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MEMORIES
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The Trustees
The President, Faculty and Graduating Class of
Jefferson Medical College
request the honour of your presence
at the
1972 Annual Commencement
Friday, June the eleventh
nineteen hundred and seventy-two
at ten-thirty o'clock
American Academy of Music
Philadelphia

Class of ’65
MEMORIES

Jefferson Medical College

FIRST YEAR INSTRUCTION, FIRST HALF-YEAR
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11, 1961
SESSION 1961-1962
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1962

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1. All section assignments will alternate weekly.
2. Tutorial periods may be spent on lecture research projects or for study and review.
3. Correlation Conference will be held by selected speakers from basic and clinical fields.

Courses of Instruction

FIRST YEAR INSTRUCTION, SECOND HALF-YEAR
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12, 1962
SESSION 1961-1962

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1965 IN REVIEW

Top Pop Hits of 1965

Wooly Bully by Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs
I Can’t Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch) by the Four Tops
(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction by The Rolling Stones
You Were on My Mind by We Five
You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’ by The Righteous Brothers
Downtown by Petula Clark
Help! by The Beatles
Can’t You Hear My Heart Beat by Herman’s Hermits
Crying in the Chapel by Elvis Presley
My Girl by The Temptations
Help Me, Rhonda by The Beach Boys
King of the Road by Roger Miller
The Birds and the Bees by Jewel Akens
Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me by Mel Carter
Shotgun by Junior Walker and the All Stars
I Got You Babe by Sonny and Cher
The Diamond Ring by Gary Lewis and the Playboys
The ‘In’ Crowd by Ramsey Lewis Trio
Mrs. Brown, You’ve Got a Lovely Daughter by Herman’s Hermits
Stop! In the Name of Love by The Supremes
Unchained Melody by The Righteous Brothers

Popular Films of 1965

The Sound of Music
Doctor Zhivago
Thunderball
Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines
That Darn Cat!
The Great Race
Cat Ballou
What’s New Pussycat?
Shenandoah
Von Ryan’s Express
1965 IN REVIEW

In the News…

- The United States became more involved in the Vietnam War. By the end of the year, over 190,000 soldiers were in Vietnam.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and more than 2,600 others were arrested in Selma, AL during demonstrations.
- Medicare, senior citizens’ government medical assistance program, began.
- The space race was in full swing and NASA’s Mariner 4 flew by Mars.
- The St. Louis Arch was completed.
- Winston Churchill, T.S. Eliot, and Nat King Cole died.
- The respirator replaced the Iron Lung.
- Health warnings first began to appear on cigarette packs.

Flashback Facts

- The Beatles were still going strong with the release of their album and movie Help!
- Green Acres and I Dream of Jeannie premiered on television.
- The Pillsbury Dough Boy was born.
- Canned Spaghettio’s and Cool Whip made their debut.
- The first Subway sandwich shop opened.
- Charlie Brown Christmas premiered on CBS.
- The optical disk (now called the compact disk) was invented.
- The skate board and super ball were the hottest toys.
- Women’s skirts began to get shorter and men’s hair got longer.

Cost of Living in 1965

New home ................................................. $21,500
Average yearly income ....................... $4,658
Gallon of gas ............................................ $.31
Dozen eggs ............................................... $.69
Gallon of milk .......................................... $.95
First-class stamp ................................. $.05
Loaf of bread .......................................... $.21
Merrill A. Anderson
Dole P. Baker
Martin R. Bradley
Richard A. Brunswick
Ralph W. Crawford
Albert A. Dubin
Galen J. Eash
Erly P. Gallo
Jay M. Grodin
Jack Jenofsky
Louis A. Karp
Mary E. Knepp
Joseph P. Leddy
Lawrence O. McGovern
Louis H. Mutschler
George W. Ousler
William R. Polan
Joyce E. Price
Antonio Ramos-Umpierre
Thomas D. Sheppard
Victor B. Slotnick
Donald H. Smith
Harry F. Smith
Sanford A. Tisherman
"Lady don’t you know you are causing pandemonium here?", the gruff voice with dancing smiling eyes of Dr. Michaels said to me as he placed his heavy hand on my shoulder. These were the first words I heard upon visiting Jefferson. I wanted to flee the sea of young men in white coats at that Daniel Baugh Institute of Anatomy’s massive lab but my high heels stuck in the wooden floors. Yes, the Board of Trustees had finally approved, after many unsuccessful attempts, the motion by Kenneth Goodner to accept women at Jeff. Jefferson Medical School was established in 1825. Well, Princeton did not become co-ed until 1970! We all knew Jeff physicians were known for their clinical skills.

Anatomy with four classmates to a cadaver immediately immersed us into the world of disease and odors. By the time we completed embryology with Dr. Michaels swinging his garden hose about to illustrate fetal development, and ambidextrous Dr. Brown’s hieroglyphics on the blackboard in his accelerated course in neuroanatomy, we needed Christmas. Who can forget the Twelve Days of Christmas carol beginning and ending with one penile bone??? Well that XX blooper in Anatomy lab was later equally matched by an XY falling from his lab stool flat on his face, having endured his first venipuncture in Bacteriology lab. Right. His shiner seemed to last the entire semester.

Pathology with the Sarge, the brilliant Gonzalo Aponte, whose untimely death we still mourn, and dear Davie Morgan. Oh "Yes boys", we can never forget where breast cancer metastasizes to as we experienced his knowledge around his pathology table specimens.

Did Dr. Shepartz, coauthor of our Biochemistry textbook, have to look directly at me during his PKU lecture when he described patients with blonde hair, blue eyes, and retardation!! Well, my eyes are hazel!

Ah, but the clinical years made us really feel like we were truly going to be DOCTORS!!! The wards were filled with MI patients, many who died young with their first heart attack. No Beta blockers, 2 drugs to treat hypertension, cath labs were in their infancy. But bless Dr. John Gibbons who invented the first heart-lung machine here at Jeff. He wrote orders on the chart with his thick kindergarten-grade pencil.

GI rotation kept Wawa in business. Ulcers were treated with 2 oz. of milk followed an hour later by 2 oz cream, around the clock. WE never heard of lactose intolerance! No flexible scopes. What! Ulcers caused by a bacterium?? Pure heresy.

Urology clinic was a panic. Spanish-language only patients walking around with their hats, shoes and socks, and shirt-tails only while we screamed: orinar parada!

Can you imagine Dr. Abe Rakoff describing some of the earliest cases of anorexia and bulimia?
He was another giant in his field of gynecologic endocrinology.

Dr. DePalma, chair of Orthopedics, rotated groups of students to his Center City home for discussions. No joint replacements yet. Seems we only had osteotomies then.

WE graduated in 1965. 50 years ago!! Medicare was enacted and President Lyndon B. Johnson initiated the Great Society - in name only. A rare hospital accepted M.D. physicians along with D.O. doctors.

Jefferson tuition is now $53,000/year. 52% of the students are women. 1961 tuition was $1,000. Are we archaic and irrelevant??? Of course not. We are vibrant and eager to continue to learn, even if it is no longer just the medical field. We realize that 50 years is not so long ago and yet the future that lies ahead can be challenging yet gratifying. Let’s reconnect with each other. Some of us may be gray, but we still have our wit and loves and family. Jeff has always been our family and we should remember her as part of our everlasting family. Name changes occur with marriages and so often are a sign of the times. We are still Jeff and our memories are indelible. Even Harvard’s school of Public Health is now T. H. Chan School of Public Health. We now are wisely endowed and restrictions are not part of this "good deal". Let’s not have sour grapes for something that is for the betterment of the College and University. We will always be JEFF grads. Let not our hearts be troubled and let us enjoy each other, the remarkable changes that have occurred during our practice of medicine, and pray that Jefferson’s culture of caring for the patient and excellence will never wane.

Joyfully yours,

Nancy Szwec Czarnecki ’65
Edward Abrams, M.D.

Since I graduated from Jefferson, I began that first year as an intern at what was then called Philadelphia General Hospital. I had a rotating internship and stayed there for a year. I was then on the University of Pennsylvania service at Philadelphia General Hospital for 2 years as an internal medicine resident. From there I took a year of cardiology fellowship at Hahnemann Hospital where I spent the year in the Cardiac catheterization laboratory. I then went in the U.S. Army and spent 2 years at Madigan General Hospital in Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington. I then came down to Los Angeles and took a second year of cardiology fellowship training at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

I then decided to remain out on the west coast and not return to the Philadelphia area where I had been all my life before leaving in 1969. I subsequently joined a cardiology practice with two other doctors and was with them for a year and a half before I went into my own practice. I have been in Paramount, California for the last 42 years and have enjoyed my practice immensely. Since no one has ever heard of the town before, in the early years and for several decades, we were quite busy. It is a town in Los Angeles County, about 20 minutes south of Los Angeles city and about 5 minutes north of Long Beach, California.

I was the director of the cardiology department as well as the cardiac catheterization laboratory for over 2 decades. It was a fun experience and I enjoyed it a lot. I remain in practice today, however, it is an office cardiology practice and I have stopped doing hospital work. It sure has made my life easier with much less responsibilities and the phone doesn’t ring as much.

I made teaching rounds in cardiology for 12 years at Harbor General Hospital-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California. I think the house staff taught me more than I taught them. I loved doing it, but time restraints forced me to stop.

I have been married to my wife, Deanna, for 55 years. I was one of the students that were married through medical school. We have 2 children; a son, Steve, who is an attorney in Sacramento, California and a daughter, Debbie, who is the program director and news director of a radio station in Santa Rosa, California called KZST. We have 4 grandchildren, all girls, equally divided between our two children. We spend many weekends flying up to those two cities to see everyone and they both come down and visit with us frequently here in Los Angeles with their gang, as well.

I have had a wonderful clinical experience practicing cardiology for all of these years and plan to continue to do it at this time.
Oh my, where have the years gone? Remembering graduation day in June 1965 at the Philadelphia Academy of Music, it seems like yesterday. Well, maybe it seems like only 45 years ago!

Following graduation, Carol and I packed our car with all of our worldly possessions and drove to Washington, PA to begin my rotating internship. We settled in our apartment and awaited the birth of our daughter in 1966. Although time was spent doing typical intern “scut work,” it was a great experience cementing my Jefferson knowledge and medical exposure with the practical lessons of dealing with emergencies, case work, patient management and care, along with helping families through stressful life situations.

I had committed myself to 2 years of service in the U.S. Air Force following my internship. Although Dayton, Ohio is not among the top 10 assignments, it was peaceful during the Vietnam War. Following completion of my military career, I returned to Washington, PA and became the third physician in a family practice group. Our son was born during my first year of practice, and our family was complete. Since then, we have added spouses and four grandchildren to the Thanksgiving and holiday tables. While on the Washington Hospital Medical Staff, I was instrumental in increasing the status of the Family Practice Department for those of us who were board certified. Chairman of the Department, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Chief of Staff and a Hospital Board member were positions that I held during my 33 years on the staff.

I retired in 2000 and now spend time doing “retirement things.” Playing golf, traveling, working in my yard and enjoying family and friends were activities that had been minimized for many years. We have traveled to European countries, taken numerous cruises including Alaska, the Panama Canal and riverboats in Europe.

I have devoted some of my time to working with numerous organizations. Volunteering on charitable boards, holding synagogue offices and serving on Washington & Jefferson College Alumni Relations Council and the College Board of Trustees have been very enjoyable experiences.

Now, as we all tend to slow down physically, I tend to look back and think how I have been blessed with a family that knows how to work, how to love and how to succeed. My career was terrific, but I certainly don’t want to go back to work in today’s medical situation. I look forward to seeing you all in October and sharing memories of Clinton Street and Walnut Street and hospitals in Philadelphia and Camden. Time indeed marches on.
After graduation from Jefferson my training and medical practice consisted of the following:

- Rotating internship - Akron General Medical Center, Akron, OH
- Medical residency - Akron General and Philadelphia V.A.
- Pulmonary Medicine Fellowship, Jefferson
- Military Service - USAF, Clark Air Base, the Philippines
- Pulmonary Medicine and Internal Medicine Practice: Akron General Hospital and Akron Clinic - 1971 to 1995, Chief of Pulmonary Medicine

Teaching staff at Akron General Hospital, Associate and Assistant Professor at Northeastern Ohio College of Medicine

Pulmonary Medicine and Internal Medicine Practice: Prescott, AZ - 1995 to 2010

Organizations: FACP, FACCP, American Lung Society

Family:

Wife: Nancy Graff from Springville, NY, Health and Physical Education major, taught and coached women’s track 13 years at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

Children: Douglass - echocardiography tech in Phoenix area, 4 children
    Jill - lives off the grid in N. Idaho on a farm, 5 children
    Roger - businessman in Columbus, OH, 3 children

Retirement Activities: hiking in Prescott area, the Flagstaff Mountains and the Grand Canyon, golf two or three times a week, travel, church and bible study and volunteer at a soup kitchen for the homeless.
Elmer Clarence Bigley, Jr., M.D.

On December 7, 1964, I met Elizabeth Fidure, R.N., while on my surgery block at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia. When Betty said yes, we were married the following October while I was interning (along with classmate, the late Erly Gallo) at Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, PA. We will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 16, 2015. Betty continued to work as an R.N. for many years, balancing nursing with motherhood, and is now enjoying retirement with interest in arts and crafts and, of course, spoiling the grandchildren.

In 1966, since Dr. DePalma was only taking residents for Orthopaedics from those doing internships at Jefferson, I took a residency at National Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Hospital in Arlington, VA. Here I received a tremendous amount of hands-on experience, i.e., on a black ice day in one winter, we set 55 fractures in the ER and OR. Over the next four years, I published several papers with Frederick Rook, M.D., and Bruce Butler, M.D., as well as being invited to present papers to the American Fracture Association and the Washington Orthopaedic Society. During my 4th year of residency, I spent 6 months in Philadelphia at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania doing research in Orthopaedics with Carl Brighton, M.D. with whom I also published a paper.

Elmer Bigley III, born in 1967, graduated from William & Mary in 1989 with a B.S. in Biology, and lives in Arlington, VA. He obtained his Master’s Degree in Public Health and works as a microbiologist for the FDA in Beltsville, MD. He is frequently called upon to help in finding the sources of food poisoning outbreaks throughout the country. He has his own band which performs in the D.C. area, and is a music minister at a local church. He has one daughter, Hannah, in 4th grade, who enjoys many sports, dancing, piano, and reading.

Heather Lynn, born in 1969, graduated with honors from VA Tech in 1991, earning a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. She does substitute teaching wherever her husband is assigned in the military. In July 2011, she earned the Key Spouse of the Year Award for her work with the dependents of the enlisted personnel, and was invited to be part of a symposium in D.C. to make the military aware of the effort of the non-military spouse to keep the family together while the active duty personnel were deployed. They have two sons, Connor, who graduated from high school with honors in 2015, and will be a freshman at the University of Alabama. He was active in sports, Show Choir and Church Youth Group. Their younger son, Collin, is now a sophomore in high school in O’Fallon, IL, and enjoys football, acting, robotics and Church Youth Group.

Beth Ann, born in 1976, graduated with honors from Springhill College, Mobile, AL in 1998, with a
B.S. in Education. She now lives in Suffolk, VA and teaches in Chesapeake, VA. She earned the Teacher of the Year Award in March 2011 for what she has done to improve the ways for learning of both students and teachers. Her oldest child, Sarah, is a high school senior and also attends Governor’s School of the Arts in Norfolk, majoring in dance. The middle child, Emily, is a sophomore in high school and involved in field hockey. The youngest of our grandchildren, Kyle, is in 2nd grade and likes to try almost anything to stimulate his mind and body.

From 1970 to 1972, as a Berry Plan participant, I was commissioned in the Navy as a Commander, and was assigned to the Naval Hospital at Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center in Southern Maryland, where I served as chief of the Department of Orthopaedics. I became a member of the Society of Military Orthopedic Surgeons (S.O.M.O.S.) whose experiences gave the perspective into what our military has to deal with that is different from non-military patient treatment, but can then be incorporated into civilian practice. I was able to fly in F-4 Phantom jet fighter planes, capable of flying twice the speed of sound, to see what may occur to individuals at the speeds incurred, and also observe how other, newer military planes tested here would serve the military in the future. The work was interesting, but the reward came from taking care of our troops returning from Vietnam, and preparing me to return to civilian practice.

1972 to present: Following my stint on active duty with the U.S. Navy, I returned to the Washington, D.C. area and joined an eleven man Orthopaedic group that I had trained under. For many years, I taught our Orthopaedic residents their Basic Sciences along with some of their hands on learning experiences. During this time, I also became the Director of the Arlington Crippled Children’s Clinic, which encompassed the entire Northern half of Virginia, having the satisfaction, for many years, of improving the lives of the children when possible.

Since our main office was in Alexandria, VA, I was elected Secretary of the Alexandria Medical Society for which I served for two years. I continued to remain an active member of the Washington Orthopaedic Society, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Eastern Orthopaedic Association, and the Southern Orthopaedic Association.

I was elected and served for two years as President of the northern Virginia Academy of Surgeons, for which I was able to have guest speakers from our Congress give talks on Politics in Medicine, and inviting the co-operation and input of physicians with the politicians to help set and control the future of medicine, not having it completely dictated by the politicians on important issues occurring at that time.

