary scholars in biomedical research, genetics, the genome sciences, public policy, and service to society.

A Match Made in Heaven

Recent graduates Ben, MD’06, and Molly Moeller, MD’06, who is holding their 3-month-old son, Gavin, are elated during “Match Day” after receiving news that they’ve both been assigned to do their medical residencies in Houston, Texas—their top pick. This year 112 Duke students participated in the national match. Thirty-one of the students will stay at Duke. Other popular locations included Harvard (11), UNC (6), and the universities of Pennsylvania and Washington (Seattle) with five students each. This year’s most popular residency was internal medicine (27 matches) followed by surgery (9), pediatrics (8), radiology (8) and anesthesiology (8).
Jesse Waggoner, MD’06, wasn’t aiming for a national award when he began researching the behavior of a Union physician during the Civil War. He just wanted to get people looking at the issue of physician conduct during wartime. But he can’t help but smile now that he has a prestigious Osler Medal in hand.

Waggoner, who graduated from the Duke University School of Medicine this spring, received the gold medal from the American Association for the History of Medicine for his as-yet unpublished paper that focused on Eugene Sanger, a surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War. Military officials reported Sanger for inhumane treatment of Confederate prisoners at Elmira Prison Camp in New York in 1864.

Waggoner first became interested in physician conduct during wartime after hearing of alleged abuses at Abu Ghraib in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. He chose the Civil War because it is the country’s first major conflict, and the Union Army held some 200,000 Confederate prisoners.

“It’s harder to raise questions about the Vietnam War because some of the physicians are still here,” he says.

Waggoner believes that even today, physician misconduct during war “is really a result of the situation, and we need to understand that situation so that we can try to improve it. The evidence suggests that physicians are in a very difficult position when they are a member of the military taking care of enemy prisoners. They are stuck in the hierarchy system and don’t know where they can report these things.”

In Sanger’s case the commandant who was above him wanted an official inquiry into the medical department of the camp, and the commissary general in charge of all the prison camps in the North requested that Sanger be transferred because he thought his conduct was inhumane.

“Those reports made it up the chain of command to the secretary of war. But there was never any official response to these reports,” Waggoner says.

Only two other Duke medical students have ever won this national award given each year to a medical student for an unpublished essay on medical history. They are: Robert C. Powell, MD’72, PhD’74, in 1971, and James Allen Young, MD’77, in 1977. Waggoner gives much of the credit for his success to his mentor, Margaret Humphreys, MD, PhD, an associate clinical professor of medicine and associate professor of history at Duke. “She got me interested in the medical humanities track during my first year,” he says. “She is very rigorous in what she does and has been a great role model.”

Winning the Osler Medal has been personally gratifying for Waggoner. But he hopes it also will encourage other medical students at Duke to pursue humanities, medical anthropology, sociology, or history during Duke’s unique third year, which is dedicated to research. “The medical humanities track was just getting started when I was a first-year student. No one could tell me how doing medical history would affect my chances at residency. But it turned out that program directors and chairs have been very interested in the research,” he says. Waggoner will remain at Duke for his residency in internal medicine.

“Studying humanities really does affect your approach to medical care. It is good to know the context in which your career is placed, and to think critically about things that are happening and changing in medicine,” he says.

So, do people learn from history, or is history destined to repeat itself? According to Waggoner, it’s a bit of both.

“I think that people do and will learn from history, but there has to be someone there to look back and critically appraise what happened and tell the story,” he says. “If you don’t have that, there is no way to learn.”
Our Most Important Legacy

I appreciate your particularly poignant article in the recent *DukeMed Alumni News* titled “Dream Denied,” recalling the life of Dr. Noel Walker-Robbins. I wanted to offer another observation lost to those of us in medicine whose sole goal and ambition in our lives is to become physicians and actively and totally pursue that profession until retirement.

Medicine oftentimes becomes all consuming as we become busier and busier and wealthier and applauded by our peers and neighbors. However, men’s (and women’s) most important legacy in their lives is bearing and raising children who will follow in their parents’ footsteps, not children raised by a nanny or prep schools, entertained at a country club, but loved and nurtured by loving parents every day.

I suspect Dr. Walker-Robbins was a godly woman. She grew up in the home of a Presbyterian minister at a time when they still preached the Holy Spirit, hence her intent to become a missionary at an early age. She deserves our praise and respect for forsaking personal gain—instead making a much greater “difference in the world” dedicating her life to her children.

By the standards of our world, she was not particularly renowned. She could, however, explain this to us today in 2006 as easily as when she made the decision sixty years ago with a simple verse: “Sons and daughters are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are sons and daughters born to one’s youth.” (Psalm 127:3-4)

*Robert A. Wilson, MD, HS’74-’77
Greenville, S.C.*

There’s More to Life than Medicine

I just received my *DukeMed Alumni News*, and am rather disheartened by the article you published on Noel Walker-Robbins, class of 1932 (“Dream Denied”). The tone of the article is extremely denigrating to those of us who have chosen to leave medicine to focus on raising a family. Believe it or not, there really is more to life than the practice of medicine and I, for one, wouldn’t trade the experiences I have had with my husband and children for any “fame and fortune” I might have found in medicine. But the truly sad part of the article is what Dr. Walker-Robbins’ daughter, Noel, had to say about her mother…”it breaks my heart. She could have made a big difference in the world…” How sad it is that she doesn’t see her mother making a difference in her life as being important enough.

*Julie A. (Lapp) Gorske, MD’96
Harker Heights, Texas*

Sir William Osler (1849-1919) was a Canadian physician best known for his textbook of medicine, skills as a teacher and mentor, and for his support of the humanities in medicine.

He was one of the four physicians who founded Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1889. Wilburt Davison, MD, the first dean of the Duke University School of Medicine, was a student of Osler in England. Davison hired all but one of Duke’s first chairmen and chiefs of service from the Hopkins faculty.

Osler is honored at Duke through the bi-weekly Osler Literary Roundtable discussions and a bed of Osler Ivy planted in front of Duke Clinic.
As they walked the halls of fourth floor Davison, Duke medical students once saw barren “institutional beige” walls. Now, thanks to the efforts of vice dean Edward Halperin, MD, they can reflect on the people and events that shaped Duke Medicine’s history.

Halperin found the artifacts, including painted portraits, photographs, bronzed busts, and plaques, in the attic of Duke Clinic. Other unexpected places yielded even more treasures from the past—75 photographs, some autographed, of medical notables affiliated with Duke were found in a cabinet in neurosurgery.

Now in his fourth year as vice dean, Halperin is earning a reputation as Duke Medicine’s “historian in residence.” Just around the corner from Heritage Hall on the first floor is a well-known cartoon train mural that he fought to preserve several years ago when the Davison Building was renovated. Painted to decorate an area that once served as an overcrowded pediatric waiting room, the mural depicts a train ridden by several Duke pediatricians, including Dean Wilburt Cornell Davison, MD, and his African-American assistant Carl Rogers.

In honor of the medical center’s 75th anniversary, many of the items Halperin assembled for students on the fourth floor (shown at right) have been reproduced in a permanent Heritage Hall display in the more public first floor of the Davison Building (above). The first floor display was coordinated by the office of Medical Alumni Affairs and funded by a gift from John P. McGovern, MD’45, HS’48-’49, GHON’95, and by the medical center.

Hanging from picture-frame molding installed along the ceiling, the photos and portraits are accompanied by biographical notations. Many of them once lived in other places on campus. A portrait of the school’s first dean, Wilburt Cornell Davison, MD, hung in the old Duke South amphitheater when it was used for medical school classes. It shows the founding dean teaching two pediatric residents. Next to the portrait is an autographed photograph of Davison.

Other Heritage Hall artifacts include a plaque honoring four School of Medicine graduates who died in service during World War II. Presented to the school in 1951 by Duke medical alumni, the plaque honors Walter E. Brown, MD’39, William W. Green III, MD’44, John F. Kincaid, Jr., MD’42, and Robert Seibels, Jr., MD’44.
Another plaque lists recipients of the annual Joseph E. Markee, MD, Memorial Award in Anatomy. Although the award is given every year to the student with the highest grade in anatomy class, it hadn’t been updated since 1993. Halperin had new plates made and added the plaque to the display along with a portrait of Markee, former chair of anatomy.

Those who helped break down Duke’s racial and gender barriers were not often memorialized in busts or formal portraits, but Halperin wanted the walls to reflect this part of Duke’s history, too. Digging into the Duke Medical Center Archives collection, he found a yearbook photo of Delano Meriwether, MD’67, an award-winning sickle cell disease and leukemia researcher and Duke’s first African-American medical student.

“I made a conscious effort to find pictures of minorities and women,” he says.

He also found a picture of Grace Kerby, MD’46, the first woman to serve as chief resident at Duke. A picture of another female pioneer, Susan C. Dees, MD, was donated by one of her former students. Dees joined the faculty in 1939 and was named chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy-Immunology in 1948.

