SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

# Alumni Weekend

## CLASS OF 1976

# Memory Book










ALUMNI
THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY



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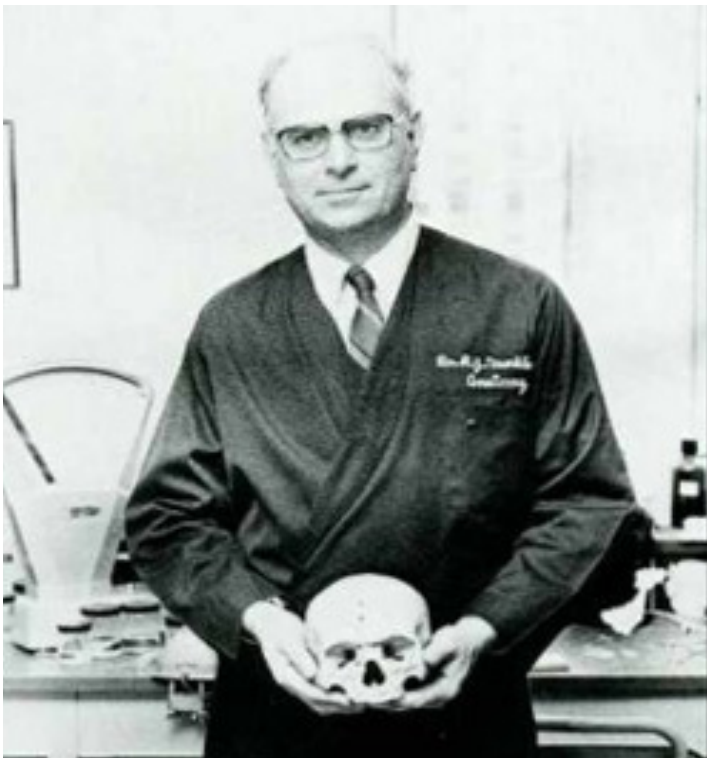



