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## James M. Young, 1955 Duke Medical Graduate

# Doctor Kept Presidents' Illnesses at Bay

By Joe Sigler

Almost anyone who is old enough to remember the day and the tragedy it represents can recall where he or she was when the first news broke.

It was Friday, Nov. 22, 1963.

Dr. James M. Young had just returned to the White House West

Wing physician's office from lunch in the White House staff dining room with President Kennedy's Naval aide and an administrative assistant when they got word of the shooting in Dallas.

"We ran from the West Wing to the Secret Service office where they had

an open line to Parkland Memorial Hospital," Young recalled.

From the reports that were then coming in from Parkland, the doctor said, "I knew there was no way of saving him."

Young had been on the President's staff as one of three White House physicians since June of that year. In that short time, he had traveled with the President and his family and had come to feel close to them.

In the immediate aftermath of the assassination, Young helped arrange for the autopsy when the body was returned to Washington and he cared for Mrs. Kennedy for the next 10 days, in the White House and later at Hyannis Port.

It was a major assignment for a young Navy doctor just turned 34.

Dr. Young recalled these and other events in his 20-year Navy experience while visiting at Duke earlier this year to see his daughter Anne receive her cap as a junior in the School of Nursing.

It was a return to familiar ground.

After attending a two-room, eight-grade schoolhouse and then high school in Massillon, Ohio, Jim Young might have ended his formal education. His family couldn't afford to send him to college.

But Young could play football, and that's what he did, coming to Duke under an athletic scholarship and earning four letters in football under Coach Wallace Wade.

Still, his undergraduate days weren't all football. He was president of the Student Government Association, defeating Nick Galifianakis who would later win some elections and go to Congress. A close friend of Young's in those days, who remains so today, was the president of the Inter-Fraternity Council, John O. (Jack) Blackburn, now Duke's chancellor.

Graduating in 1951, Young was accepted into the Duke medical school, where his honors included election to Alpha Omega Alpha.

Upon earning his M.D. degree in

1955, Young received his Navy commission. He retired on Sept. 1 of this year and started work the same day as director of medical affairs for Massachusetts Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He also is affiliated with Lahey Clinic in Boston.

The event that was to result in the three-year highlight of his Navy career, service at the White House, was a telephone call at 4:25 one afternoon when Young was in the library at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital.

"She says she's a White House operator," the person who got the call to Young relayed.

On the other end of the line was Navy Capt. George Burkley, who was the second White House physician at the time, working with Dr. Janet Travell. Burkley said he wanted to request Young's assignment to the White House medical staff, with promotion from lieutenant commander to captain.

Young is uncertain how he came to such attention from the White House, but he had met Kennedy briefly and talked with some of his staff the year before.

After an overnight consultation with his wife ("It would mean moving back again to Washington after we just got settled in Philadelphia," he explained), Young "called back and said I would be honored."

After those brief five months in the Kennedy White House, Young stayed on for the next three years with President Johnson.

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## Medical Library Opening Slated In Ten Days

The new Medical Center Library, housed in the recently completed Seeley G. Mudd Building, is scheduled to open its doors to library users on Monday, Nov. 17, according to Kathy Kruse, reference librarian.

Currently, the library's 160,000 volumes are being transferred to the new facility by Duke undergraduates and a moving company which specializes in relocating libraries.

The new library will contain 47,000 square feet of useable space as compared with 10,000 in the old library. It will have a seating capacity of 575, exceeding the Davison Building reading room which opened in 1930, by 505 seats.

The new facility will also contain two elevators, six rest rooms and 53 study rooms, including 13 group study rooms. All of Duke's medically-related literature, as well as the Trent Collection in the History of Medicine and the Barchas Collection in the History of Science, will be brought together under the same roof, for the first time in many years.



FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS — When Dr. and Mrs. James M. Young and daughter Tricia came back to Duke earlier this year to see daughter Anne (second from left) receive her cap in Duke Chapel as a School of Nursing junior, it was a return to familiar ground for Dr. Young. The former physician to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson earned his undergraduate and M.D. degrees here.

# Rundles Talks Cancer in Europe

By William Erwin

A Duke cancer specialist says earlier action by patients and their doctors is cutting the death rate from Hodgkin's disease, a cancer arising in the lymph nodes.

One out of every two people with the disease can now be cured, said Dr. Wayne Rundles, head of the leukemia and lymphoma clinic at the Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Hodgkin's disease is a type of lymphoma. It strikes nearly 7,000 people — mostly young adults — in the U.S. every year, according to the American Cancer Society.

Rundles spoke on the disease and

related cancers in Yugoslavia Oct. 28, at the first meeting of the Yugoslavian-United States Medical Association. Interviewed before the meeting, he explained why the Hodgkin's disease survival rate is climbing.

"People are getting smarter," the physician said. Patients report their symptoms earlier. Instead of waiting, they see their doctors at the first sign of Hodgkin's disease — a swollen but painless lymph node, often in the neck.

"In the past," he said, "they might have thought it was infection and let it go." The sooner a cancer is

detected, he noted, the better the patient's chances for survival.

Why do patients take their symptoms more seriously now? Rundles pointed to educational programs put on by the American Cancer Society and other groups. "They've had an impact," he said, on doctors as well as patients.

Doctors are more optimistic now when they diagnose Hodgkin's disease, the specialist said. "They're better informed; they know a lot more can be done for these patients now than could be done even five or 10 years ago," he said.

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