Also included in the display is Halperin’s written account of how the Bell Building became the first facility at Duke Hospital to become racially integrated. In 1959 William Lynn, Jr., MD, a faculty member in the departments of medicine and biochemistry, decided to wash the words “whites only” off the building’s bathroom doors. Upset by this, Joseph W. Beard, MD, a renowned Duke Medicine virologist, had the words repainted. Lynn and Beard went on like this back and forth until Beard finally gave up the fight and the bathrooms were desegregated.

Halperin says he hopes Heritage Hall will give medical students and the Duke Medicine community a better appreciation of those who walked the halls before them. He also appreciates visits from medical alumni, who occasionally stop by with their families to see pictures of their former professors and mentors.
MAA Scholarships Fund Big Dreams

Following a Family Tradition of Higher Education

With a mother who is a nurse and a father who is a lawyer, you might assume second-year medical student Sarah Wilkins’ parents could help finance her medical education. “In reality, they’re not able to contribute at all,” says Wilkins.

When Wilkins was in elementary school her mother went back to school to earn an associate’s degree in nursing. Then she worked two jobs to put Wilkins’ dad through law school. By the time Wilkins was an undergraduate at California State University-Long Beach, her mother was in college too, earning a bachelor’s degree. Now she is preparing to return again, this time for her master’s.

Wilkins received support from the Medical Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund when she entered Duke School of Medicine and says that, plus other kinds of financial aid, has made it easier to concentrate more on her education and less on her finances.

“The Medical Alumni Association Scholarship has reduced the amount of debt I’ll have. It’s nice to know there will be less of a burden when I graduate,” says Wilkins.

Although her parents’ decisions to get degrees later in life made things financially difficult for the family, Wilkins says their example taught her valuable lessons. During her third year she will pursue a master’s in public health at UNC-Chapel Hill.

“I admire [my mother] greatly, says Wilkins. “Becoming a doctor will be a way for me to help other people, just like she does.”
Daniel Pastula was teaching high school science between college and applying to medical school when one of his students’ father was dying of Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS), a progressive motor neuron disease that seems to strike randomly during the most productive years of life.

“It really is a complete mystery,” he says. “We’re dancing around what’s causing it, and it’s frustrating.”

Now finishing his second year at Duke medical school, Pastula is excited about his third-year opportunity to explore ALS with Richard Bedlack, MD, PhD, HS’95-2000, AH’02, ’04, director of the Duke MDA/ALS Clinic. He hopes to map the different characteristics of ALS to help predict how the disease will progress in individuals, study treatment options and outcomes, and possibly find clues about what causes the disease.

“One of Duke’s strengths is it stresses independent and critical thinking,” says Pastula. “The third year really encourages you to come up with your own plan and your own ideas.”

Pastula knew he would not have that opportunity at any other American medical school, but when he was accepted at Duke he also knew finances would be a challenge. Part of the financial aid package he received was support from the Medical Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund.

“If the financial aid wasn’t there I would not have been able to come to Duke,” he says. “…my cost is about the same as a state school in New Jersey. I really thank my family, the medical alumni who have contributed to the scholarship, and the medical school for everything they did in helping me to come here.”

“The Duke Medical Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund was established through reserve and active portions of the Medical Alumni Association treasury and contributions from individual alumni. It usually funds two students each year and is an important part of Duke’s commitment to a need-blind admissions policy. Contributions to the fund count towards Duke’s Financial Aid Initiative, which has a goal of raising $12 million for medical education scholarships over the next three years. Gifts of $100,000 and up may qualify for matching funds through a challenge grant established by The Duke Endowment and four Duke families. For more information, please visit the Financial Aid Initiative on the Web at http://medalum.duke.edu.
Tom LeBlanc, MD’06, says he can’t quite pinpoint when he knew he wanted to be a doctor. Medicine, he says, has always felt like a calling, even though no one in his family is in the profession. Also curiously, his attraction to the human aspect of the doctor-patient relationship has been equally constant. “It’s really a privilege to be able to enter into a person’s life, sit with them, talk with them, hear their stories, and actually be able to help them,” he says.

It is that empathetic aspect of medicine that doctors today are criticized for lacking. Critics say today’s doctors rely on modern gadgetry and high-tech solutions to treat disease, pain, and such, but fall way short in dealing adequately with their patients’ overall suffering.

“We as a medical profession are really pretty poor at recognizing suffering,” says LeBlanc. “While we try to focus on it as a physical type of thing we often neglect the emotional, spiritual, and other aspects of pain and suffering in the whole illness.”

As a fourth-year medical student this spring, LeBlanc, 25, was lead organizer for the March 8 Ethics Night lecture and dinner at Duke University Medical Center’s Searle Conference Center attended by about 100 students and faculty. Keynote speaker Eric Cassell, MD, articulated the importance of restoring compassion and humanism to medicine.

An internationally respected author and speaker on suffering and the care of sick and dying patients, Cassell argues that only by thoroughly knowing their patients’ backgrounds, personalities, hopes, and fears, can physicians best prescribe a healing plan. Too often a patient is reduced to the sum of his or her body parts—organs, systems, and diseases—he believes, when there is much more going on emotionally that if explored by the doctor could be extremely valuable.

“Suffering is an alien among us. We don’t want to know about it,” Cassell said during his presentation. “Pain and suffering are not the same thing, and patients are not seen as suffering persons.”

Says LeBlanc: “It’s important to have a special relationship with your patient where you actually know them and they can trust you. They will share things with you that they might not share with someone who runs in, asks a couple of close-ended questions, writes something down and then runs out.”

LeBlanc believes the blame for the current state of sub-par doctor-patient interaction lands partly on the insurance industry.

“Doctors are somewhat forced to see a lot more patients than they would like in a lot less time than they would like,” he says. “There are just too many things pulling them in many directions by the way reimbursements work, and it seems most of the time it’s the doctor-patient relationship that suffers.”

To do his part to get the word out about the need for more humanism in medicine, LeBlanc proposed the idea of Ethics Night to the Engel Society of which he is a member. He then applied for and received a $4,500 grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and rallied additional financial and organizational support for the event from faculty, fellow students, the Duke Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and Humanities, the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life, the Kenan Institute for Ethics, and the Engel Society—named after beloved former faculty member Frank Engel, MD, who promoted mentoring and interaction between students and faculty away from hospital and classroom settings.

“My purpose was two-fold,” LeBlanc says. “To get students talking about issues in ethics and to stay true to the mission of the Engel Society and use this event to bring students and faculty together in a more social way.”

It appears the event was a hit on both counts. “I was really amazed at the number of students and faculty who came up to me at the end and said how great it was,” LeBlanc says. “I received many e-mails saying this should be an annual event.”

Jeff Baker, T’80, MD’84, HS’88-’91, MA’91, PhD’93, the interim director of the Duke Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and Humanities, who gave the closing remarks at the event, says Cassell’s message is simple but poignant: “Listen to the patients. It’s a message that needs reaffirming in our day of ever more rushed clinic visits and standardized guidelines for patient management.”
Submit your class note and photo online at http://medalum.duke.edu. You may also mail notes and photos to Duke Medical Alumni Association, Class Notes, 512 S. Mangum Street, Suite 400, Durham, NC 27701-3973, or e-mail to dukemed@mc.duke.edu. Note that electronic images must be 300 dpi or higher resolution. Due to space limitations, we are not always able to publish all the class notes we receive for a given issue. If you didn’t see yours in this issue, please look for it the next time.

1940s

Henry H. Nicholson, Jr., T’44, MD’47, is keeping busy in retirement. He and his wife Freda have 15 grandchildren. He is the current president of the Duke University Class of 1944, likes playing golf and traveling, and is active on the Charlotte, N.C. Airport Advisory Commission. He says he has fond memories of playing football at Duke and being involved with the 1942 Rose Bowl in Durham. The couple lives in Charlotte.

Evelyn Schmidt, WC’47, MD’51, was recently honored with the Civic Honor Award by the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. The chamber recognized Schmidt for devoting much of her career to improving the lives of Durham’s underserved. In 1971 she became the first executive director of Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham. Under her leadership, Lincoln has grown to include services such as dental, diabetes care, urgent care, and an AIDS intervention clinic. In addition to her work at Lincoln, Schmidt has served on boards for many organizations, including the United Way and Durham Health Partners. She currently serves on the Health Policy and Clinical Practice committees of the National Association of Community Health Care Centers. The chamber has given the Civic Honor Award to Durham business and civic leaders since 1933.

Kenneth Shepard, T’44, MD’47, HS’48-’49, at age 84 is still in a full-time developmental and behavioral medical practice working out of his home office five days a week. He continues to see new patients as well as following old ones. Because he snapped a tendon in his left thigh he must use a cane or walker to get around. He also still is on the faculty at University of California-Davis Medical School in Sacramento. He and his wife Colleen live in Vacaville, Calif.

Robert M. Sinskey, T’44, MD’48, HS’48-’49, was inducted into the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Hall of Fame in April 2005, and in November 2005 the Sinskey Pediatric Eye Care Clinic in Addis Ababa Ethiopia was dedicated in his honor. Sinskey invented a surgical procedure to eliminate the movement of the eye caused by horizontal nystagmus. He and his wife Loraine have five children and 10 grandchildren between them and live in Santa Monica, Calif.