In 1980, I was elected Chief of Staff of National Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Hospital (NORH), for a two year term. I was a member of a panel of physicians who took care of the Southern Railroad’s employees as well as injured train passengers. I served on the Board of trustees for NORH as well as our main office at Park Place Condominiums. I am still a member of the Virginia Orthopaedic Society, but now as Emeritus, having retired from active practice because of my own orthopaedic problems.

We presently reside in Williamsburg, VA and have a cottage in the Outer Banks, NC, where we can go to relax and get away from the busier areas we live in. Our children and their families enjoy this too. We have traveled to all 50 states as well as numerous foreign countries in Europe and Asia. I avail myself of the golf opportunities in the community where we reside.

As a final note, Jefferson prepared me for taking the next step in my field of medicine, laying the ground work for ways to study and prepare for whatever held forth in the future. It served me well.
I retired on March 3, 2010 at age 70 from a busy private practice in orthopaedic surgery in San Francisco, at the hospital where I was born.

After Yale, I earned my M.D. in 1965 at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. This was followed by three years of general surgical residency in San Francisco, four years at Boston’s Harvard Orthopaedic Residency (where our two children were born), and two years as an Army doctor at Fort Gordon. An abundance of knee and shoulder injuries there spawned my interest in sports injuries. I bought my own vintage Watanabe Arthroscope since the Army would not provide support for such unproven technology. Teaching diagnostic arthroscopy at the Medical College of Georgia followed.

In 1974, I was fortunate to return to San Francisco and join Dr. John Callander in an orthopaedic private practice, originally started in 1932 by Leroy Abbott and my father (who died of a heart attack my sophomore year at Yale). We have since seen the practice grow to a 12-man group. My career in San Francisco has been a privileged journey, which I could never have imagined. The highlights have included:

- Starting arthroscopy at our UCSF-affiliated teaching hospital (children’s hospital)
- Serving 15 years (1981-1995) as orthopaedic surgeon to the Haas family-owned Oakland A’s including three World Series (rings included) and three additional play-off series. Outside of a busy practice, I was able to attend 70 of 81 home games per year at nights and weekends.
- Interested in pitching mechanics and injury prevention, I enjoyed the intoxicating delusion that I actually made a contribution to the care of pitchers in Major League Baseball.
- Leading seven orthopaedic surgical teams to small hospitals in Guatemala and El Salvador to reconstruct indigent children’s physical injuries and deformities. This is Operation Rainbow, an orthopaedic non-profit group established by partner Taylor Smith in 1991. This effort continues to send teams from our office (Stanford, UCSF, and Kaiser Hospitals) to numerous countries, including Ecuador, Peru, and Cuba.

Recent retirement has brought formidable challenges in priority and time management (nothing new to many of you). First and foremost, is my remarriage to Anita Sirianni, October 24, 2010, and making time for travel and our 14 grandchildren, from ages 5 months to 23 years. Next, I look
forward to having time for artwork, painting, oil and water colors, fly fishing, and my new found
golf career with Anita, the Bohemian Club, and classes in art, computer graphics and Italian
language.

In daily reflections, Anita and I note how blessed we are to have come into each other’s lives at this
time of life. We try to practice, with gratitude, enjoying one day at a time, with no regrets over the
past and no fear of the future. I recognize Jefferson with great appreciation for giving me the focus
to always place the patient first in a personal care environment.
Bernard Casel, M.D.

Following graduation in 1965 and an internship, I did an Otolaryngology residency at Temple University Hospital where I met my wife Brenda who was an audiologist at St. Christopher’s Hospital where the ENT residents did a pediatric rotation. In 1970, we were married and I opened a solo ENT practice in the Atlantic City, NJ area.

Dan was born in 1972. He graduated from Drew University and Temple University Dental School. He is doing dentistry and has offices in West Palm Beach, Jupiter, and Stuart, Florida. Dan has one daughter and three boys.

Mike was born in 1974. He graduated from Swarthmore College and is Chief Investment Officer at Haverford College, where he is involved with running the endowment fund. Mike has two sons.

During thirty years of practice, for a number of years I was chairman of the ENT Department at Atlantic City Hospital (now Atlantic Care Regional Medical Center) and Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, NJ. I did surgery at those two hospitals and Cape May Regional Medical Center in Cape May Court House, NJ.

I retired in 2001. I continue to enjoy seashore living including boating and fishing and gardening. We get down to Florida to see Dan and his family in the winter. They visit us during summer months. Mike and his family we see more often since they are so much closer. Seeing our sons being so successful and enjoying grandchildren provides us with great joy. We have done some travelling over the years.
After graduation, I did a rotating internship at the old PGH (what an experience!). This was followed by a three year residency in OB-GYN at Jefferson with then chairman Roy Holly. Between the 2nd and 3rd year a fellowship in GYN endocrine with Abe Rakoff, a true legend.

The next two years (1970-72) were sort of a respite as I was stationed at Homestead Air Force Base in South Florida during the Berry Plan days doing OB-GYN and playing tennis!

Back to Philadelphia where I practiced my specialty at Jefferson and Lankenau Hospitals for 23 years. I then switched my focus and began a second career as a medical director, first with Prudential and later at Aetna. During most of that time I had the pleasure of working with Nancy Czarnecki. I am currently a part time consultant/director at Aetna which leaves me ample leisure time to enjoy life.

My daughter Candice, born in 1968, is a vice president with Crown Publishing, a subsidiary of Random House in NYC. She is the proud mother of a seven year old Chinese adopted child. Daughter Nicole (1970) teaches special education in Portland, OR. My wife Janet (commercial real estate) and I have enjoyed travelling extensively throughout Europe and Asia over the last 18 years.

I try to stay healthy by watching my weight and working out several times a week. Despite dealing with several bouts of cancer and a CABG in 2003, I feel remarkably well and look forward to our 50th.
Edwin Eli Cohen, M.D.

After attending Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania I was accepted to Jefferson for the Class of 1965 and the journey began.

As a student, I enjoyed the experience and friendship of all - our education was outstanding and I was well prepared for the upcoming years. At Jefferson, I met my wife to be Adele, and we were married at the end of our 2nd year. Adele was working in the Gynecology clinic at Jefferson. We lived downtown, started our family, moved to East Falls housing project (finances were tight) and took the Reading Railroads to attend classes with other married classmates who also lived in East Falls.

While in Philadelphia we had three children:

- Ross - Who attended PA College of Podiatric Medicine. He took additional training in Podiatric Surgery at Graduate Hospital and now practices in Glen Burnie, MD.
- Herman - Graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, is Board Certified in Family Practice and practices in Pennsauken, NJ.
- Rose - Also born at Jefferson with Downs Syndrome. She passed away at 2½ years of age.
- Julie - Born during my military service. She attended Ithaca College and received her Master’s Degree in Educational Psychology from Ohio State University. She has been working in the Montgomery County school system in Rockville, MD.

After graduation from Jefferson my career was as follows:

- Internship at Lower Bucks County Hospital in Bristol, PA
- General Surgery residency in the Jefferson Service at PGH, Dr. Thomas B. Mervine was our attending Chief of Surgery
- Military Services at Fort Leavenworth, KS

Surgery practice in the Kansas, Missouri area for several years but left for family reasons and went back to Pennsylvania to practice solo in Williamsport, PA for 17 years. After which I chose a new path to group practice in Farmville, VA for six years. I finished full time practice with VA Martinsburg, West Virginia retiring at the end of 2007. I have been doing locum surgery since then and still take assignments.

Adele and I have 9 grandchildren. We enjoy them immensely and they keep us busy. Professional life is much more relaxed and we are enjoying many activities together.
FIFTY YEARS - AMAZING! While still in my senior year at Jefferson, I decided I wanted to be a neurosurgeon (NS). Because of Vietnam, I realized there was a good chance I would be drafted before completing my NS training. Thus, I applied for the Berry Plan (delayed active duty), got it and was assigned to the Navy. During my internship year - I took a Rotating Internship at Albert Einstein Medical Center Northern Division - I was inducted into the Navy, and then was immediately placed on inactive reserve status which continued until all my training in NS was completed. In other words, the service guaranteed I would complete my training before I would go into the Navy for two years active duty.

After internship, I took one year of General Surgery residency at Jeanes Hospital. The general surgical training there was absolutely spectacular! During my internship and the Jeanes residency, I looked at various NS residencies. I quickly determined I wanted to return to Jeff for this. The Dean had talked Philip Gordy, MD, head of NS at the Wilmington Delaware hospitals, to come to Jeff as the new Chairman. Unlike many (if not most) NS Chairs who were VERY difficult to get along with, Dr Gordy was not only a great teacher but was also a real gem of a man. Luckily for me, Dr Gordy picked me to be his new resident starting in July 1967, right after my year at Jeanes. The other major NS at Jeff was William Whitely MD, another superb technician, teacher and man.

I had what was probably the strangest residency in the history of Jefferson. At the beginning of my second year, the senior resident got TB and was out for four months. Meantime, the third year resident was away on a rotation which had been scheduled long before. Thus, I became acting “senior resident” for those four months. At the start of my third year, the senior resident got hepatitis and was out for three months. I was supposed to be on a neurology rotation at Jeff. Instead I once again became acting “senior resident” for another three months. So - when it was my turn to be the real senior resident, everyone wanted to know what illness I would suffer. The answer - NONE! Thus I was “senior resident” for one year, seven months total.

When my residency ended, I owed the Navy two years - 1971 to 73. It’s called - Join the Navy and see South Philadelphia!! That’s as far as I got - to the huge naval hospital on Pattison Ave. We were the only NS for ANY of the military services from Maine down to Bethesda and from the Atlantic Ocean over to Wright Patterson AF Base in Ohio. As I was coming onto active duty, two neurologists - Kenneth Brait, MD from HUP and Michael Partnow, MD from AEMC in New York - also started their two year naval stints. We ended up practicing together after the naval stints were
ended. The Navy was a truly GREAT experience. The Naval brass did not care if physicians followed military protocol, especially two year physicians. All they cared about was that we treat our patients like they were our private patients in private practice, which we did.

In July 1973, I joined the staffs of Rancocas Valley Hospital in Willingboro, NJ and Garden State Community Hospital in Marlton, NJ (GSCH). I was the first NS ever at both. My neurology friends started their neuro practice at both at the same time - they were the first neurologists on each staff. Rancocas has since become Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County. GSCH is now Virtua Marlton.

In 1981, I was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis but was able to keep operating. In 1988, I had a flare which made it impossible to continue working as an operating Neurosurgeon - I had to retire from my practice on July 1, 1988.

After that, I saw patients for Independent Neurosurgical and Neurologic Evaluations (IMEs). I reviewed medical records in those two fields as an expert and, when necessary, testified in cases. As of January 1, 2015, I finally put my MD license on what Pennsylvania calls “Active Retire” - which means I can write scripts for me and my family but cannot see patients any longer.

In terms of personal life, I had my two children with my first wife, Beverly Shapiro, whom I met at Penn State University (PSU). We got married after her graduation from PSU in 1963. My daughter Elissa now lives in Harrisburg with her husband Ken Arch and two sons, Mitchell, 14 and Adam, 12. My son Aubrey lives in Seattle with his wife Fiona and two children, Jed, 13 and Harriet, 11. All are happy and healthy. Aubrey and his wife Fiona are both journalists out there. I have been married to my current wife Dianne Tankle for 27 years now. She is the love of my life. Our only problem is it is very difficult for us to get out to see my son and his kids in Seattle.

Now that I retired from medicine, the major activity in my life is music and, especially, folk music. Dianne and I have been involved in folk music much of our lives. In fact, that is how we originally met decades before we got together. Both of us spent many years on the BOD of the Philadelphia Folksong Society (PFS), the organization which runs the Philadelphia Folk Festival (PFF). The cover organization for folk music in the USA and Canada is the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance - now called Folk Alliance International (FAI). The meetings to form FAI were held in our large brownstone home in Center City Philadelphia. We have since sold that home and moved into a condo - makes much better sense for just two of us. Dianne is known all over North America, Europe and even parts of Asia as a booker of folk music and an organizer of folk music events and conferences. She no longer books acts but is still running conferences and events. Dianne is the Chief Coordinator of the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA) Conference. This is an annual conference for the people in the business of folk music - about 860 performers, presenters, managers, agents, luthiers, publicists, DJs, etc. The conference includes showcases of all types and varieties, workshops, concerts, table top exhibit hall, special events and tons of “networking.” NERFA is the eastern branch of FAI and includes all the northeast states of the U.S. plus Ontario, Quebec and all the Maritimes of Canada. Obviously, I am heavily involved in all this.

I started music with classical piano at age six. I now mainly play autoharp, banjo and guitar. I also used to play acoustic bass fiddle and Sousaphone. No matter where we go, folk music is an “In” to the local community. It all makes for an interesting life! I used to be a “jock” and thought, when I retired, I would spend my time playing golf, tennis, water and snow skiing, ice skating and any other sport which attracted me. Unfortunately, with the MS, I cannot do any of those things - but I CAN play music! HERE’S SINGING TO YA!! I wish ALL a very happy, healthy retirement.
The Class of ’65 is memorable for me, especially our first years at DBI. Oh how we cringed when Dr. Michaels came up behind us, grabbed our neck or shoulder and yelled in his deep voice, “What nerve supplies this?” But it was a time of making lifelong friends, with each dreaming of becoming a DOCTOR! Our second year, bacteriology exams were to determine if we knew the difference between Staff or Staph. We made it, even if we needed to walk around the Horn & Hardart Bakery between DBI and the administration building, where we gazed at the Gross Clinic as we ascended the stairs.

After my first year, I married my college sweetheart, Mary Alice Schantz, who received her medical technology training at Lankenau Hospital. In November 1963, our first child was born at Jefferson after 40 hours of labor under the conservative care of J.B. Montgomery’s team, who did not think C-sections were an acceptable option. He (our son) is healthy and actively in business for himself, living in Louisville, KY. After graduating from Jeff, we had three daughters, who are in good health and doing well in their professions. Our youngest daughter is a physician for students at a Big Ten University and enjoys her work. We have 7 grandchildren and get together with our family at least twice yearly.

Following a rotating internship at St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem, PA, I joined a GP in Perkasie, PA (upper Bucks County) where we practiced primary care together until 2003, when he retired. I continued to work until December 2005, when I retired and left the practice to 3 younger members of the group.

From 1976 until 2004 my senior partner and I served as preceptors for Jefferson’s Department of Family Medicine, which proved to be very stimulating for us as well as a good venue for 3rd year med students to experience the reality of primary care, with many of them choosing a residency in family medicine.

After retirement I spent two weeks with a volunteer medical team serving in Haiti shortly after the 2010 earthquake. We saw many people with injuries and other medical issues as we served in “tent cities,” open-air clinics, held in fields or schools. It was a good experience as my knowledge of medicine was reawakened after 4.5 years in retirement.

Mary Alice and I have had the good fortune to travel a great deal, but recently that has been curtailed some since she developed CNS lymphoma in early 2013, requiring craniotomy and a year
of chemo. Thankfully, she has done quite well and the periodic visits for MRI and lab studies as well as seeing her oncologist have shown no new tumors. My health has been quite well and I continue to read, walk, and do some volunteer work. We enjoy living in this lovely 55+ community, where we moved 3 years ago.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the reunion.
Yes, I began Jeff as the first woman accepted that September 1961. Joseph Eugene Czarnecki and I met at Temple University as freshmen. We didn’t date until senior year. On our first date he asked me to marry him!! I told him he belonged in Byberry - Philadelphia’s mental health facility. WE married after our Part I National Boards exam which closed our sophomore year in medical school. He attended the Des Moines College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. We spent a lot of time studying and talking on expensive long distance phone calls.

Graduation 6-1965 - 50 years ago. Joe and I chose family practice (only 7 of us from our class did so) since our local Northeastern Hospital in Philadelphia accepted both M.D. and D.O. degreed physicians. A super hospital with excellent nursing care and dedicated well-trained physicians in Port Richmond, Philadelphia, where we practiced for over 20 years.

Joseph John, born 1970, graduated from Jeff in 1995, then a Harvard Ortho Residency and has a referral practice in Woburn, MA. He received notoriety with his successful 3-D Printer knee joint replacement surgeries. Grandsons Matthew - soon to be a sophomore at Yale, Alexander and Jacob excelling students at Belmont Hill are expert fishermen and sportsmen.

Andrea Marie, born 1971, a Villanova and Kellogg Business School grad, married in Chicago and has two wonderful sons, Ethan and Aidan, super students and athletes. They now live in Solon, OH where Andrea spends countless hours volunteering.

Nancy Camille, born 1972 attended the University of Delaware and enjoyed massage therapy and now lives in Brigantine, NJ.

John Jacob, born 1974, always kept us laughing. He trained as a physical therapist at the University of Scranton. His sons, John and Sean, are bright and active in way too many sports for me to count, and they thrill “Babci” with their brass and percussion instruments. John has become super knowledgeable in his field of orthopedic supplies and equipment. Kaitlynn was born after 7 grandsons in 2006. What a beautiful dancer with blue eyes, blonde hair, wearing her tutu while playing flag football in Westfield, NJ.

