

CLINICAL OBSERVATION

math on the male-female ratios at both schools: At tiny DMS, she constituted 4% of her class; Harvard, six times larger, still had only 4% women.

She took three years to finish at Harvard. Partway through, she married a fellow student and had a baby. "I would probably have dropped out then, but my husband pushed me to finish," she says. In 1965, she and her husband, Dr. William Graham, and their one-year-old moved to New Mexico. There, she completed a rotating internship and residency. In 1969, the Grahams moved to Charlotte, Vt. Valerie Graham had two more children and for 20 years taught medical students and nursing students at the University of Vermont.

Mark: According to the Hippocratic Oath, she notes, "doctors pledge to freely pass on their knowledge to those learning the profession. In medicine, I think my major contribution was teaching." So that long-ago aptitude test was on the mark in revealing her proficiency in medicine *and* teaching.

Graham was concerned that not a single woman was in the class after hers. But "a lot of them came after I was gone," she recalls. In 1962, two women matriculated. And the numbers kept climbing.

The rest, as they say, truly is history. In 1987, DMS admitted a class with 49 women and 35 men. That ratio of 58% women made DMS, as far as is known, the first U.S. medical school not historically a women-only school to pass the 50/50 mark.

ROSEMARY LUNARDINI

In this section, we highlight the human side of clinical academic medicine, putting a few questions to a physician at DMS-DHMC.

John Nutting, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics

Nutting specializes in upper extremity surgery, especially of the shoulder, as well as sports medicine and reconstructive surgery. He joined the DMS faculty in 1986.

What made you decide to become a physician?

When I was a student at Johns Hopkins, I was working in the basement at the Baltimore Cancer Research Center doing experiments on mice with tumors. One day the primary investigator asked me if I wanted to see oncology patients at Hopkins Hospital who were getting some of the chemotherapeutic agents we were using to fight tumors. So I went up into the light of the hospital and thought, "I'd rather do this than hang with mice down in the basement."

How did you become interested in your specialty?

The decision to do surgery versus medicine was pretty easy. I love to operate. The decision about what subspecialty to do in surgery was harder because I liked so many of them. I realized that orthopaedics is a happy field, if you will, in that

most people have had a bump in the road, you help them get through it, and for the most part they go back to their preinjury status.

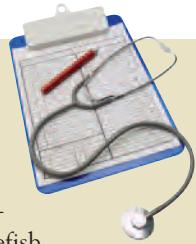
What do you like most about your job?

The people. My patients and the people with whom I work. My partners, as well as the residents and all the folks who work in our department, are really hard-working, good people.

What's your favorite nonwork activity?

I like to do stand-up paddle board and windsurf.

I also cycle and row a shell. In the winter, I ski and skate. And I also like to paint—watercolors, especially of bluefish.



What kind of music do you listen to most?

I listen to music whenever I can, whether it's in the operating room or at home. I like John Prine, Nancy Griffith, 6 Day Bender, James Taylor, and Alison Krauss.

What three people would you most like to have to dinner?

My two kids and [international health expert] Paul Farmer—because he has successfully done what I would like to do, and he has devoted himself to it.

What is your most memorable accomplishment?

My colleague Mike Sparks and I were involved in a seven-year project in Kosovo. We traveled there regularly to help to rebuild orthopaedics after the NATO bombing; we taught the orthopaedic surgeons there and supplied approximately five million dollars' worth of donated equipment. And this past January, we made an initial entrée into Rwanda, where we're trying to figure out a way to help them take care of folks with musculoskeletal problems. The way we think will be most helpful is to start at the village health center level, teaching them primary musculoskeletal care.

Where would you most like to travel?

Vietnam. My dad fought in Vietnam, and I feel as though that was an important place in my history when I was growing up. I've actually talked about going there with my dad at some point, but it hasn't happened yet.

What was your first paying job?

I was a lifeguard at a country club in Virginia and taught swimming lessons for little kids.

What about you would surprise most people?

A lot of kids think I look like I'm either mad or mean because of my mustache. I think what would surprise most people is that behind this big, bushy mustache, I'm usually smiling.