1950s

Gerard Marder, MD’52, HS’54-’56, and his wife Joan are now “snowbirds,” spending their winters in Miami, Fla., and their summers at home in Asheville, N.C. Last fall the couple took a trip to the Canadian Rockies.

Kenneth G. Gould, Jr., T’50, MD’54, DC-Century, is an adjunct professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and still teaching physical diagnosis to beginning medical students. He and his wife Joan, WC’53 have four children and six grandchildren and live in Houston.

Roger Julian Berry, T’57, MD’58, is enjoying retirement with his wife Valerie, living in the British Isles. He has been appointed county commander of St. John Ambulance for the Isle of Man and promoted to commander in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, also on the Isle of Man.

Shirley K. Osterhout, WC’53, MD’57, HS’57-’59, who lives in Durham, N.C., with her husband, Suydam, MD’49, says she fondly remembers being active with several programs and committees at Duke. In addition to serving on the Pediatric House Staff Advisory Committee, she was on the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and from that group she was chosen to develop a hospital-wide drug reaction program for the Food and Drug Administration. She says each person who reported an adverse drug reaction occurring in a Duke patient received $5. She writes, “I think several house officers made some nice extra tax-free money from the FDA via me.” Outside of Duke, Osterhout also served on a U.S. Drug Advisory Committee that approved the medication Rogaine for male pattern baldness. During a meeting with reporters to announce the drug’s approval, she remembers beating a New York Times reporter to a phone. She wasn’t making a call about the approval; she had to call the Duke Basketball office to make sure her son could get tickets to see Duke play at the Final Four in Indianapolis. She adds, “That was more important than some snooty New York Times reporter and Rogaine.”
1960s

Leslie C. Norins, MD’62, is semi-retired and working in medical publishing. He and his wife Ann recently took a long Pacific Ocean cruise to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary. It finished in Melbourne, Australia where they had a reunion with some of Leslie’s former mentors, now retired, from the days of 1962-64 when he studied immunology. They couple lives in Naples, Fla.

William A. Shearin, Sr., MD’62, HS’62-’66, is semi-retired from ophthalmology but consulting in low vision for the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind. He and his wife Dorothy live in Cary, N.C.

James “Andy” Carter, MD’63, an otolaryngologist, retired in January 2006. He says he’s keeping extremely busy in retirement by joining a retired doctor’s book club and volunteering at an inner city clinic. He enjoys gardening, fishing, hiking, playing tennis and traveling. His wife Janice is a teacher and works with children with learning disabilities. They live in Atlanta, Ga.

Robert Gwinn Crummie, T’60, MD’64, a general practice psychiatrist in Rutherfordton, N.C., says the book he wrote, Dr. Bob’s Grocery Store Medicine and Healthy Life Anecdotes, is in its second printing. (www.drcrummie.com). He is president of the Duke Bassett Society for 2006. He and his wife Ann Crummie, PhD, have 12 children and 24 grandchildren in their blended family. They live in Rutherfordton.

Eugene J. Guazzo, MD’65, DC, says he has many great memories of Duke, like the time a professor in the physiology department gave him a BC348 Army Signal Corps radio receiver to help him learn electronics. Reading about a student skit in a recent issue of DukeMed Magazine also reminded him of a performance he participated in as a student. He was a part of a group that wrote, produced, and recorded a musical musical called “Foxglove,” which he says sold out Page Auditorium two nights in a row. Guazzo also remembers running nights in a row. Guazzo says Davison revealed that he had leukemia, all while smiling and hurrying off to catch his flight. Guazzo writes: “I was speechless, trying to think of something to say, and what I did say, I still do not remember… We said our jovial goodbyes and parted. It was the last time I was to see him.”

James J. Salz, MD’65, a private group practice ophthalmologist with Beverly Hills Eye Medical Group, Inc. in Los Angeles, Calif., was an invited speaker to the Italian Society of Ophthalmology’s meeting in Rome, Italy in May 2006. He also presented Alcon FDA Custom Cornea Wavefront Guided LASIK for Hyperopia results in San Francisco in March and received the Best Paper of Session Award. In April he participated in the Distinguished Visitor Program of the U.S. Navy by landing on the aircraft carrier USS Stennis. Salz and his wife Judy have four children and four grandchildren. They live in Los Angeles and are looking forward to the wedding of daughter Elizabeth in September.

Norman W. Wetterau, MD’67, a family physician, is liaison for the American Society of Addiction Medicine to the American Academy of Family Physicians and is involved in efforts to help medicine recognize and treat patients with addictive disorders. When not working he is busy promoting the Center for Christian Ministry at Robert Wesleyan College and trying to raise interest and support for the organization’s church hospitals in Africa. In addition, he and his wife Nancy have hosted 15 foreign exchange students, and they enjoy keeping up with them around the world. The Wetteraus have two grown children—Gregory, a designer of water treatment plants in South Carolina, and Kristina, who along with her husband is raising three children. The Wetteraus live in Dansville, N.Y.

Frank Kern, MD’68, recently closed his main dermatology practice in suburban Philadelphia and continues with a two-day-per-week practice in Atlantic City, N.J. He is taking classes, reading, and working around the house. He and his wife Sarah have three grown children and live in Brigantine, N.J.

Roger J. Porter, MD’68, DC, is president-elect of the American Society of Experimental Neurologic Therapeutics (ASENT), and is the newly appointed trustee and chair of the Governance Committee of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. He is a private consultant to the pharmaceutical industry. He and his wife Candace, WC’68, live in Devon, Pa.

Andrew T. Taylor, Jr., MD’68, in 2005 climbed the 23,000-foot mountain Lhapki Ri in Tibet which is adjacent to Mount Everest. He says while on the climb he treated a climber with severe altitude sickness and a Sherpa who was injured in an avalanche. Taylor is a professor of radiology at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, where he lives with his wife Naomi and daughter Rebecca.

Alan H. Meyer, T’65, MD’69, DC, a retired gastroenterologist in Sacramento, Calif., and his wife Carolyn welcomed granddaughter Caroline recently. They are active in church and community affairs and like to travel. They have two grown children, Edward, T’96, and Mary.

Thomas N. Wise, MD’69, is chairman of psychiatry at Inova Fairfax Hospital and professor of psychiatry at George Washington University School of Medicine, where he is associate chair. He also is a part-time professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University. He and his wife Karen have two daughters and live in McLean, Va.
Turner a Tireless Champion for Getting NCAA Hoops to Greensboro

Revered is any alum who was present in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1992 when the Duke Men’s Basketball Team won the first of their back-to-back national titles with a 71-51 win over Michigan.

**William Harrison Turner, III, MD, HS’73-’76,** is such an alumnus, but is quick to reveal that, “I was in the worst seat in the dome. It was like watching from three stories up and four blocks back.” Sure, it was thrilling, he says, but the intimacy of the place was the polar opposite of, say, Cameron Indoor Stadium or even the Greensboro Coliseum.

Turner knows a bit about seating at the Greensboro Coliseum. For the past 10 years the private-practice dermatologist in Greensboro has been chairman of the Tournament Host Committee, established by the Greensboro, N.C., City Council to recruit NCAA basketball and other sporting gigs, and as Turner tells it, “deal with everything but bouncing the ball on the court. We provide hospitality, VIP treatment, transportation, etc., for the players and coaches in the ACC and NCAA Tournaments.”

This year Turner and his team of more than 700 volunteers earned especially high marks from the NCAA. It marked the first time ever that the same city hosted three weekends of championship basketball in the same arena: the Division I women’s and men’s ACC tournaments, followed by the second round of regional play of the men’s NCAA Tournament.

“I always make sure I have good seats to watch Duke men and women. Then we’re looking after fans most of the time,” he says. “All of the feedback we are receiving from the NCAA says they are very pleased with this as a venue.”

He says Greensboro already has secured the regional finals for the women’s NCAA Tournaments in 2007 and 2008, and “the NCAA is looking seriously at us for the men’s first and second round regionals in 2009.”

Turner, originally from Martinsville, Va., arrived in Greensboro right after finishing his residency at Duke in 1976, and immediately immersed himself in the community. He is the founding chairman of the Physicians Health Plan—a direct-access HMO now known as United Healthcare of North Carolina—and he chaired a committee that looked at and promoted the positive impact of FedEx building a hub near the Greensboro Airport. “One reason for Dell (Computers) coming to Greensboro is the fact that FedEx is here,” says Turner. The runway is being prepared as we speak and the hub will be open in 2009.

The city was so grateful for Turner’s tireless championing for Greensboro that in 2003 he was honored with the Distinguished Citizen Award, which he calls one of the two highlights of his career.

The other major highlight was being honored nationally by the Dermatology Foundation as the 2005 Practitioner of the Year. He received the award in March of this year.

Turner was nominated for the award by Duke dermatologist Elise Olsen, MD, HS’80-’83. “He is a remarkable man, an exceptional physician, both in scope of knowledge and in his compassionate care of his patients,” Olsen says. “He is an amazing example of a well-rounded dermatologist and a credit to our profession.”

Turner holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia and a medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia. After completing military service in 1972 he completed medical residency and then entered the dermatology residency program at Duke where he served as chief resident during his final year.

