HE’S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW

Dr. C. Everett Koop has racked up oodles of honors and awards over the years. The U.S. surgeon general from 1982 to 1989, he has racked up lots of years, too. A Dartmouth College ’37 and a member of the DMS faculty since 1992, Koop turned 93 on October 14. The day before his birthday, he received one more tribute—honorary fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSE), in recognition of the fact that before being named surgeon general he was a pioneering pediatric surgeon. Dr. John Orr, the RCSE’s president, traveled to Hanover to bestow the honor in person. A.S.

From the left are Dartmouth President Jim Yong Kim, honoree C. Everett Koop, presenter John Orr of the Royal College, and DMS Dean Bill Green.

KIDNEY SWAP MAKES HISTORY

If someone you loved was in urgent need of a kidney, you might well donate one of yours. That’s exactly what a man from Milford, N.H., wanted to do for his brother. But unfortunately, the brothers weren’t a match for each other. Thanks to a four-way swap, however, the Milford man’s brother got a new kidney, while his own was transplanted into a stranger. Two more willing donors and grateful recipients completed the complex cascade.

Paired kidney exchanges aren’t new; the first one was done at Johns Hopkins in 2001. But the New Hampshire brothers—whose surgeries were done at Dartmouth-Hitchcock—were part of one of the nation’s first multihospital paired exchanges. The first, involving three institutions, took place in February 2009. The July 15 swap that included DHMC was the first to involve four institutions; the other three were Yale-New Haven Hospital and Boston’s Beth Israel Deaconess and Brigham and Women’s Hospitals. R.E.G.

Inauguration was colorful, solemn, festive, diverse

Colorful, certainly. Solemn, for sure. Thought-provoking, absolutely. Festive, no question. And diverse—oh, yes, definitely diverse.

There are lots of adjectives one might apply to the two days of inauguration festivities celebrating Dr. Jim Yong Kim’s assumption of the Dartmouth presidency, but diverse is one that definitely belongs on the list.

Office: For starters, there is the fact that Kim became the first Asian-American president in the Ivy League when he took office on July 1. He’s also the first M.D. to hold the Dartmouth presidency (in addition, he has a Ph.D. in anthropology).

Then there’s the fact that the attendees at the September 21 and 22 inauguration events ranged from purple-haired guests of honor, and their garb from shorts and sundresses to blue blazers and Chanel suits.

The diversity of the events themselves ran deep, too, comprising in essence a syllabus of the liberal arts. An afternoon panel discussion focused on “leadership for social change.” An evening event celebrated Dartmouth’s strength in the arts.

And the inauguration itself included a diversity of music—from an honor song performed by Dartmouth’s powwow drum group, to the spiritual “My Lord What a Morning” sung by the Dartmouth Glee Club; of tradi-

Kim (left) was joined on the dais by a number of dignitaries, including (front row, from Kim’s left) Dartmouth’s outgoing president, James Wright; Ruth Simmons, president of Kim’s undergraduate alma mater, Brown University; New Hampshire’s governor, John Lynch; and Paul Farmer, a Harvard Medical School classmate of Kim’s.

VITAL SIGNS

A BIG HAND FOR EAR FEAT

For a journal article still celebrated as a milestone half a century after its publication, it bears a downright unassuming title: “Total reconstruction of the external ear.” Shouldn’t such a significant treatise contain the word “breakthrough”? Or at least a few polysyllabic medical terms?

But the author of that article wouldn’t have had it any other way. Dr. Radford Tanzer, a member of the DMS faculty from 1937 until his death at age 97 in 2003, may have figured out how to replace a missing external ear. And that feat may have earned him the first standing ovation ever granted a presenter at a meeting of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. Yet Tanzer was a soft-spoken stickler for detail who focused on his work, not on the glory it brought him.

So he might have been embarrassed by the encomiums heaped upon him during the Radford C. Tanzer, M.D., Plastic Surgery Symposium, held in October to mark the 50th anniversary of his landmark article. But he’d surely have been pleased that surgeons came from around the world to attend the event—and that the program made note of his “qualities of integrity, humility, and passion.”

A.S.

ALL THE WORLD’S A VILLAGE

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes engineers, accountants, and social scientists—not just medical professionals—to treat the sick and prevent disease worldwide. That’s the premise behind the new Dartmouth Global Health Initiative. DMS and Dartmouth’s Dickey Center for International Understanding are overseeing the program, to which the National Institutes of Health recently awarded $250,000.

It will involve the development of new curricular offerings for undergraduate and graduate students, overseas research opportunities, and symposia on global health. Students who complete a series of courses will be eligible to receive a Certificate in Global Health.

“The problems of global health are complex,” says DMS’s Dr. Lisa Adams. “We need to be providing a knowledge base to a wide range of professionals.” She and DMS’s Dr. Ford von Reyn will head the program, which will begin with a course in spring term on Essentials in Global Health Research. An elective on child health and survival, geared to medical students but open to all Dartmouth students, is also in the works, as is a conference also slated for this spring.

D.C.