

Smith Scholar

A Hampton Roads Community Foundation publication

Summer 2021

UPDATE



Russell D. Evett, M.D.

Blessed to Receive this Scholarship

It was 1953 when Russell D. Evett, M.D., was faced with the difficulty of paying for medical school. The Norfolk native was a senior chemistry major and at the top of his class at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. He had been accepted to the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond but lacked the funds to attend.

"My mother saw an article in the newspaper about a new scholarship for medical students, saved it, and told me to check on it," Evett recalled. The article highlighted the new Florence L. Smith Scholarship administered by what was then The Norfolk Foundation – predecessor to the Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

Evett applied and was among the first 23 recipients of the Smith Scholarship, which has helped more than 750 physicians pay for their education. Today, it still assists multiple Virginia medical students – most for four years of study.

"I was blessed to receive this scholarship," said

Evett, a retired Norfolk internist. "It made all the difference in the world. It covered my bills, books, and the cost of my microscope."

Evett has made plans for repaying the generosity that helped him by arranging for a future bequest to the Hampton Roads Community Foundation. "I received so much that I find it a privilege to have the opportunity to give back," Evett says.

Evett and his twin sister both graduated from Norfolk's Maury High School and were the first in their family to go to college. Their father was a railroad clerk who became a loan officer. Their mother

taught English at Norfolk middle and high schools for 40 years.

After graduating from medical school in 1957, Evett spent two years in the Navy stationed in his home region at a medical center and with an aircraft carrier. He then finished his residency at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota before returning in 1964 to Norfolk, where he and his late wife, Gail, raised their family.

Evett practiced internal medicine until retiring in 1998. He served as both president of the Norfolk Medical Society and the medical staff at Sentara Leigh Memorial Hospital. For 12 years, he was a Virginia delegate to the American Medical Association meetings.

In retirement he enjoys singing in the choir at Ghent United Methodist Church and learning about astronomy. ☾



Courtesy photo

Russell D. Evett, M.D.

Florence Smith's Legacy Lives On

Florence L. Smith was the daughter of Norfolk physician Dr. Hy Smith and his wife Julia.

When Florence Smith passed away in 1952, she left a \$460,000 charitable bequest to our predecessor, The Norfolk Foundation, for a scholarship fund that helps Virginians become doctors.

The endowment has provided more than \$2.5 million and helped more than 750 physicians over the years. Smith Scholars are studying medicine, in full-time practice, or retired. Some have started their own scholarships here, at their alma maters, or in their communities.

Florence Smith created a living memorial that lets her forever shape the lives of both the physicians she helps and the patients they serve.

Visit www.smithscholars.org to learn more.

FUND FACTS

\$35,675 RAISED IN 2020

AVERAGE GIFT SIZE: **\$750**

47 SMITH SCHOLAR DONORS

HOW TO GIVE

There are many ways to help future medical students – from making current donations to bequest plans. Donations of all sizes are welcome. With your gift of \$25,000 or more, you can create a named, endowed fund. We are proud of our Smith Scholars. Please keep the community foundation updated on your accomplishments and any changes of address.

Contact Lynn Watson Neumann, general counsel and senior director of gift planning, at lneumann@hamptonroadscf.org or (757) 622-7951.

A Smith Scholars Roll Call

Smith Scholars are in various stages of their studies and life. During the academic year, we asked a few of them to share where they are - personally or professionally - so that you can learn more about them.



Punit Barot • VCU

Third-year medical student at VCU.

Michael Salomon • UVA

Third-year medical student at UVA, looking forward to a hike in the Appalachians for a study break.



Stafford Brown • EVMS

I am enjoying my third year at EVMS.



Jonathan Taylor-Fishwick • EVMS

I spent a week in Ocosingo, Mexico, working in a clinic for the Tzeltal population, and I helped implement a neonatal resuscitation program in the Dominican Republic.



Nicole Byram • UVA

I'm a fourth-year medical student at UVA currently applying to pediatric residency!

Jordan Tyrrell • EVMS

Enjoying life amidst the havoc of year two!



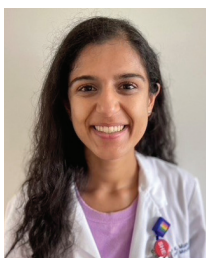
Scott Huang • VCU

In the middle of a crazy residency application cycle!



Andrew Vipperman • UVA

Second-year student at UVA and looking forward to my next study break enjoying nature.



Jasmine Malhi • UVA

Currently a third-year student at UVA on my surgery rotation!

Lillian Waller • UVA

Fourth-year student and future pediatrician.



Samhita Nelamangala • UVA

Currently a fourth-year student at UVA. I recently submitted my residency applications and am looking forward to fall in Charlottesville!



Katherine Webb • VCU

I have participated in the I2CRP (International/Inner City/Rural Preceptorship) at VCU and enjoy working with underserved populations. I plan to apply to pediatric residencies.



Current Smith Scholars also include: **Abigail Barger • EVMS • Veronica Gray • EVMS • Reginald Osardu • VCU • Dustin Wessells • UVA**