He and his wife Martha, A’75, live in Greensboro.

—Jim Rogalski
Call it the
Class of ’74
Challenge

After reading in the spring issue of DukeMed Alumni News that a fellow classmate had donated funds to the Medical Center Library for a year’s subscription to The Medical Letter, Bruce Africa, MD’74, phoned in and did the same for next year’s subscription.

And he’s hoping yet another ’74 classmate will pick up the tab for the following year…and the next…and the next.

“Duke gave me the best medical education in the world,” Africa says. “This [donation] is all part of being in the Duke community.”

The Medical Letter is an independent, peer-reviewed, non-profit publication that offers unbiased critical evaluations of drugs—old and new—when important new information becomes available about their usefulness or possible adverse effects.

“It is so crucial because it is so absolutely independent, like Consumer Reports,” Africa says of The Medical Letter. “It is a brief, concise summary of what you need to know about new drugs.”

A retired psychiatrist in Berkeley, Calif., Africa says he was inspired to make the donation when he read that classmate James Barham, MD’74, had paid for a year’s subscription. When Barham and Africa were students every medical student received a subscription to The Medical Letter. It was later discontinued because of a lack of funding.

“I was so pleased to see Jim Barham’s face,” says Africa. “He was one of my better friends at medical school. I really want to give him credit for discovering this. I am just following him.”

And Africa hopes a line forms behind him to keep funding for The Medical Letter going year after year.

Anyone interested in funding a year of The Medical Letter, please call Jennifer Crumpler, assistant director of alumni affairs at Duke University Medical Center, at 919-667-2500.

1970s

Mark J. Tager, T’70, MD’74, is working in the field of aesthetic medicine and has helped to launch the Fraxel laser, which employs a new technology that fractionally resurfaces aging skin. It is cleared for acne scars, melasma, wrinkles, and resurfacing. He and his wife Carol have two children, James, T’09, and Marissa, a high school student. They live in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

David Garr, T’68, MD’72, has been named president of the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. He also serves as co-chair of the Healthy People Curriculum Task Force, which is a national initiative of seven clinical health professional education associations. When he’s not busy as executive director of the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium, Garr enjoys running, bicycling, and volunteering. He and his wife Deborah Williams, N’72, DHA, MS, CNM, who is the associate dean for practice in the College of Nursing at the Medical University of South Carolina, live in Mount Pleasant, S.C. Their son Joshua is a senior at Elon University, and daughter Rebecca is a senior at Princeton University.

David B. Jarrett, MD’72, a private practice psychiatrist in Athens, Ga., says acting is in his family’s blood. He acts in community theater; his younger son is an actor in New England; and his older son is making movies in New York City. He and his wife Patricia live in Athens.

Joanne A. P. Wilson, MD’73, DC, professor of medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at Duke, has been appointed a member of the National Commission on Digestive Diseases, which is charged with conducting an overview of research in digestive diseases and developing a strategic plan for the next 10 years of National Institutes of Health digestive disease research. The commission is composed of 16 members who are appointed for the duration of the commission by the NIH director. Wilson, a native of Raleigh, N.C., now living in Chapel Hill, was the second African American female to matriculate at Duke University School of Medicine. She trained at the Brigham and Harvard Medical School and was the first female secretary of the American Gastroenterological Association and the first African American officer of that organization.

David Alyono, MD’78, DC, a cardiothoracic surgeon with Kaiser Permanente of Northern California, and his wife Mary, an anesthesiologist with the same firm, report that their daughter Jennifer is a senior at Stanford University and their son Michael will be a freshman there this fall. The family lives in Alamo, Calif.

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD’79, DC-Century, recently returned from another visit to Europe to help push for religious freedom of minority Greek Orthodox Christians in Istanbul, Turkey. This time Limberakis, who serves as national commander of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle/Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, led an Archon delegation that spent a week in April meeting with government leaders in Brussels, Belgium; Strasbourg, France; and Vienna, Austria. In addition to spreading the word about the Turkish government’s long-standing persecution of Greek Orthodox Christians, the delegation’s mission while in Europe also was to advocate for Turkey’s integration into the European Union. Limberakis, a radiologist, lives in Philadelphia with his wife Maria and their three children.
**1980s**

**Samuel B. Thielman,** MD'80, G’83, PhD’86, is director of Mental Health Services for the United States Department of State and oversees the program of psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers. His wife **Sara, T’78,** teaches English at Marymount University. They have four children—Sam, 24; Jacob, 21; Fran, 19; and Daniel, 16—and live in Falls Church, Va.

**David Calcagno,** MD’82, a vascular surgeon in Camp Hill, Pa., where he lives with his family, is serving as president of the Pinnacle Health System medical staff, which includes 800 doctors. When not working he enjoys gardening, exercise, and riding his motorcycle. His wife **Elizabeth** has opened a boutique specializing in designer jeans and other casual clothes. They have two children—Paul, 12, and Tess, 10.

**Elizabeth Estill Campbell,** T’76, MD’82, is specializing in medical oncology for a private group practice in Raleigh, N.C., where she lives. She is a board member of the Triangle Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She and her husband **Mark Lefebvre** have 8-year-old girl/boy twins named Aiden and Avery.

**Andrea M. Jackson,** MD’84, is working in a private group practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Alexandria, Va., where she lives with her four children—three sons ages 3, 16, and 18, and one daughter, age 7.

**Robert F. St. Peter,** MD’85, DC, a pediatrician in Topeka, Kans., in May began a term as chair of the board of the National Network of Public Health Institutes. He currently is serving on the Governor’s Health Care Cost Containment Commission. He says he is enjoying the Kansas City area with his wife Ann and their two children. The family lives in Mission Hills.

**Dean Curtis Taylor,** MD’85, HS’87–’91, retired from the U.S. Army in 2005 and currently is professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Hawaii Department of Orthopedic Surgery. In 2004 he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad in the 31st Combat Support Hospital. He is a major in the United States Army Reserves. He and his wife **Robin** have two children, Daniel, 16, was a Hawaii state wrestling champion as a high school sophomore; and Christina, 13, enjoys ballet and piano. The family lives in Honolulu.

**Gregory H. Chow,** MD’88, is in private solo practice for orthopedic and spine surgery in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he also is assistant clinical professor at the University of Hawaii Department of Orthopedic Surgery. This August he will become a professor of surgery at Duke and team physician for the Duke basketball team. He and his wife **Ann,** N’84, have two children and live in Minneapolis, Minn.

**Beth B. Belkin,** N’78, MD’87, a private practice psychiatrist in Scarsdale, N.Y., reports that her son Dan, 21, graduated this spring from Amherst; son Sam, 19, is a sophomore at NYU; and daughter Molly, 17, is a junior at Scarsdale High School. Her husband **Robert, MD, HS’83-86,** is a cardiologist in Hawthorne, N.Y. The family lives in Scarsdale.

**Durga Strohl Larkin,** MD’87, a private group practice ophthalmologist in North Kingstown, R.I., and her husband **Michael** have two daughters—Talley, 11; and Dana 9. Talley plays ice hockey, skis, and plays the cello and saxophone. Dana figure skates, snowboards, and does voice and theater. The family lives in James-town, R.I.

**Kemp Howard Kernstine, Sr., T’78, M’82, PhD,** and his wife **Cassandra** report that their eldest child has finished college and is working, and this fall they will have four other children in college at the same time. Kemp is a cardiothoracic surgeon at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, Calif. He also is professor and director of the Department of Thoracic Surgery and the Lung Cancer Program there. The family lives in Valencia, Calif.

**William L. Gottesman,** MD’83, HS’83–’86, DC, is retired and keeping busy tutoring math at his daughter Clara’s middle school. He is still making sundials (www.precisionsundials.com) and serving on the board of directors of the local science museum and synagogue. He and his wife Debra and their daughterlive in Burlington, Vt.

**Tyler J. Curiel,** MD’83, the chief of hematology and medical oncology at Tulane University in New Orleans, La., has opened a trial of a novel immune-based therapy for ovarian cancer. He had a perspectives piece on health care in post-Katrina New Orleans published in the April 13, 2006 New England Journal of Medicine. He and his wife **Ruth Bernstein** have two children—Alex, 13, and Megan, 11—and live in New Orleans.

**Steven R. Feldman,** MD’84, PhD’85, is a professor of dermatology, pathology, and public health sciences at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. In his free time he manages a website that lets patients rate their doctors with an online satisfaction survey while giving doctors detailed feedback (www.DrScore.com). He and his wife **Leora** have two sons—Jacob and Noah—and live in Winston-Salem.
Keith P. Kittelberger, MD’88, MS’89, has taken a new position at Critical Health Systems in Raleigh, N.C.. Some of the breakthroughs he’s experienced in medicine include improving anesthetic outcomes as well as many recent pain management therapeutic modalities. He says his most memorable Duke experience was working with Dr. Robert Sladen in the intensive care units. Outside of medicine, he enjoys skiing, Boy Scouts, landscaping, and traveling. Kittelberger and his wife Reah have two children.