Yes, we were very busy with our practice and raising our cherubs. My patients were cared for by Dr. Joe during each of my 6 month maternity leaves, as they knit and crocheted afghans, booties and baby sweaters for our clan. When John was still in a playpen, I still recall that fateful day when I
received a call from Nancy Grosclose, asking me to be a member of that august body of the JMC Executive Committee!! I had been Reunion chairperson since our 5th Reunion and have so enjoyed contacting my classmates ever since. It indeed has been a pleasure to serve Jefferson and in 1989, I became the first woman President of the Jefferson Medical College Alumni an awesome honor and privilege. We began Career Day for Women students which continues to this day. I also took the responsibility of Women’s Forum, an activity for women alumnae and students to network and discuss issues that are unique to physicians and especially to women. When we became snow birds in 2009, I was no longer able to run these programs and a new voice was certainly appropriate. I had served on Jefferson’s Board of Trustees for a couple of years during this time as well. Paul Brucker, M.D. was an amazing President of the Board.

Practicing in Port Richmond was always a joy and privilege. But, I became restless since patients were not interested in healthy life-style changes. I decided that after 20 some years in practice with Joe, I would test the waters and see if we could be successful without being together in the office. I had declined offers to chair family practice departments in Philadelphia and community outreach programs. My family was always my prime concern and I have no regrets that I worked part-time while they were young. It was impossible in those days to buy malpractice insurance with a part-time premium. CME obligations and costs kept mounting. To maintain my Board certification and Fellowship in the American Academy of Family Practice and Board of Family Practice, countless hours were required to meet those demands.

I worked as a medical director for Bell of Pennsylvania for two years as I continued to work in the office. We both amazingly survived!! So I took a full-time position as a Medical Director for Prudential Health Care and worked with their traditional product. I learned a great deal and knew I was a positive force in maintaining quality medical care for patients. Pru was bought by Aetna and I spent another 7 years as Medical Director for Aetna. I was proud to work with so many well-trained, caring and intelligent doctors from all over the country. HMOs were sweeping the country and quality of care had to be maintained. No denial of services could be rendered without a physician’s review.

But in 2008, I wanted to spend more time by the ocean, spend time with my grandchildren and with Joe, who retired in 2009. We love swimming, walking on the beach, and interacting with the grands. We have been so blessed with this amazing family. I chair a Book Club in Venice, FL and run fun and educational programs for our condo association. We’ve become birders, decked out in our vests, birding books and goofy hats. Volunteering for the local Audubon Club has been a fun and learning experience. Re-connecting with Joe’s and my classmates that are nearby in Florida is a recent and wonderful experience. Going to operas, concerts and plays is a delight here in the Venice/Sarasota area.

We realize that 50 years is not so long ago and yet the future that lies ahead can be challenging yet gratifying. Let’s reconnect with each other. Some of us may be gray, but we still have our wit, our loves and family.
1961 was a great year for Bordeaux Red Wines and Jefferson admitted women medical students for the first time in over 200 years. Cecilia my lovely wife of 52 years joined me in 1963 and taught school in Cherry Hill, NJ. She was pregnant with our first child, Michelle; the bumpy ride over the Philly cobblestones fractured her coccyx and she had to sit on a plastic floating preserver at her desk while teaching to take the pressure off the fractured area.

We lived on Clinton Street several blocks from the hospital. While in labor, the cab would not pick her up and take her to the hospital for fear of her rupturing her placenta while in the cab. So she walked to the hospital stopping at corners during contractions. Michelle was born a 10 on the APGAR.

I interned at York Hospital and then I did a four year ENT residency at Ohio State University doing head and neck cancer surgery, plastic facial surgery, otology, sinus surgery and allergy.

We returned to Hawaii in 1970 joining a medical group for 3 years and then joined an ENT group for a few years, and then practiced alone for about 35 years for a total of 45 years.

We have four wonderful daughters. Michelle is married to Francis Van (Rafelghem) and has a 9 year old son, Luke and a 7 year old daughter Erin. Both attend Punahou School where our four daughters and I also attended. President Barak Obama graduated from Punahou.

Michelle graduated from Washington University with a BA and USC with an MBA. She has helped me and now is a realtor with her husband. They will be glad to help you with homes or condos in Hawaii!

Cheryl, our second daughter, graduated from Stanford on a gymnastic scholarship and USC for her JD and MBA. She has a son Jack and daughter Emma. Peter, her husband, is in international business.

Laurie graduated from Santa Clara with BA, JD and MBA and practices estate planning in Palo Alto, California. Her husband Michael is at a computer company. Ashley and Alex attend school in California.

Christine our fourth daughter practices medical massage therapy incorporating Yoga and Rolfing in San Francisco and Honolulu.
Cecelia is a docent at our Honolulu Academy of Art as well as a trustee at the museum. She loves gardening and has won over 20 blue ribbons with her flowers.

I finally retired at 75 years old and now enjoy collecting wines and with Cecelia’s guidance collect Chinese ceramics, furniture and paintings. We will see you on the 16th and 17th of October coming from Machu Picchu Peru.

Aloha, Cecelia and Gene
Robert Echenberg, M.D.

My fondest memory, as well as, my most proud memory was that our class included the first women in Jefferson’s history. I had already gone to Brown University while it was still officially segregated into Brown and Pembroke, only later to finally be gender merged. Nonetheless over several years in going from class to class at Jefferson, we all had to endure the silly and sexist “jokes” that each male professor had to make with having the first females in their classes.

I have long continued to be an advocate for not only women’s equality at all levels, but have spent my career doing the same for women’s health issues. I am including my current Bio which includes some of those issues that I have worked on to advance the science and art of caring for women and their families over the past 50 years. A few of you may remember that for our 20th reunion, I had the honor of giving our class medical presentation that year and chose to talk about the evolution of the women’s movement and how it influenced birthing practices over those previous 20 years. You may also remember that my presentation was censored when published in the Jefferson Alumni Bulletin later that year – and I later found out that the “old school” Ob/Gyn department had taken offense to my references of how families were treated during their birthing experiences back in the 1960’s.

It has honestly been a struggle and a challenge to be a physician advocate for patient centered care issues over all 5 of the decades since our graduation. I am still practicing full time as a single solo practitioner still trying to provide affordable care and specialized care for chronic pelvic pain patients (now both women and men), most of whom have had very negative experiences in today’s system. The science of neurobiology and pain processing disorders has advanced exponentially in the past 20 years but there are very few practitioners who work in the pelvic region who have had the opportunity to keep up with those advances in their clinical practices. My current program began in 2001 because so many young women were undergoing multiple invasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for their pelvic, genital and sexual pain disorders – and so many finding minimal significant relief. 30 million reproductive aged women and an unknown number of men suffer from regional pain issues in this part of the body and yet awareness, education and research funding is still so far behind. Chronic illness and chronic pain in the pelvic and genital region continue to generate huge expense, suffering and delays in therapy throughout our system, as well as facing enormous roadblocks in more effective and less costly care.

The good news in my personal life is that Nancy and I have been very happily married now for almost 25 years. Nancy’s 3 sons and my 2 daughters have given us 5 grandchildren. We lived for a few years in New Mexico but came back to Bethlehem, PA in 2000, where I have practiced for almost all of the years since residency and active duty military in Bangkok, Thailand. Nancy and I seem to
constantly be working on balancing between my continued active professional life and our family. I can’t imagine being completely retired and so far my health has generally cooperated. I am planning to be giving some educational talks in October in California and Florida of this year and thus apologize that we will be unable to attend the “Big 50th”. My best to you all, Bob Echenberg

Bio on Robert J. Echenberg, MD, FACOG

Dr. Robert Echenberg did his undergraduate work at Brown University, medical training at Jefferson Medical College, and his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan Medical Center. He began private practice in Bethlehem, PA in the early 1970’s. Soon after board certification he began realizing that much of what he needed to know concerning women’s health had not been taught in those otherwise excellent programs.

Aside from his comprehensive Ob/Gyn routine medical and surgical care of women, the first 35 years of his career in large part was devoted to advocating for women and their families by working at local, regional and national levels to advance the science and art of patient centered care for all aspects of pregnancy and birthing choices, counseling and aiding couples with sexual intimacy issues, establishing programs to support families through pregnancy loss and developing support for decision making regarding seriously ill newborns.

His interest in chronic pain began in 2001 while developing a hospital based program designed to create a non-surgical approach to the treatment of chronic pelvic pain. He soon joined the International Association for the Study of Pain, started reading scientific journals on pain itself, attended numerous pain related conferences and seminars and became actively involved in the International Pelvic Pain Society, serving for a year on its Board as well (www.pelvicpain.org).

Dr. Echenberg’s passion for patient advocacy and integrative care in women’s health continued with his creation in 2006 of one of the first privately owned medical practices specializing in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of chronic pelvic, genital and sexual pain disorders. Through his website www.TheEchenbergInstitute.com both women and men continue to reach out to him from around the world. They are all suffering from conditions related to persistent pain in the pelvic region. His expertise in developing a model of care based on the most recent research based protocols applying neuroscience in a bio-psychosocial approach has lead to successful outcomes for over 1200 patients from 26 states and 6 countries.

Over the past decade Dr. Echenberg has spoken nationally and internationally on all aspects of chronic pelvic pain and has co-authored a book, “Secret Suffering: How Women’s Sexual and Pelvic Pain Affects their Relationships.” More recently he has written the forward for the book: “The Proactive Patient: Managing IC/BPS and Related Conditions.” He has given numerous interviews on television, radio, webinars, and social media, and has been involved and responsible for such diverse activities as helping a high school student present a day seminar on Interstitial Cystitis at a regional medical school as well as serving on the Medical Advisory Board of the Interstitial Cystitis Association (www.ichelp.org). He has also been a member of the National Vulvodynia Association (www.nva.org) for a number of years.

His efforts have lead as well to the establishment of the “Alliance for Pelvic Pain,” a group of 5 diverse professionals who created and successfully held national patient weekend retreats in Pennsylvania in 2013 and in New York City in 2014 (www.allianceforpelvicpain.com). He has helped establish the first international non-profit organization to help raise awareness and education for all aspects of chronic pelvic pain (www.bridgeforpelvicpain.org). Most recently he has played an integral part in writing, producing, and appearing in a ground breaking DVD called “Healing the Pain down There” (www.paindownthere.com).

Echenberg strongly believes that institutional changes in medical education and awareness among younger people about these disorders will eventually allow for much earlier diagnosis and prevention of end-stage pain and suffering.
The first day of anatomy class I was sure I could never do this! All these years later, I am so glad that I did.

I have been asked numerous times about being in the "first class at Jefferson with women," how it felt, etc. It just felt like another step in my education. If there were special difficulties associated with this status, I was blissfully oblivious to them. I became a psychiatrist/psychoanalyst working with adults, adolescents, children, many years of specialty training, all of which I loved. I deeply regret the way in which my field has been changing due to pharmaceutical industry, insurance company and media influences, but have loved the kind of work I have always done, and have found it most gratifying, which I cannot say about contemporary psychiatry.

I was married briefly last 2 years of medical school, a marriage to a 1964 Jefferson graduate. We are on friendly terms to this day. My second marriage, also to a doctor (Hahnemann) also ended in divorce (also still friendly) but produced the three joys of my life: Christopher, MBA, works in IT and environmental areas; Elisabeth, herself a graduate of Jefferson, in ER Medicine and major mover in Wilderness Medicine; Miriam, Labor and Employment Attorney, now employed by Lambda Legal. Chris also has three children, all stars in their own rights of course.

I continue to work full time. Since moving into the City 11 years ago I began following my childhood fantasy of being "an actress" and take acting classes weekly. I will probably not be a movie star but I do love these classes.

My passion has always been various forms of music, and in recent years opera has overtaken all other forms, I cannot seem to hear and see enough of it. Of course there are still other forms which I love, as well as theater, books, movies, the usual.

Although there are only a few Jefferson classmates with whom I am in more or less regular contact, these are invaluable to me. And even with those I see rarely or only at reunions, I feel there is a special bond of steel which was forged at Jefferson among us all, which time or distance cannot erode and which is manifest every time we are together or in touch.
David Fitchett, M.D.

After graduation, I went to a one year rotating internship at Jefferson. At that time, I felt I needed to be in the service, so spent two tours in the Army in Vietnam. The first tour was as a battalion surgeon in the Central Highlands. It was interesting to see how the Army goes to war, but, other than the Medical Civil Affairs program, not much medical practice. Except for sore backs and venereal disease, everything was shipped to base hospitals. I got a Bronze Star there.

I extended for the second tour at 101st Evacuation Hospital at Tuy Hoa on the coast. It was a 400 bed unit with ½ Army patients and the other ½ being Vietnamese civilians plus South Korean soldiers and North Vietnamese wounded prisoners. Medically it was exciting, with short term care on the Vietnamese patients. We were extremely busy during the Tet Offensive.

I wanted to specialize in orthopedics, but couldn’t find a place while in Vietnam. I took a one year surgical residency at Wilmington Medical Center, DE, and then had a 4 year orthopedic residency at University of Colorado in Denver. It was a good choice for me with a complete background in general orthopedic surgery.

I settled in Albany, OR, pop. 30,000 and now 50,000, with two other orthopedists. I really enjoyed my general orthopedic practice and did the total joint replacements in the area. In 1993, as I was about to become Chief of Staff, I had a significant stroke in the L. Temporal-Parietal area with significant outcome on my cognitive and speech functions. After 6 months of Speech therapy, I eventually tried to return to practice. However, my organizational abilities were quite slow and considering possible future medico-legal problems, I quit my practice.

Now I function pretty well as long as my wife is around to back me up and correct me.

In my first marriage, I had a daughter and a son. The son was killed in a car crash and my daughter lives in Portland. My second wife is Marilyn Kirsch and we are married for 35 years. We have three sons who live in the Albany/Portland area. Much of my stroke recovery is due to the help of my wife and children.

During my practice I was active in many hospital committees and was also on the board of the Albany boys and Girls Club, the Creative Arts Guild and president of the Performing Arts Organization. After my stroke, I became more involved in my children’s activities - president of middle school parents club, on middle school advisory commission and coach for an AYSO soccer
team for 5 years. I also took a number of college courses through our community college to help with my cognitive deficiencies. A big part of April-September was working with Marilyn on our 1 acre We-Pick/You-Pick blueberry operation at our former home.

Now I am on the Albany Regional Museum board working on events and writing some articles. I enjoy my family and photography and traveling.
When 2015 suddenly intruded, my son Eric reminded me that I was, “ten years past retirement”! That idea seemed logical to him, but I felt things were just as they should be, practicing hand surgery at the East Orange V.A. and teaching as a clinical professor of Plastic Surgery through UMDNJ (now Rutgers University Medical School) in Newark, NJ. The education and practice of medicine which Jefferson made possible, my life-long dream, was an adventure.

In addition to providing an excellent medical education, Jefferson introduced me to many of the most interesting and concerned individuals I’ve ever met, my classmates. Our school also gave me the incredible opportunity to be involved in research under a very kind teacher, Dr. Nealon, with an amazing mentor, Dr. Aponte. Surgical internship at Jefferson Medical College Hospital continued the adventure. This led to the opportunity to experience a surgical residency at Temple University. It was at Temple, on the Babcock ward, that another amazing event occurred - I met a beautiful student nurse, Kathy Gaylord. We married in 1968.

After the next four exciting years and life-changing experiences, Kathy and I travelled west to Pittsburgh for a Plastic Surgery residency. This provided many extremely interesting challenges, an opportunity to do more research and the best life-altering experience, the birth of our son Eric in 1972. Rapid passage of time, enhanced by the excitement of raising our son found us travelling west again. We spent the next 23 years in Cleveland, OH. I was given the opportunity to head the section of Hand Surgery in Plastic Surgery at Cleveland Clinic. While this was an exciting time, I missed Philadelphia. In 1973, we were blessed with the birth of our son Michael. Our sons became the most exciting adventures.

Both of them decided they would “save the world”. Michael’s dream is to teach while Eric’s is to provide healthcare to children. Michael lives in South Jersey. Eric and his charming wife, Marissa are Pediatric ER Physicians at Boston Children’s Hospital. Eric leads the ER sedation service, teaches, and maintains a busy research commitment. Eric and Marissa have 3 fantastic children: Joshua, Naomi, and Sonia. All three love math but Joshua finds time for cello, robots and fly fishing. While Naomi and Sonia are also fly fishers, they both dance, are promising artists, and Sonia’s headed for the presidency.

Into all this joy came a virus which destroyed Kathy’s loving heart on November 18th, 2010! Eventually I went back to work. Our sons retaught me the importance of being social. Michael
enrolled me in an on-line dating service. He pointed out that this experience should clearly describe me. Therefore, my on-line name was “fly fisher.” And that’s how I met Nancy. Nancy Cetlin is a Psychologist. That background placed her into a small group that might be able to understand me. My beautiful fly fisher friend and I married in May 2014. She also understood my love of the opportunity to practice medicine and to teach. Yet she, like my son Eric, realized it was now time for me to concentrate on some of the other aspects of life. June 30, 2015 - 50 years after graduation from Jefferson - it was time for a major change, I retired. Nancy and I celebrated with a trip to Israel. My grandchildren and Nancy fly fish with me. They encourage me to draw, make bamboo fly rods, and write about this strange, bittersweet, beautiful journey. I look forward to reintroducing myself to classmates - our 50th Anniversary.
John A. Hildreth, M.D.

