THAT FIRST WHITE COAT

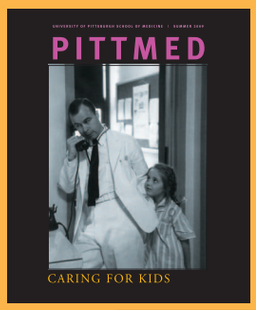
I sincerely hope that the University's newest medical students realize what a gift they were given in Sue Dunmire's address at their White Coat Ceremony, which was recently published in *Pitt Med* as "My First White Coat." Sue captures the real essence of what we do, day in and day out, in medicine. Much of this is easily lost and overlooked early on in medical education as students strive to learn and absorb what medical school throws at them. I suggest that all students preserve this piece and pull it out throughout their careers to remind them of the real reason that they practice medicine. I have been fortunate in my career to learn from the master, as Sue was a mentor to me in both medical school and in residency. The lessons that she teaches now are the same lessons she has taught throughout her career: Take care of yourself; take care of your patients; and take care of your family. Balance your medical education and your personal life—and laugh!

Thanks for the reminders, Sue. After almost 20 years, they still hold true.

William A. Jenkins
(BS '86, MD '90, Res '93)
Murrysville, Pa.

CARING FOR KIDS

I appreciate *Pitt Med* and enjoy it. Incidentally, I am the guy on the phone on the cover of the Summer 2008 issue [highlighting the Esther Bubley photo-essay covering Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in 1951]. Also, incidentally, the same photo was used on the cover of a 1952 issue of the Children's Hospital bulletin. Also incidentally, the Alumni Association of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh was "hatched" in June 1952 by the departing residents in the "relaxing room" in the quarters. Nothing official, just "we oughta get together in a year." No name for it. That came later. The hospital took it up and arranged for a reunion in '53 with a big turnout, which has continued every year since. The last "incidentally": I was "elected" president at that casual 1952 meeting.



Arthur Michael Coddington Jr.
(Res '52)
Johnson City, N.Y.

A FATHER REMEMBERED

I am a 1976 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (as well as an anesthesiology resident and fellow for an additional four years).

My father, Henry W. Thomas, graduated from Pitt's School of Medicine in 1938 and died in 1994. His residency was interrupted by service in the Army Medical Corps during World War II, though he completed his residency in ob/gyn in 1948. He practiced at Magee-Womens Hospital, as well as South Side Hospital, all of his career, until he retired in 1980.

I'm sending a newspaper clipping you may find interesting. My father was just over 15 years old when he graduated from Pittsburgh's South High School. He entered Pitt the following autumn and graduated with an MD six years later, which made him just over 21 years of age upon graduation.


Youngest of Graduates

Ruth Mae Havel, [illegible] and Mary Eva Walter, Pittsburgh's youngest high school graduates.

James J. Thomas
(MD '76, Res '79, Fel '80)
Shawnee Mission, Kan.

RECENT MAGAZINE HONORS

IABC Pittsburgh Golden Triangle Award of Excellence, Magazines

IABC Award of Excellence, Feature Writing (J. Miksch, "The Investigator's Path")

IABC Award of Honor, Publication Design (E. Cerri)

Pittsburgh Black Media Federation Robert L. Vann Media Award Magazine Features, Third Place (C. Zinchini, "Twins")

We gladly receive letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

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CORRECTION

In our Winter issue, we reversed the identifications of two first-year students and their alumni fathers—Katherine and Greg (MD '82) Hoyson and Julie and William (MD '74) Steinbrink—in a caption about the White Coat Ceremony. The fathers were still beaming, last we knew.