S. Steven Yang, MD’88, a private practice orthopedic hand and upper extremity surgeon in New York City, said that when he, his wife Katherine, and their children stopped overnight at the Washington Duke Inn on their drive to South Carolina during Christmas break, “I was quite nostalgic when I saw the old place, having not been back since graduation.” The family lives in New York City.

Alan R. Jacobs, T’84, MD’89, has opened a private solo practice in Manhattan. His specialty is in memory disorders, behavioral neurology, and neuroendocrinology. He retained his faculty appointment at SUNY-Downstate so he can continue teaching house staff. His wife Rachel started a private practice recently in reproductive endocrinology in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. They have four sons—Sam, 12; Michael, 9; Alexander, 7; and Joshua, 4. They live in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

1990s

Phillip M. Boiselle, MD’90, DC, is entering his seventh year of practice at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School and is enjoying the challenges of balancing clinical research, teaching, and administrative responsibilities. He and his wife Ellen enjoy the Boston area, especially the Boston Symphony. They celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary in May. She is completing a PhD in child development and psychology at Tufts University and is a learning specialist at Children’s Hospital in Boston, where they live.

Robert E. Minahan, Jr., MD’92, HS’92-’95, a neurology physician at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md., has been elected president of the American Society of Neurophysiological Monitoring. He and his wife Lara—who is starting her own orthodontics practice—have two daughters, one in pre-school and one in first grade. They live in Brookeville, Md.

Peter Sonkin, MD’92, a retina surgeon in Nashville, Tenn., and his wife Linda welcomed their second son, Benjamin, in April 2006. Their first son, Matthew, is now age 3. They live in Nashville.

Ted Steiner, MD’92, HS’92-’95, an assistant professor of infectious diseases at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC, Canada, where he lives with his partner Andreas Geissler, is the father of 9-month-old Avery Grace Marr, with her mothers Kieren Marr, MD, HS’93-’96, and Jennifer Shotwell. In his free time Ted sings in the men’s choir Choir Leoni, continues to play piano and cello, ski, and enjoy the beautiful environment of Vancouver.

Michael B. Wallace, MD’92, is director of research for the Division of Gastroenterology at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. His research focuses on identification of biomarkers for detection of micrometastatic cancer using endoscopic ultrasound fine-needle aspiration and real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). He has three sons who keep him busy. They live in Jacksonville.

Robert Sidbury, T’85, MD’93, has taken a new position as assistant professor of pediatrics/dermatology and immunology at Children’s Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School. His previous position was assistant professor at the Children’s Hospital and University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. His daughter Claire was born in December 2005.

Thippeswamy H. Murthy, MD’94, and his wife Geetha Rao, MD’95, are expecting their second child—a girl—in August. She will join their three-and-a-half year-old son. The family lives in Peachtree, Ga.
Wanda Pak, T’86, MD’94, has started her own private ophthalmology practice in Washington, D.C., where she lives, and is active in resident training with the Georgetown-Washington Hospital Center program. Home renovations are keeping her busy, she says.

David E. Schoenfeld, MD’94, HS’94-’95, a private practice dermatologist in Carollton, Ga., says he went on a golf trip to the U.S. Open last year with Duke buddies Steve Malchow, MD’94, HS’94-’99; Fred Chen, MD’94; Drew Schneider, T’88, MD’94, HS’95-’99; and Jeff Acker, MD’89, HS’90-’94. This year the group is planning a trip to Brandon Dunes, Ore. David and his wife Rebecca have two children, Max, 7, and Claire 4.

Roger Lee Cothran, Jr., T’91, MD’95, HS’96-’00, recently returned to academic medicine after a brief stint in private practice. He is assistant professor of radiology at Duke, specializing in musculoskeletal radiology. He recently returned from an eight day mission trip to Ranquitte, Haiti with Christian Flights International, where he helped to build three homes, performed nearly 30 home visits, and helped to distribute food and clothing to families. He and his wife Felicia have two sons, Bridger, 6, and Tucker, 3. They live in Durham.

Aliceson King, MD’99, was recently appointed associate director of Medical Pharmacovigilance, Global Safety Surveillance, and Epidemiology at Wyeth Research in Collegeville, Pa.

Lillian Frances Lien, MD’99, HS’99-’05, has been promoted to assistant professor in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Nutrition at Duke University Medical Center. Some of her greatest Duke memories are joining in the student/faculty a cappella shows with her classmates. She lives in Durham.

David and his wife Emma have their second child, son Liam, in March 2006. He joins brother Graham. Cynthia is a physician with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md. The family lives in Towson.

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DC = Davison Club member
Recipe For Success: Harpring Balances Life with an NBA Husband, an Infant Son, and a Medical Career

Amanda Simpson Harpring, MD’02, knows her way around a kitchen. Try her crowd-pleasing cheesy crab dip, decadent creamed corn casserole, or mysteriously effective “Good Luck Pizza,” and you’ll likely reach for a pen and ask for the recipe with the first bite.

But perhaps the 29-year-old wife, mother, and physician’s most palatable recipe is one that doesn’t even involve food. If it had a name it would be “Amanda’s Recipe For Balancing Family and Career.” Ingredients include equal parts family commitment, value of one’s professional talents, and personal sacrifice.

She began crafting the recipe in September 2002, when she was living her medical dream by having recently started her ophthalmology residency in Philadelphia. If that wasn’t dream-like enough, she also was dating the hunky Philadelphia 76-ers basketball player Matt Harpring.

“I couldn’t have been happier,” she says. “I felt like I had great things ahead of me. I was going into one of the most exciting and competitive fields in medicine and was dating a wonderful guy.”

But her perfect metaphorical soufflé deflated with a pair of life-changing phone calls.

Matt phoned to tell her the 76-ers were not renewing his contract and he was signing as a free agent with the Utah Jazz. In the middle of that mind-numbing call, her mom dialed in on call-waiting and told her she had just been diagnosed with advanced breast cancer.

“My world just came crashing in on me,” Amanda says. “The guy I was in love with was moving to Utah, my mother was sick and living in Albany, N.Y., and I had just started my residency in Philadelphia.”

After those fateful phone calls she took stock of her life. While standing at the proverbial crossroads, the driven, self-described Type-A personality never imagined doing this, but she decided to quit her ophthalmology residency in order to split her time between her sick mother in Albany and the man whom she likely would marry.

“I think the 2002 Duke graduate that I was would have been very surprised” at giving up ophthalmology, she says. “But it was important for me to be the daughter I wanted to be. I got to spend the last year-and-a-half of my mother’s life with her—more time than if I were in a residency. That is something I will never regret.”

And obviously, she was right about her feelings for Matt: they married in 2003.

Amanda found practical wisdom in focusing on her husband’s career and setting her own professional ambitions aside. “I can practice medicine the rest of my life. He can only play basketball for a short time,” she says.

Still, slamming the brakes on her promising medical career was not easy. The desire to pursue it was strong, she says, but trying to get an ophthalmology residency in Utah wouldn’t be fair to whomever she signed on with. “Who would take me anyway, when they know who my husband is and know how these players get shuffled around?”

But after a year in Utah she longed to be back in medicine and began entertaining the idea of completing a residency of a different sort. “Matt saw how miserable I was without it. He said ‘you need to do this.’”

And so she did, signing on for a flexible three-year family practice residency at St. Mark’s Hospital in Salt Lake City, where they live. She currently is in her final year.

“This is nice. They were willing to take a chance on me,” she says. “In the beginning I wasn’t sure I was going to like it. I like being the expert—the one who patients are referred to. In family practice it’s impossible to be the expert in everything.”

She completed all of the demanding aspects of her residency early on—things like being on call—then took a maternity break in 2005 to have their first child, Luke. “Early on in the residency I could burn the candle at both ends, but now it’s all outpatient work for me which is a lot more manageable.”

She has time to attend all of the Jazz’s home games to support her husband, and even make the occasional “Matt’s Good Luck Pizza” that she concocted out of leftover chicken and barbecue sauce. It seems to have an alchemistic effect on Matt’s game, so she makes it whenever she can before home games.

When Matt is not on the road, he is the primary childcare provider for Luke in the afternoons while Amanda is at the hospital. “He’s a wonderful father,” she says. A nanny does afternoon duty when Matt is away.

Matt’s contract with Utah expires this year, so the Harprings might not be moving yet again if the Jazz choose not to retain him. He’s in his eighth year as an NBA player. Amanda says she and Matt are open to whatever happens next in his career.

“As long as I can get this residency under my belt and keep up with my CME, then when Matt retires I’ll get back into medicine. In the meantime I get to raise a family which I think is my true calling,” she says. “Medicine definitely is a part of my personality and I don’t think I will ever be able to give it up 100 percent, but since having Luke I have never been happier.”

As for the Jazz not making the playoffs this year, Amanda says it was a mixed blessing. “Of course you always want the team to go as far as they can, but now I get my husband back.”

—Jim Rogalski
Gregory J. Della Rocca, PhD’98, MD’99, DC, an assistant professor and co-director of trauma services at University of Missouri Hospitals in Columbia, Mo., was married in Nov. 2005. At the wedding were numerous DukeMed graduates including Brian Morgan, MD’96; Greg Galdino, MD’96; Tex Durgin, E’92, MD’96; Greg Erens, E’92, MD’96; Rima Nasser, MD’96, DC; Miguel Busquets, MD’96; Steve Chui, MD’96, HS’96-’04 and Paul Yu, MD’99, PhD’00, DC. Gregory and his bride Kelly live in Columbia.

