



If there's a pattern in the letters in this issue, it has to be "fortuity." What are the chances, for example, that a longtime faculty member who landed in the ER in a tiny town in the mountains of Colorado would be cared for by a DMS alumnus? Or that the first Dartmouth team to arrive in Haiti after its magnitude 7.0 earthquake would immediately run into a residency alum? Or that a Dartmouth College alum's wife would stumble upon a 1962 magazine article just as our Spring issue arrived, containing a feature on a subject very similar to the 48-year-old clipping? Luckily for the rest of our readers, all three took the time to share word of these coincidences. And a number of other readers wrote in, too.

Crowing about a DMS "product"

Imagine this scenario: This past February, on a skiing trip in Colorado, I began feeling ill our first evening above 5,000 feet. Things seemed to be getting worse, and I eventually found myself in the Emergency Room of St. Anthony Summit Medical Center in Frisco, Colo.

The care was both prompt and excellent, and soon it became clear that I was having a bout of altitude sickness. After a moment or two, a robust, friendly doctor came into my cubicle, looked at my chart and then at me, and blurted, "I know you—you're Harte Crow, you're from Dartmouth."

It turned out the physician staffing the St. Anthony ER that evening was Marshall Denkin, DMS '87. I'll admit that I don't know how our paths had crossed in the past, nor do I

We're always glad to hear from readers—whether it's someone weighing in about an article in a past issue or someone asking to be on our mailing list for future issues. We are happy to send DARTMOUTH MEDICINE—on a complimentary basis, to addresses in the U.S.—to anyone interested in the subjects we cover. Both subscription requests and letters to the editor may be sent to: Editor, DARTMOUTH MEDICINE, 1 Medical Center Drive (HB 7070), Lebanon, NH 03756 or DartMed@Dartmouth.edu. Letters for publication may be edited for clarity, length, or the appropriateness of the subject matter.

know much about Marshall's career since DMS, but I was more than glad to find him at the helm that evening.

It's clear from my experience that DMS has good reason to be proud of this product—a competent, direct, and efficient physician. So if you find yourself in need of medical care in Summit County, Colorado, don't hesitate to seek it at St. Anthony—maybe you'll be as lucky as I was and run into Marshall Denkinger.

HARTE C. CROW, M.D.
Etna, N.H.

Crow, a professor of radiology, has been at Dartmouth since 1971.

Magnitude of relief effort

I was very pleased to read "Dartmouth commits to the earthquake relief effort in Haiti" in the Spring issue of DARTMOUTH MEDICINE (see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp10/v02).

I was a member of a team of emergency physicians and nurses from Stanford that traveled to Haiti under the auspices of the International Medical Corps. When Dartmouth's Dr. Jim Geiling and the DHMC nurses arrived at the University Hospital in Port-au-Prince, we were struggling to manage all the critically

injured and ill victims with very limited resources.

The Dartmouth team jumped in to establish a tented "ICU" (they were given possession of the few oxygen bottles), and Jim volunteered to help out with other critical-care patients and postoperative patients and with the general organization of the compound.

In my role as lead physician coordinating the activities of all the nongovernmental organizations, hospital administrators, university volunteers, and military and other entities attempting to establish a functional medical center, I can say in all honesty that the magnitude and quality of the effort, fortitude, and compassion demonstrated by the Dartmouth clinicians were not exceeded by any other group. The Big Green contingent accepted a tough assignment and then stepped up big time.

It was our great privilege to work alongside Dr. Geiling and company. One can only hope that world leaders bring similar collaboration, work ethic, and generosity to building a sustainable Haiti.

PAUL S. AUERBACH, M.D.
DHMC HOUSESTAFF '77-78
Los Altos, Calif.

Paeon to the poems

I want to compliment you on your magazine for its content, art, news—everything. I have been a reader for 10 years, ever since my first DHMC surgery by Dr. Michael Mayor. At first I used to just scan the magazine for news of Dr. Mayor or Dr. Barth (a later surgeon, for my breast cancer). I remember when Dr. Barth received an award for being a compassionate surgeon!

The most recent issue I read cover to cover. I especially enjoyed the poetry in "Through the Clouds" (see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp10/f01), and I cut out the article titled "Working Wonders" (see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp10/f02) to send to my psychiatrist son. I'm looking forward to the next issue.

BARBARA GOSS
Underhill, Vt.