# Memories

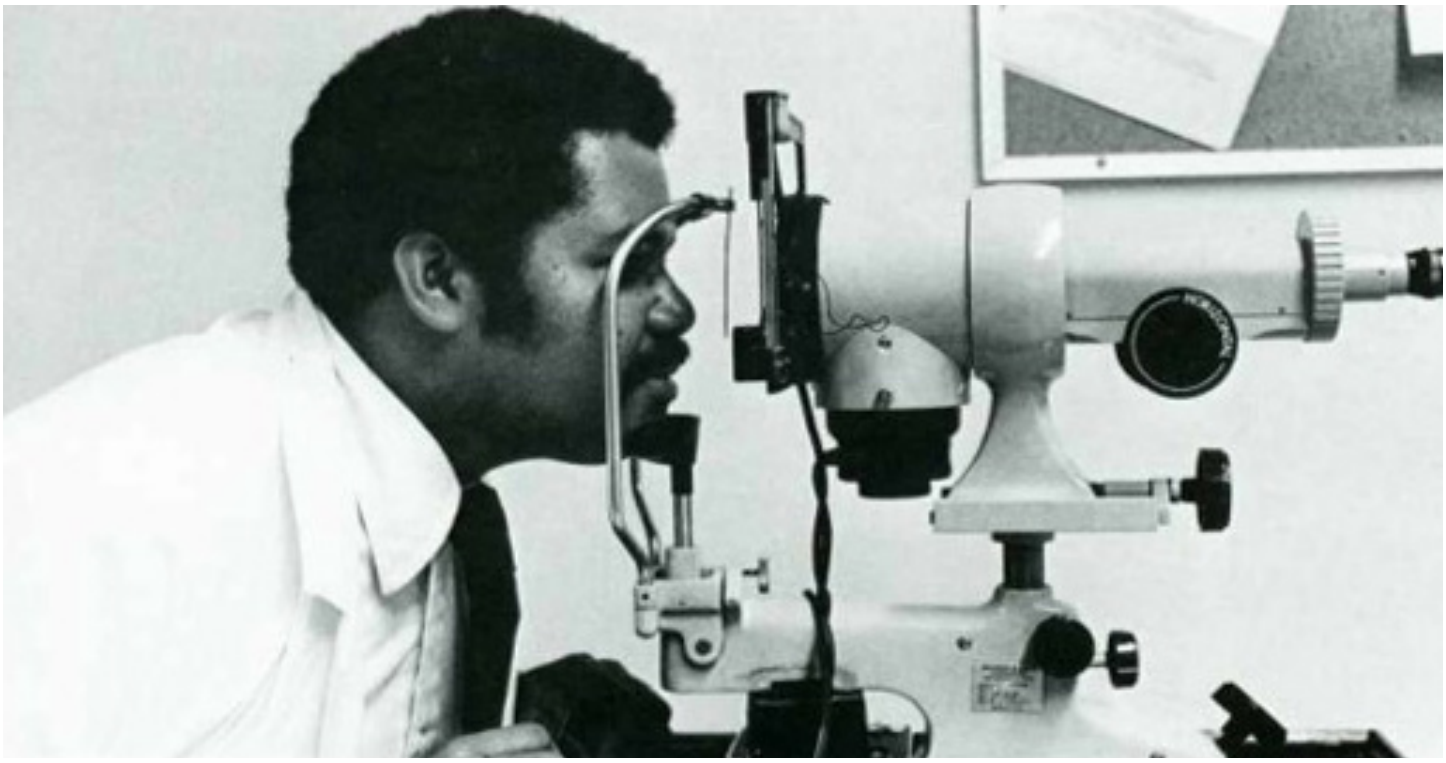








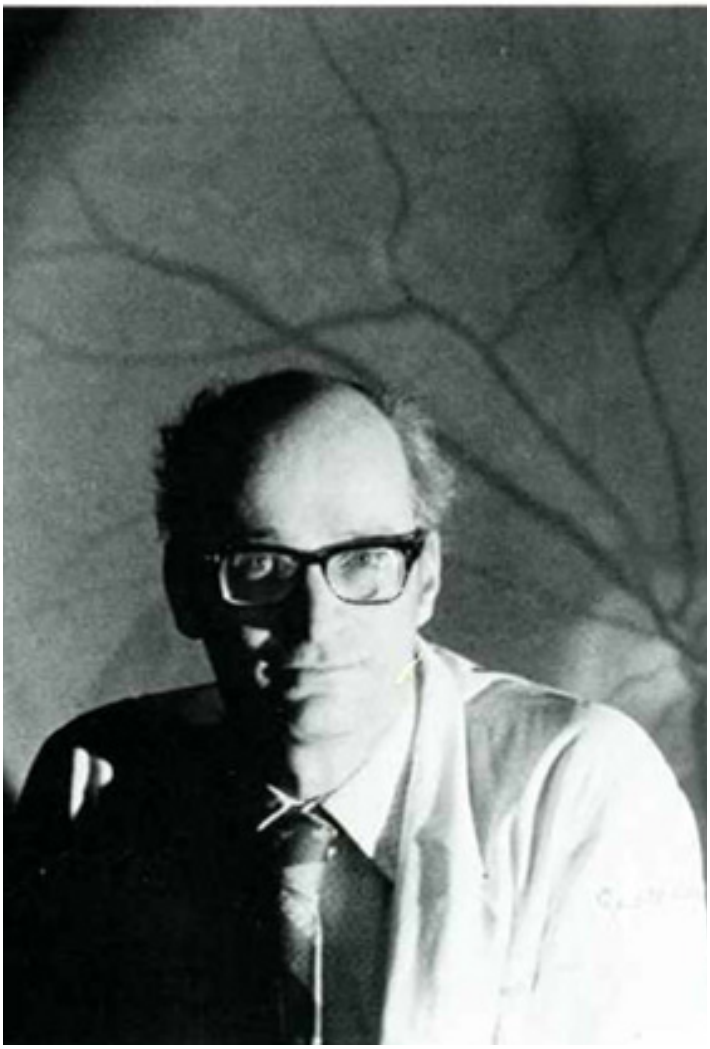


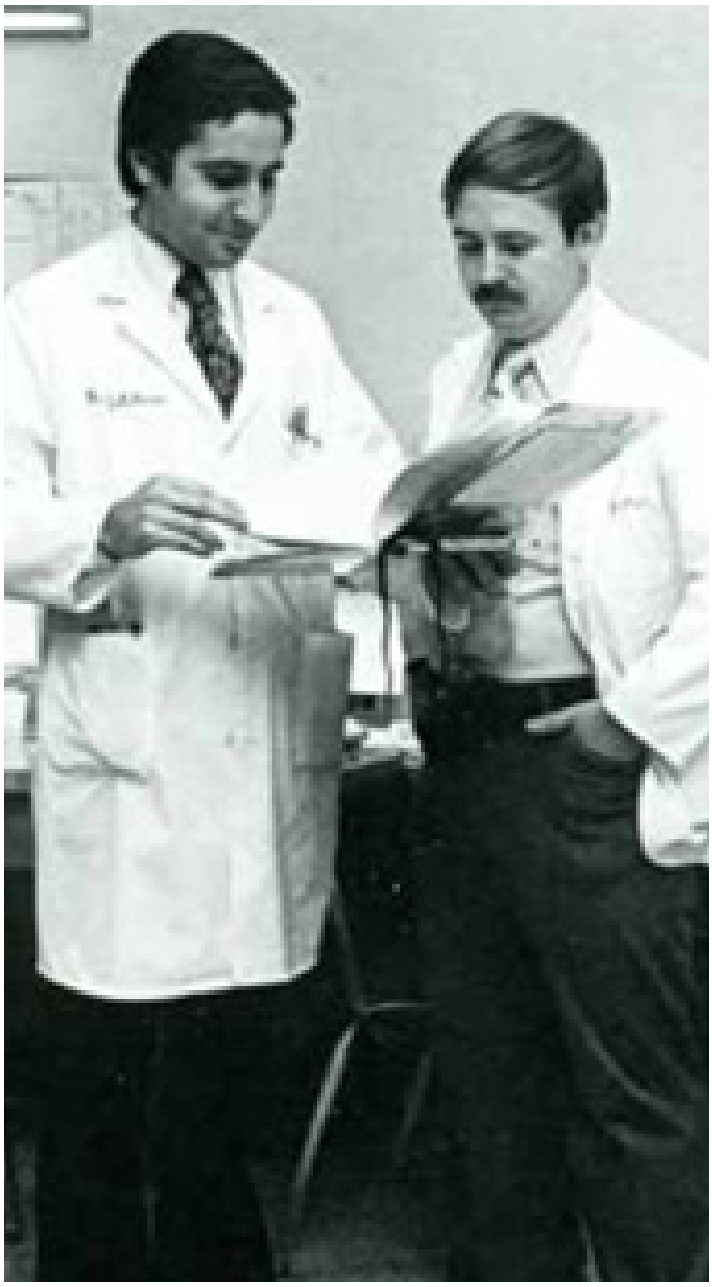


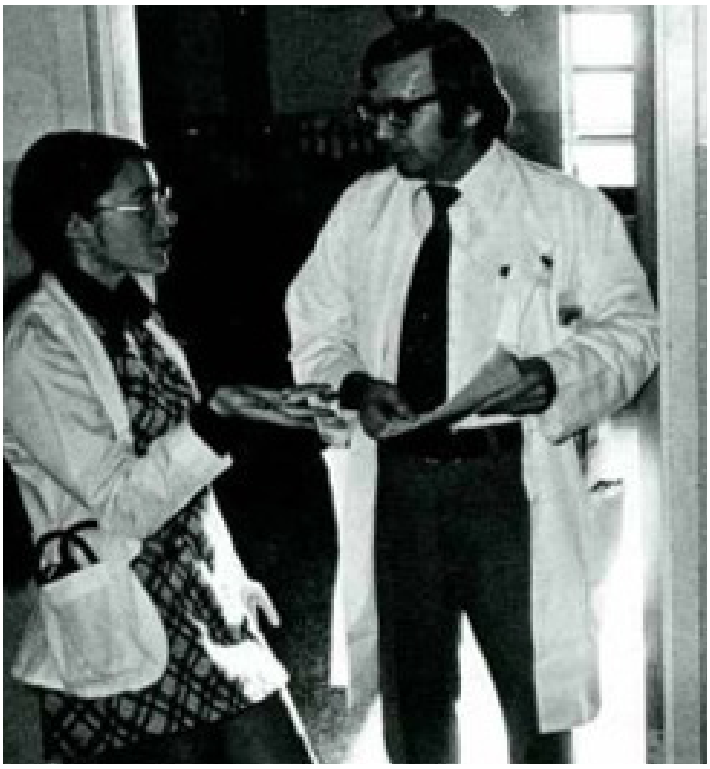










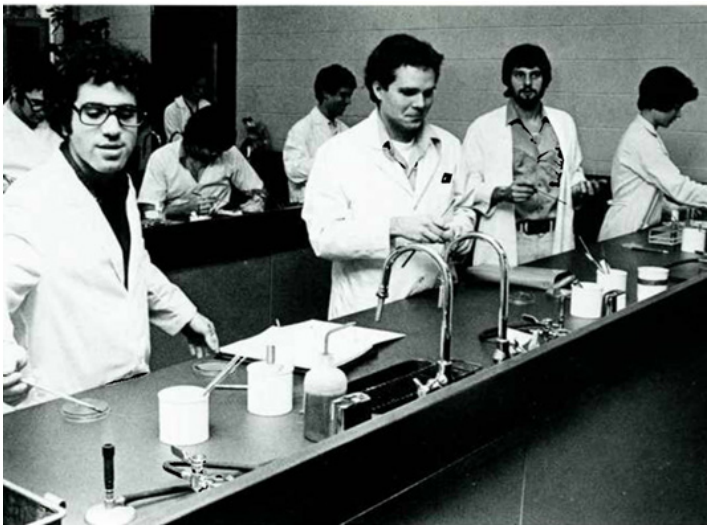


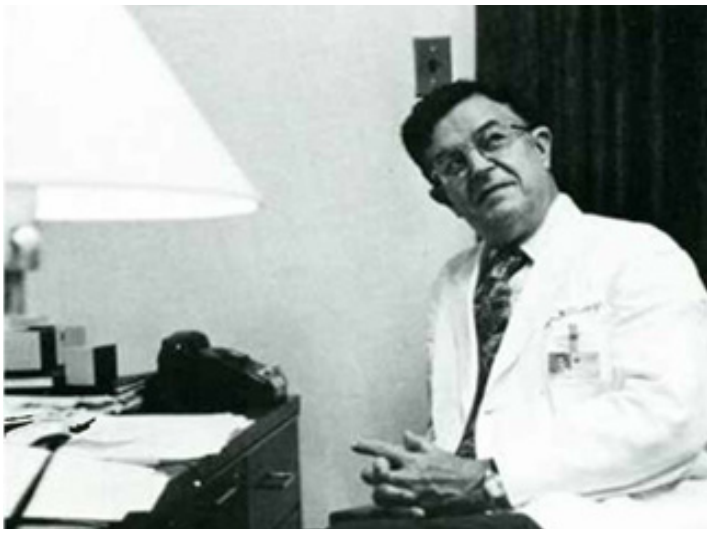

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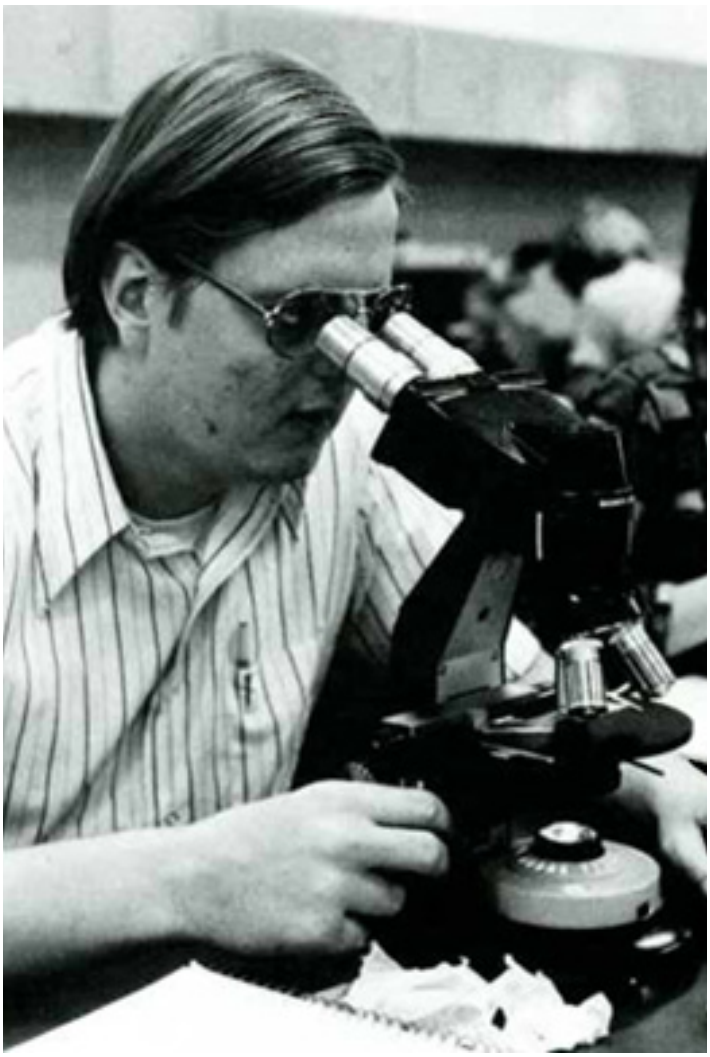






