

We believe that giving back is a responsibility. To be able to fulfill this obligation exactly how we envisioned is a true gift.

DRS. CAROLYN PASS '66 AND  
RICHARD SUSEL '66

# Alumni Forge Generous Path Educational Academy, Curriculum Enhancement Funded

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Carolyn Pass '66 and Richard Susel '66 were sweethearts long before they entered the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1962. Richard was elected class president, and Carolyn became the class secretary. Upon graduation, she became a dermatologist, he, an ophthalmologist. The happily married alumni couple went on to become successes in their respective fields, all the while maintaining a close connection to their alma mater. For years, Dr. Pass has been a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Dermatology. To this day, Dr. Susel has an appointment with the Veteran's Administration hospital on the Baltimore campus and is a clinical assistant professor in Ophthalmology. As a medical educator, Dr. Pass was also recognized in 1970 when the American Academy of Dermatology awarded her its Gold Medal for Class II Exhibits of High Teaching Value for an Academy presentation she made at that time.

In addition to their professional commitments, they have always been involved in the Medical Alumni Association, providing generous annual support and serving as examples to other alumni through their leadership gifts and membership in the John Beale Davidge Alliance. While their private practices are based at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore and in Howard County, Maryland, their philanthropic priority is medical education, which led to their tremendous gift commitment to the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

"Our family endowed an award in memory of my father at the school for a graduating student who demonstrated proficiency in internal medicine," says Dr. Pass of her late father, I. Earl Pass, MD, class of 1937. "Giving back is not only in my blood but so is the concept of fostering the continued importance of educational excellence at a time when research and clinical practice have become areas of increased focus." Dr. Susel continues, "We believe that we have an obligation to help train and inspire the physicians of the future, but we also want



to acknowledge in a positive way those who are primarily responsible for educating them. We wanted to do so much, and when we learned that we could fulfill our desires through a planned gift, we took advantage of the opportunity.”

Through a major gift commitment, Drs. Pass and Susel have been able to achieve their philanthropic goals, reaffirm their commitment to medical education, and inspire other alumni to make similar gifts. A portion of their magnanimous contribution will provide critical financial support for curriculum enhancements and teaching investments. In recognition of the unrestricted funds they contributed towards medical education, the classroom suites in Howard Hall have been named the Pass & Susel Medical Education Facility. The dedication ceremony took place on May 1, 2008.

The remainder of this wonderful gift will advance the School’s educational mission in a very unique manner. The Pass & Susel Academy of Educational Excellence has been established through the generosity of these two remarkable alumni and will recognize exemplary faculty who demonstrate excellence in bedside, classroom and/or innovative medical education. Nominations for membership to the Academy will be solicited annually by a committee selected by the dean. Each new inductee will be celebrated as a Pass & Susel Educator of Excellence and will receive a monetary award. All members of the Academy will be permanently listed on a specially designated wall in Howard Hall. The inaugural class of Pass & Susel Educators, which included Larry Anderson, PhD, Miriam Blitzer, PhD, Frank Calia, MD, Michael Donnenberg, MD, and Jordan Warnick, PhD, was inducted in June 2008. In subsequent years, two faculty members will be inducted annually.

“To be identified by one’s peers as an exceptional educator is high praise,” acknowledges Dr. Bruce E. Jarrell, Executive Vice Dean. “The Pass & Susel Academy provides us with a vehicle to recognize outstanding teaching both in the classroom and in the clinical setting.”

“We believe that giving back is a responsibility. To be able to fulfill this obligation exactly how we envisioned is a true gift. And we sincerely hope that this gesture will inspire other alumni to personally contribute to the advancement of medical education,” offer Drs. Pass and Susel. ★