



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

Daryll C. Dykes, MD, JD, PhD

Class of 1995

Daryll C. Dykes, MD '95, considers his selection as the 2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus a testament to the practically quixotic vision, tenacity, compassion, and courage of many truly outstanding individuals—the faculty and staff members at Upstate who saw in him the opportunity to flourish, and selflessly mentored, trained, and prepared him for nearly implausible success.

Dr. Dykes is an orthopaedic spine surgeon, health law scholar, and health policy consultant practicing in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota—a long way away from the public housing project where he grew up on the West Side of Syracuse and his alma mater, George W. Fowler High School.

After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Dykes returned to Syracuse and reentered the classroom at Onondaga Community College, balancing the responsibilities of school with supporting his young family. He completed his associate's degree with high honors and went on to Syracuse University to complete his undergraduate studies in biology. Although he had close connections with the academic health center as a former patient and by way of family members on staff, Dykes' first professional relationship with Upstate came through full-time night jobs while he pursued classes during the day. First, he worked as a mental health therapy aide at Hutchings Psychiatric Center, and later as a blood bank technician in the hospital's lab. Inspired and mentored by Drs. Gregory Threatte '73, Robert Dracker '82, Fred Davey '64, John Bernard Henry, and Chaitanya Haldipur, he earned admission to Upstate to pursue his graduate and medical studies.

As one of the first students to complete the newly created MD/PhD program at Upstate, Dykes studied in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology under

the skillful guidance of Drs. Matt Pincus and Richard Cross. His cutting-edge research earned several awards, including the President's Award for Excellence in Research, the John Bernard Henry, MD Endowed Scholarship and Award, and the American Heart Association Award for Excellence in Research. He also received several awards for his clinical accomplishments, including the Department of Pathology Award and the David G. Murray, M.D. Award for Excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dykes credits much of his research and clinical success to the dedication and teaching acumen of many Upstate teachers and advisors. While the names are too many to list, even twenty years later he recalls and particularly acknowledges the contributions Drs. David Murray, Barry Berg, Pat Numann '65, Fred Parker, James Potts, Sharon Brangman '81, Charles Hodge, Bob Kellman '77, Eleanor Spring-Mills, Susan Stearns, John McCabe '79, Larry Lemanski, David Duggan '79, Richard Oates, Lynn Cleary, and Leslie Kohman—all of whom went "beyond the call of duty" to support and nurture his development.

Dykes first expressed his interest in organizational leadership while a student at Upstate through his service on over a dozen policy-level committees, including the President's Council; the Committee for Long-Range Planning, Institutional Self-Study and Accreditation; the Curriculum Committee; the Educational Policies Committee; and search committees for the president and dean. He served as president of the College of Medicine class in 1993, and three terms as president of the Graduate Student Council. As a medical student, the American Association of Medical Colleges appointed him to serve on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. He worked regularly with Dean Geno Andreatta, Dean Maxwell Mozell, and President Gregory Eastwood, who probably

had no idea of the profound impact they would have on his life, and in turn, on the lives of many others. Upon graduation, Dykes received the James L. Potts, MD Public Service Award for his work with the institution and the community.

He did his residency training in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Minnesota, and went on to complete fellowships in spine surgery, orthopaedic trauma, and health services research. His clinical practice is focused on complex spinal reconstruction surgery for children and adults with spinal deformities, tumors, injuries, and degenerative conditions. He has cared for more than 10,000 clinical and surgical patients, trained more than 60 spine surgery fellows, and authored or co-authored more than 25 book chapters, abstracts, and peer-reviewed scientific articles. He has lectured, researched and trained surgeons in several countries around the world.

The foundation in organizational leadership that Dykes established at Upstate is the cornerstone of his current leadership activities. He later completed the prestigious Leadership Fellows Program of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and subsequently was selected to chair the Academy's Leadership Development Committee. In turn, he has mentored more than 40 highly accomplished orthopaedic surgeons and has continued to serve the academic and general communities in key roles on several Academy committees and affiliated boards, including the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society, Scoliosis Research Society, Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation, and U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative.

Because of his concern for problems in American health care delivery, Dr. Dykes enrolled in William Mitchell College of Law where he focused on the legal implications of racial, ethnic and gender disparities in health;



health care legislation, regulation and compliance; and medical liability. He completed his law degree magna cum laude and has authored seminal law review articles on health disparities and health quality measurement. Dykes continues to work with William Mitchell College of Law as the Executive Director of "Effective Communication for Experts"—a one-of-a-kind program that conducts training and research in expert witness advocacy.

Dykes is currently the president and managing director of Medical and Surgical Spine Consultants of Minnesota. He is the proud recipient of the Onondaga Community College "Alumni Faces" recognition and the Syracuse University Premedical Society Alumnus of the Year Award. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Dr. Sharon Dykes—a colorectal surgeon and researcher—and their children, Dyani, Damien, Daron, Sydni, and Devin, and grandson, Brayden. In his spare time, Dykes is an avid photographer and self-proclaimed "grill master."

*BIO SUBMITTED BY DR. DYKES