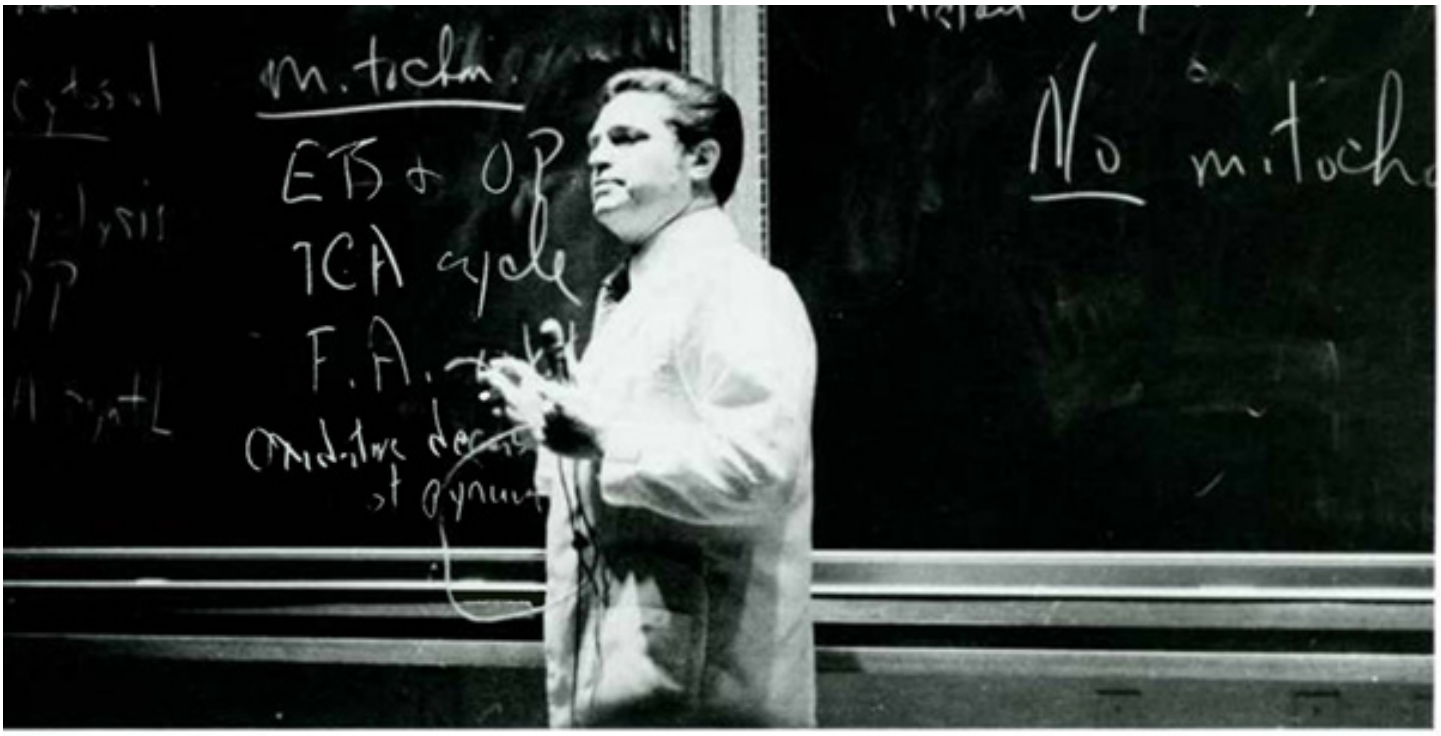


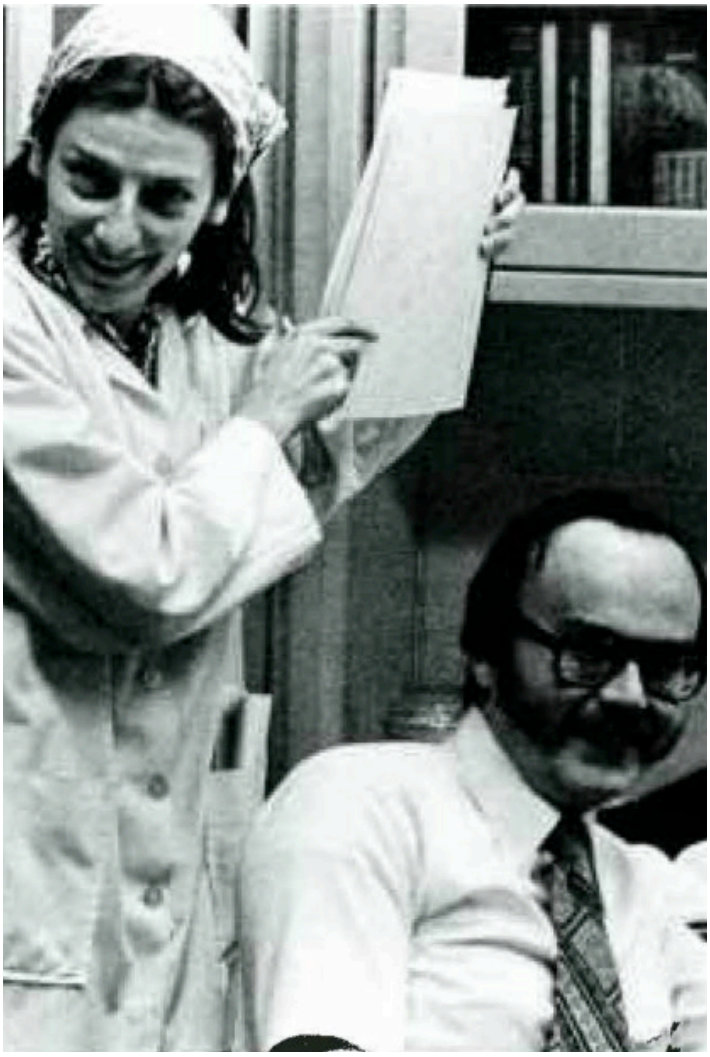


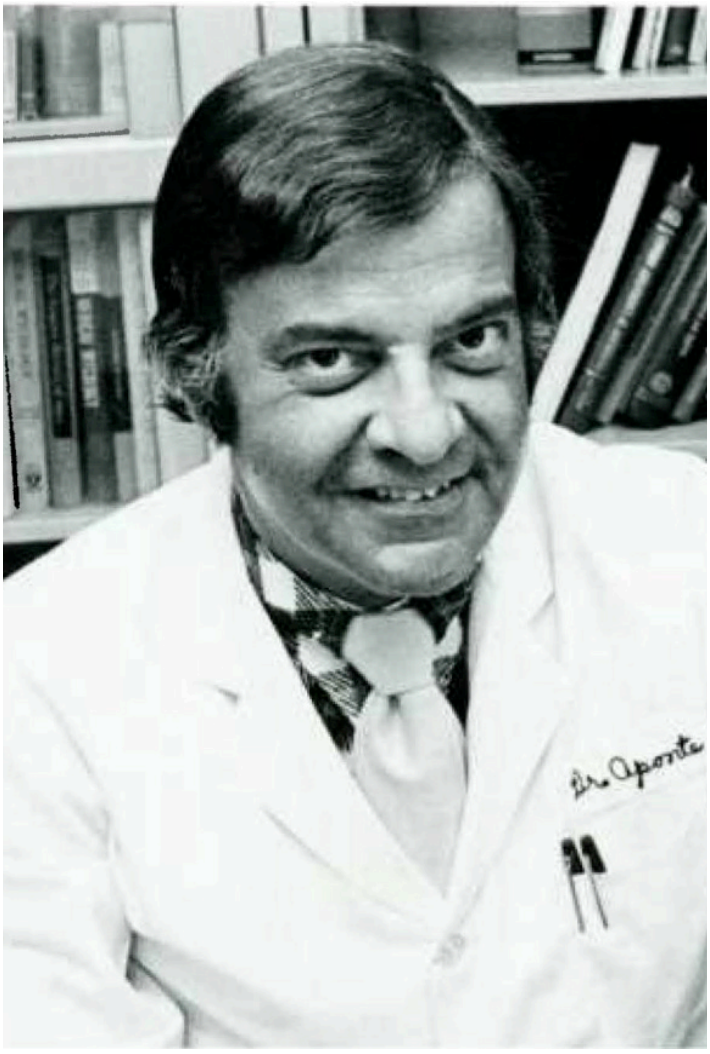







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Dr. Aponte

# Class of 1976 Necrology

Jonathan Belmont, MD

Dennis Bonner, MD

Harry Brener, MD

William Carter, MD

William Daly, MD

James Dobson, MD

Herbert Ecker, MD

Charles Sumner Finch III, MD

Barry Franton, MD

Christopher Frauenhoffer, MD

Philip Grem, MD

Roy Grossman, MD

Bertrand High, MD

Kurtis Jens, MD

Joseph Kreiser, MD

Mark Lichtenstein, MD

Frank Montique, MD

Manuel Morman, MD

William Nessa, MD

David Nutter, MD

Gary Purdue, MD

Richard Whittington, MD

Michael Zamore, MD



# In 1976...

1976 was America's Bicentennial year

Philadelphia outbreak led to the naming of Legionnaires' disease

Jefferson alumnus Robert Gallo, MD '63, advancing retrovirus research

CT scanning still a new medical technology

Medical training before routine MRI use

First commercial laser printer introduced

The Concorde began commercial service

Apple Computer was founded

Jimmy Carter defeated Gerald Ford in the presidential election

Gas: approximately 61 cents per gallon

First-class stamp: 13 cents

Average Cost New Home $38,100

Average Family Income: $14,960

## The Top Ten Songs

1. "Silly Love Songs" – Wings
2. "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" – Elton John and Kiki Dee
3. "Disco Lady" – Johnnie Taylor
4. "December, 1963" (Oh, What a Night) – The Four Seasons
5. "Play That Funky Music" – Wild Cherry
6. "Kiss and Say Goodbye" – The Manhattans
7. "Love Machine (Part 1)" – The Miracles
8. "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" – Paul Simon
9. "Love Is Alive" – Gary Wright
10. "Shannon" – Henry Gross

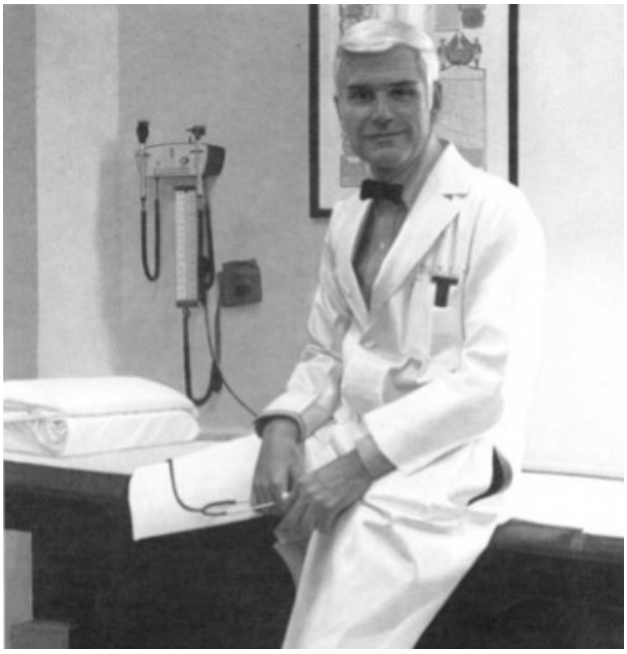
## The Top Ten Movies

1. *Rocky*
2. *A Star Is Born*
3. *King Kong*
4. *Silver Streak*
5. *All the President's Men*
6. *The Omen*
7. *The Enforcer*
8. *Midway*
9. *The Bad News Bears*
10. *The Pink Panther Strikes Again*

## The Top Ten Tv Shows

1. "All in the Family"
2. "Rich Man, Poor Man"
3. "Laverne & Shirley"
4. "Maude"
5. "The Bionic Woman"
6. "Phyllis"
7. "Rhoda"
8. "Sanford and Son"
9. "The Six Million Dollar Man"
10. "ABC Monday Night Movie"

# 1976 Commissioned Faculty Portrait



Each year, graduating seniors have the special honor of selecting a faculty member to receive a portrait painted on behalf of their class. This cherished tradition at Jefferson celebrates faculty who have played a meaningful role in shaping students' future careers.

In 1976 the senior class chose,

**EDWARD HENDERSON McGEHEE, MD**
**(b. 1921)**
**By Jose Fernandez Marcote (b. 1950)**
**Oil on canvas**
**1976**
**60 1/2 x 48 in.**

**Signed and dated lower right: "MARCOTE 76"**
**Given by JMC class of 1976**

Dr. Edward H. McGehee was a professor of family medicine and a clinical associate professor of medicine at Thomas Jefferson University, a beloved clinician for more than four decades.

Edward McGehee was born in 1921 in Mobile, Alabama. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1942 and his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in 1945. His brother, John, is a Jefferson alumnus from the class of 1952, and his father and another brother are also physicians.

Dr. Edward McGehee served his internship at City Hospital in Mobile, followed by two years in the U.S. Navy. His extensive postgraduate training included: the Ross V. Patterson fellowship in pathology at Jefferson Medical College, a research fellowship in hematology and a residency in medicine at Pennsylvania Hospital, and the Thomas McCrae fellowship in medicine of the Pennsylvania Hospital's exchange fellowship with Guy's Hospital in London.

