Kelley Smith O’Quinn devotes her life to paying back the love she received

For their first date, Kelley Smith O’Quinn’s late husband took her to a cadaver lab. Kenneth showed her around MUSC’s campus, bringing to the life the places he described in letters sent to her home four hours away in Walhalla. Two of his aunts had paid for his medical school, a gift Mrs. O’Quinn never forgot.

She and Kenneth married that winter and chased his medical career around the South. They started in North Carolina, then moved to Virginia and finished his residence in Alabama. Dr. Kenneth Smith established a dermatology practice in Anderson in 1969, and his wife managed his office for years.

On their 50th wedding anniversary, she established the Kenneth W. Smith, M.D. Endowed Scholarship as a gift to him. She thought of her husband’s aunts.

“There was a facet of paying back what was given to him,” Mrs. O’Quinn said. “It was given to him, but it was given to me as well, because it made him the man he was.”

The scholarship’s first recipient, Dr. Jennifer Varner and Lynne Richards (2nd and 3rd from left), with three of their scholarship recipients: 0-1) Meghan Reese, Marley Linder and Joseph Gandy.

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Dr. Mary E. Baker, Class of ‘78, was the guest speaker and delivered highly entertaining remarks about her time at MUSC, her subsequent career and what it means to be a physician.

The idea for the center began shortly before Mrs. O’Quinn’s gift, according to Dr. Michelle Macias, director of MUSC’s Division of Child Development.

The scholarship’s first recipient, Dr. Jennifer Varner and Lynne Richards (2nd and 3rd from left), with three of their scholarship recipients: 0-1) Meghan Reese, Marley Linder and Joseph Gandy.

“The Center for Achievement in Human Potential will bring together the array of professionals treating both ADHD and autistic children at a single location. The center also will educate parents and, eventually, attract an endowed faculty chair to recruit top clinicians and provide treatment to help patients transition into adulthood.

“Those children who are here will be able to go back into the world a better person,” Mrs. O’Quinn said. “They will be able to find their human potential. Children will not have to wear a label for the rest of their lives.”

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Dr. Macias said, “Kelley has this vision that we’re going to do this. Her gift is going to go a long way in establishing the center.”

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Dr. Barry worked with fourth-year dental student Chris Fuller as he prepares for a patient who will receive treatment through the CARE Fund at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine.
Students Share How James B. Edwards Scholarships Changed Their Lives

by Allyson Crowell

“...I’m honored to have you in my home, and I hope you’ll keep in touch,” Dr. Edwards said. “I feel like you’re a part of me.”

The James B. Edwards Scholarship, awarded each year to two incoming students, provides a waiver of tuition and fees, plus $5,000 annually for all four years of medical school. The James B. Edwards Award, also presented to two incoming students each year, provides $10,000 annually for all four years. Both merit-based awards rely on funding from Dr. Edwards’ colleagues and friends.

Lance Boyce, a first-year medical student from Walterboro, always wanted to be a doctor. The son of a nurse, he remembered going to restaurants in his small hometown and frequently stopping to talk to people who remembered how his mother, “Miss Ruby,” helped them when they were sick.

Sheila Freeman, a first-year student from Greenville, didn’t always plan to become a doctor. She previously worked in New York and Los Angeles, scripting film and commercials for advertising agencies. She decided on med school only after agencies rejected her.

“...I felt less certain about what specialty she wants to pursue. ‘That’s normal, by the way,’ he assured her....”

Kiawah Island couple’s gift makes groundbreaking cataract surgery possible at MUSC

by Allyson Crowell

Mr. and Ruth Baker’s gift, which made groundbreaking cataract surgery possible for cataract patients in South Carolina, began with some doctor’s office banter. Mr. Baker had come in for a regular eye exam with Dr. George O. Waring IV, medical director of MUSC’s Magill Vision Center. Dr. Waring took Mr. Baker through a series of machines that provides a digital tour of the eye, down to the retina and the macula. At the end, Dr. Waring said, “You’ve just received the finest eye exam you’ve ever had.”

“...We both like to play, but we believe there’s a commitment in life,” Mrs. Baker said. In addition to joining several philanthropic organizations, the couple set up a small nonprofit organization called the Bill and Ruth Baker Foundation, which provides housing and education to some of the indigent people who live just beyond the gates of Kiawah Island, primarily on rural Johns Island. Although Bill has six children, 13 grandchildren and a great-grandchild, the Bakers also like to say that they have one child in college. The Bakers initially met that young man’s family when they agreed to buy a new mobile home to replace the insect-infested rental unit where two parents and their three children had been living. The oldest son, then, 13, translated his parents’ Spanish for the Bakers during their meetings. The boy kept in touch with the couple as the years passed. 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INVESTMENT ADVISER MAKES GIFT TO SUPPORT FOUR DOCTORS WHO HELPED “KEEP HIM GOING”
by Allyson Crowell

Tom Cameron started working at age 10, tending to horses at sunrise on a New Hampshire farm. He spent the next summer as a stevedore in Boston and, as a teenager, he helped to cut a 50-mile swath through the mountains of Vermont to make room for power lines.