Two compliments, one quibble

I enjoyed the Spring 2010 Editor's Note about C.P. Snow (see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp10/e01). Snow is an old favorite of mine. His novels about life at Cambridge seem not to be read much anymore, but *The Two Cultures* has survived. It's a great essay, although I think it's a little much to think that all scientists should know the sonnets of Shakespeare and all humanists should know the second law of thermodynamics. The discussion reminds me of the French *philosophes* who used mathematical formulas to "prove" that science was "just another social construct."

I also enjoyed the poetry in the same issue. I couldn't help but wonder how you identify the people who write poetry for the



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substandard drugs. Every fake drug is substandard, but not every substandard drug is fake."

And regarding Shillock's observation about the availability of cell phones in the developing world, Gogo wrote: "The cell phone is now ubiquitous in Africa. It only takes one trip to the continent to realize how widely available mobile communications have become, providing the backbone upon which solutions such as the one described in the article can be deployed. For those who can't make the trip, a Google search shows that Nairobi, Kenya, sends more text messages than New York City."

Wait, wait . . . tell me more

I happened to stumble on the article "Blood draw waiting times drop dramatically" in the Spring issue of DARTMOUTH MEDICINE (see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp10/v01).

I have been researching the improvement of lab wait times and patient flow at our hospital and would like to know more about the project at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. I am curious to know, for example, how your lab collected the data on average wait times, if there is a relationship between the wait time and the time of day the patient arrives, and if you factored into your calculations the time it takes to get a patient registered.

Actually, your entire magazine was quite fascinating. Excellent job!

MONA ADAN
Toronto, Ontario

It is not always possible for the subjects of articles in DARTMOUTH MEDICINE to respond to individual

queries. But we're always glad to pass along questions such as these, so if readers are interested in more information on a matter we've covered, feel free to give us a try.

A long-distance acquaintance

I am always glad to receive my copy of DARTMOUTH MEDICINE even though my connection with DHMC is at present somewhat tenuous. A few years ago, I had a very successful carotid operation by your magnificent vascular surgeon Dr. Robert Zwolak. I then used to return to Hanover periodically for a recheck of my artery. But now my vision makes it well-nigh impossible to drive 300 miles.

But I enjoy keeping up my acquaintance with a fine medical center through your very informative magazine.

DONALD R. HART, JR.
Salisbury, Conn.

Moved by the magazine

I have not read DARTMOUTH MEDICINE in depth in the past but started to read the Spring issue and have not been able to put it down.

I'd love you to add my son—a DMS '99 and '99-05 DHMC resident—to your mailing list. I

know he is quite busy because of that fantastic medical education he received, but it will keep him in touch with colleagues and with what's happening at DMS. I asked him if he receives the magazine, and he said he does not. I told him there was an article in the Spring issue about one of his best friends, Dr. Philip Goodney. Thanks so much.

KEITH THOMAS
Chester, N.J.

We assured Thomas that, as an alum, his son should automatically receive DARTMOUTH MEDICINE. But it turns out that after a recent move, his son was apparently too focused on his patients (not a bad thing!) to let DMS know his new address, so that's why he had not been receiving the magazine (or any other DMS mail). So a reminder to all alums, or their perhaps slightly less-busy parents, to let us (either the magazine or the alumni office) know whenever you move.

Touched by the care

I very much enjoy your magazine and would like to be on your mailing list.

In January 2002, my grandson was born three months early at DHMC. Ashton weighed 1 lb.,

15 oz. Thanks to the doctors and nurses in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Ashton today is a happy, healthy, active 8-year-old.

In December 2008, DHMC gave my son-in-law a new lease on life. Danny desperately needed a kidney. It was an answer to our prayers when a donor was found immediately. My daughter-in-law (Ashton's mom, in fact) was a match. Not only are Danny and Samatha no blood relation, but they are of different ethnic backgrounds. What are the chances of that happening?! Today both Danny and Samatha are doing great, thanks to the transplant team and the doctors and nurses at DHMC.

We are so blessed to have DHMC located here in the Upper Valley.

VELMA LORD
Cornish, N.H.

Inspired by the insights

I have in front of me the Spring 2008 issue of DARTMOUTH MEDICINE. It was given to me because I am an admirer of the poetry of Jane Kenyon and Donald Hall. Your cover story about them (see dartmed.dartmouth.edu/sp08/102), with its excellent photographs by Jon Gilbert Fox and text by Susan Salter Reynolds, is truly comforting and inspirational.

Your entire magazine is exceptional. I'd like very much to be on your mailing list.

PATRICIA L. WALKER
Bloomfield, Conn.

We're happy to add to our mailing list anyone who is interested in the subjects that we cover. See the box on page 20 for details. ■