Upon his return to Philadelphia in 1953 Dr. McGehee enjoyed a busy private family practice in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia for 20 years. He was attending and then senior attending physician at Chestnut Hill Hospital from 1954 to 1973, and director of the Department of Medicine there from 1966 to 1970. He was also hematologist and physician to Pennsylvania Hospital from 1956 to 1966.

In 1974 Dr. Edward McGehee was the first full-time faculty member to be recruited by Dr. Paul C. Brucker, chairman of Jefferson's new Department of Family Medicine. McGehee's affable personality and compassion for his patients were honored spectacularly when he retired from private practice to join the Jefferson faculty: over 500 appreciative but sorrowful patients attended a surprise going-away party!

McGehee's new titles at Jefferson were professor in the department of family medicine, associate in the Cardeza Foundation for Hematological Research, and clinical associate professor of medicine (secondary faculty appointment). In 1984 he was named the first Ellen M. and Dale W. Garber Professor of Family Medicine, and was acting chairman of the department from 1990 to 1992. In 1989 Dr. McGehee was named director of the Jefferson/KendalCrosslands fellowship in geriatrics.

Dr. McGehee has been an enduring and strong role model for generations of medical students, as well as a dedicated primary care physician. He received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1977, only three years after his arrival. In 1996 the McGehee Loan Fund was established in his honor to assist third- and fourth-year medical students who plan to practice family or internal medicine. Funds were donated by grateful, longtime patients Anne Banse and her late husband, Robert L. Banse.

Dr. McGehee helped develop a widely used, self-assessment examination for practicing physicians under the aegis of the Philadelphia County Medical Society and the American College of Physicians. He has been active in hospital and college committees and in professional organizations. He served two terms as president of the Philadelphia Society of Hematology in 1963 and 1977, and was president of Jefferson's alumni association in 1995. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the Committee of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in 1980, and was Laureate of the Pennsylvania Chapter, American College of Physicians in 1987.

When elected senior portrait honoree in 1976, McGehee chose a new artist for the Jefferson collection, the talented young Spaniard Jose F. Marcote. The artist's wife, the former Joan Sauvion, is a native Philadelphian and her parents are patients of Dr. McGehee.

Jose Marcote's impressive, large-scale painting situates the subject in his working environment, as in his depiction of Richard G. Berry, MD which was created the following year. But here Dr. McGehee is in an examining room, not a laboratory; and unlike the Berry portrait, McGehee is centrally located in a close-up view, and is shown full length and somewhat larger than life-sized.

He is seated in a relaxed posture with legs hanging over the edge of an examining table. He holds a stethoscope between his fingers. His head turns to look directly at the viewer. His oval-shaped face and thick white hair are accented by dark eyebrows and brown eyes, straight nose, and wide, smiling mouth. His warm and engaging expression suggests an accessible personality. Perhaps he is awaiting his next patient.

The physician is dressed in a crisp white coat with "McGehee" stitched in blue thread over the pocket, a blue shirt, and black trousers and bow tie. Besides his stethoscope, other medical instruments include an otoscope, ophthalmoscope, and sphygmomanometer attached to the rear wall. Additional elements in the room are the starched white linens on the table and stacks of folded sheets below; the partial view of a low stool; and a framed antique map of Philadelphia's historic Germantown on the pale yellow wall.

