'And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche," wrote Geoffrey Chaucer more than 600 years ago. He was describing the scholar, one of the pilgrims populating his Canterbury Tales. But he might have been describing any of the scholars—the scientists and academic clinicians—who work today at DMS and DHMC.

Their zest for what they do is so keen that one member of the faculty wrote, in a recent essay for a scientific journal, that "it's kind of difficult for me to call what I do 'work,' since I enjoy it so much." That passage is quoted in this issue's "Faculty Focus" profile—see page 52. The essay's author (and the profile's subject), endocrinologist Murray Korc, is so passionate about what he does that he wanted to title his essay "The Ectasy of Discovery." That was a little over the top for the editors of the journal that was publishing the piece, however, so he had to settle for "The Joy of Discovery.

But call it "joy" or "ectasy" or a "gladly" spirit. Call it "discovery" or "research" or "learning." And "education" or "training" or "teaching." Whatever you call it, there is something enormously stimulating about an environment where knowledge is being generated and transferred.

In fact, it's that very capacity—to constantly expand on what we know, and then transmit it to the next generation—that sets humans apart from all other species. Birds still fly, and teach their young how to flap their wings, exactly the same way they did in the Middle Ages. Horses today lope, and nudge their foals to their feet, no differently than what we do "gladly." Actually, though, I'm gratified daily by the opportunity to work with Laura and the magazine's senior writer, Jen Durgin, and assistant editor, Matt Wiencke—by their commitment to solid reporting, sparkling prose, and dogged fact-checking.

And I'm gratified, too, by the contact with the "learning" and "teaching" done at DMS and DHMC. In fact, I don't think I can put it any better than Murray Korc did: "It's kind of difficult for me to call what I do 'work,' since I enjoy it so much."