PAVING THE WAY

Thank you for running the announcement [Spring 2009] about the recent death of my mother, Ruth Masters (MD '35). I thought you might enjoy seeing this photograph and knowing a little bit more about her. She was one of very few women who became doctors in those days. In 1933 there were only 650 members of the Medical Women's National Association. By 1941, the number of women physicians in the country had climbed to a mere 7,500 compared to almost 200,000 male doctors. My mother graduated during this time. She had no resentment about her treatment, she just said that by working *twice* as hard as everyone else, she found that she was not looked down upon as a woman. In her 1935 Pitt medical school class of more than 60 students, there was only one other woman.



Ruth (Snyder) Masters c. 1934

My sister Dr. Carol Rumack, who followed in Mother's footsteps, wrote this about her: "Ruth Masters, MD, was born at home September 28, 1913, and raised and educated in Pittsburgh. Dr. Ruth won a scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, which she entered at age 16 after winning a mathematics competition. She entered medical school at 18 years of age and graduated at 21. (Her mother marched in the women's suffrage movement.) She married a classmate, the late Dr. Raymond Masters, in 1936, during their internship at the University of Pittsburgh. They opened an office in his father's home on November 1, 1936, and practiced there for 64 years. She practiced family medicine and delivered more than 3,200 babies, including 200 home deliveries. She says she always prayed during a delivery that "God would bless me to give me the strength and talent to do it." She arranged adoptions of babies from mothers who did not want to choose abortion. Dr. Ruth was elected the first woman president of the medical staff at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) at McKeesport Hospital, serving from 1979 to 1980. She retired from active practice in 2001 at the age of 88 and remained a member of the hospital's ethics committee."

The other Dr. Masters—Raymond E. Masters, my father—was a physician who pioneered atomic safety methods. Both of my parents had wonderful and productive lives.

Sara Masters
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

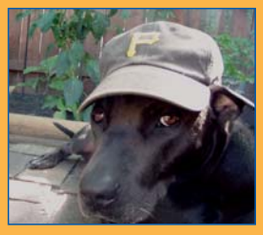
POSTER DOG

Some people (probably not many Pittsburghers this year) watch the Super Bowl for the commercials; apparently some of our readers appreciate Pitt Med*'s ads, as well. In his note below, Scott Kennedy refers to the front and back cover ads in our Fall 2008 issue, including one for Pitt's Winter Academy—featuring Shirley, a black dog in a Pirates hat—and one for planned giving opportunities—featuring former nurse/flight attendant, current sports-car aficionado Mildred Danch.*

Your magazine [Fall 2008] is truly outstanding, from the black lab up front to the flight attendant sans red Corvette on the back.

In truth, I tore off the cover to cut out the lab shot before perusing the rest. So, if possible, I would appreciate a replacement copy to put on our office coffee table. Please?

F. Scott Kennedy, PhD
Assistant Dean of Admissions
LSU Health Sciences Center
Shreveport, La.



Shirley

The pup's companion, associate editor Joe Miksch, responds:

I'm pleased that you're charmed by the photo of my dog, Shirley. I feel compelled though (for reasons I can't fathom) to point out that the lovely little miss is primarily of pit bull and shar-pei extraction, though doubtless many other breeds (including lab, possibly) lurk in her checkered family background.

FLU: READ MORE ABOUT IT

- **Edwin Kiester's 2003 story for this magazine on the Influenza of 1918: http://pittmed.health.pitt.edu/Jan_2003/DrowingBlood.pdf**
- **Chuck Staresinic's story on the evolution of flu: http://pittmed.health.pitt.edu/Winter_2006/evolutionofflu.pdf**
- **UPMC's Center for Biosecurity's updates and original articles: www.upmc-biosecurity.org/**

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

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CASE District II Accolades
Silver, Covers (Summer 2008)

IABC Golden Triangle Award of Honor
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Magazine Design (E. Cerri)

IABC Golden Triangle Award of Honor
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Gold, Covers (Winter 2007/8)

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