The convincing likeness of the subject and his personable expression and easy posture, as well as the painting's underlying geometric design and dramatic contrasts of light and dark, all contribute to an unusually effective composition.

Dr. McGehee spoke of his longstanding philosophy about compassionate handling of patients when his portrait was presented at Senior Class Day:

"Think for a moment each day: 'Am I caring about these folks?'...Take a minute to find out a bit about a patient's work, family, or background. What we hear frequently generates admiration and understanding, and builds a lasting bridge.

Part of most physicians' jobs is tending the seriously ill. Never think, 'I can't do anything for him so I won't go by to see him.' The doctor is as important as the remedy. Visit the sick.

Share a little of your own life, your family, your kid, your own illness or that of someone in your family, if it is somewhat related to your patient's problem. This evidence of humanity in the doctor reassures the patients and improves their view of the whole medical profession. Similarly, doctors can shed a tear at the death of a patient without loss of esteem. Go to funerals and speak a few appropriate words at memorial services for your patients. You will have seen them suffer and know how they handled the most trying of experiences. Your words will be helpful to family and friends."

# Class Biographies





## Marjorie (Williamson) A. Bowman MD, MPA

I enjoyed medical school and kept busy. What do I remember most? My friendships! During medical school I played contract bridge (once, Liz Buechler and I came in second in a large tournament) and we both worked in a hospital laboratory part-time (mostly weekends). That work kept my loan repayments within a doable amount and I was able to pay them off within 5 years of medical school. I was also a runner, sometimes in low-level races.

I also did a Research Project with Dean Dr. Joe Gonella's lab. My residency was in family medicine at Duke University, and I became a resident activist, involved at both the state and national level. Post-residency, I completed a Masters of Public Administration part-time. I am Board-Certified in both Family Medicine and (General) Preventive Medicine.

I am married to Robert Choplin, MD, an academic Radiologist. We have five adult children, one grandchild. All of our adult children have jobs that are one way or another with education. One teaches high school, one has been in and out of teaching and is a basketball coach, one is graduating with his 3rd college degree (the most recent one related to engineering) while being a teacher's assistant for most of his classes. Our younger daughter raises large sums of money for the Columbia School of Medicine, and another daughter is a medical residency coordinator.

My family and I have lived primarily on the East Coast, and my husband and I (and dog) currently live out in the woods west of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

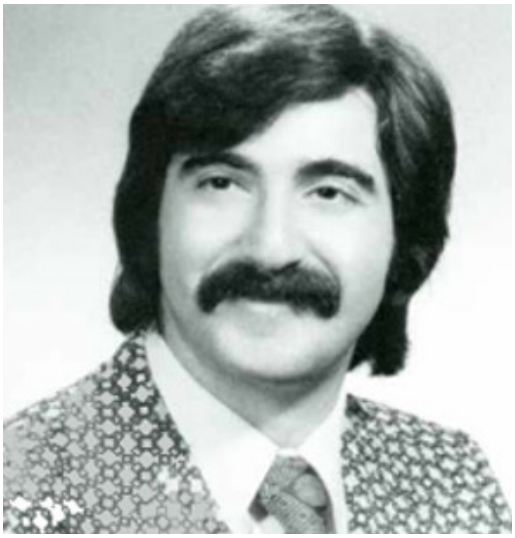
Positions in order from immediately post-residency forward -- Public Health Service Commissioned Officer working in the Health Resources Administration; Faculty/Assistant/Associate Professor at Georgetown University; Chair of Family Medicine at Bowman Gray School of Medicine (now Wake Forest University); Chair of Family Medicine & Community Health at University of Pennsylvania; Dean of the School of Medicine, Wright State University, followed by service as the Chief for the Office of Academic Affiliations for the Veterans Health Administration overseeing the program of 120,000 trainees in multiple healthcare disciplines. I retired from VHA in 2025.

I have also been a long-term Editor of medical journals, such as being on the Editorial Board Member of JAMA, Editor of the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine (currently part-time Editor Emeritus), Journal of Women's Health, and the Yearbook of Family Medicine. I have authored books, none recently. I am currently a consultant for an AI company and also on a Foundation Board.

My hobbies have varied over the years. Obviously, I like writing and editing, but bicycling has also been a steady hobby/habit, and I continue to cycle most every day. I have previously completed some long-distance rides (100 miles), but now do shorter distances (12 miles a day)!

My husband and I have also like to travel. For example, my family has been to Canada, Scotland/England/Ireland, Europe, Mexico, Galapagos Islands, and Ecuador. I have also been a consultant to medical schools in Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Korea, and the United Arab Emirates.





# Ira Brenner, MD

It is hard for me to wrap my mind around the fact that a half century has passed since we graduated from Jefferson. It was a tough transition from the freewheeling times in college to getting serious in medical school. I remember our orientation when Dean Herbut tried to reassure us that times had changed and the old pyramid system, where a third of the students would get cut and never graduate, was a thing of the past. It was a bit of a culture shock to be in such a conservative institution after all of the anti-war rallies, demonstrations, outdoor concerts, and chaos that characterized my time at GWU in Washington, DC.

My first two years were in Orlowitz, where I resolved to get thoroughly immersed in my new life as a medical student. Between the library, the anatomy lab, and the recreational facilities at Jeff Hall, I rarely left the 4 square block campus. Fortunately, Doc Watson's was there!

Much to my surprise, my favorite course was Pathology, with the Gonz. When I could not decide what to specialize in after graduation, I consulted him. I feared that after working so hard in medical school, if I were to choose Psychiatry, it would be a "cop out" or a waste of my education. My advisor essentially told me that. Dr. Aponte, however, assured me that medicine needed good students in all fields. I thought that while I might have become a good surgeon, my intuition told me that I could become a much better psychiatrist. I now believe that that is so.

I did my Psychiatric residency in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains at UVa in Charlottesville. There I learned from some truly gifted clinicians who valued their medical education and I realized that it might be possible to integrate my deep interest in both the mind and the body. Now, fifty years later, I continue to draw upon my medical foundation on a daily basis in my ongoing clinical work here in Philadelphia.

Throughout my career, I have done inpatient work in the community, the state, the VA, the academic, and the private sector. At the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital, I was Director of a general adult unit and Associate Director of an internationally recognized trauma unit for patients with Dissociative Disorders.

I am a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Jefferson. I have published over 100 papers and 6 books.

Along with my dear wife Roberta, our children, and our grandchildren, we enjoy our coastal properties in Nova Scotia, and at the Jersey shore. Life is good.