I received my acceptance to Jefferson Medical College while on bivouac with the United States Army in Texas after enlisting to avoid the draft. I was still in the Army reserves in 1961 when I entered those hallowed doors at Jefferson, and that is when the Cuban missile crisis broke out, and my Army reserves unit was called back to active duty to report to Fort Polk, LA. I went to those in authority at Jefferson with my problem, and they said “good luck” but they couldn’t promise me a slot after I got out of the Army, I was in a bind! So, I went to those in authority in the Army and they said I could get a deferment IF I signed up to do two more year’s active duty after I got out of Jefferson. I had no choice, so I signed up again with the Army.

So, I moved to South Philly in the Theta Kappa Psi frat house on Clinton St. and started the process of becoming a medical doctor. For two years, I studied hard and after the second year finished, I told my parents that I would like to get married, and they said OK. So, on June 23, 1963, Joyce Pepper and I got married and we moved into a “beautiful” third floor apartment (with no elevator) on 9th Street next door to a fraternity house and across the street from a “house of ill repute”! What an experience that was, especially for newlyweds! Joyce managed to get a job in Dr. Montgomery’s OB-GYN unit for a while and later a job at the Philadelphia Psychiatric Hospital, while I moonlighted at Underwood Hospital’s ER in Camden to help pay our food and rent bills.

During the ensuing two years, I was selected for the student council and Sim’s society, and later Kappa Beta Phi where I was president and helped put on the annual Black and Blue Ball dance our senior year. One of my highlights of working the ER at Underwood was the night I, as a medical student, alone, delivered triplets one evening, which not that many OB guys get to do during their whole career. So, anyway, on to graduation in 1965. By 1965, I had become tired of winters and big city life and decided to do my internship in Florida, not ever intending to practice in that state. Florida had everything we had missed in Philadelphia those four years- boating, swimming, fishing, walking the beaches, and just soaking up the sun. Unfortunately, as June of 1966 rolled around, the Army came around knocking at our door. Also, unfortunately, this was the time of the Vietnam War and the Army now had me for two more years of active duty- my prospects were not looking good. However, providence smiled upon us and I was sent to Korea rather than Vietnam, but since Korea was also considered a “combat zone” by the Army, I was not able to bring Joyce along with me to Korea. After a month or so of being separated, Joyce began to get lonely and she decided to come to Korea on her own. When I asked my commanding officer about Joyce’s decision, he flat out told me
that “If the Army wanted me to have a wife, it would have issued me one,” end of discussion and
she would not get PX or Commissary privileges. Joyce came anyway and we found her an
apartment “out on the economy” and she got a job “entertaining the troops” at a Christian
serviceman’s center in Seoul. I did get to see her occasionally on weekends, and one of these
weekends resulted in her becoming pregnant with our first child, Jennifer, who was born in 1968 at
Fort Bill Army Hospital for the outrageous charge of $3.00!

After the Army cut me loose, I returned to Miami to do my residency in Internal Medicine and a
fellowship in Cardiology. Since by then we had “sand in our shoes” we decided to stay in Florida
and I joined two other Jeff graduates in practice in North Palm Beach Florida in 1971. I left this
group after about six years and was in solo practice until 1999 when ballooning costs and shrinking
reimbursements drove me out of private practice. I was then offered the position of Medical Director
for Florida Power and Light Co. in Florida to start up an in-house clinic for their employees and to
work in same, which I did from 1999 to 2007, when I finally hung it up for good.

Since 2007, I have been very active in volunteer work, reading novels instead of medical journals,
activities around my church, and traveling around the world and also to see our daughter in
Indiana, a son in Gaithersburg, MD, and another son in Vancouver, WA. Our wonderful children
have provided us with eight grandchildren and that has been a real blessing watching them grow
up.

We have only attended one class reunion at Jeff and that was in 1995, our 30th, but we did travel to
Jefferson to attend the graduation from Jeff of Joyce’s niece, Jane Williams.
Looking back to our fifty years in medicine presents one constant theme – change. From the day we graduated the world changed, our society changed and Jefferson changed. The changes first were brought home to me about the Vietnam conflict – being a military physician made me a hated symbol to many people. At that time, the protests were violent and it also fomented other changes – the feminist movement, student rights, and the beginning of the incursion of business into medicine. Some of the changes brought about were beneficial, others less so. What it taught me was that the only constant is change.

Having met and married my wife Dorrie, while at Jeff, she was the only constant in the 50 year journey. We have three children and eight grandchildren and will wait awhile for great-grandchildren. She was the mainstay of our life after I returned to Jefferson for a residency with three children ages 13, 10, and 9.

The changes at Jefferson became apparent to me when I returned to Jeff for a residency in OB-GYN in 1978. Having been in the Navy and then in general/family practice for 10 years, my return was a real eye-opener. Neckties were a thing of the past. Attendance at lectures was really not monitored nor considered necessary – a note service provided that information. Quiz sessions like we had with Dr. K. Goodner, the pit, and Dr. DePalma (at the beginning of his lecture) were gone. The “lounge” at 1025 Walnut had moved to luxurious facilities at Jeff Hall and the clinics were no longer held at Curtis Clinic but in various venues about the Jeff “campus”. Of note, the day I started was the day the “New Hospital” opened. Student housing had been built and included apartments for students and residents. All in all a change from the days of white coats with name tags, neckties, and face books (and not the kind on the internet). Probably the most significant change was the large percentage of female students (from our nine to approximately 50%). In the 80’s and 90’s Jeff began a series of affiliations and evolved into the Jefferson Health System. Today, there is little resemblance to the Jefferson we knew.

In medicine, the changes began as we were graduating. Medicare was enacted in July 1965, much to the dismay of the AMA and most physicians. Many things taught as “gospel” were subsequently disproved. Diabetes was not one disease, but at least two. Penicillin was thought to have eradicated pneumococcal pneumonia, now we use a vaccine to attempt to prevent the disease due to its virulence. Gastric and duodenal ulcer diseases were thought to be due to too much acid secretion (milk and Maalox, Sippy diet, vagotomy and pyloroplasty) until someone discovered H. Pylori. The
list goes on: The increasing importance of technology in the evaluation of a patient has made the
words of John Lindquist, MD to “listen to the patient as he/she will tell you what is wrong with
them” to give way to MRIs, CTs, and voluminous blood tests. Somewhere in between these two
extremes of technology and lying on of hands lies truth as we are now being encouraged to once
again become good listeners.

The intrusion of business into medicine has created multiple ethical dilemmas, e.g. from rushing
unproven technology into clinical practice (i.e. Electronic Fetal Monitoring, the DaVinci Robot and
electronic medical records) to the practices of pharmaceutical companies to price drugs that have
been in existence for many years to higher and higher levels. Much of the latter is fueled by direct to
consumer advertising. Needless to say, the increasing role of insurance has led to an exponential
increase in health care costs. When someone has minimal cost personally to the price of the service
provided, the costs increase astronomically. As has been demonstrated many times, having “skin in
the game” is one of the best ways to rein in costs. In addition, for-profit insurance companies have
an inherent bias to deny services on the basis of profit, not medical necessity. Not to be omitted, the
increasing litigious nature of the population has led to a malpractice environment where defensive
medicine is a necessity to protect one’s self.

All in all it has been a great ride and I’d do it all over again with some minor changes. Medicine is
the greatest profession in existence and will remain so if we can encourage the newer physicians to
stand up for what they know is best for the patient, not necessarily for themselves.
At an early age I knew that Jefferson commanded great respect among medical schools. Many of Scranton’s finest doctors were Jeff grads. My three physician uncles, though not Jeff docs, had great respect for their colleagues who were. My bubble was burst, however, when I was denied a physician’s discount at a pharmacy in Chicago because they had “never heard of such a school.”

I entered Jefferson from Penn State’s pre-med program with an interview situation that scared my family. As I was being interviewed by the Dean, my parents sat with a woman in the anteroom who asked them if they knew anyone in the Jefferson hierarchy. She went on to say that if they didn’t, then there was no chance that I would gain admission. Well, we didn’t, and I was accepted none the less.

Overall, my medical school experience was wonderful, although it did little to directly prepare me for my chosen specialty, ophthalmology. My ob-gyn rotation as Misericordia promptly eliminated that specialty as my career choice. That steered me towards general practice, the choice of one of my uncles. Several folks advised me to intern at a hospital located near where I might like to practice. That I did at St. Luke’s, the community hospital in Bethlehem, PA. But an experience there pointed me to the course my other two uncles took.

After one Sunday morning making rounds with a GP on 42 patients, I decided that perhaps ophthalmology might be the place for me. This I was able to do through the Berry Plan at Northwestern in Evanston/Chicago. Then came two years active duty at the Naval Academy, where the most common ailment was poison ivy.

My saddest duty was to tell a midshipman that he didn’t qualify to fly. (These days, poor vision for flight is overcome by refractive surgery). My duty there also included caring for active duty and retiree family members at a small naval hospital on base. It was a notable two years!

I started my private practice in Allentown in 1971 and remained solo until 2000 when I sold my practice to another ophthalmologist 15 years my junior. I have been an employee with no surgery, no call, and no administrative duties. I guess you could call it partial retirement.

Sue and I have been married for 50 years; have four children, and ten grandchildren…9 girls and one boy. We’ve been lucky to have stayed close to another Jeff classmate, Dick Wilson and his wife JoEllen and will be attending our 50th reunion with them.
Greetings from the parched land of earthquakes and Apache uprisings. As with most of you, I am in retirement now. People ask me…“what do you do with your time?” My usual response is (1) go to funerals/memorials (2) attend reunions (3) watch Jeopardy (4) take my prescribed medications and (5) think of ways to respond to the question “what do you do…..What did I do you ask? If you saw the movie “Dead Man Walking,” that was a training film (for anesthesiology).

My first day in Philadelphia, there was a gun battle a couple of blocks from me. That was a real awakening for this rube from the west. However, proximity to that event would serve me well in the years to come.

The Jefferson years were monumental to me in many ways beyond the academia - the history - the faculty - the experiences - the friendships, some of which I retain to this day. A certain maturity comes with survival!

Following graduation in ’65, I spent a year in a rotating internship, a position which as you know is now non-existent. Following that was a 2 year tour with the Army (ours). The first half was in South Vietnam as a battalion surgeon (HHC 2/502/101 AbnDiv); the remainder was with Special Forces in North Carolina (USAJFKCENSPEWAR). Only medicine has more abbreviations and acronyms than the military. I did make my decision for the specialty of anesthesiology while in the army. The service experience then proved to be a good springboard to a residency at Los Angeles County Harbor General in terms of GSW, gang warfare and the like.

I finished residency on a Friday and began private practice the following Monday. I remained at the same hospital/medical center (Thousand Oaks, CA) for the next 38 years (with time off of course). It was a full-time career keeping up with the exponentially expanding advances in anesthesia with close to 25,000 cases on record. However, I have no papers published nor any research to report. On the other hand, no felonies or professional misconduct either. I do pride myself on converting an entire medical center to 4 digit (24 hr.) time, which seems so mundane now. There were other roguish innovations as well, but they shall remain occult.

In that span of time, I coached football (assistant) at a local university for 8 years. I kept up my athletic interests by playing rugby - my last game at age 70!

My wife of 29 years was also in the health care sciences so we can understand each other whether
talking or texting. I have known her for 45 years so I guess I prefer long engagements. We have a blended family of 5 - all of whom are grown and self-sufficient. The eldest daughter (Jeff ’93) is a psychiatrist living close by in Gladwyne.

There you have it.....one half century condensed to an e-mail.
James F. Lally, M.D.

Nostalgia is sure to hold a stern grip on our reminiscences as we embrace looking back fifty years. Since memory loses its pungency and authenticity in the fog of time, we should tread cautiously as it is easy to summon false memories that embellish biography. With that caveat as a guide, here are my reflections on a long life with a career as a physician as its be-all and end-all.

After graduation from Jefferson and internship, many of us had to juggle our plans for residency with our military service obligations—remember the Berry Plan. My brother, a former naval officer, advised me to join the Navy, which I did. Unfortunately, he forgot to tell me that the Naval Services includes the Marine Corps. I then joined many other young physicians who were ordered to the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA. I recall, with humor, that we were taught to take apart and reassemble a .45 caliber pistol, taught how to fire several weapons and more in keeping with our medical training how to distinguish several quotidian fevers from malaria. The preparation was appropriate as we knew we were being sent in harm’s way to the then escalating war in Vietnam.

The violence of war has always provided peacetime physicians with experiences unrivaled in any civilian medical practices and Vietnam was no different. The sentiment in this excerpt from a recent essay that I wrote, “The Hill Battles of Khe Sanh: A Marine Corps Doctor Remembers” still haunts memories best left undisturbed: “I had not been in contact with my family for weeks and they knew where I was. For my family it was the waiting. They anxiously feared a phone call in the middle of the night and they apprehensively answered any knock on the door as they might see a naval officer in a cleanly pressed uniform with hat in hand and then realize that shattered dreams were a part of his message.” The CBS correspondent John Laurence said it best for most of us who survived Vietnam physically and psychologically (we hoped) intact: “We left Vietnam but it did not leave us.”

What a watershed year it was recuperating from the stresses of war in San Diego, at the U.S. Naval Hospital to be specific. That second year of military service was a welcome interlude, a chance to regroup and a chance to think about the future. While the irresistible lure of the sun and the beaches of Southern California beckoned, I knew that I wanted to return to Jefferson for residency training; and that I did.

And, I stayed at Jefferson for eight years. In that era radiology residencies were in transition as most four year programs included training in radiation therapy, diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. That was quite of body of medical knowledge to master. Board certification followed as did an appointment as a staff radiologist at Jefferson Hospital. The busy clinical radiology practice
at Jefferson honed my skills and gave me the confidence to consult with the attending staff and to teach residents.

I first saw her in a coffee shop (I think it was Irv’s) across from the old E.R. on 10th street. Our paths crossed again during weekends off at the Jersey shore, Avalon. The diffident, perpetual student had met his match in a vivacious, beguiling young OR nurse, Joann. I know it sounds like soap opera, but it worked. Those were busy times as I was finishing my residency and preparing for boards and she was frequently on call to operate the heart-lung machine, then quite a technical challenge in the early 70s. She had been privileged to work with Drs. Gibbon and Templeton, revered icons, now chapter headings in Jefferson’s illustrious history.

Marriage followed as did two children in the mid-70s. An opportunity arose that enticed me to leave Jefferson for a private practice group in Wilmington, DE in 1976. The Wilmington Medical Center later expanded with the addition of a larger campus near Newark, DE to the Christiana Care Health System. It is a large teaching hospital with busy clinical practices that prods practitioners to stay current and introduce new ideas and techniques. Radiology in the late decades of the 20th century was at the forefront of emerging technologies: CT, MRI and ultrasound. I elected to subspecialize in chest radiology, body CT and MRI.

How quickly the decades rolled by-- 80s, 90s and then crossing the millennium. Joann and I were absorbed in our children’s lives and sought to provide them advantages without having them labeled as children of privilege. Our son graduated from Jefferson in 2000 and is an interventional cardiologist in Las Vegas. Our daughter, two years younger, has her master’s degree in physical therapy from Washington University in St. Louis and now works in Seattle. I retired over five years ago and we now live full time in Southwest Florida.

We’ve been bitten by the wanderlust virus and have traveled to over 35 countries.

Carl Jung wrote that the first half of one’s life is about matters of the ego; the second half is about spirituality. Let’s celebrate that we’ve all reached that second half and are at a point that we don’t regret the roads taken and that we’ve fulfilled at least some of the dreams that we had when we first ascended the steps at 1025 Walnut Street a long time ago.
Raphael K. Levine, M.D.

Letha and I met on my 1st weekend in Philadelphia in 9/1961 and dated all through the 4 years at Jeff. We married in February 1965 just before graduation and then went on to New York for internship at Beth Israel (with savy Senape). From 1966-1969 I served in the Navy - 1 year at sea on a troop transport to Vietnam and then 2 years as a general medical officer at the St. Albans Naval Hospital in N.Y. Prior to the start of my naval experience, I had been offered a Urology residency at the University of Michigan to begin at the conclusion of my military service. My 3 years in the service exposed me to a myriad of traumatic war injuries and I decided to re-direct my career from GU to Orthopedics.

A subsequent 3 year orthopedic residency at Columbia (under Drs. Frank Stinchfield, Charles Neer, Robert Carroll, et al) was very fulfilling and I remained academically involved at Columbia for the next 12 years, chairing the Ortho department at its affiliate, Helen Hayes Hospital where I was primarily involved in the teaching and residency training of pediatric ortho problems. During the Helen Hayes years, I also joined a private practice part-time in Westwood, N.J., and, eventually continued in full time practice (giving up my Columbia involvement) for the next 30 years - and am still actively practicing (although limiting surgery to less than major cases & no trauma call).