Hui Zhu, MD’99, a urologist with University Hospitals of Cleveland, has been appointed assistant professor of urology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland.

Last year he completed a urologic oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. His wife Xin teaches biomedical engineering at Case Western. They have two sons ages 10 and 7 and live in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

2000s

Rodney K. Alan, MD’00, is finishing his fellowship in orthopedic surgery and will start private practice at Palmetto Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in South Carolina in August. He is married to Carol Brown Alan, MD, HS’97-’01, an instructor in the OB-GYN department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Marie Archambault Carlson, MD’00, HS’00-’03, and her husband Benjamin recently welcomed their third child. Their son Asher joins Anneliese, 7, and Aidan, 3. Marie is a consulting associate for Duke Health Center of Smithfield, N.C., and lives in Clayton, N.C.

Jonathan Andrew Hata, MD’00, a general surgery resident at Duke, married Laura Brooks Lawrence, MD’01, in April 2006. Laura is a pediatrician in Durham, where they live.

Christopher Lee Holley, T’95, MD’00, PhD’03, will be short-tracking into a cardiology fellowship this summer at Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., where he lives with his wife Susan Ormsbee Holley, G’01, PhD’03, MD’04.

Andrew Laurence Kaplan, T’96, MD’00, HS’00-’04, and Susan Sufka Kaplan, MD’02, G’02, HS’02-’05, welcomed their first child—a daughter, Adah Emmanuelle—on Jan. 12. The family lives in Dallas, Texas.

Charles Warren Yowell, T’92, MD’00, HS’00-’06, finished his urology residency at Duke this spring and is off to begin his private practice in Stuart, Fla. Both of his parents, a brother, and a sister all attended Duke.

Jimmie Wong, MD’00, will be joining a private practice group in Arcadia, Calif., upon completing fellowship training in abdominal imaging at UCLA this summer. His wife Shan Yuan, MD’00, is a transfusion medicine physician at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, Calif. The couple recently welcomed their second child, Chloe, in April, who joins brother Ethan, 2.

Hughes Montgomery Helm, MD’01, joined several former classmates recently for a golf trip to Pinehurst. He got together with Jay Quayle, MD’00, DC; Kyle Pond, T’95, MD’00, and Charles Yowell, T’92, MD’00, HS’00-’06. Hughes is a solo practice family physician in Combs, Ky. He and his wife Melanie have six children and live in Hazard, Ky.

Heather Mummery Frederick, MD’02, HS’02-current, currently on house staff in the Duke Department of Anesthesiology, will begin a pediatric anesthesia fellowship at UNC in October. She and her husband Erik, G’00, keep busy chasing after their one-year-old son Alek. They live in Durham.

James A. Peloso

Save the Date!

Medical Alumni weekend

October 13-15, 2006

If your School of Medicine class year ends in “6” or “1,” 2006 is your reunion year.

DC = Davison Club member
1950s

Gordon L. Hixson, MD, HS’56-‘59, received the Chattanooga, Tenn., Chamber of Commerce Inventor of the Year Award in 2004. He has patents on two inventions: the MammoSpot and MammoSpot Soft paddles, devices that makes it easier to obtain a full view of the breast while imaging. His business is called American Mammographics, Inc. He and his wife Bobbie have two married children and live in Chattanooga.

Marvin Pomerantz, MD, HS’59-‘67, has retired as professor of surgery at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center at Denver. He says he vividly remembers the days when he had to work 10 days and 10 nights straight at Duke. These days he enjoys playing golf and traveling. Pomerantz and his wife Margaret “Peggy,” N’64 have two children, Ben and Julie, and two grandchildren, Sonja and Lily. The couple lives in Castle Rock, Colo.

Edward W. Holmes, MD, HS’70-‘71, ’73-‘74, and his wife, Judith Swain, MD, HS’74-‘80, are leaving their positions at University of California, San Diego School of Medicine to join Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). The couple will work in different agencies, but both will focus on translational medicine. Swain will be the founding executive director of the newly formed Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences. Both Holmes and Swain will receive appointments to the National University of Singapore, where they will be Lien Ying Chow Professors of Medicine. The couple plans to keep their home in San Diego and split their time between San Diego and Singapore.

Enrico M. Camporesi, MD, HS’74-‘77, DC, is professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of South Florida in Tampa where he lives with his wife Pat.

1960s

Edwin L. Coffman, MD, HS’60-‘62, is retired from anesthesiology but still works a couple of days a week assisting with hyperbaric oxygen therapy at a local hospital in Fort Smith, Ark., where he lives. His wife Ladonna is a six year survivor of non-small cell lung cancer. They have three sons and five grandchildren.

Roger W. Turkington, MD, MACP, HS’63-‘65, has retired as director of the St. Luke’s Medical Clinic in Florida. He also was the recipient of the 2005 international Golden Stethoscope Award for clinical excellence from the Leonard and Isabella Goldenson Foundation.

1970s

Franklin L. Rosenfeldt, MD, HS’70-‘72, DC-Century, is the founding editor of the international journal, Heart Lung and Circulation, which achieved indexation on Medline and PubMed in November 2005. Two Duke alumni, Andy Wechsler, MD, HS’68-‘74, and Rob Calif, T’73, MD’78, HS’78, ’80-‘83, DC, helped Rosenfeldt with the indexation application. Rosenfeldt says he fondly remembers the annual Duke Surgical Wives’ party where many of the residents started throwing themselves and their wives in the pool. “One wife with a hair piece, which floated off in the water, found this less than amusing,” he writes. “A good time was had by all!” Rosenfeldt and his wife Anne live in Australia.

Edward L. C. Pritchett, MD, HS’74-‘76, retired in 2001 from Duke (cardiology and clinical pharmacology) and started a consulting company—Pritchett Research Services, Inc.—to assist pharmaceutical companies with new drug development. Last year he married his college girlfriend whom he had not seen for more than 30 years when they reconnected in 2002. He has four children—his two oldest are college graduates and both working for NASCAR race teams in North Carolina; and his twins are still in college. He lives in Durham.

Joseph W. Fay, MD, HS’72-‘74, ’76-‘77, is the director of Immunological Therapy for Cancer at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. As director, he has been involved with the design and implementation of dendritic cell vaccine therapy for cancer. He also established blood and marrow transplant and cellular immunotherapy while at Baylor. Fay says one of his fondest memories at Duke was when he started the bone marrow transplant program in the late 1970s. In his spare time, Fay is a power lifting competitor. He lives in Dallas with his wife Joanne, a prominent local civic leader. His son Nathan is an attorney and a Cox Scholar at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and his daughter Lauren is a PhD candidate at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

1980s

William N. Wesinger, MD, HS ‘77-‘81, has been certified as a Diplomate in Health Care Quality and Management by the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, Inc. He also has achieved sub-
specialty certification in the area of Case Management. The ABQAURP is the nation’s largest organization of interdisciplinary health care professionals and is dedicated to establishing Healthcare Quality and Management as a specialty with definable standards upheld by knowledgeable experts. Diplomates are distinguished by their level of skill in analysis and review in the Healthcare and Quality Management field. Wessinger lives in Savannah, Ga., where he is the medical director of Clinical Resource Utilization Management for Memorial Health University Medical Center.

Andrea R. Gravatt, MD, HS’79-’82, has combined her love of mountaineering and running marathons and has run both the Mt. Everest and Mt. Kilimanjaro marathons. The Kilimanjaro Marathon in June 2005 was her 50th marathon to date. She also climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro that month with her son to celebrate his high school graduation. She works in urgent care at Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., and has an interest in wilderness medicine. She is contributing author for two wilderness medicine-related text books and lives in Seattle, Wash.

Constance Thetford Hixon, MD, WC’69, HS’79-’82, continues to teach part time as an assistant professor at East Tennessee State University College of Medicine in the Family Medicine Residency Program, where there are 24 residents from five continents. She and her husband Clair have four children and live in Kingsport, Tenn.

Timothy Bohan, MD, PhD, HS’80-’85, who specializes in developmental pediatrics and child neurology, says his greatest professional accomplishment to date is when he showed in 2001 study that early treatment with L-carnitine is able to reverse valproate-induced liver failure. He is married to Sarah A. Pollack, PhD, and has two stepsons, both of whom married in the past two years. The Bohans live in Houston, Texas.

Randall Moorman, MD, HS’78-’85, a professor of medicine and physiology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, and his wife Pam Griffin, MD, HS’79-’82, have developed a non-invasive monitor for early diagnosis of neonatal sepsis based on novel analysis of heart rate variability. Griffin is a former professor of pediatrics at the University of Virginia and now is director of Clinical Development at MedImmune. They have three daughters and live in Charlottesville.

Maryella D. Sirmon, MD, HS’82-’85, a partner in Nephrology Associates in Mobile, Ala., is a clinical associate professor of medicine at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and governor-elect of the Alabama American College of Physicians. She, her husband Wayne, and their children live in Mobile.