# Class Biographies

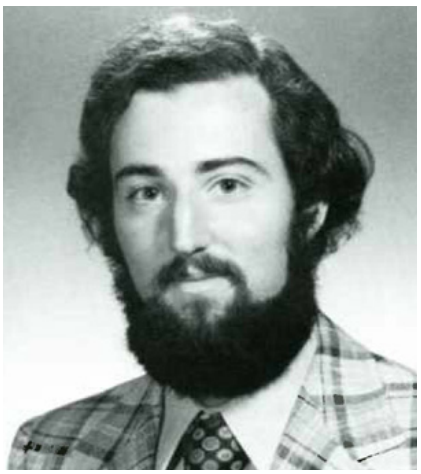




## Larry R. Glazerman, MD, MBA, FACOG, FACS

I continue to have fond memories of my time at Jefferson (note: I did not attend Sidney Kimmel Medical College). My first memory is actually the summer of my junior year at Muhlenberg College, when I was awarded an interview at Jeff, my first med school interview. Being the paranoid person I had been back then, I decided to shave off my mustache, believing that a mustache might have been disqualifying. Jefferson was the first acceptance I received, and I decided to attend. On an orientation weekend, I visited the Phi Alpha Sigma fraternity house, where I met a few future classmates, including Stuart Gottstein (soon to be GottsteinEidelman) and Halley Faust. I wound up living at the Phi Alph house for my freshman year. During that year, I met Dr. Laird Jackson, who became a friend and mentor. Along with classmates Halley Faust and Phil Nimoityn, we helped Dr. Jackson run the Tay-Sachs prevention program, only the second program of its kind in the country I got married the summer after freshman year and moved to northeast Philadelphia with my wife Joan. Soon thereafter, Joan was hired as one of Dr. Jackson's secretaries. We both remained close to him until his passing in 2019. One of my fondest memories of Dr. Jackson is flying model airplanes with him on a section of the yet-unfinished Blue Route (I-476) in St. Davids. During those first two years, I transformed from the guy who got a 94 on an exam and fought for those last 6 points to the one who figured out just what I needed to do to pass. I originally wanted to be a heart surgeon, a dream I had since I was about 5 years old. But meeting Dr. Robert Farkas at York Hospital during a Tay-Sachs screening turned out to be somewhat life-altering. He invited me to his home, and to observe a few deliveries in the hospital. I also got to observe a delivery at Pennsylvania Hospital with Dr. Greg Bolton, a resident there who was rotating in genetics at Jeff. Putting together my love of surgery, the amazing feeling of seeing new life brought into the world, and my desire for long-term relationships with patients, I realized that Ob-Gyn was staring me in the face. Fast forward to third year. It was during third year that I connected with Jack Blannett to be co-editors of the Clinic 1976 yearbook. I was the photo guy, and Jack was the literary guy. That was one of the best memories I have of my time at Jeff. Several rotations in third year were memorable, for different reasons. My ob-gyn rotation at Jeff was my least favorite, as the residents on the rotation were not very student-friendly. I realized that if I still wanted this specialty after that, it was definitely meant to be. Conversely, my favorite third year rotation might have been surgery at Chestnut Hill. There were no interns there, so the students got to do a LOT! Family medicine in Ambler with the father of a college friend, medicine at Misericordia, Psych at Daroff. I did a fourth-year rotation at Allentown Hospital and decided that's where I wanted to do my residency. I was lucky enough to match there, did my residency there, and remained in Allentown practicing ob-gyn for 28 years. During that time I also developed relationships with the pharma and device industries, which I have continued. It was my work with industry that let me to join one of the earliest classes in the Physician MBA program at DeSales University. I received that degree in 2010. In 2008, I accepted a faculty position at the University of South Florida in Tampa, to develop a program in minimally invasive GYN surgery (MIGS). After a few years, I realized that Florida was not for me, and I returned north to a position at Main Line Health, under classmate Nancy Roberts. After a few years there, I moved around some, including a stint as Medical Director at Planned Parenthood of Delaware, Medical Director at Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and Director of Medical Strategy at Myovant Sciences, which became Sumitomo. I was laid off from Sumitomo in a massive restructuring in 2004, and have been retired since then, although still somewhat active in consulting and teaching. Since retiring I have enjoyed traveling (mostly on cruise ships), playing golf and bridge, and being a father to Rich and his wife Jaime, Jonathan and his wife Katie, and Lauren, as well as grandfather to Hannah (age 15), Evan (age 11), Allie (age 10) and Lexi (age 8). I moved to Wilmington Delaware while working at Planned Parenthood and have lived here for 10 years. I've attended almost every reunion at Jeff since graduation, and I'm really looking forward to this 50th.





# Robert L. Goldberg, MD, FACOEM, FFOM RCPI(Hon)

It is amazing that 50 years have passed since our graduation at the Academy Of Music with James Michener as our commencement speaker!

I have so many great memories of the Jefferson years: gross anatomy laboratory with six new classmates with the F/G last names, Kodachrome pathology slide reviews with Dr. Gonzalo Aponte, clinical rotations all over the greater Delaware Valley and at Latrobe Area Hospital. Of course there were Doc Watson's Pub, Luna Pizza, the Reading Market, South Street, the Phillies, Eagles and Flyers, and the Schuylkill River Parkway.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel the first two summers after starting at Jefferson. The first was spent as a summer art student at Stanford University living the life in the SF Bay Area and traveling throughout California, which compelled me to return after graduation.

The second summer was the grand tour of Europe riding the rails on a student Eurail Pass with a backpack.It was a great adventure starting in France and seeing Spain, Italy, Austria, Hungary!,Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

Upon graduation, I relocated immediately to California to start a Family Medicine Residency in Modesto. After a short stint in Emergency medicine, I started a solo practice as a "country doc" in Oakdale. Not longer after starting I was approached by the Hershey Chocolate Company to become their Medical Director at the local chocolate factory.

In what was a career and life changing event, the Hershey Corporate Medical Director came to my office and immediately noticed that my Jefferson diploma was the same unique one that he had. We bonded and that started my transition into occupational and environmental medicine (OEM).

I built my practice based on my experience at Hershey and took additional training at UCSF and became board-certified in OEM by the American Board of Preventive Medicine, where I later became the Vice-chair, Occupational Medicine in 1996.

Ultimately I became the medical director of De la Cruz Occupational Medicine in Silicon Valley and in 1998 we were acquired by US HealthWorks, where I became the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for California.

After a brief detour into a dotcom e-learning startup in 1999-2000, I became a full-time professor at UCSF, where I assumed the role of OEM residency director in addition to clinical and med-legal consulting and ergonomics research and teaching. I reached Health Sciences Clinical Professor of Medicine rank, and served as the President of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. During that time I had relocated to Lafayette in the SF Bay Area with my family.

The next phase in my career started in 2010 when I became the CMO for the first of two different healthcare companies, until retirement in 2021.

It has been a great career with many varied opportunities and challenges. The extremely strong medical education and clinical training that we received at Jefferson created the tremendous foundation on which to build my career and a wonderful life as physician and a contributor to society.

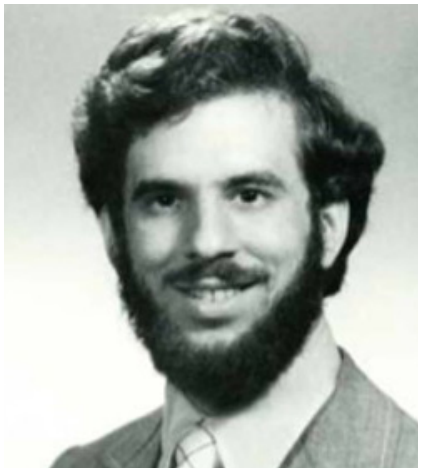
I am forever grateful for the four teams at Jefferson as well as the financial support I received from Anna Vincent trust, and I have attempted to pay that forward with support for Penn State and Jefferson students.

I could not have had such a great career and life without the love and support from my wife Sandy and our children Naomi and Joshua.

We enjoy sailing, cycling, hiking and skiing; and we have traveled internationally. We still have our home in Lafayette and spend a great deal of time on the north coast of Sonoma County at The Sea Ranch.

# Class Biographies





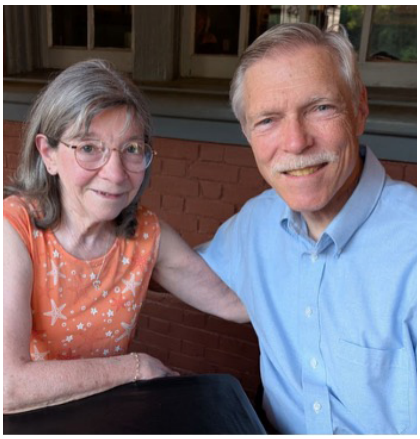
## Stephen K. Katz, MD

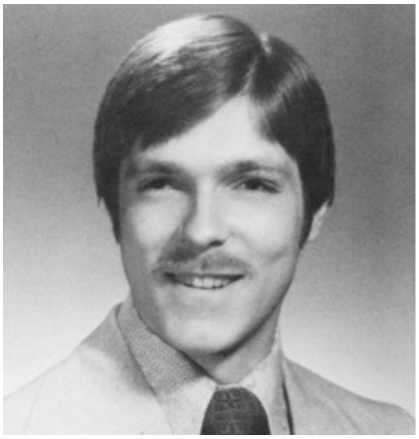
I came to the Penn State - Jefferson 5 year Program by happenstance, a story I often retell but won't belabor here. The result is that at age 17 I embarked on a lifetime career in medicine. That is something that I would have never imagined and never would have occurred but for the 5 year program.

As many might recall, I went through medical school with Barbara Levin and we married during our third year. Together we did a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in adolescent medicine. We raised two children while managing a busy pediatric practice on the New Jersey shore. After the children left home, we moved to the Lehigh Valley where Barb continued in pediatric practice while I did stints of locum tenens and international medical volunteer adventures. After 4 years of that, I joined the staff of Lehigh Valley Hospital where I was an Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics in a teaching clinic. I also served on the Allentown Board of Health. While we are no longer married, Barb and I keep in touch and we each are living with wonderful partners.

Our two children, Dan (Class of 2006) and Elana, each have distinguished careers in medicine and beautiful families of their own.

I retired in 2020 and remain on the Emeritus Medical Staff and active with the Allentown Medical Volunteer Reserve Corps. I have volunteered with International Medical Relief (in Panama, but there are many options to recommend) and I will be helping Remote Area Medical (also recommended) this fall. I lead a very active life of travel, bicycling and all of the activities of daily living.



