

Canton Community Health Fund
Celebrating 30+ years of Dr. Diter's Scholarships

In November/1989, the *Canton Visiting Nurse Association* and a group of Canton residents held an event to honor Dr. Edward Nelson Diters on his retirement, after 40 years of family practice in town. Dr. Diters started his practice with Dr. Cox, the doctor who delivered him at his Canton home in 1923. Funds raised from this event were used to establish the “Dr. Diters/CVNA Scholarship Fund” to benefit Canton residents pursuing their education in health-related fields.

In June/1990, the very first scholarship, for \$500, was awarded to Canton High School senior Nancy A. MacLaurin. Dr. Diters was a participant on the review committee, and he also presented the award to Ms. MacLaurin at a special reception.

Ann Bryan, Chair of *Canton Community Health Fund* that currently administers Dr. Diter's Scholarships, was recently honored to interview *now* Dr. Nancy MacLaurin, on her journey to becoming an Obstetrician and Gynecologist.

She earned her M.D. at University of Connecticut in 1998 and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at University of South Florida in 2002. She now practices in Durham, North Carolina and is associated with Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. MacLaurin lives with her family in North Carolina, but still has family in Canton.

AB: What was your early interest in the medical field and what direction did you initially pursue?

Dr. MacLaurin: I was sure in High School that I would go into medicine. I really liked science classes, particularly biology. Once I got to college, I decided I didn't like research as much as I liked clinical work and that was reinforced in graduate school.

AB: What made you choose Obstetrics and Gynecology? Was there something that inspired you to go into this field?

Dr. MacLaurin: I was really drawn to this field during medical school, but it was during my rotations in Obstetrics that made my decision. I also did an

internship in Torrington, at a family medicine clinic, that peaked my initial interest.

AB: What path led you to North Carolina?

Dr. MacLaurin: I did my undergraduate work at Wake Forest in Winston-Salem North Carolina, so that took me south. I also met my husband in college. After my residency in Florida, we settled in North Carolina to be closer to family and the opportunity to be part of a major academic center.

AB: Did you happen to know Dr. Ditters?

Dr. MacLaurin: Yes, he was our family physician!

AB: What are your memories of Canton?

Dr. MacLaurin: The best part of Canton was the community spirit of the town. Everyone knew each other, so it was a great place to grow up. My High School class was only about 80 students!



In addition we had the opportunity to provide the same questions to 2001 Canton High School graduate and Dr. Diter's scholarship recipient, Kristin Chellgren Bruyette. Kristen is a Pediatric nurse at Boston Children's Hospital in Massachusetts.

AB: What was your early interest in the medical/health field? What direction did you initially want to pursue?

Ms. Bruyette: As far back as I can remember I always loved kids, and babysat any chance I got. I loved interacting with kids but also caring for them. My grandmother was a very inspiring nurse who I always looked up to. So, when it came time to decide which path I wanted to pursue in college, pediatric nursing seemed like the best option for me!

AB: What made you choose Nursing?

Ms. Bruyette: I attended Boston College and graduated in 2005. 16 years later I have found my niche as an operating room nurse at Boston Children's hospital. It is a very unique and specialized type of nursing but so rewarding. I do orthopedic surgeries where we do spine fusions, fix hip dysplasia, and treat so many different fractures and congenital anomalies.

AB: What path led you to the Boston area?

Ms. Bruyette: My husband and I left sunny San Diego 10 years ago to be closer to home. There are so many incredible hospitals in Boston but Boston Children's was a no brainer for me. It is has been consistently ranked the #1 children's hospital in the country so it's an honor to be part of this team.

AB: Did you happen to know Dr. Diter's? Was he your family physician?

Ms. Bruyette: I did not know Dr. Diter's but I am grateful for the scholarship he inspired and started in his honor.

AB: What are your memories of Canton?

Ms. Bruyette: Oh goodness, good old Canton. Soccer games, the Res,

hanging with the best friends, spirit week, the town pool, Bagels Plus! So good!

Ann Bryan: “Over the past 30 years, *Canton Community Health Fund* and its predecessor organization, have awarded over \$50,000 in Dr. Diter’s Scholarships to over 65 Canton students and residents.”

“Each spring, the *Fund* encourages Canton’s graduating seniors and residents, interested in pursuing careers in health-related fields, to apply for Dr. Diter’s Scholarships, at www.cantoncommunityhealthfund.org. It’s a way to continue to honor his remarkable legacy of service to community, into the future.”