

FACTS & FIGURES

Women in white

Community and responsibility were Class Day themes

To a casual observer, the Medical School's 2007 Class Day celebration might have looked like lots of pomp and spectacle. Kilted bagpipers and robed marshals led the faculty and soon-to-be graduates into a grand tent towering over Derzon Courtyard on the Hanover campus.

But at its core, the event was down-to-earth. The speeches focused not on self-congratulation but on the ability and responsibility of medical professionals to serve their communities. "Excellence and service," in the words of Dr. Stephen Spielberg, DMS's dean, were the central themes of the day.

Keynote: The keynote speaker, Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr., the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins, echoed those themes—and defined success as uplifting all the people in a community—as he told a story from his own career. In 1997, he led a team that separated conjoined twins in a 28-hour operation at the only black teaching hospital in South Africa. After the surgery, Carson said, "one of the twins popped his eyes open and reached up to the endotracheal tube, and [a little while later] the other one did the same thing . . . and today they are graduating the fifth grade."

But the real success, he continued, was "the reaction of the people who had been there following so closely something being done in their country and



The DMS Class of 1965 boasted two women—one of whom is front and center, in white, in this class photograph—and 46 men.

1849

Year Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to graduate from a U.S. medical school

1852

Year DMS denied admission to Blackwell's sister, Emily

1962

Year Valerie Leval became the first woman to graduate from DMS

2

Number of women in the DMS Class of 1965

1987

First year the entering DMS class had over 50% women

48.6%

Percentage of women entering all U.S. medical schools in 2006

56.2%

Percentage of women entering DMS in this fall's Class of 2011



Four decades later, the Class of 2011 has 41 women and 32 men.

SOURCES: DMS, ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

FLYING SQUIRREL GRAPHICS

community. Their level of self-esteem was so high, they were literally dancing in the streets." That, said Carson, is true success. It's the ability "to elevate other people [that produces] real fulfillment in life."

He called on the graduates to be leaders in solving such problems as lack of access to affordable medical care. "I don't think there is anyone more capable . . . than people in the medical field, because we have more education than anyone else in society," he said. "We have to come up with solutions. We cannot leave it to others."

After a standing ovation for Carson, medical student Kevin Desrosiers and graduate student Cary Boyd followed with rousing speeches of their own. Desrosiers recalled his motivation for entering medical school—"the ideal of helping other people cope with illness"—and encouraged his classmates to reflect on their own reasons for entering medicine. Consider, he urged them, "how our work has impacted the patients that we have already cared for, and how they have impacted us."

Moral: Boyd emphasized "the moral responsibility we have as doctors, scientists, and educators to be sensitive to the burden of shame" associated with mental disorders and diseases such as AIDS and SARS. The treatment of disease cannot be effective until shame is alleviated, she said. "Obtaining our degrees obligates us to break the silence." (See page 25 for this issue's Student Notebook essay, which is adapted from Boyd's Class Day talk.)

Awarded this year were 54 M.D.'s; 24 Ph.D.'s (eight in biochemistry, six in microbiology-immunology, three in pharmacology-toxicology, four in physiology, and three in the evaluative clinical sciences); 25 M.S.'s (one in microbiology-immunology and 24 in the evaluative clinical sciences); and 46 M.P.H. degrees.

Top: As always, the recipients of the top prizes were announced at Class Day. The Dean's Medal went to Julianne Mann; the Strohbehn Medal to Elizabeth Harris, who earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry; and the Good Physician Award to Brian Porter. See the adjacent box for the other prizes awarded to '07s.

In addition, the M.D. graduates chose the recipients of three major teaching awards: the Basic Science Teaching Award went to Dr. Brian Catlin of anatomy; the Clinical Science Teaching Award to Dr. Catherine Pipas of community and family medicine; and the Thomas P. Almy House-staff Teaching Award to Dr. Todd Burdette, a surgery resident who only three years ago was graduating from DMS himself.

The festivities ended with language professor John Rassias chanting the Hippocratic Oath in Greek, followed by the medical students, led by Dean Spielberg, reciting it in English.

