



DukeMed AlumniNews

WINTER 2010

How
Duke
Defines
**'CAPABLE OF
BRILLIANCE'**

The Science
of Med School
Admissions

Optimism and Ambition in our New World

The tumultuous economic and financial events of the past 18 months have created unprecedented challenges for medical schools throughout the country. I am extremely proud of everyone associated with the Duke University School of Medicine for coming together and helping us successfully navigate through the acute phase of a seismic change in the environment in which we work.

I recently had the opportunity to share my enthusiasm and ambition for the future of our school with faculty and staff in my annual State of the School address. Moving forward begins by accepting that the environment in which we now work is fundamentally different. It is no longer an anomaly, but is the new norm.

To be sure, the challenges are significant, but

I believe we are uniquely positioned to thrive and become even stronger in what many may view as an impossibly difficult time. There is every reason to believe that through innovation, creativity, collaboration, and a lot of hard work, we can become THE medical school that continues to push ahead while others struggle.

Within the three primary missions of the school—education, research, and patient care—we continue to innovate and differentiate ourselves. Under the leadership of Vice Dean for Education Ed Buckley we are working on creative approaches to interdisciplinary learning, exploration of high-tech teaching methods such as virtual environments and competency-based video gaming, and what we believe to be an entirely unique new Primary Care Leadership Track within the school that we plan to offer students in the 2011 academic year.

All of these initiatives, and others, will be housed in our new Learning Center that is quickly advancing through the planning and architectural design phases. I hope we will be ready to break ground later in 2010. This ultra-modern Learning Center will replace

our antiquated learning spaces and become a hub that brings together all learners on our campus.

Our recognized excellence in research is distinctive because we have strengths across the entire continuum of basic discovery, clinical and translational research, and community and global application. And I believe our research enterprise will continue to flourish, through aggressive efforts to bring people together in new ways, spur greater cross-departmental, institute, and center collaborations, and recruit premier investigators who can catalyze various disciplines around scientific challenges.

The clinical enterprise for which Duke is known nationally and internationally continues to be very strong despite uncertainties related to reimbursement and the open questions about what will become of efforts for healthcare reform.

Holes are being dug, and steel will soon come out of the ground for our new Cancer Center and Duke Medicine Pavilion, both of which will serve to transform Duke's clinical enterprise and enable our renowned clinical faculty to continue improving the lives of our patients.

So, as I said in my address to faculty, I continue to be very optimistic about the future of our school as we adapt for success in the economic environment in which we now live. There is great joy in doing remarkable work in a remarkable place.

Let me just close by saying that the tragic events of the past many weeks in Haiti have served, again, to bring out the best in the people of our school. Responding to the horrific suffering and tragedy there, volunteers from Duke have traveled to Haiti to provide assistance, and our first official Duke medical relief team has just returned from 10 days there.

The medical needs in Haiti will continue to be very serious for a very long time, and I expect we will find other ways to help out in the future. But already our faculty, staff, and students have made a real difference, and I am very proud of their compassionate efforts.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD
Dean, Duke University School of Medicine
Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Professor, Pediatrics
Professor, Pharmacology and Cancer Biology

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IN BRIEF

- Mary E. Klotman, T'76, MD'80, HS'80-'85, will return to Duke this spring as chair of the Department of Medicine.
- R. Sanders "Sandy" Williams, MD'74, HS'77-80, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, will leave Duke in March to become the new president of the J. David Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco.



- More than 600 Duke medical alumni, their families, and friends attended Medical Alumni Weekend in October.
- A committee of 25 alumni will lead the fundraising effort for a new learning center for the School of Medicine.
- The 2009 reunion gift program was a resounding success thanks to generous and dedicated alumni!



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Brenda Armstrong, WC'70, MD, HS'75-'79, has brought scientific rigor to the process of finding potential students who are capable of brilliance to fill the coveted 100 slots in each School of Medicine class.



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DukeMed alums are branching out into alternative careers to make a difference beyond the bedside

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Duke Honors JOHN FEAGIN with Leadership Forum



As team physician at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point from 1967 to '72, John A. Feagin, Jr., MD'61, had almost daily contact with a young and passionate coach named Bobby Knight and his talented point guard Mike Krzyzewski.

by Jim Rogalski

"Those were learning days," Feagin says. "We were young and relatively inexperienced. Coach Knight and I were not always on the same page medically, but he never went against my advice. We had a common love of the game and a winning attitude. I learned a great deal at West Point about leadership qualities."