Zalman was born in 1966, now married to Gila, with 5 children and practicing reproductive endocrinology (fertility) - med school following 4 years of rabbinical school and ordination as a rabbi. His oldest, Zeeva, 23, is getting married on October 11th. Doron, Moreet, Dafna, and Leebly (all exactly 3 years apart) are in various stages of their education (6th grade through college) - cerebral and athletic.

Shoshana, our military daughter, born in 1969 at St. Albans Naval Hospital, has gone on to bring us much pride as a professor of Bible at Stern College in N.Y. She and her husband, Yitzy Schechter, are much sought after speakers at synagogues, organizations, et al, on biblical and psychological topics. They are the parents of Yoni (18), Ayelet (16), Yedidya (14), Noam (11), and Nava (6), who all bring us pride in their wholesome values.

Chavie, now 42, has had a challenged life, having been involved in a terrorist bus bombing in Israel in 1995 in which she lost her roommate, Alisa Flatow. Now married to Rabbi Stephen Knapp with 5 children - Amalya (11), a brilliant student & accomplished gymnast, Eli & Rami (10,8), excellent athletes (baseball, soccer, ice hockey), Sophie (6), actress, singer, dancer - having already performed
in a Broadway show ("Once" from October 2014, to January), and Dalia (5) who is quick to offer advice on any topic to her siblings.

Yehoshua, born in 1981, married to Danielle, father of 3 boys, Akiva (7), Zecharia (4), Gavriel (2), has been in Boston for 12 years - Harvard Med, Mass General, and now completing a cardiac E.P. fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess, about to depart for Memphis where he was offered a private and academic position affiliated with the University of Tennessee.

We were struck with horrific tragedy this past February when our youngest child, Batya, suddenly passed away at age 29, leaving her husband (of 3 years), Elie, and all of us deeply traumatized. The emptiness that we feel will be permanent - especially in view of the fact that she was so full of life, zest, and mischief and responsible for most of my gray hairs. She was our "out-of-the box" free spirit whose absence will always haunt us.

My memories of Jeff remain so warm and still tangible. The excitement of Dr. Aponte’s engagement & approaching marriage to the daughter of a prominent U. of P. gastroenterologist (and his description of his bride), the fear of Dr. Ken Goodner approaching our physiology lab table to check on the results of gastric fluid analysis (after 3 hours of arguing over who was going to swallow the tube), Dr. Ramsey, the "velvet dagger", Dr. Hausberger (who did all of our dissections), Dr. Zitselsperger (his partner in crime), and, of course, presentations in the PIT with Dr. Gibbons - many, many more. The Jeff years left indelible marks on me, and, I’m sure, all of us. Would love to be in touch with you all, and continue to share recollections, etc.
Following internship, I spent 2 years in the Air Force and completed my orthopedic residency at Jeff.

After moving to Miami, I spent about 10-12 years specializing and teaching at the University of Miami in the field of children’s orthopedics. Today, I am still in active practice in a 10 man group employed by Baptist Health of South Florida. I limit my practice to disorders of the knee and shoulder.

Fredda and I have been married for 48 years with 2 daughters both living in the Miami area. We have 3 grandsons, ages 7, 9, 11. Fortunately, my wife and I are still in relatively in good health. We enjoy the casual life style here and spend time sailing when time permits.
Margaret M. Libonati, M.D.

When I think of Jefferson, the early days in 1961-1962, immediately the feeling comes back of unbelief that I was actually there! In my mind, it was always so steeped in history and tradition that my admission came as somewhat of a shock. I ended my first day staggering out the door with a load of books almost equal to my weight, and met Dean Sodeman who said, “Now you must transfer all that knowledge into your head!” I will remember always the anatomy lab with the superb professors; the box of bones (like a small coffin) that we carried home to study; the lectures in the pit @DBI, which you were locked out of if late; and the Wednesday noon-time lectures in the great pit at the medical school. Some of the more memorable speakers were Timothy O’Leary and John Gibbon.

The studies at Jefferson were challenging and the threat of failure was always in the background. The professors were wonderful, their eccentricities cultivated and accepted (provided we considered them knowledgeable in their field!).

We eventually split into groups and spent time in many area hospitals, learning about the different specialties in medicine and surgery. A personal highlight was my time spent at Hunterton Medical Center in North Jersey, where we studied internal medicine. Our time spent there included experiences in lone, dual, and group practice.

A rotating internship at PGH completed my "introduction" to medicine. Everything came together with two years residency in anesthesia, a clinical fellowship in London, and a research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

After a number of years teaching in academic medicine at the University of Colorado and at the University of Pennsylvania, I began private practice at Will’s Eye Hospital. Here I concentrated mainly on pediatric anesthesia. I married a fellow anesthesiologist, John Leahy, and had two wonderful children, who have given me four equally wonderful grandchildren. After our retirement, we spent our days traveling and working on our next great project: gardening in the Lehigh Valley!

Medicine was always a great adventure, one which never failed to interest and surprise. I am still amazed that they allowed me to join that vast group of medical practitioners, who have walked through Jefferson’s hallowed halls and out through medical history.
Martin H. Lizerbram, M.D.

It sure does feel like a long 50 years now. When we attended Jefferson starting in 1961, we did not have any formal CPR, no MRI’s or Cardiac Catheterizations. Who would ever think there would be any social programs like Medicare? Who thought that we would ever be restricted in our caregiving to patients and given a report card which evaluated our use of lab tests and procedures, giving us glowing scores, the fewer tests we ordered?

Starting with the first day in September, 1961, at a welcome speech by elegant and immaculate Anatomy Professor, Dr. Andrew Ramsey, can you imagine that he told us that we have to get used to driving Cadillac’s and belonging to country clubs? Thankfully, those “wants” were never important to me over the years.

I will never forget some of the colorful teachers that mentored us. All of these characters, even in my family, are all gone from those days, and they will never be replenished. Dr. Kenneth Goodner with his pop quizzes, and sneaking around the lab visiting all of us and telling us some story about green Pseudomonas. How about Dr. Rupp, the 400 pound Endocrinologist, who stationed himself, lying on his side supported by his elbow, on the top of a desk, speaking to us about diabetes in the obese? Dr. Peter Herbut, with his ancient specimens of gummas of the brain. His textbook was unedited; at least it appeared that way, with ages old descriptions of diseases. Actually the descriptions were very vivid. We had the more serious professors, like Dr. Abraham Cantarow who was loyal to Jefferson for 46 years. He and Dr. Shepartz wrote an understandable book of biochemistry. Then we had the brilliant Dr. Alan Erslev who discussed red cells, the knowledge which I carried with me the whole time that I practiced.

All these people, characters or serious, were skilled teachers, with their sincere focus on us students. I look back now, that if they were distracted with their research, we wouldn't have known it. While making rounds with Dr. Franz Goldstein, he was talking about aspirin and ulcers, can’t forget it, because we heard the shocking news about Kennedy’s assassination. I can see the ward in my eyes, and Dr. Goldenstein’s Germanic accent. Lastly, imprinted in my eyes will be DBI, that wonderful Victorian building where we were privileged to study Anatomy. I will always remember that large high ceileded room, with ancient light fixtures.

Finally, me, after graduation, I interned at Atlantic City Hospital, moved to Pittsburgh where I did my Internal Medicine Residency at the now Montefiore Presbyterian Hospital. After that, I did Allergy and Immunology training at the VA Hospital also in Pittsburgh. The Air Force got me
through the Berry Plan, and moved us to March AFB in Riverside, California. This was my fifth choice. My family thought we might as well have moved to the Ukraine and Lithuania where they were all born.

After living through two years having my own Allergy clinic in the Air Force, we decided to stay. We explored all areas in Southern California, and found San Diego to be our comfort zone. Not much air conditioning needed, nor much heating of our home, in our coastal area of La Jolla. We were spoiled by being able to go out every day of the year, hiking, exploring, and having fun with my family. So I opened a practice there and worked from 1971 until 2004. It was such a privilege for me to have patients allow me to enter their lives. I was fortunate to have a Nurse and a receptionist for 30 years. Their maturity, communication and follow up saved me from the anguish of never having had a malpractice suit.

Loving historic preservation, my favorite time of practice was when I restored an old porch front Craftsman bungalow, and looked forward to going to work every day. When waiting for their appointments, my patients sat in rocking chairs on the glassed sunporch, or in the Inglenook with the fireplace. The ambience made me feel like deja vu, as if I were in a porch fronted row house in West Philly or Oak Lane when we almost all were city dwellers. I went on restoring a historic beach cottage colony in La Jolla, which I eventually turned into a small hotel. This was such a wonderful outlet for my interest until last year.

In our second year of Jefferson, I married Myra Kane, my devoted partner and wife of 52 years. What a wonderful life we had of raising a family, grandchildren, and traveling. We became fluent in Spanish in our old age by traveling and schooling in Latin countries and Spain.

We have three children. Daughter Franny, the oldest graduated Jeff in 1989. She now is practicing Internal Medicine in Oakland, CA. My middle child, Eric, bailed out of attending Jefferson when he was accepted to USC. He now is a Radiologist in San Diego, and lives with his family in Carlsbad, CA. My youngest, Jeff, is the computer whiz, works in IT, and lives in San Diego with his family. We were blessed with 8 grandchildren, ages 10-24. The oldest ones attending college or have graduated. I have my eye on a third generation Lizerbram family Jefferson Graduate. Maybe one of the three youngest boys?
Robert E. Longnecker, M.D.

Career:

Internship at Hartford Hospital, Internal Medicine residency at Hartford Hospital followed by Metabolism Fellowship at Yale University. Then came two years in the Navy assigned to the Marines at El Toro Marine Air Station in California.

1970 Diplomate in Internal Medicine.

1974 Diplomate in Nephrology.

1971-1976 Assistant Professor of Medicine Yale University and Director of Home Dialysis at West Haven VA Hospital.

1976-1983 Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Baumritter Kidney Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Areas of research were anemia of chronic kidney disease and renal osteodystrophy.

1983-2002 Director of Dialysis Associates and President of Stamford Nephrology in Stamford, CT

Family:

1970 Married Birgitta Hoier.

1971 Daughter, Krista, she has a BA from Yale University and a Masters from Oregon State. Currently at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

1973 Son, Robert. He has a BA from Cornell University. Currently President of Jovetree Capital, Venice, CA.

Jefferson:

My Medical School education was detailed and comprehensive. This stood me in good stead given the multiple complex cases I dealt with as a consultant. Highly recommend the school but deplore the name change.

Currently:

Retired, trying to learn golf, have given-up skiing (was 30 days a year) but still fly fish for trout and salmon. My wife and I travel a lot.
After graduation from the Jefferson Medical College in 1965, I began a rotating internship at Polyclinic Hospital, in Harrisburg, PA. I had a Berry Plan deferment in general surgery, but after my experience with the rotating internship, I decided to pursue orthopedic surgery, as my career. During my senior year in medical school, with a commission in the U.S. Navy, I opted to go on active duty.

I was immediately assigned to the Marine Corps in 1966, and began training at Camp Pendleton, CA for five weeks, in preparation for being stationed in South Vietnam. My tour began in Danang, South Vietnam, with assignment to a field hospital. I was then assigned to the Third Engineer Battalion, along the DMZ (demilitarized zone), approximately 20 miles from North Vietnam. As a general medical officer, the injuries I saw were typically general practice problems with some trauma.

The entire year provided a great human experience, as it was my first encounter providing personal healthcare. I was prepared for this experience with the knowledge from medical school, my rotating internship and three months of general surgery served me well. After completion of my duty in Vietnam, I was assigned to the Philadelphia Naval Hospital Emergency Room in October 1967. There I renewed my acquaintance with classmate, Dave Toney, M.D., and we spent that year together, with another Navy colleague. Our first decision together was our best because we asked for equipment and supplies, not available for the E.R. care, and changed the way the patients were being seen.

We agreed that we would see all the patients to provide the care and diagnosis and use the corpsmen, as assistants and mentor them. Active duty and retired personnel came from everywhere in droves because word spread that you could see a doctor in the emergency room. With our now organized corpsman we could handle the volume, without difficulty.

After six months at the hospital in Philadelphia, I received the NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL, with a Combat V for my service in South Vietnam, with the Marines. With completion of my service in the Navy, I returned to Harrisburg to complete my required one-year of general surgery, then onto an orthopedic residency at the University of Pittsburgh Presbyterian Hospital, beginning in July 1969 until July 1972.

During that time I met my wife-to-be, Elisabeth (Betsy) Virginia Whittaker, a social worker on the Neuro Surgery Service, while I was seeing a consult on that floor. She completed a master’s degree in Education at the University of Pittsburgh, during this time. We were married in August 1971, in New Castle, PA, and in July 1972 I started my orthopedic practice in Camp Hill, PA. Betsy began teaching
in the Harrisburg schools and eventually taught at the Pennsylvania State University Capitol Campus, in Harrisburg. She was an instructor in Elementary Education teaching classroom management, a special education course. Additionally, she placed and supervised student teachers in the surrounding schools and retired after 20 years.

Our first child, Gregory Thomas, was born in July 1973. He attended Westminster College in Maryland with a degree in Economics and Business. He began his career as a banker at Fulton Bank, rising to a VP and is currently a Financial Advisor, and Certified Financial Planner. He currently lives in Camp Hill with his wife, Heather, and 8 year old daughter, Lily.

Our second child, Carol Elizabeth, born in November 1974, is a graduate of Lehigh University with a master’s degree in Management Information Systems from the Pennsylvania State University. Her career entails IT management. She currently resides in Philadelphia.

Our third child, Janet Marie, was born in September 1978 and graduated from Syracuse University in 2001, with a BS degree in Business and Retail. She began her career at Saks 5th Avenue in NYC, where she was a planner and eventually became a senior buyer. After eight years in NYC at Saks, she moved to Philadelphia to work at Urban Outfitters. She was a buyer in women’s wear for 5 years before taking a position in the home department where she is now an Executive. She and her husband, Josh, reside in Berwyn PA, with their son, Benjamin, who is two years old.

With a full time practice and malpractice insurance premiums increasing 500% in two years, I became an advocate for Malpractice reform. I represented Dauphin County at the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PMS) for six years and, then, moved to the Pennsylvania Orthopedics Society (POS) where I was a representative to the inner specialty committee and, later, chairman for two years. The PA Orthopedic Society was my next endeavor to work on workers compensation and malpractice reform. After several years as a member of the executive POS committee, I was elected president of the PA Orthopedic Society, in 1992. In that same year, with the revision of the Workers Compensation law and in my position, I was able to negotiate with the Pennsylvania legislature for increased access and improved care and a fee schedule, NOT tied to the Medicare fee schedule, but tied to the weekly PA wage increase.

Believe it or not, with all the activities described above, and with Betsy’s organization skills, I had time to spend with my family. Our first vacations were spent in Stone Harbor, NJ with our children, and was a tradition that lasted approximately 12 years. We also traveled the U.S. to see California, Colorado and Wyoming, the Grand Canyon and to Europe. My son and I spent 5 days each rafting the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Colorado River, in the Grand Canyon. After NJ, with the children now older, it was onto Hilton Head, SC for our family vacations. In 2001, the highlight of our time together was a two-week safari to Kenya, Africa where we were up close and personal to the wild animals, with great photography opportunities.

I retired in 2000, and in 2003 began working for the Defense Department (MEPS) examining and qualifying new recruits for all military services. Finally retiring in December 2014, for the second time. During this retirement period I was selected to serve on board of our newly built public library (Fredrickson Library), serving nine years. I was president for 2006 and 2007 and initiated a successful fundraiser to pay off the mortgage on the building.

My experience with the academic and clinic teaching environment was always inspiring; each individual was dedicated to teaching and respecting the students. The demand for focus and dedication to the patient was, for me, the guiding principle at the foundation of a medical education
at Thomas Jefferson. Specifically, the place of the history and physical exam was paramount to me. Teaching a physician to ask probing questions comes only after listening to the patient, allowing the patient to tell their story, and making them feel part of the decision-making process. This ability is essential to the practice medicine, and a skill I acquired at Thomas Jefferson.

I never had an intermediary between the patient and me. I, personally, took every history and performed the physical exam, as well. I returned every call from any patients and patient family members that required any kind of explanation, at the end of office hours. I took physician phone calls, immediately, if I was in office hours. Attention and dedication to the patient is what I began to call “focus.” It has served me in my medical career and life outside of medicine. This came to represent a deep rooted sense of responsibility and trust.
This reunion of the Jefferson Class of 1965 is an occasion to remember my past as a medical student, a physician in training and subsequent years of practice until my retirement in February of 2014. Condensing the last 50 years within two pages is a challenge.

My most indelible memory of Jefferson is my freshman year. Anatomy at the Daniel Baugh Institute of Anatomy and the smooth Dr. Ramsay portrayed on roller skates during the freshman skit are good memories for all of us. My most memorable experience is in the anatomy lab with Dr. Michels. He walked by our dissecting table and asked me if I knew why the left testicle hung lower than the right testicle in a man. (I didn't know the answer was because of the venous anatomy.) Desperate to give an answer, I said, “So that when a man crosses his legs, his testicles are not painfully squeezed together.” His laughter forgave my ignorance and he walked away chuckling.

I remember with fondness and great respect the pathology lectures by Dr. Gonzalo Aponte. What an outstanding teacher! Noteworthy is that the head of our biochemistry department and the author of our textbook was Dr. Abraham Contarow. It turns out that he was a dissecting partner of my father, Dr. J. Wilfrid Parent (Class of 1924).