As the 149 graduates filed out of the tent, they were no doubt mulling over Carson's words: "Entering the field of medicine and medical sciences, when you really stop and think about it, is there anything more important?"

KELLEY MECK

Class of 2007 Prizes and Awards



Dean's Medal Julianne Mann

Good Physician Award Brian Porter

John W. Strohbehn Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research
Elizabeth Harris

Frederic P. Lord Award in Anatomy Kenton Powell

American Academy of Neurology Prize Casey Olm-Shipman

E. Elizabeth French Pathology Award Derek Jenkins

Department of Anesthesiology Award Peter Killoran

Department of Medicine Award Brian Porter

Dr. Freddie Fu Orthopaedic Surgery Award Derek Jenkins

Saul Blatman Award for Excellence in Maternal and Child Health
Casey Olm-Shipman

New England Pediatric Society Award Cara Haberman

Department of Psychiatry Award Cara Haberman

Harte C. Crow Radiology Award Stacey Crawford

AMWA Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citation Julianne Mann

Arthur Naitove Surgical Scholar Award Theodore Yuo

Dartmouth-Mosenthal Surgical Society Jennie Baek, Erik Bergquist,
Scott Faucett, C. Luke Rust, Gregory Sawyer, Scott Tobis

Julian and Melba Jarrett Memorial Prize Theodore Yuo

C. Everett Koop Courage Award Debraj Mukherjee

Merck Manual Awards Stephanie Black, Kevin Desrosiers,
Jonathan Huntington, Roy Wade

Payson-Hampers M.D.-M.B.A. Scholars Award Stacey Crawford

John F. Radebaugh Community Service Award Christopher Jons

Rolf C. Syvertsen Fellow Brian Porter

Rolf C. Syvertsen Scholars Peter Killoran, Jonathan Huntington

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award Christopher Jons

John and Sophia Zaslow Prize Meghan McCoy

Douglas P. Zipes Research Prize in Medicine Loc Nguyen

Hitchcock Foundation Student Research Prize
Casey Olm-Shipman, Theodore Yuo

Rural Health Scholar Awards Stephanie Black,
Sandra Maruszak, Adam Templeton





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ALL: RYAN SQUIRE GRAPHICS

THEN & NOW

A reminder of the pace of change, and of timeless truths, from a 2000 booklet about Dr. Rolf Syvertsen, DMS's dean from 1945 to 1960:

"Steve Zaslow '58 tells a story illustrating how Sy also taught by example: 'It was the Asian flu epidemic of 1958. I had to go to [the student infirmary after falling ill]. . . . An hour after I was admitted, Dean Syvertsen popped in. I was amazed that he visited me. When he left, . . . I cried. It was then that I realized my vulnerability, sickness, and need for support. That one-minute visit taught me the power and influence of the physician to comfort and reassure. . . . It's a lesson that comes home to me repeatedly.'"



232

Number of hours DMS students now spend learning the art of patient care in the On Doctoring course



7



8



9



10



11

The skies were leaden but the mood upbeat at Dartmouth Medical School's 2007 Class Day ceremonies. Among those reveling in the festivities were 1 Rebecca Hurley, left, who did her doctoral research in the lab of biochemist Lee Witters, right; 2 a gaggle of gowned master's degree students, including 3 Sajida Kimambo, who was adding an M.P.H. to her M.D.; 4 and, presiding over the occasion, DMS Dean Stephen Spielberg. Among the 54 graduates who were granted M.D.'s were, 5 from the left, Kevin Desrosiers, Jennie Baek, and Scott Tobis, as well as 6 Julianne Mann, this year's winner of the Dean's Medal. 7 Noted neurosurgeon Benjamin Carson delivered the keynote address, and 8 bagpipers James Feeney, left, and Travis Matheney, right, both members of the DMS Class of 2000, lent a solemn note to the procession. But it was conviviality that ruled the day for 9 Dorothea Torti and Allen Tong, 10 M.D. class marshal Jamie Bessich, and 10 Loc Nguyen and Ted Yuo.