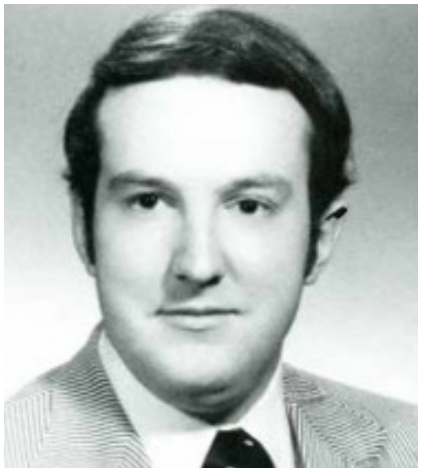


# Robert W. Lamparter, MD

I married Carol Morningstar, one of the Morningstar twins from the class ahead of us and we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this year. Carol was in Family Practice. I started a residency in General Surgery and enjoyed the operating room, but not the lifestyle. After two years I switched to Pathology and finished that residency in 1982 - just as the government changed Medicare reimbursements, resulting in a marked decrease in the number of pathology jobs. My first position was at Sunbury Community Hospital. Ivor Lewis and I were among a handful of competent doctors there. It was so awful I only stayed a year. I was fortunate to find another position in Huntingdon, PA as an associate pathologist at a small hospital with a youngish well trained medical staff. The hospital announced it had financial difficulties shortly after I arrived. They squeezed out the incumbent pathologist, leaving me solo for a few years. In 1986 a position as the associate pathologist at Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg, PA opened and we moved there. It was a great place to work, and at our peak we had 6 pathologists in the group and covered two hospitals. What started in 2013 as cutting back my hours to help the group's finances turned into a full retirement after I realized how much I enjoyed long weekends. The field changed drastically during my career and I needed to teach myself many new things. In reflecting on my career, the most interesting work I did was forensic autopsies even though they were an aggravation at the time. I continue to superficially follow developments in my field and look forward to the changes in medicine that genetic understanding will bring. In mid-life I decided to learn the violin, having never played an instrument, and now play violin, viola and English concertina. My claim to "fame" is that I was the only doctor in the U.S. who notified Johnson and Johnson that their morcellator (instrument used in hysterectomies) was disseminating cancer. After 10 years, another Jefferson affiliated doctor led the campaign against the device and the FDA put a black box warning on its use.

# Class Biographies





## Ivor F. Lewis, MD

Half a century, wow! I remember our first day with two amazing lectures: "Medicine, an excuse for living" by Dr. Robert Brent and "Cancer, the Crab" by Dr. Peter Herbut. Both have impacted me as a person and a doctor. Jefferson had a way of being both amazing and intimidating with the brass railings arising from 10th and Walnut and Dr. Gross staring down from Eakins masterpiece. Yes, Jefferson challenged, it motivated, it educated, and it welcomed us to become members of a truly, noble profession. It was an honor to train, to compete, and to celebrate with some of the smartest, funniest and decent students imaginable. And, how 'bout the 5 year Penn Staters? Damn, they were amazing!

Our didactic and clinical instruction taught us the science as well as providing the art skills necessary for becoming complete practitioners. I would like to recognize three teachers in particular. I enjoyed the passion of Dr. Wolfgang Vogel has he embellished stories of the Vikings ingesting the "wild" mushrooms as they ransacked their way through Europe, lol. And, I appreciated the chance of doing research on cigarette carcinogens under the watchful eyes of Dr. Anthony Triolo. And, lastly, I really enjoyed participating in Dr. Russell Schaedler's Infectious Disease Journal Club at his awesome Society Hill townhouse - he made a wicked gin & tonic for sure.

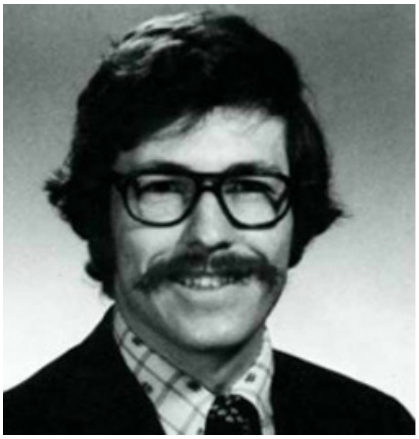
After graduation, I did my residency at Geisinger, and, after fulfilling my med school scholarship obligation to Weis Markets in Sunbury, I returned home to my beloved Schuylkill County in 1992. I practiced in various models during my career including solo practice, independent partnership, and employed-physician group practices with Geisinger and later with Lehigh Valley Health Network where I worked until retiring from active practice in July, 2025. I particularly enjoyed community service and volunteer work which included membership on Northumberland Co. Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board, Penn State Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board, PA Academy of Family Medicine Board of Directors, School & Team Physician for Mahanoy Area HS and Shenandoah Valley High School, and member of the Committee on Masonic Homes for the PA Free & Accepted Masons. But, reflecting back, one thing that has given me the much satisfaction as a physician was the role I played in establishing an ABFM credentialed, rural family medicine residency program for Schuylkill County including the acquisition of a federal grant to help insure its success in 2018. And, in 2025, at the graduation of its first class, I was surprised and honored by the creation of the Dr. Ivor Fenton Lewis Award, which will be given each year to the resident who "demonstrates and lives the values of rural family medicine, commits to serving the people of Schuylkill County, and impacts the community at large".

As I continue upon life's journey. I fully intend to follow the advice of fellow Welshman, Dylan Thomas, and I won't "Go gentle, into that good night", for sure. I am starting "Ivor's Trilogy of Joy" which will include Music Production, Medical Consultation and Teaching with Problem-solving Motivational Writing with all profits to be distributed through the Doc & Dan Foundation I am creating in honor of my grandfather and father.

In closing, I consider myself blessed and honored to be a doctor. But, honestly, I was never really enamored with the nuts & bolts or blood & guts of medicine. It was more like a powerful vehicle that allowed me to do lots and lots of good things for people and to make a difference!

Thank you, Jefferson.





# Robert Gray McCairns Jr., MD

I developed an interest in medicine from my uncle, Dr. Joseph J. Toland III. An orthopedic surgeon, who taught in the orthopedic clinic at Jefferson. I graduated from St. Joseph's College and was accepted to Jefferson, my first choice, early in my senior year. My first impression of Jefferson was how well the curriculum and classes were structured. Every teacher had something interesting to offer, especially Dr. Gonzalo E. Aponte in Pathology. The clinical years enabled me to meet a number of remarkable surgeons with whom I would continue my education and become friends including Gordon F. Schwartz, Gerry Marks, John Templeton and especially Mel Moses. I was able to do my residency at Jefferson under Chairman Dr. Frank Rosato and fellowship at University of Pittsburgh under Dr. Henry Bahnson. I went into practice with Dr. Mel Moses in surgery in 1983 at Jefferson and remained with him until he retired. I spent my entire surgical career at Jefferson and Methodist Hospital until I retired in 2019.

I married Regina Carfagno in 1982 at old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia with a number of Jefferson friends present (my best man was Dr. Daniel Woody).
Along the way, I became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, among others.

Academically, I have teaching residents and students from Jefferson. I have been awarded the Dean's Award for Excellence, in teaching of two occasions.
I have been President of the Medical Staff at Methodist Hospital, on the Executive Committee of the medical staff at Jefferson and on the Executive Committee of Jefferson Alumni Association.

My wife and I have been privileged to be able to support Jefferson through the Presidents Club, to help provide clinical teaching facilities in the Hamilton Building in honor or our parents and to support the department of surgery's education mission under Dr. Charles J. Yeo.

It has been a remarkable forty-five years at Jefferson for me and my wife.

# Class Biographies





## Monica Morrow, MD

In some ways it is difficult to believe that I left Jefferson 50 years ago. Certain memories – buying a microscope, getting a white coat, first time being screamed at by a resident – remain incredibly vivid. In other ways, my time at Jeff seems like a different lifetime based on how much has changed.

After graduation I spent 5 years as a general surgery resident at the University of Vermont, followed by a 2-year surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. I joined the faculty at King's County Downstate in Brooklyn, NY where I stayed for 5 years before moving to the University of Chicago in 1988. In 1993 I joined the faculty at Northwestern University and while there got married and became a tenured Professor of Surgery and Director of their Breast Program before returning to Pennsylvania in 2004 as the Chair of Surgery at Fox Chase Cancer Center. My life came full circle when I went back to Memorial as Chief of Breast Surgery in 2007 and got divorced. Today I am happily still practicing full time and am still the Chief of Breast Surgery. In 2025 I became the inaugural institutional Vice President for Women in Science and Medicine, a position created to help address ongoing workplace inequalities.

