



HONORING A

COLLEAGUE, FRIEND

PROFESSOR OF ORTHOPAEDICS CELEBRATES RETIREMENT

On April 28, 2006, friends, colleagues and family gathered at the Ironwood Golf & Country Club to celebrate the career and achievements of long-time faculty member Dr. Walter (Walt) W. Huurman. A presentation was given highlighting the personal contributions Walt has made over the years to the lives of his students, colleagues, friends and many patients.

Walt Huurman was born on March 16, 1936, in Rochester, NY. He received a B.S. in chemistry and biology (cum laude) from the University of Notre Dame in 1958, and his M.D. degree from Northwestern University in 1962. Following medical school, Walt completed a rotating internship at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago, IL, in 1963 and spent a year at the Naval School of Aviation Medicine. Following six months of basic flight training he was assigned to a carrier air group in Coronado, CA. He embarked on the USS Hornet and spent one year in the Vietnam war zone, after which he returned for a short time to his assignment at Coronado. He was then assigned to the Naval Air Station Miramar, CA, as the assistant medical director and flight surgeon to two F4 and F8 fighter squadrons. It was during this period that he met his future wife, Lindsay McGuiness, on the Coronado beach. They subsequently married and are now proud parents of Sean and Anne, and grandparents of five.



After completion of these tours Walt felt it was time to "get back to medicine." He completed his orthopaedic residency at the U.S. Naval Medical Center in Oakland, California, in 1971, and went on to complete a year of training in pediatric orthopaedic surgery at the A.I. duPont Institute in Wilmington, DE. Walt returned to Oakland and spent five years on staff at the Naval Regional Medical Center, where as director of pediatric orthopaedics, he established the 'in house' pediatric orthopaedic residency training service. He came to Omaha in 1977 and began what would be a long and prosperous career at UNMC's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation. In addition, he has had a longstanding appointment in the Department of Pediatrics since 1978, and has served as director of Children's Orthopaedics since 1977.

During Operation Desert Storm he was recalled to active duty, along with Drs. Paul Esposito and David Brown, and served the U.S. Marines as chief of orthopaedics at the U.S. Navy Field Hospital on the Bahrain-Saudi Arabian border. He returned to UNMC in 1991 and retired from the Navy in 1996.

Over the years, Walt has sustained membership in several professional societies and served on dozens of committees both locally and nationally. He has published 37 articles, 22 book chapters and reviews, and has given over 70 presentations both nationally and internationally, including several visiting professor lectureships. Walt has served on numerous editorial boards, including Pediatrics, Pediatrics in Review, and the Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics. He has served as an associate editor of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and on the editorial review boards of the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, and as an oral examiner for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He is a member of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the North American Spine Society, and the American Orthopaedic Association.

Currently he serves as consultant to the Surgeons General, president of the Northwestern University Medical Alumni Board, and chairman of the Regional University of Notre Dame Scholarship Foundation.

We thank all who joined us in the celebration and recognition of our friend Walter W. Huurman, as he retires to the status of Professor Emeritus at Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and prepares for the next phase of his productive and illustrative career. We wish him good luck in all his future endeavors and thank him for the many years he dedicated to the department, to the field of orthopaedics, and to his many, many patients.