"By the time I went into the service in World War II, I knew it was a cold, cruel world, and I'd better save my money," Cameron said.

When he left the U.S. Navy after the war ended, he became an investment advisor in Pennsylvania and went on to serve as chairman of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange in the early 1970s. Now 86 years old, he still works as a senior portfolio manager in Ohio.

Cameron recently chose to invest in the Medical University, where he previously served on two boards, with a gift in honor of four physicians: Dr. Fred Crawford, retired MUSC cardiologist; Dr. Peter C. Gazes, retired MUSC internal medicine specialist; Dr. Allen Johnson and former MUSC oncologist Dr. Mark Green.

"They all had something to do with keeping me going," Cameron said.

Dr. Gazes, Crawford and Johnson all described Cameron as a patient who later became a friend and golfing buddy. Dr. Crawford performed a bypass surgery on Cameron and later invited money according to Cameron’s recommendations.

"We get along, and then he kept bringing me about my investments in a friendly way, because he didn’t need to sell me anything," Dr. Crawford remembered. “He started writing white papers on the future of the stock market, I told my children that if I had paid attention to the first one he wrote, I would have been a wealthy man and no longer working.”

Cameron and his late wife, Carol, found an interest in medical research and technology during the early years of their marriage, after Carol nearly died as the result of an ectopic pregnancy at age 21. The couple later adopted two children.

They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1975, touring and playing golf around Scotland for 25 days. When they came home, Tom checked into the hospital with shoulder pain. He expected bad news about his rotator cuff but left with a referral to see a cancer surgeon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

The surgeon told Cameron that he had a form of bone cancer and two months to live, maybe half a year – if the surgeon amputated his shoulder and arm. Cameron told him, “If you could save my arm, I’d like to play golf again.” The surgeon spent all day on Cameron and spared his arm. Cameron not only overcame cancer but continued golfing for decades.

After that scare, Tom and Carol Cameron decided to slow their pace. They visited Hilton Head Island and heard about a golf tournament on Kiawah Island up the coast. They visited Kiawah on a whim and then decided to build a house there.

One day while walking in downtown Charleston, Tom Cameron ran into a former colleague from the American Heart Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. The man introduced Cameron to then-president of MUSC, Dr. James B. Edwards, with whom Cameron became fast friends.

“Dr. Edwards had a philosophy of how to get the best doctors to come,” Cameron said. “He recruited people from around the world who were of note. He had them come in the spring and in the fall when everything was beautiful. And once several of them came, more of them came.”

Dr. Edwards’ emphasis on recruitment shaped Cameron’s gift. Cameron went on to serve as a member of the MUSC Foundation Board of Directors and the Hollings Cancer Center Advisory Board, where he helped to develop the strategy and fund the funding necessary to build the new cancer center. Cameron remained an active board member when the center adopted its key “tumor board” approach to treating cancer by bringing together a range of specialists to develop a comprehensive treatment plan for each patient.

Dr. Green, one of the doctors honored by Cameron’s gift, met Cameron when he served on the cancer center board. Dr. Green said Cameron spoke openly about his own experience with cancer, his determination to overcome the disease and then his dedication to the cause.

“He made a commitment to the cancer center and to the Medical University,” Dr. Green said. “He wanted to be sure that we could be the best that’s possible for a research center, for a medical center and for a medical school. He wanted to contribute to the growth of this area and beyond, and that’s the hallmark of Tom Cameron.”

Looking back on his life, Cameron said his involvement with MUSC numbers among his greatest accomplishments. “It’s a magical place,” he said.

“He’s a brilliant man, and he’s very interested in helping research in the medical arena. He’s been a great asset to the university, not only with contributions but with his experience with the stock market. He’s one of a kind.”

—Dr. Allen Johnson

The MUSC Department of Medicine recently hosted receptions to welcome the arrival of two new endowed chairholders within the department: Dr. Carol Foglia-Bostwick, holder of the Kity Truck Holt Endowed Chair, with Jeannie Holt; and Dr. Patrick Flame, holder of the Powers-Huggins Established Chair, with Jane Huggins, Rex Huggins and Department Chairman Dr. Dan Rockey.