As a class member probably considered by most as "least likely to succeed" due to my interests in a variety of things other than studying during our medical school years, I have had a remarkably fulfilling academic career which has allowed me to travel the world for both business and pleasure, engage in national leadership roles, train the next generation of breast surgery fellows, and help develop the careers of a group of wonderful young faculty.

Some things have not changed. I have retained my love of Penn State football (it's a rebuilding year!) and remain friends with my freshman year roommates Melissa (Reidy) Spevak who I see regularly, and Nancy Satur, who I see less often than I would like. Some of my favorite vacations are self-guided walking trips with my sister in places that usually involve vineyards (Burgandy, Corsica, Provence, the Piedmont, Tuscany etc). I am building a house in Fenwick Island, DE with my sister and her husband which is my escape valve from Manhattan. If I had my life choices to make over again, I would unhesitatingly choose medicine (or at least surgical part of medicine). It has given me a life in which I am constantly challenged, never bored, and surrounded by wonderful colleagues, many of whom have become close friends. Jefferson laid the foundation for that and I am delighted to celebrate that gift at our 50th with my classmates.





## Ruth Polan, MD

I am a radiologist in southern California. I still enjoy working.

Improving my tennis, golf, and Italian will be in my future.

# Class Biographies





## Nancy Marlene Satur

Jefferson gave me a life I could not have imagined for myself.
I grew up the eldest of six on a small Pennsylvania dairy farm. My parents had little formal education; they worked hard and struggled to make ends meet. I pitched hay, drove a tractor, helped milk the cows, and looked after my younger brothers and sisters while Mom and Dad worked in the barn or fields. We never ate in restaurants or took vacations. I had never been on an airplane, and the only city I had ever seen was Altoona.

So when I learned about the accelerated five-year Penn State–Jefferson BS–MD program, I remember thinking that if I could shorten the usual eight years—and borrow the money—perhaps I really could become a physician. Philadelphia was intimidating. I was also extremely motivated.

I paid for school through scholarships, loans, and part-time jobs, including clerical work at Penn State and a stint selling women's clothing at Strawbridge & Clothier. I finished paying off my medical school loans in my mid-forties, and I have never forgotten what an extraordinary opportunity Jefferson gave me.

At Jeff, I lived in Orlowitz all four years. Gonzalo Aponte is one of the faculty members who still stands out in my memory, and two of my closest friends from those years, Melissa Reidy Spevak and Monica Morrow, remain friends today. Some of my strongest memories are of the small group of us who came through the accelerated program together. We were "crucible-bonded." What I miss most about Jefferson is that shared history and the connection with people who knew you when you were still a teenager, trying to figure out who you were going to become.

After graduating Jefferson, I completed a flexible internship in internal medicine at Allentown Hospital, intending to become a family physician. But my interests shifted toward dermatology, as I was drawn by the visual nature of the field. What I did not appreciate was how difficult it would be to find a dermatology residency position. In the spring of 1977 I started calling programs, assuming I would have something lined up within a few months. (I had applied only to the Penn–Jeff program for college and medical school, so I naively assumed finding a dermatology residency position would be as easy.) But, this was before the computerized match, and most programs were already filling positions two and three years out.

That led to some unplanned and interesting detours. Through Project USA, a Public Health Service program, I provided medical care in underserved communities with the Nez Perce in Idaho, the Papago in Arizona, and the Sioux in South Dakota.

Then Clearfield Hospital — which had loaned me part of my tuition — called, in desperate need for an emergency room physician, and offered to forgive part of that loan for each year I came back. I worked in the ER for the first half of 1978, and then spent a year in pathology at the University of Illinois Hospital. Ultimately, I trained in dermatology at Case Western Reserve University Hospital in Cleveland from 1979–1982, and served as chief resident my final year.

In 1984 I moved to North County San Diego, where I spent nearly thirty years in private dermatology practice, along with volunteer clinical teaching at UCSD.

And then...my eldest son became a dermatologist and founded a teledermatology company, with his younger brother as its first CTO. I was lucky enough to be invited along for the ride. I initially helped part-time, then left my private practice to join Curology full-time in 2015. I eventually served as Medical Director, passed the baton in 2022, and am now Medical Director Emerita. I still work about one day a week—and I still enjoy saying that my son has been my boss.

I have lived in Solana Beach since 1984 and have three sons and four grandchildren. My middle son, my Taiwanese daughter-in-law, and my seven-year-old granddaughter live in Taipei, so much of my recent travel has revolved around seeing them—in Taiwan and, meeting up in Japan, Singapore, and Bali. Not bad for a farm girl who had never been on an airplane.

Would I choose medicine again? Without hesitation. Fifty years of caring for patients has been fulfilling in a way I could not have understood when I first arrived at Jefferson at the age of 19. I have never taken for granted the privilege of practicing medicine or the trust people place in their physicians.

And I would choose Jefferson again—not only for the education, but for the people and for the doors it opened in my life. I have been back only once, for our fifth reunion. Fifty years later, I am very much looking forward to seeing all of you again.





# Melissa Riedy Spevak, MD

It's been a few years since graduation from Jefferson and what a journey it has been. I have stayed close with a few classmates. Monica Morrow, Nancy Satur and Ruth Polan and I will attend the reunion in October.

I didn't talk of it much- but I had a "scholarship" with the USAF during medical school. In the aftermath of Vietnam, not a popular choice; for me, it was about becoming financially independent. After a civilian residency at Northwestern in diagnostic radiology, in 1980, I entered the AF and was stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, at the arguably premier US hospital in Europe. A dream come true as I had a real travel bug.

Of note, after their release in 1981, the Iranian (American) hostages were cared for at this hospital before returning to the States. And in 1983, the few surviving marines from the Beirut barracks bombing arrived having received only rudimentary first aid. These were both memorable experiences. My three and one half years in the service were terrific and I came to greatly respect and value the mission of the military in our society.

Always interested in pediatrics (although not from my Jefferson rotation at the Naval Hospital), after my time in the AF, I returned to the States and after a 7 month hiatus (vacation), I entered a 2 year fellowship in pediatric radiology at Boston Children's Hospital.

Having practiced this specialty now for 40 years, I am currently working 4-5 days per month at Johns Hopkins where I have worked since 1995. Not hitting the glass ceiling or even attempting to, I have nonetheless had interesting work in academic medicine.

I met my husband , Philip Spevak, in Boston; he finished his pediatric cardiology fellowship the same year that I finished mine. He recently retired after a career at Hopkins including a final stint as CMIO of the Children's Center. He keeps very busy helping to develop a cardiac hospital in Moshi, Tanzania and tutoring math at Anne Arundel County elementary schools.

We have two grown children and recently moved to a cottage on the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis from the city of Baltimore. And in the summer, we spend time at another cottage on Lake Okoboji, Iowa.

# Class Biographies





## L. Martha Ann Thomas, MD

Standing on the steps of the Academy of Music June 1976, I commented to a fellow classmate, "You won't catch me dead in OB/GYN!" I had been accepted to an Internal Medicine residency at York Hospital in my hometown. I fully intended to go into hematology/oncology. Well, man plans, G-d laughs. Today, I'm an OB Hospitalist at Carroll Hospital in Westminster Maryland. I gave up my solo OB/GYN practice in 2007 to accept Assistant PD, then Program Director for the OB/GYN residency at York Hospital. Our program had Jefferson medical students on rotation and during that time, I did participate in activities on campus at Jefferson. In 2017, I transitioned to an OB Hospitalist position where I help supervise midwives, run OB ED and care for unassigned patients. This allows me time to travel and enjoy my family. My oldest, Emily teaches Spanish at Milton Hershey residential school and has 2 teenagers, Desmond and Ellie. The youngest, Julie is a certified yoga, instructor, studies ayurvedic medicine and is currently full-time mom to my 3yo grandson, Milo. After 20 years in the Air Force, my son, Bradley retired as an F-16 pilot and surprised me by going to med school! He currently is an ER physician in Houston, Texas. He has a son, Stefan who has gifted me with 2 great granddaughters, Capri and Paisley Martha. In June, Bradley and wife Carin treated me to a visit to Egypt including a cruise on the Nile. I enjoy travel and sing with a Welsh choir that keeps me traveling locally and internationally as well. I have been asked and ponder if I would choose medicine again. I believe that I would, despite the sad state of the health care system today. We have been called to care for people in the worst and sometimes best moments of their lives. That connection transcends the negatives of long hours, expanding charting and corporate medicine. We still make a difference to that one patient.



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