Gail Lynn Shaw Wright, MD, HS’84-’86, in February became a full partner in Florida Cancer Specialists practicing medical oncology in New Port Richey, Hudson, Spring Hill, and Brooksville, Fla. She and her husband Richard have two children—David will be attending Berkeley Prep School in Tampa, Fla. for middle school; and Christine is finishing grade 3. The family lives in New Port Richey.

John W. Schmitt, MD, HS’83-’87, has left private practice and joined the faculty at the University of Virginia as associate professor and vice-chairman for clinical affairs of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He and his family live at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains and enjoy the outdoors and their growing goat herd. Lisa, his wife of 30 years, is a student at UVa. Their daughter Maria will be attending Southern Methodist University in Dallas this fall, and their two sons Jake and Matthew are in high school. They live in Charlottesville, Va.

Dale R. Duncan, DDS, MD, HS’88, is in private practice at a new surgery center in Alpharetta, Ga. He practices oral and maxillofacial surgery at the center, which has a special pediatric operating room. Duncan also has been busy with his two baby girls, 19-month-old Laura Elise and 4-month-old Audra Claire.

F. Matt Brown, Jr., MD, HS’89-’91, says he’s “surviving as a primary care/private practitioner in a small town.” The general internist has an office in Boone, N.C., and lives in Todd, N.C. He is an avid cyclist and has competed in multiple “century” events in the Boone area. He and Allison, his wife of 21 years, have four children—three sons ages 17, 12, and 8, and a daughter, 15.

Mary T. Burns, MD, HS’89-’92, is practicing psychiatry part time in private practice and is chairman of the board of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, which oversees public health, child welfare, and mental health, among other things. She was appointed by the governor. She and her husband Eric have two sons ages 8 and 10, and live in Atlanta.
Paul C. Magarelli, MD, HS’88–’92, a reproductive endocrinology and infertility specialist in private practice based in Colorado Springs, Colo., is also an associate professor at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He was an invited speaker at the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture for his work with in vitro fertilization and acupuncture. He recently opened two new practices—one in Corona, Calif., and one in Santa Fe, N.M. He currently is single and enjoys running, biking, and travel.

Pierre V. Tran, MD, HS’88–’92, is head of the clinical drug development program of a small biotechnology company based in the Silicon Valley in California. The company successfully transitioned from a privately-funded company to a publicly-traded company in June 2005. He and Dominique, his wife of 21 years, have two children. Their daughter Nadege, 20, specializes in gemology and jewelry making. Their son Steven, 17, is in high school. The family lives in San Jose, Calif.

J. Michael Kilby, MD, HS’90–’93, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has been named medical director of UAB’s HIV clinic. He also is principal investigator of the NIH-sponsored UAB Acute Infectious and Early Disease Research Program—a $5 million multidisciplinary grant to study pathogenesis and treatment of early HIV infection. He and his wife Mia, MD, MPH, have two sons, Andrew, 10, and Matthew, 13. They live in Birmingham.

Lia Logio, MD, HS’92–’95, is running the residency program at Indiana University with more than 170 residents rounding in four hospitals in downtown Indianapolis and a partnership with Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. She and husband Steve Wilson, MD’92, HS’92–’95,’00, are keeping busy with their kids. Steve is an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Indiana University. They live in Zionsville, Ind.

Jennifer Cohen Takagishi, MD, HS’93–’96, has been promoted to associate professor of pediatrics at the University of South Florida in Tampa. She and her husband S.C. Curtis—a psychologist—have two daughters ages 5 and 3. They live in Tampa.

Jason A. Dominitz, MD, MHS’96, HS’91–’97, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine, is director of the Northwest Hepatitis C Resource Center—one of four national VA centers created to improve hepatitis care for veterans. He also is associate editor of the journal Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. He and his wife Josephine have four children—Benjamin, born in 2004, and his three older sisters, Alexandria, Calista, and Sophia. The family lives in Bellevue, Wash.

Atif Shafqat, MD, HS’95–’98, is a hematology-oncology physician with BJC-Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo. His wife Nadya Ajanees, MD, HS’95–’98, is in internal medicine private practice at St. Luke’s Hospital in St. Louis. They have three children—Mehreen, 8; Sonya, 5; and Sameer, 3 months. The family lives in Chesterfield, Mo.

Andrew P. Krivoshik, MD, HS’02–’04, PhD, PE, is associate medical director for Abbott Laboratories in Abbot Park, Ill. After completing Abbott’s physician development program he transitioned full-time to the oncology global development team to support cytotoxic development for both adult and pediatric indications. He is a member of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Medicine inaugural Dean’s Advisory Board. He and his wife Susan have two children—Amy, 10, and David, 6. The family lives in Gurnee, Ill.

Elena Dyer, MD, HS’03–’05, has published an article titled “Osteoarthritis in Elderly” in Clinical Geriatrics. She is a group practice physician in Vero Beach, Fla. She enjoys educating seniors on health-related topics. She and her husband George and their children Douglas, 1, and George, 3, live in Vero Beach.

2000s

Christopher J. Barnes, MD, HS’02, a private practice orthopedic surgeon in Fayetteville, N.C., passed the ABOS exam in July 2005 to become board certified. He and his wife Amanda, T’96, have three children—Jack, 4; Maggie, 2; and Brady, 3 months. The family lives in Fayetteville.

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Robert Monroe Campbell, MD‘43, died Dec. 25, 2005 at his home in Chesapeake, Va. A native of Neosho, Mo., Campbell graduated from Neosho High School and entered Central College in Fayette, Mo., where he was chosen All-Conference quarterback for two consecutive years. He graduated in December 1943 from Duke University School of Medicine and immediately entered the U.S. Navy Medical Corps and completed his internship at the Chelsea Naval Hospital in Boston, Mass. He subsequently served active sea duty for the remainder of World War II. During the Korean War he took a surgical team overseas to care for the wounded and later served aboard the Hospital Ship Haven for a year. He completed post-graduate surgical residency at Baylor University, Los Angeles County Hospital and at the Leahy and Overholt Thoracic Clinics in Boston. He retired from the Navy in 1955 and entered private practice for surgery. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and president of the Portsmouth Academy of Medicine. He was active in his community in various organizations. He is survived by his wife Donna and daughters Kristina and Cynthia; three step-children; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two brothers.

Donald E. McCollum, MD, HS’56-’62, died March 29, 2006, at Duke University Medical Center. A Winton-Salem, N.C., native, McCollum earned a bachelor’s degree in medical science from Wake Forest College in 1949. He received his medical degree from Bowman-Gray School of Medicine in 1953. After completing an internship at the University of Virginia Hospital, he served two years active duty as a medic in the U.S. Air Force at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. McCollum came to Duke as a resident in surgical training in 1956 and completed one year of surgical specialty training prior to beginning orthopedic training. He also spent a year in pediatric orthopedic training at the N.C. Orthopedic Hospital in Gastonia, N.C. He was an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Duke in 1962. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and then professor in 1971. McCollum was active in many professional organizations, including the American Orthopedic Association and the Hip Society, where he served as president in 1989. Although he won numerous honors and has been recognized for his significant contributions to advances and research in arthritis and hip surgery, his dedication to the education of medical students is cited as one of his greatest contributions to Duke. In 1998 he was named professor emeritus of orthopedic surgery after 41 years of service to Duke. After his retirement he served as a consultant at the Veterans Administration Hospital for a year. He completed post-graduate surgical residency at Baylor University, Los Angeles County Hospital and at the Leahy and Overholt Thoracic Clinics in Boston. He retired from the Navy in 1955 and entered private practice for surgery. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and president of the Portsmouth Academy of Medicine. He was active in his community in various organizations. He is survived by his wife Edna Wilkerson McCollum died on April 12, 2006.

Joseph M. Still, Jr., MD, HS’70-’73, died on February 1, 2006, of heart failure. He was 67. A ground-breaking plastic and wound surgeon, he dedicated his professional life to improving the treatment of burn patients. Still founded the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Ga. With the help of Doctors Hospital, he formed the burn unit in 1978 with only one bed. Since then, the burn center has expanded to 58 beds and accepts burn patients from across the Southeast. He also was the driving force in establishing the Southeastern Firefighters’ Burn Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps burn patients and their families deal with non-medical issues. The foundation operates the Shirley Badke Retreat, which is a place for people to stay while their family members are in the burn center. Over the years Still helped finance many of his patients’ college educations. A Charlotte, N.C., native, Still attended Shorter College in Rome, Ga., where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and chemistry. From there he attended the Medical College of Georgia, earning his medical degree in 1965, and completed his residencies at Duke. His medical training included residencies and fellowships in general surgery, plastic surgery, and hand surgery. He was board certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Plastic Surgery. He authored a number of medical articles published throughout the United States and internationally. Still is survived by his wife Sue, 10 children and 18 grandchildren.

