

ALL HEART: Leonard Decato of Lebanon, N.H., collapsed as he stepped off an elevator at DHMC on June 3 and woke up the next day—he'd had a heart attack. He was so impressed with his care that he made a gift to DHMC in honor of his doctors.



A PATHOLOGIST AND A PIPER

Each Class Day ceremony at DMS has begun the same way for the past six years—with the rich, harmonic tones of bagpipes. Two DMS alumni, James Feeney and Travis Matheny, started the tradition at their own graduation in 2000, leading the academic procession as they played a self-composed piece titled “DMS 2000: Into the New Millennium.” The two pipers returned for the next four years, despite their hectic residency schedules.



But this year, when the two alums weren't able to get to Hanover for the ceremony, Dr. James AuBuchon, who has been piping for 46 years, gladly dusted off his pipes and donned his kilt. Since AuBuchon is chair of the Department of Pathology and so usually attends Class Day anyway, the new role “just meant that I wore two different costumes that day instead of one,” he says. After he led the faculty in—as shown in the photograph at left—he donned his academic robe and sat with his colleagues.

The Office of Student Affairs, though grateful to AuBuchon, hopes to bring Feeney and Matheny back in 2006. J.D.

RX: NO MORE PAPER PADS

You think you've got trouble reading your doctor's handwriting? Just think about the poor pharmacist who has to decipher it in order to fill a prescription.

But pharmacists at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center don't have to worry about clinicians' poor handwriting any more. A few months ago, DHMC began requiring its health-care providers to “e-prescribe” medications. Now clinicians review, enter, manage, and sign prescriptions by computer.



“We do e-prescribing to minimize and decrease the great potential for medication errors,” explains Andrew Gettinger, M.D., associate medical director of DHMC.

Not only does the computerized system eliminate problems caused by illegible handwriting or confusing abbreviations, but it will also allow each prescription to be electronically checked for appropriate dosage, interactions with other medications, and patient allergies.

DHMC patients will still get a paper copy of their prescriptions, however—as a legible computer printout. L.S.C.

New students: 210 matriculants in 8 programs

They came from far and wide and have traveled to the four corners of the earth, but now they are embarking on a common journey—through Dartmouth Medical School. This year's incoming students arrived in Hanover from 29 states and 17 different countries—including Armenia, Bulgaria, China, Russia, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The new students have also traveled widely. Many M.D. students have circled the globe not as tourists but as volunteers. Brian Thomas spent a summer caring for orphaned children in Haiti. James Sherwood was a volunteer English teacher in China. And R. Mitchell Ermentrout served as an interpreter for a clinic in Nicaragua.

But many gained valuable experience stateside as well. Justine Hutchinson, a graduate student in pharmacology and toxicology, spent the last two years testing the potency of a cancer vaccine at a biotech company in California. And Darcy Arendt, an M.D. student, worked as a cardiovascular monitoring technician.

M.D. program: The 82 M.D. students have a wealth of experience in nonmedical fields, too. Broc Burke believes that his work as an engineer, building and launching satellites, has given him a “finely tuned analytical approach to problems.” Planning to pursue a career in medicine, Nishan Kugan chose business as his undergraduate major because he wanted to “understand the economical dynamics of the health-care world.” When Kath-

ryn Noyes wasn't volunteering in community health clinics, she was working as a ski instructor in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Brittany Sehn assisted with autopsies in the Ohio State University Hospital morgue but also worked in an ice cream shop, scooping up gourmet flavors like Thai Chili.

And despite the highest aver-

Some Statistics About the New Students

M.D. Program

Applicants

More than 4,500

Matriculants

82

M.D.-Ph.D. Program

Matriculants

4

Ph.D. Programs in the Biomedical Sciences

Matriculants

Molecular & Cellular Biology

30

Pharmacology & Toxicology

10

Physiology

5

Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences

Matriculants

M.S. Program

24

M.P.H. Program

48

Ph.D. Program

7

age combined score ever on the Medical College Admission Test, the M.D. students aren't all work and no play. They profess to enjoying martial arts, mountain biking, skiing, fly-fishing, and even brewing beer.

Some are talented performing artists, too. Kristina Hennessey-Severson, a 2002 graduate of Dartmouth College, directed an *a cappella* group. Judy Lin founded a Pan-Asian dance troupe. Tim Huang is an accomplished classical musician, having placed in several competitions. And during the Broadway show *Cats*, Gerard Carroll received a standing ovation for a performance of another kind—he successfully performed CPR on an ailing audience member!

Half of the M.D. students are women, and 30% are of color or international origin.

Other programs: In addition to the M.D. Class of 2009, the crop of new DMS students includes 79 who began graduate studies in the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences and 45 who entered the doctoral programs in the biomedical sciences—molecular and cellular biology, pharmacology and toxicology, and physiology.

Regardless of the program the students are entering, they all seem eager to begin this journey. Mary Schwab, who just began the graduate program in physiology, says she is “looking forward to her new life as a graduate student,” while new M.D. student Haitham Ahmed hopes that “everybody is as excited as I am to be at DMS this year!”

KRISTEN GARNER

Q: When is a desk more than a desk? A: Read on . . .

In 1877, a group of Dartmouth undergraduates presented the retiring College president—the Reverend Asa Dodge Smith, an 1830 graduate of Dartmouth—with a special gift: a “Wooten cabinet secretary,” a fancy name for a very fancy desk. With its “110 compartments, all under one lock and key,” the desk created a system in which “order can be obtained, confusion avoided, time saved, vexation spared,” as a Wooten Desk Company advertisement put it.

President Smith passed the desk onto his son, Dr. William Thayer Smith, DMS 1879 and dean of the Medical School from 1896 to 1909. Dean Smith, in turn, gave the desk to his son, Thayer Adams Smith, DC 1910. Even though Thayer

Smith's children included five DC grads, one DMS grad, and three doctors, when he died in 1973 his children decided the desk should go back to Dartmouth. Today, the elaborate “cabinet secretary” is on display in a central hallway of the DMS dean's office, for all to enjoy. J.D.



Made of black walnut, with poplar shelves and burl-walnut, satinwood, and curly-maple veneers, this elaborate desk once belonged to Dr. William Thayer Smith, dean of DMS.



XCH LIBERTY/NOI-TTY