My internship and residency in internal medicine were at the University of Minnesota. I was the first gastroenterology fellow to begin the new GI fellowship training program at the university. My formal post graduate training was completed in 1970.

I entered the air force as a deferred draftee just as the Vietnam War was winding down. I saw no war action, but was in a state side regional hospital at March AFB in Riverside, CA. I treated some active duty men from Cameron Bay with falciparum malaria and a patient with a Hydatid cyst of the liver. The hospital had almost a quarter of a million retired air force personnel expecting the benefit of any needed hospital care. It was a very busy clinic and hospital practice. I practiced more cardiology than gastroenterology.

My first civilian practice experience after the Air Force was at the Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield Wisconsin. I honed my skills and knowledge in gastroenterology; developed skills in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and became a board certified gastroenterologist. During those years, I developed expertise in the care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease. In partnership with a clinical microbiologist, Dr. Paul Mitchell, we discovered an unusual cell wall defective bacterium in the intestinal tissues and lymph nodes of patients with Crohn’s disease. We
did not find this organism in patients with ulcerative colitis or patients without inflammatory bowel disease.

Seventeen years after my move to Marshfield, an opportunity to join the Vanguard Group to begin the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ came my way. I became actively involved in teaching GI fellows at the Mayo and became director of the program for a brief period of time. I practiced at the Mayo Clinic Scottsdale for 17 years. I left the Mayo Clinic in 2005 and joined the Geisinger Clinic in Wilkes Barre, PA. After a few years, I became a locum tenens and taught gastroenterology fellows at the Geisinger Clinic in Danville, PA. Retirement came in February 2014.

As we grew older, Maxine and I decided to move next to our oldest son and grandchildren in Stroudsburg, PA. This move brought us closer to our Maine roots and our families in the northeast. Maxine and I have been married for 53 years. We have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. Our first born child, Marc, is a successful writer. Denise is a phlebotomist, artist and teacher. Aimee is a vice president of the US Bank in Minneapolis. Ted is a philosophy professor at Virginia Tech. Our last child, Brodie, is in his fourth year as a surgical resident at the University of Washington in Seattle. Our life has been filled with great times and opportunities. Life has been very good to us. I look forward to meeting my former classmates and hearing of their life since our days together at Jefferson.
Burton W. Pearl, M.D.

After graduation, I did an internship at the Philadelphia General Hospital and then completed an orthopaedic surgical residency at HUP becoming board certified in 1972. I served two years of active duty in the U.S. Navy, married and had two children, then settled in South Jersey to set up a practice. For almost 35 years, I ran a busy, solo, general orthopaedic practice. ...sometimes treating three generations of the same family.

Over the years, I have amassed and sold several collections consisting of literature, period glass, antique furniture, vintage fishing gear, and wine....all providing vast amounts of pleasure and a myriad of experiences.

Twenty years ago, my wife, Linda and I built a home in Downeast, Maine and relocated here. I still work part time as a clinical orthopaedist at the Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, and enjoy all the benefits of having two grandchildren “down the road.”
After a 3 ½ year experience as a Navy Corpsman, allowed the choice of medicine as a career. Gannon College in Erie, PA provided the requisite courses for Medical School acceptance. While a collegiate, I had the good sense to marry Angeline Rizzo of Oil City. My interview at Jefferson was most helpful because of the relaxed friendliness and encouragement of Dr. Andrew Ramsay and Dr. Sam Conly. None of the other schools came close.

Moving into East Falls public housing was traumatic, especially for Angie and 2 month old son Joseph. Despite a rocky start we coped with too few elevators for a 13 story building and too many roaches. Daily trips on the Reading Rail Line were efficient and occasionally relaxing. Waiting in line for government supplies surplus food promoted humility and gratitude.

I remain indebted to Dr. Carolyn Parry, Dr. Joyce Price and Dr. Ed Quinn who shared the anatomy dissection table. Clinicians Joan Hodges and Rudy Camishion were good examples of Dr. Peabody’s mantra, “the secret of patient care lies in caring for the patient.”

My 32 years of internal medicine practice were interrupted by an embolic stroke in 1986.

Our running accomplishments are: Joseph, M.D., who is an international expert in Cystic Fibrosis. Robert, Jr. our outdoorsman who cycles between Yosemite and Sequoia National Park as a guardian of the land. Thomas, Chair of Business and Entrepreneurship at Morris State College, NY. Jackie is an accomplished homemaker and mother in Pittsburgh, PA. We have 11 grandchildren, each a gem.

Did you ever think going back would be so rewarding?
So many memories - so little time. My strongest memory is also the first, walking into DBI in the intense hot, humid September weather wearing a shirt, tie, and stiffly starched white coat, but too scared to be too hot. I lived in the Phi Alpha Sigma house the first year, with a small single room on the 4th floor that only added to my early memories of the heat. I spent the sophomore year sharing an apartment with Gene Doo on Pine Street. Walking to class in the mornings we would occasionally see students from the Philadelphia College of Art in their jeans and sweatshirts, carrying portfolios of their work, and I would momentarily envy them, thinking I would enjoy that life.

Like many other classmates, I got married after our second year, and lived in a different apartment, also on Pine Street. I completed my internship and one year of Internal Medicine at Akron City Hospital before being drafted into the Navy (I lost my deferment because I switched from General Practice to Internal Medicine). After two years with the 2nd Marine Air Wing at Cherry Point, NC, I completed my residency at the Wilmington Medical Center and entered private practice with 2 other internists in 1971. They were some of the happiest days of my life - until they weren’t, and the call to art was too strong for me to resist. In 1980, I decided to leave private practice for part-time work in our ER so I could pursue a career in art.

That decision was a costly one, resulting in the dissolution of my marriage. As difficult as that was, I discovered that the proverbial “silver lining” does exist, when I met Patience Coale, a most remarkable, and gifted, woman, who has been Patience Coale Renzulli for the past 32 years. The worst thing that ever happened resulted in the best thing that ever happened to me.

For the first 4 years I worked full time for 3 months covering vacation times for the full time staff, rotating with 3 months off, which I spent in my studio. For the next 8 years I worked 24 hours a week in an urgent care facility; in 1993 I had an itch I had to scratch, and went back into private practice, opening my office in one of the barns on our small farm in rural Cecil County, Maryland. This was one of my mother’s last gifts to me. Two years earlier she was diagnosed with cancer, and Patience - a registered nurse - and I provided hospice care for her. It was that experience which prompted us to open the practice. An added bonus was the decision of my daughter Beth, who was living with her grandparents and assisted in the care for her grandmother, to decide to go into medicine.

Ten years later I retired from medicine completely and moved to Paducah, Kentucky to become part
of a growing, energetic new art community.

I have 3 daughters: the oldest owns and operates a School of Rock in Oak Park, IL, the next is an internist practicing in Middletown, DE, and the third is an artist in Elkton, MD.

I am grateful for the opportunity I’ve had to divide my time between two passionate calls, medicine and art. In recent years I have devoted more time to writing; in addition to writing an op-ed column for our local newspaper I’ve self-published one book, and have three in progress.

Regarding my art, my primary interest is in architecture and rural and urban landscapes, creating a sense of place for the viewer, whether the work is literal or imaginative. In addition to numerous solo shows I am a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, have work in major corporate collections, and have fulfilled commissioned work for private and public institutions.

I consider my Jefferson experience the most intense, interesting, enlightening, and rewarding four years of my life.
Fellow alums of ’65:

Really??? It’s our time?? I recall during my young days thinking 50th reunions were really the height of sad posturing of old folks scrabbling after meaningful time now that working life was behind them. Now I’m here, and, really, looking forward hugely to seeing my mates of the 60’s. Wasn’t that a time though! Coming from a small town college community in Massachusetts, I was poorly prepared for the “big city “life of Philly.” Lived at my parent’s home in Haddonfield, NJ and took the subway across the bridge to the City and walked to Jeff. I loved that subway ride. Everyone hanging by wrist straps swaying back and forth in complete anonymity, immersed in books, newspapers (remember them?), and not a phone in sight......great.

So I entered Jeff nervously, always wanting to be anonymous, secretly sad that I didn’t pursue my first love of becoming a teacher in English Lit and Art history. I was talked out of that....admonished that teachers didn’t make much of a living (read Money)--and that doctors could. So my reasons for choosing medicine were not exactly the highest standards of the Hippocratic Oath. After laboring through the first 2 years and never forgetting the odors wafting from the anatomy dissection lab, I found I actually liked the semi-invisible status of seeing clinic patients, another enormous chance to go anonymous, only with the possibility of helping someone else. It all began to make more sense, and by the time we graduated, I had planned for a niche in medicine, either to be a psychiatrist, or, alternatively and completely divergently, to become a radiologist!!

It’s kind of interesting really. I made that choice after visiting my big brother Woody (Jeff Class of ’55) during his residency in Michigan. He introduced me to a friend of his in radiology, and I liked the quiet and the study of--then--simple images. And...this sold me .... this guy got out at 4 or 5 pm with no night duty, no perplexing patient traumas, no serious interactions with general staff, and loads of time for skiing, sailing and all the other cool stuff the Lower Peninsula had to offer!

I know....shallow Stan......So after graduation, went off to New York---the Bronx--with radiology my destiny. Came to really love diagnostics, and interacting with my peers rather than patient care. Loved imaging, and in the 80’s, took new training in interventional radiology in Pittsburgh, PA where I worked for the next 20 years. I loved being in Pittsburgh; lived in a small basement apartment just blocks from the hospital in an area called Shadyside and it was great. I had already proved somewhat disastrous in personal life, and after my residency, I was divorced from my first wife, and the good news is we had a wonderful child, our son Oliver, now living in Jacksonville
with children of his own.

After Pittsburgh, I took a position in a nearby small western PA town where I could work exclusively in "special procedures" and I was doing a lot of interventional work and stent placements. Had a second ex-wife at the time, a lovely lady who was a whiz at skiing and anesthesia, and for several fine years I happily worked as the medical director of the Seven Springs Ski Patrol, meaning I could ski and snowboard to my heart's content and occasionally set some fractures or dislocations and get people off the mountain. Good times..... no kids from that union, but had a great Airedale terrier named Daisy who lived to be 19 years old.

At that time--1996/1997--I was coming up on my 59th birthday. My marriage was over (again) and I really just wanted to bail out, and, after discovering a thing called windsurfing in the late 80's, decided to move to Hawaii. So I went there and learned to windsurf and worked as a sail boy (rigging sails for tourists) and having a ball. I lived in a small home up in the clouds of Maui (Pukulani) and had all my rigged sails in a truck .....Heaven! Oh, I didn’t mention that I travelled with a new terrific partner, whom I later married (1999) and we had, as I turned 60, my second son. His name is Gabriel David, and he is the joy of my life. I remember calling my good buddy Lou Criden excitedly telling him about becoming a Dad -- this time with a son I could have time and space to raise--and he said something like "are you nuts"???

So, for the last few years, I've become a Dad--for real--to a son who has gotten past his Father being somewhat Grandfatherly in looks but still immature enough to appear youngish. I love him..my now 16 year old total teenager. We do things together....he starts collegiate high school here in Northwest Florida State College and will graduate with a high school diploma and an Associates degree. We are about 20 minutes from the gorgeous Gulf Coast, so he will be a stand up paddleboarder while his Dad continues flying down the wind on his windsurfing board.. this winter we head out to skiing and snowboarding in Utah and Colorado.

I have lived ...and am living, a wonderful and privileged, joyful life. Not of course, without the usual bumps many of us encounter, but the rewards have been so plentiful. Do I think about the road not taken about teaching? Yes, but not with regret, just nostalgia and wonderment at the joys that come from the paths pursued in my life. Jefferson gave me a profession I came to like and respect and friends and loved ones who still abide in my life. You, dear friends, know who you are.

Can’t wait to see you all.

Stan
Jefferson changed all of us and with a little reflection, the road I have travelled the past 50+ years would not have been available to me without Jeff.

Even after all these years, I have many vivid memories of my time as a Jefferson student. I remember arriving on a hot morning in 1961 at DBI and finding displayed on a chalk board a beautiful colored picture of a human embryo labeled in detail, in stunning color, drawn by Dr. Ramsey. The picture was amazing to me and represented a beginning. Almost 4 years later, I remember leaving my medical duties at Methodist Hospital late on a Friday afternoon with my good friend, Lionel Rosen, having completed the curriculum with only a few days separating me from receiving my treasured Jefferson Diploma at graduation at the Philadelphia Academy of Music. The Diploma, in beautiful Latin, hangs on the wall to the left of my desk as I prepare this memory book entry.

Ferrel Laxx and I were married on December 22, 1963, just one month following the assassination of President Kennedy. We moved 6 times during the following 9 years. Finally, in 1972 following completion of my radiology residency, we settled in Southern California in a community by the name of Upland which sits on the western edge of San Bernardino County and I began to practice radiology along with another Temple resident. We have lived in the same house for the past 43 years.

Ferrel and I have three children. Abe, 45, is an attorney working for a firm in Orange County, CA. Abe and his wife have 3 children, a daughter 15, and a pair of twins, 12. Beth is 44 and is a special education teacher in the city of Upland. Beth has an 11 year old daughter. Our youngest son, Jesse, is 38 and is also an attorney. Jesse and Chan live in San Diego and have an 18 month old daughter.

Professionally, for 35 years following completion of my radiology training, I helped lead a radiology group in the Inland Empire of Southern California. At its peak, there were 25 radiologists providing services at 7 local hospitals. When I left the group at age 65, I became involved with the remote practice of radiology via the Internet and currently practice radiology from home working part time. I see cases from throughout the U.S. and even Iraq using modern technology to move studies electronically while I stay put.

Ferrel and I like to travel and enjoy visiting with our children and grandchildren. This past year, we visited Japan at cherry blossom time and next year, we will visit Spain and take a family vacation to
Alaska. We love the LA Opera and Symphony. With all that we do, our time is pretty well committed. You never know what the future holds and we feel it is important to get the most out of life that we can.

I look forward to visiting with as many of you as possible when we gather for our 50th. The time will be somewhat bittersweet as some who I knew in the past can no longer share the reunion experience with us. I wish all of you safe travels and hope we can greet each other this October and again at the time of our 55th reunion in 2020.
Ronald K. Sandberg, M.D.

1965 - Intern Philadelphia General

1966-1970 ENT Resident JMH

1970-1972 Charleston Naval Hospital

1972 - Present: Joined with fellow Jeffersonian Sheldon Soss ('64) in Knoxville, TN to practice ENT.

I am semi-retired, still work one day a week in the office.

Wife of 52 years - Ebbie

Two Children - David, a Podiatrist in Knoxville and Julie, a financial advisor in Nashville

Three Grandchildren - Jordan, Jason, & Andrew

I am looking forward to the reunion.
My relationship with Jeff began the day I was delivered by a Jefferson graduate. That relationship continued (much to my good fortune) by having an uncle and godfather (I.L. Sandler, ’24) and brother (Jerome, ’58) precede and encourage me. My luck continued, having two great partners at my cadaver, two great roommates while at Jeff and wonderful teachers during my surgical internship and residency at Jeff. So many great teachers, Gibbon, Templeton, Nealon, Cohn, Marks, Wagner, and many others, including Joe Stayman at Chestnut Hill and John DeTuerk at Methodist. Most lucky of all was meeting my wife, Billie, in the men’s surgical ward in the old hospital during my internship. (She worked in admissions).

The Berry Plan placed me at Andrews AFB - one of the five Air Force teaching hospitals; sure enough the general in charge was a Jeff man - Max Steele. My good luck continued as I added two years of plastic and reconstructive surgery while in the Air Force.

After my discharge, I joined my brother Jerry and others in a group of academically oriented surgeons in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. Our practice was the first in our area to do laparoscopic surgery and introduced many other new procedures during my practice years.

We have a beautiful granddaughter who lives in the Philadelphia suburbs with our son and daughter-in-law and another son who lives in Rockville, MD.

I retired in 2006 and now live in Jupiter, FL and Annapolis, MD. I keep busy with fishing, biking, going to the gym, drawing and painting in multiple genres. I have a wonderful life, thanks to my wife, Billie. I (we) owe so much to Jefferson and will forever treasure my years there.
My starting medical school at Jefferson was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for me, the son of an uneducated steelworker. Jefferson was my first and only choice and I will be forever grateful for the superb education I received, not only academically but in the personal care of the patient.

While at Jefferson I met a wonderful girl whom I was determined to marry but, since I had to borrow every penny for school during those four years, I knew I had to wait. So I did wait.....we graduated on June 11, 1965 and Loretta and I were married the next day, a week before my straight medical internship began. Four weeks later, Loretta was pregnant with our first daughter, Marnie. I then entered the USAF and graduated from the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine as a Flight Surgeon. I was assigned to a fighter base in Nevada where, among other duties, I was the doctor for the USAF Thunderbirds. I then received orders to Vietnam with the Air Commandos where I spent a very eventful year encompassing the period of the Tet Offensive. I saw many diseases I would never encounter again. Halfway through my yearlong tour, Loretta blessed me with another daughter, Stacy.

