



Dianne Murphy Frazier, PhD, MPH

Drew Class of 1964

When visiting potential colleges during her senior year of high school, Dianne immediately felt that Drew would be the perfect choice for her. Although the number of required courses for a major in chemistry at Drew were extensive, she was still able to enjoy courses in French, German, literature and art. Her extracurricular activities included water ballet, Drew-Eds, Green Key, Oak Leaf art editor, Acorn staff, dormitory council, freshman orientation committee, Sigma Tau Sigma, Kappa Pi, Sigma Phi and social chair of her junior and senior classes. She held part time jobs as a life guard, library staffer and chemistry department student assistant, and gave 50 cent haircuts to dorm mates. These were four wonderful years!

As graduation approached, Dianne had to choose between applying to medical or graduate school. She finally decided to major in biochemistry at the Duke University Medical School. Dianne earned her PhD with a National Institute of Health fellowship. During her final semester, she took an elective course, taught by a team of biochemists and physicians that examined the biochemical basis of inborn errors of metabolism (IEM). This sparked an interest that informed the rest of her professional career.

Dianne accepted a two year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in pediatric biochemistry. Her laboratory work involved developing methodology and procedures for newborn screening for rare IEM. She was also assigned to re-design the biochemistry course taught to first year medical students. Dianne began using the pathology of rare IEM to illustrate biochemical pathways. Student evaluations of the revised course led to her first teaching award. As interest and experience with IEM grew, Dianne received her first large research grant, began recruiting graduate students, continued to develop newborn screening methodology and teach.

Dianne soon realized that the most rewarding aspect of studying IEM was direct patient contact so she enrolled in the MPH program at UNC School of Public Health. Eventually, Dianne was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics at the UNC Medical School where she had a patient load of approximately 300 children and adults with rare IEM treated via dietary/nutritional intervention. She continued to develop protocols for newborn screening for these IEM and helped North Carolina become the first state to

implement a program for screening > 20 IEM. During her academic career, she authored more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and presented over 100 invited lectures, nationally and internationally. She was tapped for membership to the Drew University Silver Tower Society, honored by the Southeastern Genetics Group for her service, received the Lifetime Contribution Award by the Genetic Metabolic Dietitians International and was granted the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian recognition for service to the people of N.C, by the N.C. governor.

During these years, Dianne and her husband, Jim, raised two lovely daughters: Becky (deceased) and Jenny (Drew C'97). Jenny is now a senior vice president at Nielsen and has two lovely daughters of her own. Dianne has taught Sunday school, was a Girl Scout leader and volunteer, is a church volunteer, is trying to reach her goal of reading 100 books per year, and is finishing the course work for a certificate/master's degree in botanical illustration. Antiquing, hiking and travelling have been Jim's and Dianne's favorite leisure time activities.

Dianne credits her wonderful training and experiences at Drew for her enthusiasm for seeking answers to life's mysteries.