That knowledge helped him to develop and fine-tune his own leadership style, which enabled him to rise to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army.

But his leadership was not limited to the military. Feagin has inspired generations of orthopedic physicians and trainees at Duke and around the world. He is considered the world's leading authority on cruciate ligaments and a pioneer in the practice of joint

replacement surgery and sports medicine. He is a former team physician for the U.S. Olympic Ski Team and has led multiple medical mission trips around the world, most notably to Cuba where he helped to establish three arthroscopic surgery training centers. Last year he took 40 U.S. surgeons to Cuba for a week to train Cuban surgeons in minimally invasive surgery.

In October, Feagin—the chief of Orthopedic Services at the Durham VA Medical Center from 1989-99—was honored by Duke for his contributions to the University and its Department of Athletics, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, and Duke Sports Medicine with the inaugural two-day John A. Feagin, Jr., MD, Leadership Forum.

"My passion and calling in life has been teaching and trying to help people move up the chain," Feagin says. "My dad was a career Air Force pilot and I was exposed to great mentors while growing up. Good leadership was all around me."

His respect for leadership and medicine is poignantly exemplified by a 1966 incident in Vietnam. Every Saturday the then-U.S. Army Major would travel outside his unit's zone of

security to perform hand and foot surgeries at a colony of 300 lepers. One week he decided to visit his patients on a Tuesday.

"I walked in the room and immediately saw a North Vietnamese major with a pistol in his holster taking care of the same patients I was taking care of," Feagin says. "We nodded at each other and I departed rapidly, backing out the door. The thing that went through my mind was not fear, but the camaraderie of the medical profession. I felt respect for him."

In addition to the forum, the John A. Feagin, Jr., MD, International Leadership Endowment was created to provide leadership training to the Duke University community with emphasis on international collaborations for Duke Sports Medicine fellows, orthopedic surgery residents, medical students, and undergraduates.

"Dr. Feagin epitomizes what a physician-leader can be," says **Dean C. Taylor, MD'85, HS'87-'89**, a Duke professor of orthopedic surgery, team physician for the Duke men's basketball team, and director of the Duke Sports Medicine Fellowship Program. "He studies a problem and brings together the people needed to solve it. He has had a strong influence on a lot of people, both here and in the international community."

Feagin was the first active-duty U.S. Army officer (Lieutenant) to attend medical school. After graduating West Point in 1955, Lieutenant Feagin was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C. Convinced of the need for experienced line officers in the medical service, he gained approval from the Department of the Army to take a leave of absence, without pay, to attend medical school. He graduated from Duke University School of Medicine in 1961 and returned to the Army.

He performed his residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he established himself as a uniquely gifted young surgeon. Subsequently he served as Commander of Keller Army Hospital at West Point and became known for his compassion and commitment to his patients, and as a role model for the countless young physicians he mentored.

In 1971 he was elected a Fellow in the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; in 1972 he was a founding member of the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine; and in 1974 he co-wrote a seminal study on the treatment of anterior cruciate ligament injuries that was published in the American Journal of Sports Medicine. The article revolutionized procedures for recovery and rehabilitation of ACL injuries.

"I owe everything to Dean (Wilburt C.) Davison and the culture of Duke," Feagin says. "I came to Duke in hopes of being a good doctor, and Dr. Davison inspired all of us with this and more—to be better than we ever thought we could be."

About 200 people attended the October leadership forum, some traveling from as far as Austria and Switzerland to honor Feagin. The event featured seminars on topics including ACL injury and prevention; how leaders build effective teams; the importance of morals and ethics in team building;

"I came to Duke in hopes of being a good doctor, and Dr. Davison inspired all of us with this and more—to be better than we ever thought we could be."

and how humor can help build effective teams. Speakers included Krzyzewski; the Rev. Richard P. Camp, Jr., the former head chaplain of the U.S. Military Academy; and 1958 Heisman Trophy winner Brigadier General Peter M. Dawkins (U.S. Army retired).

Upon retirement from Duke in 1999 he moved to Vail, Colo. He is married to Martha Head and has three grown children: **Randle, T'83; Nancy, E'87; and Robert, T'96.** ♥



John Feagin during his military career



John Feagin and his wife, Marty Head