Following my discharge, I had a residency in Internal Medicine and a Fellowship in Gastroenterology at the Cleveland Clinic. I loved the idea and the collegiality of patient-centered group practice as experienced at the Clinic, so I joined a multispecialty group practice in West Palm Beach where I spent my career. I was the first board certified gastroenterologist in that area, the first to do colonoscopy and IV hyperalimentation and I designed the first outpatient endoscopy suite in the county.

I served as the Chief of GI, Chief of Internal Medicine department, Director of the Division of Internal Medicine and the first elected Chief of Staff at St. Mary’s Medical Center. I was the founding president of the Florida Gastroenterological Society and the Catholic Physicians Guild of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Our group started one of the first physician owned HMOs of which I was the president and Medical Director. During the last decade of my career I also became a certified Medical Director of Long Term Care and served in that capacity at a Catholic nursing home in addition to my GI practice. I retired in 2005.

Our youngest daughter Stacy, whom I first met at 6 months of age and always a talented artist, graduated from Auburn University with a BFA in graphic design. She worked as an art director in advertising in Atlanta. She now works in Manhattan as a graphic artist for an international company.
and does freelance work for the Jack Nicklaus Group.

Marnie, our firstborn, graduated from SMU with a degree in Public Relations and Marketing. She married a wonderful man and they are the parents of 18 year old triplets: Sam, Luke and Abbey. They were born prematurely at 2.5 pounds and spent four months in NICU. We are blessed that they all developed perfectly. All are high honor students and the boys are varsity athletes in swimming and track and have been elected to represent their school at Boys State in Virginia. Abbey is the talented artist of the group. Their dad is the son I never had.

Since retiring, Loretta and I spend half the year at our home in the North Carolina Mountains. We take a trip abroad every year including a wonderful cruise and land tour to Alaska with our grandchildren a few years ago. We have volunteered tutoring the children of immigrant farmworkers in Florida and we are both very active in our church in Florida and North Carolina. I have worked with Habitat for Humanity building houses in the mountains and with a Catholic charity medical clinic in Florida. We spent five fall semesters as full-fledged students at Appalachian State University studying history. I read a lot, listen to music, play some golf, do home repairs and plant my veggie garden in the mountains. We will return to Bethlehem, PA in June to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows at the church in which we were married.

Looking back it is hard to believe that fifty years could pass by so quickly. I am humbled to have been privileged to practice the profession I love so deeply and particularly being a graduate of Jefferson! I have been blessed with a wonderful career and good health but most especially by a loving and supportive family. I so look forward to seeing old friends and classmates at our 50th year reunion in the fall. God bless the Class of ’65!
After an inspiring interview with Professor Ramsay, I decided Jefferson was the school for me. I enjoyed every day at school because my teachers and classmates would teach me something new. The clinical rotations were chances to bond with classmates and to observe the realities of the clinical aspect of being a doctor.

After graduation, I did a rotating internship at the Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. I was drafted and spent one year at Fort Belvoir, in the general medical clinic. I was sent to Vietnam in 1967 and served as battalion surgeon with a combat engineer battalion. I was a surgical resident at the West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh from 1968 through 1972; I practiced general surgery and directed the West Penn Hospital Burn Center. With no background in research, I was proud to have published 65 papers in peer reviewed journals and authored a chapter in an ENT text book. I was a Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School.

I was married to Beverly Botnik and we had a daughter and twin sons. Beverly died in 2010.

I am now retired in San Jose, CA. I have been invited to present lectures and conduct clinical exercises for students at the University of Nevada Medical School in Reno.
What I remember about my years as a student at Jefferson: I remember riding the 73 Bus from Bridesburg and then the Frankford El from Bridge St. to and from school every day, just as I had for the previous 8 years during high school and college. Not being able to afford to live on campus, I missed out on some of the things many of my classmates experienced. Nevertheless I still was able to make some great friends. I remember the courses being very challenging, even though my college pre-med course at St. Joes served as an excellent preparation. I remember the softball games with the faculty (Gerry Marks, Frank Sweeney, Hans Keitel, and others) in May of senior year. Great fun!

Sometime towards the end of my first year at Jefferson, I was called into Dean Sodeman’s office. I couldn’t figure out what infraction I had committed. Therefore, I was beyond pleasantly surprised when the Dean told me that I was going to have a full tuition scholarship starting with the following year. So in addition to the first rate medical education which Jefferson provided, this was Jefferson’s greatest gift to me. Although the tuition at that time was “only” $1,100 per year, it was more than I was able to earn with my summer job and various part time jobs during the school year. My parents were already overburdened trying to help out with book bills and other fees.

After graduating from Jefferson, I started my internship at Misericordia Hospital in West Philadelphia. One of the reasons I chose to go there was that it was one of the few non-medical school hospitals that offered a straight medicine internship at that time. It was a good educational experience, but the main thing that made it the right choice was that it was where I met my beautiful future wife Annette, who was a nursing student there.

It was there also that I began my interest in Nephrology (although it wasn’t called that then). The chief of the renal-electrolyte section at HUP did a weekly off the cuff, thinking out loud discussion of a case that we would present. I was hooked!

As was the case with most of my male classmates, in 1965 we were required to “volunteer” for the Military by way of the “Berry Plan.” I was required to begin service after one year of residency. Therefore, I decided to do that year of medical residency (now known as PG2) at Misericordia. In the summer of 1967, I reported to Randolph AFB in San Antonio, Texas. I returned to Philadelphia on leave, and married Annette on October 28, 1967.

After honeymooning in Bermuda, we set up housekeeping in a small apartment one mile from the Base. Despite the fact that the work was easier than residency, and that I was making three times as
much money, I and most of the other doctors on the Base had a bad attitude, similar to the doctors in M*A*S*H*. I now regret that I felt that way, and I am very proud to have served in the Military, even though my contribution was meager, compared to what other doctors of the time had to experience.

I was discharged in the summer of 1969, and elected to resume my medical residency at Philadelphia General Hospital. One year later I began a Nephrology Fellowship at Hahnemann Hospital. In 1972, the Chairman of Medicine at Mercy Catholic Medical Center (Misericordia and Fitzgerald Mercy Hospitals) asked me to start a Nephrology Division there. Therefore, I began the Nephrology teaching program and went through what was then a very cumbersome process of getting federal and state approval for a dialysis center. In September of 1973, I joined with two other nephrologists in a combined internal medicine-nephrology practice. We grew over the years, took in some younger nephrologists, and generally had a successful practice. We enjoyed the general internal medicine part of the practice and felt we were doing a competent job. However with the onslaught of the HMOs and later the hospitalist movement, we were gradually pushed away from it, and by the late 1990s we were doing only nephrology.

In the meantime, Annette and I were blessed with two wonderful children, Carolyn in 1973 and Joe, Jr in 1980. In 1976, when I finally had a bit more control over my schedule, I took up distance running. Since then I have completed nearly a hundred road races, including 15 marathons such as Boston, New York, and Honolulu, nearly 40 half marathons, and various other distances. I am proud to report that I never came close to winning a medal. Carolyn graduated from Catholic University in Washington in 1995 and from Widener Law School in 1999. Joe graduated from Drexel University in 2003. In 2006, Carolyn married a wonderful young man, and we now have two beautiful granddaughters, Lauren eight years old, and Katie six. After dating the same girl for 14 years, Joe is finally engaged to be married in April of 2016.

In 2002, after 30 years of full time practice, on call nights and weekends, I decided to cut back to part time. One of the reasons I chose to do that was that, although I enjoyed teaching the interns, residents, and students at our hospitals, I never felt that I was doing it justice because our practice had gotten so big. So for the next 10 years, I was able to do a lot of teaching (lectures, conferences, and rounds), saw office patients, made outpatient dialysis rounds, and helped out in the hospitals when the Group needed me. Finally at the end of December 2011, I retired.

I am enjoying retirement, doing what I want to do when I want to do it, especially spending time with my granddaughters. I continue to do my running, although nowhere near as fast or as far. We spend as much time as possible in Ocean City, NJ.

Annette and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary on October 28, 2017.

Joseph W. Smiley, M.D.
After graduating from the University of Colorado, and marrying, I worked one year at Belle Bonfils Blood Bank in Denver, Colorado as a blood bank technician and then moved to Philadelphia where my then husband was starting medical school at Jefferson. I began working in Dr. John Gibbon’s surgical laboratory and three weeks later delivered my son, Joe, and was back to work in one week as I was the sole provider for the family. Three weeks later, I took the MCAT and then applied to Jefferson as they were taking their first year of women after being a male only institution for 125 years. Because I was both married and a mother, I was interviewed by three Psychiatrists. Most of their questions were about how I was going to make this work. I really didn’t know an answer as there were no role models for me to follow, but they must have liked the answers because they offered me a position in the class.

I have to say that I loved medical school especially learning new knowledge. My life was very busy, because not only going to school; I worked nights, both in the hematology lab at Jefferson and gave OB anesthesia. I had my second son, Bill, when I was a junior and remember that Dr. Warren Lange really scolded me when I returned to him for OB care in which he said, “Medical students don’t get pregnant!” Anyway, I was back in school one week later.

After graduating from Jefferson, we moved back to Denver where I did a rotating internship at the University of Colorado Medical School. During that year, I still thought that I wanted to do OB and spoke to the Chair of the OB-Gyn department and he said, “I have never had a woman resident and I’m not ready for one!” So then I spoke with the Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Dr. William Waddell and he said, “I have never had a woman resident, but let’s try it.” So, I had the privilege of being the first woman trained in surgery at the University of Colorado which also made me the first woman trained in surgery in Colorado’s state history. I had two more children, both daughters, during residency. Both times I took only a week off.

After the residency, I moved to Colorado Springs where I spent 38 years in private practice, most in solo practice and then with a group. When I started practice, it was a liability to be a woman surgeon for most group practices, but later it became an asset.

I have always been active in medical politics, including holding offices in the Colorado Medical Society and the American College of Surgeons. I was one of the founding members of COPIC, the Colorado Physicians Insurance Company. I have had appointments as surgery chair of my local
hospital and associate professor in surgery at the University of Colorado.

Recently I have been privileged to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Surgeons and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Jefferson. I am currently on the admissions committee for the University of Colorado Medical School and the Chair of the American College of Surgeons Foundation.

I retired at the age of 70 in 2008 and currently volunteer at a clinic for the indigent doing office surgery. I have been blessed with my accomplished four children, Joe a business man, Bill a lawyer, Beth a surgeon and graduate of Jefferson which makes us the first mother daughter alumni of Jefferson, and Anne an interior decorator. I have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I am happily married to Bill Perry, a commercial real estate broker and past bank president, and spend my retirement still busy with volunteer medical related activities.
Robert Thompson, M.D.

When I arrived at Jefferson in the fall of 1961 I was the only student from Iowa and one of only a few from west of the Mississippi. My fears of not succeeding were allayed by meeting other students who were as anxious as I. I was also blessed to have three great lab partners--Skip (John) Swartley, Nancy Szwec, and John Taylor. We remained friends throughout the four years.

Although Jeff was on the cutting edge of all areas of medicine in 1961-5, by today’s standards much of what we learned and did seems primitive indeed. Remember doing BSP injections in “clinical lab” to assess liver function and PSP to assess renal function? Rotating tourniquets, mercurial diuretics, well, you know the rest.

Even though I won the orthopedic “prize” at graduation, I had no interest in orthopedics. It was one specialty I ruled out early. It seemed mostly about fractures and backs. How wrong was that?

Martha and I and young son Andrew (now a fisheries biologist) enjoyed Philadelphia and saw most of it while we were there. It also helped us decide that we were “small town people” at heart.

After a rotating internship at Akron City Hospital in Ohio, I still had no clear idea of a specialty. I liked it all in breadth but not in depth.

During 1965-6, you’ll recall, most of us, males at least, had to make some military commitment, and I chose the Public Health Service because of an opportunity to serve in a village in Alaska. Martha also was attracted to the state having been there as a college student. In the hospital on the Yukon River I did OB, surgery, general medicine (lots of Tb) and delivered our second son, Peter there. Just the three of us in the delivery room. My second year in Alaska was served at Sitka in southeast Alaska. There, I worked with a skilled general surgeon and thought that I had found my niche. Back in the states, I did a year of surgical residency at Hennepin County Hospital in Minneapolis. (Classmate, Larry McGovern was there also). The idea of a small town general practice still gnawed at me. So two years in Willmar, MN where I delivered our third son, Paul. (Paul died in an auto accident at age 19 in 1989.)

Back to Mayo for 3 more years of residency and by then the concept of family medicine had finally caught on. Mayo opened a satellite clinic (their first) in Zumbrota, MN and I was hired to be the first family physician at Mayo clinic. Mayo eventually closed the satellite, but I and our family stayed for 33 years and I did private general practice and surgery in our small hospital and clinic. I had finally
found my career in medicine.  

When Paul died in 1989 the long hours and call schedule became onerous and I accepted a position as staff physician and later medical director at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, MN. It was there that I was challenged to learn to care for HIV, Hep C, and other infectious diseases. I also organized the first hospice to use inmate volunteers in a Federal Prison.  

I retired in 2001 and Martha and I moved to our present home on a lake in northern Minnesota only one hundred miles from the Canadian border. (Yes, the winters are severe!) We love being in the pristine natural environment and the fishing is phenomenal! We also volunteer in our church and sing in the choir.

During my years of practice I wrote several articles for Minnesota Medicine on a variety of topics. (Congenital diaphragmatic hernia, sports injuries, and a definition of family practice). I also wrote several articles for Medical Economics. After retirement I wrote a book about our son Paul’s death, “Remembering: The Death of a Child” and then articles for a quarterly called, Living with Loss. I recently wrote a chapter for a college text used in criminology, Prison and Jail Administration, (Carlson).

My wonderful wife Martha (54 years and counting!) retired from American Airlines in 2001 which enabled us to travel some but we are basically homebodies and like to be near the grandchildren’s activities.

Our oldest son, Andy, works for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and he and his wife Wendy provided us with two wonderful grandchildren, Ben age 18 and Ellie, age 16. Our other son, Peter and his wife, Mayumi, have two children, Rika, (5) and Naoto (3). As I write this they are moving from San Francisco to Palo Alto, CA where Peter will start the MBX program at Stanford.

So it goes. It’s been a long but fun journey and I am grateful for the good background in all areas of medicine that Jefferson made available to me. A colleague once told me that “practicing medicine was like having tickets to the greatest show on earth.”

How true it is!

Not sure yet if we will make the reunion but we will try.
After graduation, I took a rotating internship at Albert Einstein in Philadelphia. The most important event that year was meeting a research biologist named Sharon Raizes, who became my wife in 1967. We spent two years in Arlington, VA in the Public Health Service, helping with the early kinks of Medicare. We returned to Jefferson in 1968 where I took a residency in Internal Medicine followed by a Cardiology fellowship.

Immediately upon finishing the fellowship, I had the privilege of joining Dr. Warren Goldburgh and Dr. Joseph Rodgers in the practice of cardiology and general internal medicine at Jefferson. Later we were joined by Dr. Marc Schwartz and Dr. Steve Breecker, who remain in the practice. In 1995, I left private practice and for eight years held a position combining practice and teaching of the medical residents. I spent eight years as a member of the hospital medical staff executive committee. In 1991, I became president of the Volunteer Faculty Association and served until 1993 when I was elected President of the medical staff, serving until 1995.

In 1973, our son, Stuart, was born. He graduated from Jefferson in 1998 and now practices gastroenterology in Scottsdale, AZ. He and his wife Diane have three boys - Sam (13), Jake (11) and Grant (7). Marla, our daughter, was born in 1978, she married Knight Hinman and they have two sons, Jeff (10) and Cooper (7). They live in the Walnut Creek, CA area where Marla runs a vintage clothing and jewelry site on e-bay.

Upon retiring in 2003, we started looking for a place to live when we grew up. Fortuitously, we came upon a place called Saddlebrooke in suburban Tucson. We've met many wonderful people who make great playmates for all of the available clubs and amenities. There is a group for just about any interest. We are involved in the Skygazers club, the Francophiles, a Dessert & Discussion group, the Great Decisions group, the Institute for Learning in Retirement where Sharon serves on the board and I taught a course in the history of western medicine, and the Jewish friendship group where I served a stint as president. We also tutor math in the local elementary school.

We keep physically active by working out at the gym about 3 times a week. We also have both returned to golf. Although no one will mistake us for real golfers, we have a great time playing.

We both look forward to attending the reunion and wondering why the rest of you got older while we didn't!
It was our first open house party, early September 1962, at the Phi Chi House, Jefferson, that I met Marty Regan. I was immediately smitten by this beautiful young girl of 18 with large, crystal clear green eyes, into which you could see to the recesses of her soul. That was as far and as deep as I was allowed to see until we married 3 years later. We were blessed with 3 children, a girl and 2 boys. Our daughter, Andrea grew into a beautiful, intelligent, courageous, and highly spirited young lady. While other Rosemont College classmates panicked and fled a dormitory fire, she calmly reached for a large winter coat which she used to snuff out the flames. She received an award of recognition from the college Dean for her brave and courageous action to accompany her many academic achievement awards. Drew, our second child, graduated from the Penn State Medical School, Hershey, PA, is board certified in Internal Medicine, and has a highly successful office on M street in downtown Washington, DC where he practices Medical Cosmetics. Dean, our youngest, handsome, intelligent and personable, is an adventuresome soul, as most of his adult life has been spent living and exploring Central America. Our married life has been a heavenly dream, interrupted by the horrendous nightmare of losing our daughter at the age of 20, when as a passenger; she was involved in a boating accident on Rehoboth Bay.