Antone Walter Tannehill, Jr., MD’54, DC, died April 3, 2006 at the age of 76, at the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, after an extended illness. He attended Vanderbilt University as an undergraduate and graduated from Duke University School of Medicine in 1954. Following an internship at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital in Richmond, Va., he served two years as a medical officer in the U.S. Air Force. In 1964 he moved to New Orleans, La., for a residency in internal medicine; in 1967 he moved to Tupelo and formed a partnership with Dr. F. L. Lumms; in 1976 the Lumms/Tannehill practice merged with that of Drs. Joe Bailey, Eugene Murphey, and Bill Woods to form Internal Medicine Associates, from which he retired in 1997. He served on many medical mission trips to Central America, Romania, and Cameroon, Africa. He helped to establish the respiratory therapy program at Itawamba Community College in Tupelo and served as medical director from its beginning in 1975 until 1987. He was active in various civic groups. Among his many awards and recognitions were the Laureate Award from the American College of Physicians, and the Tupelo Junior Auxiliary Outstanding Citizen Award. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Diane, WC’53, three sons; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.
There are multiple Duke docs already in mid career who know Dean Wilbur C. Davison, MD, only from a portrait, as the name of a building, or as member of a club established to honor him and to encourage gifts in his name. My personal memory is limited to an encounter when he stopped in the hall to tell my father I was one of Duke's best students, and I was unsure he had any clear idea who I was. I, at least, may have been correct. But memorable he was to all of us students, and at one eulogy he was called—as he himself once described his friend, Sir William Osler—"the most human of human beings I have ever known."

Davison's obvious personal qualities included hard work, optimism, and daring. He was able to attract and keep friends, and it was his oversized spirit that assured his school would join the top 25 percent of medical schools during the first five years of his deanship. Current lists place Duke in the top six of medical schools in America.

How did the persona, the character, of Dean Davison lead to his, and to Duke's remarkable success?

Most obvious, he was an academician, and he cherished learning for a lifetime. Discontented with the necessity for a four-year curriculum in medicine while he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, he appealed for acceleration to Osler, his official mentor. Osler called his wife to meet a "new American colt who is wrecking a medical school tradition," but Davison got his wish, cut out a year, and in the process became a lifetime friend of Osler.

Some scholars are cautious. Not this future dean. In addition to swimming and rowing at both Princeton and Oxford, a trial at ice hockey, at luge, and even on fast motorcycles, Davison's risk taking led to later innovations in education. His reminiscences include more than one example of willingness to take on a job he was not really qualified to do.

After a European trip, Davison came home on the Aquitania, and told this story: "The second day out the ship's surgeon told me that one of the passengers had died and that his family wanted the body embalmed. He didn't know how to do it and asked me to help him. I had never embalmed a body though I had often seen it done. I agreed to help but soon found I had to do the whole job. The body had been stored in ice and was frozen solid. I remembered vaguely that embalming consisted of the intravenous injection of formalin, but I had no idea of the quantity required. My first task was to melt an arm so that I could insert a needle into a vein. I then poured in hot formalin until the body became thawed and the fluid oozed out of the toes. I used six gallons of formalin. I have since learned that a half pint of formalin with three ounces each of glycerin and alcohol in four quarts of water is all that is necessary. I expect that my man is still preserved like Lenin."

By his early 30's Davison had become editor of the Johns Hopkins Bulletin, acting chair of pediatrics at Hopkins, assistant dean, and then revision editor for the leading pediatrics text of the time. His first Pediatric Notes were published during those years, and soon led to his famous and repeatedly reprinted Compleat...
Pediatrician. Thanks to the remarkable Trent Collection at Duke Medical Center Library, started in 1950 with a gift from his dear friend Mrs. Mary Semans, I have read over 100 of his 200 peer-reviewed papers. His early articles are well written scientific tomes about infection, childhood diarrhea, and vaccination, but later notes wax eloquent on how to select students, teach medicine, serve the public, and always speak of Duke, Duke, Duke. Loyal to places and devoted to people, he led both with his famously informal charm.

Davison served as intern for the legendary Osler, became a researcher with Nobel laureate Sir Charles Sherrington, and performed prize-winning laboratory work in bacteriology and vaccine preparation with prominent researchers in both England and America. As human subjects for his research he conned young Rhodes Scholars who were destined to have as illustrious careers as he did. His later guests at Duke included these and the eminent from all over the world. And when they arrived Davison was likely to offer them an experience they would get nowhere else in the world: barbecue at Josh Turnage’s. Perhaps he was so often visited because he was both wise and lovable and great fun to eat with. In Durham, nothing could quite match a trip to Turnage’s, particularly in the presence of a dean in shirtsleeves and loose tie, and not uncommonly accompanied by a somewhat perplexed well-dressed visitor from overseas plus several carefully attired young wives and their tired intern husbands sitting all together at the rough plank table.

In addition to scholarship and friendship—always intertwined for Davison—this son of a Methodist minister never lost the desire to “do good.” His style of cheerful service to state, nation, and university reflected the personality of his mother as much as the ideals of his father.

Said Davison: “I had never known anyone to be more unselfish and solicitous than my mother; she always thought first of the comfort, well being, and happiness of others.”

With respect for the value of youth and with particular interest in character and honesty, qualities which Davison once listed as the greatest of the medical virtues, pediatrician Davison proceeded to build Duke Medical Center. His numerous writings barely hint at all that he had to face: crucial problems in construction, library, curriculum, patient referrals, and financing. His faith in his ability to cope with risk, a superb staff to plunder from Hopkins, and his natural charm and persuasiveness allowed Davison to select department chairs that averaged 35 years of age.

One of Davison’s first articles after being appointed dean at Duke reported “an experiment in liberalizing the curriculum” with increased free time, comprehensive examinations rather than narrow quizzes, and helping the student begin “the process of self-education, which is so necessary for success in medicine.”

The school began during the great Depression. Many schools at the time were trying to mimic the Hopkins model: full-time salaries for all faculty members, with research expected from all. William Anlyan, MD, wrote: “Forced by the austerity of the depression, he and Deryl Hart, MD, conceived the ‘geographic full-time system’ for the attraction and development of the clinical faculty.” Together the Duke doctors could offer multiple consultations in a dignified and expeditious fashion, a Mayo Clinic, with the addition of research and medical students, and located in Durham. The success of the program was acknowledged in the memorial prayer for Davison offered by James T. Cleland, Dean of Chapel, a man chosen by Davison as the recipient of the first Honorary Alumnus Award of the medical school. The prayer included the words: “For his love of medicine: preclinical, clinical, post-clinical, organizational, Where his benevolent despotism molded a great School, and transformed the P.D.C. (Private Diagnostic Clinic) heresy into orthodoxy; We give Thee thanks and praise.”

We can rejoice that this informal and brilliant leader lived to receive ample praise, national awards, and served long enough to savor the success of his beloved school. The school can rejoice that he apparently never considered not devoting 100 percent of his energy and his entire professional life to the place that finally and so clearly bore his stamp.

It is the positive impact of the personality of the Dean on his people that remains most memorable.
With the launch of its new Global Health Institute in March, Duke University made a campus-wide commitment to solving the problem of health disparities locally, nationally, and globally. What challenges do you think differences in culture and wealth bring to the doctor-patient relationship? How has your medical education and community service experience exposed you to these challenges and prepared you to deal with them?

“Physicians tend to come from economic backgrounds in the upper-middle and higher percentiles. Even if they don’t, they attain a new socio-economic status over the course of their education and training as doctors. To that end, it has been my experience that patients tend to think physicians are unrealistic in the goals they set for treatment plans, while physicians tend to think patients are unrealistic for not making their health more of a priority. Having patients from cultural backgrounds different from the physician only adds another layer of complexity...After spending the majority of my life in another country where poverty and illiteracy are more rampant compared to the United States, I’ve realized that as physicians, we ought to deepen our understanding of our patients’ socio-economic and cultural constraints when deciding how best to care for them. This includes not being overly comforted by affirmative answers from patients whom we feel may not completely understand or follow given recommendations.

Ultimately, it is our responsibility to take our patients as they are, and work around not only the patient’s, but also the physician’s limitations, to achieve the best care possible.”

Olujimi Ajijola, MD’06
Lagos, Nigeria

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Olujimi Ajijola, MD’06
Lagos, Nigeria

“The challenges are numerous and daunting! Globally: there is no one system of health care that is funded or compensated in the same manner. Culturally: even once we get past systems issues, people’s fundamental views on health, sickness, life, and death are completely disparate as well. Socioeconomic status: just as difficult to navigate given the continuing trend of wealth being concentrated in the hands of the few...Without a consistent view on a person’s well-being, how do we formulate a system that pleases all, and how do those who have less afford care while allowing those who have more to pay a greater portion for increased offerings? We see these problems everyday on the wards and in the community. I hope my MBA with a concentration in Health Sector Management will help me better understand the issues at hand so that I may help effect change in the future.”

Aravind Chadrashkar, MSIII
Indian Wells, CA

“Truthfully, I think these differences don’t offer any challenge at all (beyond the language thing), if your commitment to serving your patient is strong.”

Anthony Wang, MSIII
Rockville, MD

With the launch of its new Global Health Institute in March, Duke University made a campus-wide commitment to solving the problem of health disparities locally, nationally, and globally. What challenges do you think differences in culture and wealth bring to the doctor-patient relationship? How has your medical education and community service experience exposed you to these challenges and prepared you to deal with them?