



Intertwine

Duke University Medical Center

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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Marriage and Medicine: Love in the Medical Center

A 3 a.m. phone call from the Emergency Room at Johns Hopkins introduced Dr. John E. Dees to his future bride.

Dr. Shirley Osterhout received her heirloom engagement ring in the Duke morgue.

Dr. Jerome S. Harris "commuted" between Durham and Denver while his wife was stationed there in the Army.

Love between physicians can blossom in peculiar places and survive unlikely circumstances, M.D. couples working in the medical center have found.

Several of them agreed to share some of those experiences for this Valentine's Day issue of *Intercom*.

Highly Uncertain Future

"I don't know how we could do any more against the recommended way of selecting a mate," remembers Susan C. Dees, professor of pediatrics. "We didn't know each other very long. We didn't know each other's families. And we had a highly uncertain future."

"I didn't get much sleep in those days," commented John Dees, professor of urology. Residents in the 1930s received room, board, laundry and uniforms, but no stipends until the sixth year when they were paid \$75 a month.

"I put myself through residency by selling blood," he said. "In those days you could get \$50 for a pint of blood." He also earned extra money setting up tests in pathology between 7 and 9 a.m. and received \$5 from pathology for each gross autopsy he performed at night.

The Osterhouts knew each other much longer than six weeks when they married in 1960. They had met in 1954 when Dr. Suydam Osterhout, then chief resident in medicine, taught microbiology to medical students including Shirley Kirkman.

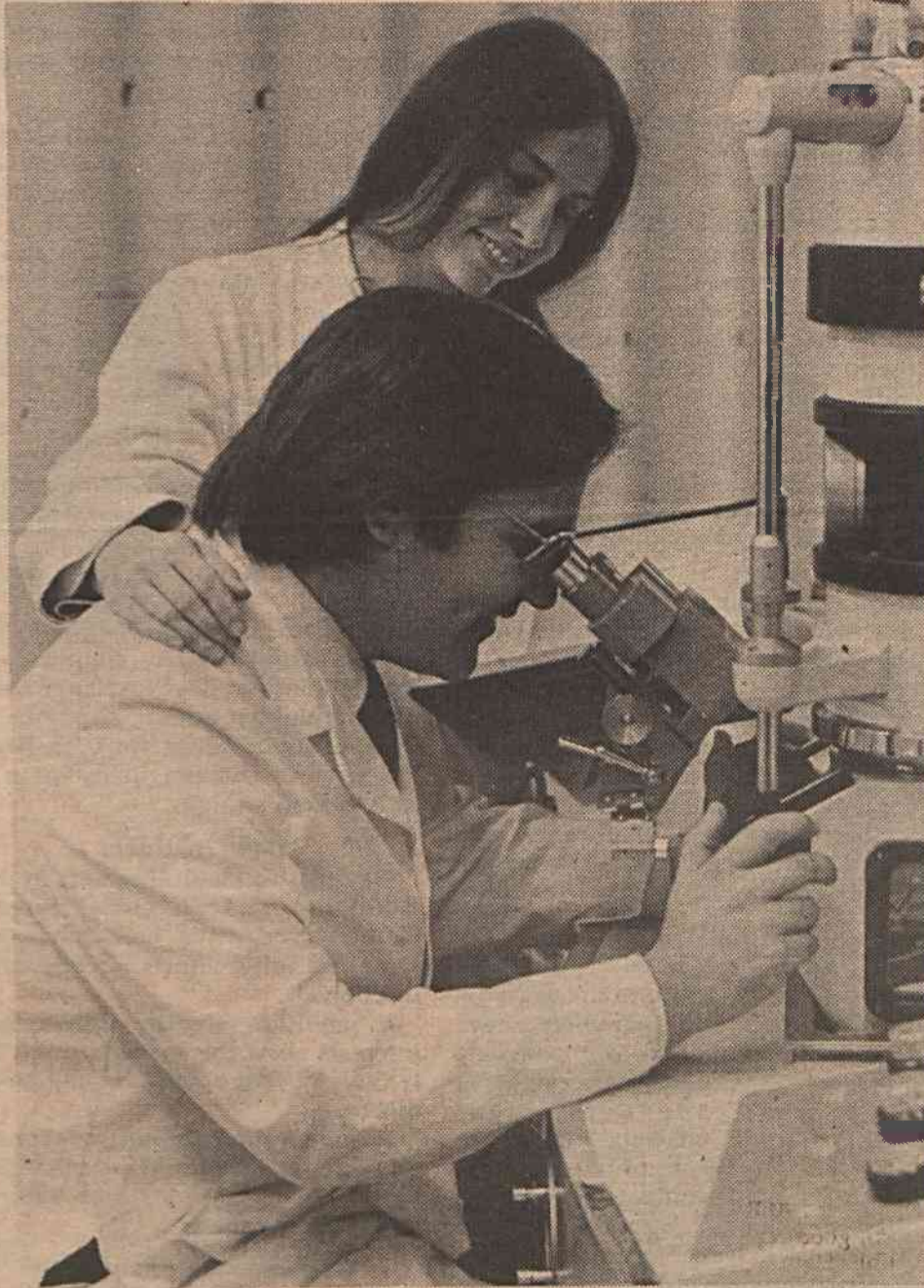
Morgue Was Private If Not Romantic

When he returned to Duke after three years at the Rockefeller Institute, they began dating. "No one knew we were serious," recalls Shirley Osterhout, now assistant professor of pediatrics, clinical director of the Poison Control Center, and assistant dean for student affairs.

The morgue just down the hall from the post office was the only convenient and private place they could find for presentation of the heirloom ring that Syd's family had just mailed to him.

When Dr. Jerome Harris first saw Dr. Jacqueline Hijmans in the dining

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DRS. GALE and KENNETH S. MCCARTY JR.

room, he was chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and she was a fellow in gastroenterology. After completing the fellowship, Dr. Hijmans volunteered for the Army from 1957-59 and was stationed in Denver.

"I took in all the medical meetings by way of Denver," Dr. Harris said. "If I had a meeting in Chicago, I went to Chicago and then to Denver before coming back to Durham." They married in Denver in 1958.

No Intention of Marriage

Dr. Sue Kimm and Dr. Seymour Grufferman were locker-mates while attending the School of Public Health at Harvard.

"Neither of us had any intentions of getting married," she said. But there they were two days before Christmas in 1967, getting married in Harvard Memorial Church.

The year of 1963 was a very busy one for Dr. Robert A. Gutman and Dr. Laura Thurston. They met while interning at the University of Washington and married during the year. "We did a lot of chatting at two o'clock in the morning," said Laura T. Gutman, now assistant professor of pediatrics and assistant clinical professor of pharmacology.

Gale Van Pelt was an undergraduate premedical student working at the hospital in the summer of 1969 when she met Kenneth S. McCarty Jr., a medical student, on Osler Ward.

"I spent a lot of time on Osler after that," she said. They married the following March and named their dog Osler in honor of the location of their courtship.

While both were going to school year-round, Ken earned money by evening and weekend jobs on the medical wards and Gale did typing at night for the Private Diagnostic Clinic. Both worked for a time at a nursing home.

Hectic But Fun

Life has been hectic, especially trying to arrange the same nights off when both were on the house staff. "But it's been fun," said Gale, clinical fellow in rheumatology, "and we probably see each other at the hospital more than most couples do during the day."

"You have to be willing to do things to help the other person," said Ken, assistant professor of medicine and director of the Tumor Steroid Receptor Lab. "That's the key."

Having two professionals in the family leads to "more women's lib in

Story and photos by Ina Fried

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