I interned and trained in Radiology at Philadelphia General Hospital, not until I was drafted by Uncle Sam spending 2 years with the Air Force, the last one, 1968, in the Jungles of Vietnam, providing emergency care for U.S. Army troops and rendering general medical care for the South Vietnamese civilians and ARVN forces. I was involved and credited by Phoenix (CIA operatives) for aiding in the clandestine rescue of 2 American soldiers held prisoners by the Viet Cong for which I was awarded a 45 caliber handgun and 2 personal bodyguards.

The first 16 years of my Radiology career was spent teaching and practicing general diagnostic radiology at the Penn State Medical Center, Hershey, PA, after which I morphed into CAT scanning. For many years I was in charge of the residency program. During my last 14 years of practice, I did General Radiology with a large group at the Lancaster General Hospital.

I retired on April fool’s day 2000. Marty and I have spent the last 12 years enjoying life in a high-rise, overlooking the city of Sarasota and picturesque Sarasota Bay.
As an Infectious Diseases Specialist, I was greatly inspired at Jefferson by the Microbiology Team of professors led by Ken Goodner, Harry Smith, Bob Mandle and others as well as the clinician, Frank Sweeney. Goodner subsequently sent me (and Bill Wood) to spend time in the Philippines at the end of our 3rd year, assisting a Navy Medical team deal with an outbreak of Cholera (100 patients a day) and a coincident epidemic of hemorrhagic fever primarily affecting children. I was hooked, and Goodner introduced me to an internationally prominent clinical investigator (and his fishing partner), Ted Woodward, where I did my Medicine and ID training. During the latter period, I spend a year at NIH with Bob Chanock, who discovered Mycoplasma, learning about viruses.

After training, I entered the Navy and was assigned to the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, where I did a number of clinical and epidemiological studies on respiratory infections important to the military. Afterwards, my career took me to University of Virginia, the University of London, the University of Iowa, and then Medical College of Virginia (VCU), where I became the Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine. My research interests have focused on severe infections acquired in the hospital.

At Maryland, I met JoGail - head nurse on a medical ward - married, and we have two children and three grandchildren. JoGail later became a counsellor and wrote a cook book called The Prune Gourmet. Our daughter, Amy, is a Cardiology NP near Richmond and son, Rich, a General Manager of a Café in Northern Virginia. Our three grandchildren - Josie, Jonah, and Jude - are well above the Lake Wobegan children in intelligence, good looks, and charm. Our son-in-law, Eric, is also a gem.

JoGail and I and the family have done extensive international travel; enjoy good food and wine, any time with the family, and our home on the Chesapeake Bay where we will retire permanently in the next year. To prepare for retirement, I have engaged the Arts in the last decade: two roles in local theatre performances (Grease and Love Letters); a Dancing with the Stars event (Argentine Tango); and writing.

My nonfiction book - Stalking Microbes - was released in 2005, a medical thriller - Labyrinth of Terror in 2010, and I just finished a manuscript - Dreams of Troy - about cyber terror and medicine.

I look forward to catching up with classmates to share our perspectives and enjoy each other’s company.
Upon graduating from Jefferson, I did a rotating internship at Pennsylvania Hospital and I continued to play on Jefferson's Rugby Team. In 1966, I was drafted into the Army as a General Medical Officer and went to Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio for basic training. I learned how to shoot an M14 and went through their infiltration course, required by all soldiers going to Vietnam.

The army flew me to Vietnam where I joined the First Infantry Division, Third Brigade First Medical Battalion at Lai Khe. Our base was located about 30 miles NW of Saigon right beside the Mekon Delta. We had a clearing station where we treated the wounded as they were brought in by Dust Off from the battlefield. We took care of the simple wounds and sent the more seriously injured to a larger hospital near Saigon. I was sent out to other locations in Vietnam, but mostly stayed at Lai Khe. We also treated Malaria, Scrub Typhus, Venereal Diseases, and many skin infections. I did earn the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement against hostile forces during the period January 8 to January 18, 1967.

After exactly one year in Vietnam, I was sent to Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, NC. I spent one year there in a medical clinic and enjoyed many hours on the golf course. After being honorably discharged from the Army in August 1968, I returned to Pennsylvania Hospital to do a medical residency with one year in Cardiology. In June of 1971, I went to Temple University Hospital to do a two year fellowship in Cardiology. I was certified in Internal Medicine and in Cardiovascular Diseases.

In 1970, I married Jo Ellen Lawson, who was a Registered Nurse I met at Pennsylvania Hospital Accident Ward. One time, I sent her in to prepare a patient for me to see -- with full knowledge that under the bandage she would find “maggots” debreeding the wound. It is an amusing story to tell today. She was a widow with two children, a six year old boy Chris, and an eight year old girl Sally. Together, we grew our family to five with the birth of Richard Thomas.

In June, 1973, we moved to Allentown and I joined an internal medicine group. We worked at Sacred Heart Hospital and in the office for 25 years. Our group practiced adult general medicine, but the majority of our practice was geriatrics. The hospital bought our practice in 1999.

I retired from medicine on June 30, 2004. I did not miss the paperwork and “new rules,” but I did miss the relationships with my patients, caring for them, interacting with them, and hearing about their families. However, I had little difficulty filling up my free time with biking around the Lehigh...
Valley, gardening, and visiting our ten grandchildren.

Our three children graduated from Emmaus High School. Our daughter Sally graduated from Boston University and received a Master’s Degree in Physical Therapy from Hahnemann University. She does home care for the Visiting Nurses Association, and lives in Westmont, NJ with her husband and two daughters. Adrianna will be a junior at Towson University, majoring in Speech Therapy. Victoria will be a senior in Haddon Township High School.

Our son Chris graduated from University of Vermont and has an MBA from The University of Texas at Austin. Chris is Executive Vice President of Marketing and Development in Arlington, Texas. He lives in Plano with his wife and three children. Kelly is majoring in Nursing at Texas Women's University. Blake will be a senior in high school and Luke will be in ninth grade. Their fourth child, Nicole, passed away in 2014 at the age of 15 from diabetes complications.

Our youngest son Rich has a degree in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon, where he lettered all four years and was a Captain and All-American for the Tartan football team. He earned MBA from the University of Chicago and owns a technology and telecommunications consulting firm in Philadelphia. He lives in Downingtown, PA, with his four children. Riley will be a junior at Washington and Lee University. Brody will be a senior, Tyler will be in 10th grade, and Gabe will be in 9th grade in Downingtown East High school.

Since suffering a small brainstem stroke in 2007, I have had mobility challenges. I still like to exercise, riding an indoor recumbent bike and the elliptical at our club. We are slowly, very slowly, clearing out our home of 42 years. We want to downsize, but we cannot find a better place to live than our house. We support the Philadelphia sports teams -- avid EAGLES fans. We are members of Asbury United Methodist Church. Most importantly, we attend the many activities of our grandchildren. As of today we are busy, happy, and healthy.
I had not planned to attend Jefferson; but, at the encouragement of Dr. Kredl, a surgeon, in Indiana, PA, I applied. My parents had moved to Indiana, PA, from Oklahoma two years before after my father accepted a professorship in geography at the university. When I came for my interview with Dr. Conley, I had already been accepted to two medical schools. I am doubly thankful to Jefferson for accepting me in the first place, and then giving me a second chance to pass biochemistry.

At the start of my sophomore year, I teamed up with Bob Miller, Marty Dresner and Denny Steen, and we became the ‘four Horsemen’. I was no longer the lone ranger. For the next three years, we went through the joys and struggles of medical school together.

During this time I met Susan Wasson, a beautiful blond girl from New York City and a recent Cornell graduate, who worked for P.E. We were married in Queens, New York, two days after graduation. We went to Puerto Rico on our honeymoon and drove by a dusty obscure base on the south side of the island. After finishing my Cooper internship, the Navy sent me to that dried up base (Fort Allen) near Ponce as a general medical officer. While in Puerto Rico, we had our first son, Matt. After three years in Puerto Rico, I went to Kansas City and four years residency in urology. Our second son, Paul, was born in Kansas City.

After my residency, we returned to my roots and established my urology practice in Ponca City, Oklahoma (home of Conoco Oil Company). Along with my urology practice, I started a dialysis unit. I ran it until 2007, having supervised 40,000 runs and 401 total patients. I retired from urology in 2009 and started The Ponca City Laser Center, a medical spa.

My sons thrived and grew tall in the Oklahoma sun, one being 6’ and the other 6’3’. Both graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. The older son Matt and his wife have two children (a boy and a girl) and live in Dublin, Ireland. Paul and his wife also have two children (a boy and a girl) and live in Kinnelon, NJ.

Susan and I divorced in 1993. I married Shery Ann Melquist in 2009. Shery was an OBGYN nurse and her daughter grew up with my sons. Her daughter and husband adopted a little boy from Ethiopia.

My bucket list for the next five years includes:

- Celebrate my tenth wedding anniversary
- Watch my five grandchildren grow up
- Run The Ponca City Laser Center
- Stay Vertical
Here are a few thoughts from my Jefferson years and what has happened in my life for the last 50 years.

Jefferson has always been my ideal of what a medical school should be, having produced many wonderful physicians, including the two who cared for my family and became inspirational in my decision to pursue a career in medicine at Jefferson. I was admitted to the Class of 1964 but following a severely ruptured appendix in December of 1960, I spent nearly a month in the hospital at Jefferson and lost 40 pounds and, of course was unable to “catch up” having missed about two months of school. Dr. Frank Sweeney later told me during my time on infectious disease, that I was one of the first successful cures with a new wonder drug, Staphcillin! Jefferson’s staff entered me into the Class of 1965 and the rest is history.

To help defray expenses, I joined the U.S. Navy Ensign 1915 program while at Jeff. Thus, I owed the Navy three years of service. After a civilian internship at Harrisburg Hospital in central Pennsylvania, I was ordered to Great Lakes Naval Hospital north of Chicago. Two great things happened to me there. I was given the choice of heading directly to the rice paddies of South Vietnam with the fleet Marines, OR, do one year of training in Anesthesiology and then go to Vietnam to work with fully trained anesthesiologists there. It was an easy decision. When I discovered my instructors there were former faculty from Chicago medical schools, anesthesiology became exciting for me. After a year at Great Lakes, I completed my residency in anesthesia at St. Albans on Long Island and finished at the San Diego Naval Hospital. But the best thing that happened to me at Great Lakes was meeting a beautiful young blonde haired, blue eyed Norwegian U.S. Public Health Service nurse named Elise Grimstead.

After about a two year courtship (largely on weekends when I wasn’t working) we got married. We are in the 47th year of that marriage and Elise is the mother of our 6 children and grandmother of our 16, (soon 18) grandchildren.

In true Navy fashion, within 4 months of marriage, I was ordered to Vietnam to serve on the USS Sanctuary, a hospital ship. Our honeymoon did not occur as planned due to Vietnam orders so we had a “make do” honeymoon in Subic Bay in the Philippines when my ship came in for repairs. Then home to Oakland, California, Naval Hospital and just as we were getting used to the San Francisco Bay area, the Navy decided they did not need anesthesiologists so much as the war was winding down, so good-bye Navy and welcome to academia as I became an Assistant Professor of
Anesthesiology at University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, KY. (My chairman was a former Navy colleague I had served with at Great Lakes).

After completing my boards in anesthesiology and a series of changes at UK, we departed Lexington and headed north to Mankato, Minnesota to join another Navy anesthesiologist in a practice that grew and grew for 29 years. At age 63, I decided I no longer wanted to work 60-80 hours per week so I told my partners to get my replacement and I would be gone; they hired two anesthesiologists to fill my slot. Then my practice continued as an independent agent in surgery centers only (no nights, no weekends) for the next twelve years. Finally, with the advent of “Obamacare,” I decided to not continue practicing since more of my time was spent with needless paperwork and less time with the patient.

People often ask whether I would go into medicine today and my answer is a resounding yes! In fact our son, W. Jonathan Wood, MD graduated from Jefferson in 2005 and, guess what; he is an anesthesiologist in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. I hope and pray that good, well-trained men and women will continue in medicine and become advocates for the patient. And I hope they will be able to find practices where they can spend whatever amount of time it takes with the patient to create the best outcomes. No one other than physicians can fill this role completely. But these goals will not occur without some struggles. Our daughters have careers as well as families. Two are RN’s one is a speech pathologist, another teacher and another an analyst. Three are currently homeschooling their children.

So Elise and I have a lot of fun with the grandkids at our lake home in Bemidji, Minnesota and we enjoy travelling whenever possible, especially to warm up in Florida in the winter. I wish all my classmates and those nearest and dearest to them God’s richest blessing. Remember, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” Pray for America!
Ralph Woodruff, M.D.

Nancy Blake Gray and I were married in 1964 when she graduated from the JMC School of Nursing. We had met on the Market Street subway one Sunday evening in 1962, returning to Jefferson from the 30th Street Station after a weekend at home, coming by the same train from Princeton Junction and Bristol.

On my graduation we moved to Nashville, where I was an intern and resident at Vanderbilt, 1965-1968, and she was a nurse with a private adoption agency. This was followed by two more years of pathology residency at Penn.

In 1970, we moved to Atlanta. As Major in the Medical Corps, I was stationed at the Third Army Medical Laboratory, Fort McPherson. Close interaction with the pathology department at Emory led to my taking a faculty position there from 1972-1979.

Meanwhile, we had three children and Nancy had acquired a BA in Anthropology at Georgia State and a Masters from Emory. When she began a PhD program at UNC-Chapel Hill, I moved to the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem.

As a faculty member at Wake, now Emeritus, I concentrated on hematopathology but in the age before super specialization, I also did general surgical pathology and pediatric pathology. We had, and still have, a huge leukemia service. I found great satisfaction in working with the hematologic oncologists in daily conferences at the microscope, participation in the management of their patients.

We have lived in the same house within walking distance of the hospital for thirty-five years. I retired in 2007 when duty hours became too much but I go to the hospital every week or so when we are in town, to visit, to attend conferences - I keep my license for some reason - and to hear the latest news and rumors, good and bad.

We have enjoyed traveling, including travel to international hematopathology meetings and many times to Germany, where our son Seth lived for twenty years. We have taken up “small ship” cruising, the latest around the world trip with a cruise from Bangkok to Istanbul.

Children:

Emily Frances, born 1966. BA St. Andrews Presbyterian College, now of Inver Grove Heights, MN, Two Daughters.
Blake Dutton, born 1967. BA UNC Chapel Hill, MA Bryn Mawr, now of High Point, NC. He does digital graphics in advertising. One Son.

Seth Gray, born 1969. BA UNC Chapel Hill, medical graduate of the Free University of Berlin, Aachen, now with his wife Bianca, MD Berlin, and four children in New York City where he is a medical director for Pfizer.
My four years at Jeff were good times, although I realized this more so after graduation. In July 1965, I started a rotating internship at Philadelphia General Hospital; which is no longer in existence, for which I take no credit.

The Vietnam War was in progress so I enlisted in the Navy as I did not participate in the Berry Plan. I spent twelve months in Vietnam with the First Marine Air Wing. After discharge, I spent one year in a Surgical Residency at Mount Sinai Hospital, Miami Beach, Florida. The only benefit to that year was meeting my wife Mary; we have been married 45 years; no children.

After much soul searching, as to my future, I began my Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL. The residency was great as was Chicago as a city, but the weather was terrible. During the winter, even our dog O’Brien did not want to go outdoors. I developed an interest in hand surgery during one of my rotations.

Following completion of my ortho residency, I was accepted for a Fellowship with Dr. Joseph Boyes in Los Angeles, CA in 1973. The move from Chicago to Los Angeles could have been the basis of a sitcom. Being under the tutelage of Dr. Boyes and his Associates was memorable and I was asked to join the group after completion of my fellowship year. I was associated with the group for fifteen years and contributed many publications for Hand Surgery as well as participating in the fellowship training program.

I spent the next 20 years with The Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Clinic. As a result of this affiliation, I was a hand surgery consultant for six professional teams in the Los Angeles/Anaheim area. During this tenure I was an Associate Editor of a Book, “Operative Techniques in Upper Extremity Sports Injuries,” along with three other physicians; Dr. Frank Jobe was the Editor.

I retired my scalpel in June 2009. As a patient said, “it is a good time to quit while there is still tread on the tires.” During my years in practice, I was involved in many Orthopaedic and Hand Surgery Organizations. I served as President of the Los Angeles Chapter of The Western Orthopaedic Association, as well as being President of The California Orthopaedic Association.

In August of 2012, we moved to Marco Island, Florida. Living on the beach, we enjoy our view of the Gulf, as well as frequent sightings of manatees, dolphins and manta rays. I belong to a digital camera club and I keep busy with photography and photoshop and enjoy traveling with my wife.

It has been a long traveled road from my first days at Jeff to my current location. I seem to have chosen the correct path and have no regrets regarding the journey.