

Dave Wiegman - Informal Bio (5/2011)

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Dave was born (1943) and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He went to Indiana University where he completed AB, MA and PhD degrees in Physiology and teacher certification in secondary school science; met and married (1968) Jill; and fell in love with the academic world and decided never to leave – and never did! Jill supported their dreams by teaching elementary school in Bloomington. Dave’s research interests at IU included exercise and environmental physiology and the mathematical modeling of physiological control systems. He also developed strong interests in teaching, advising, counseling and the development, administration and leadership of educational programs in higher education.

In 1973, Dave and Jill moved to Columbia, Missouri, where Dave joined the Microcirculatory Systems Research Group at the Dalton Research Center and the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Research on bat microcirculation (blood flow in small blood vessels) with winter canoe trips to gather hibernating bats from remote caves in southern Missouri followed. Then the research turned to microcirculatory control in rat skeletal muscle (as a model of human muscle). Dave used this model to study the reasons why long-term exercise training has been found to reduce blood pressure in hypertensive patients. His research was funded by multiple grants from the National Institutes of Health and also by the American Heart Association. The years in Missouri would not be complete without mention of the “Scrubs” basketball team – a team that in eight years notched many “moral” victories – and even some real ones. Jill taught 6th grade and then worked as Executive Director of the Mid-Missouri Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society until Betsey was born (1980). In 1981, Dave, Jill, baby Betsey and the whole research team (four faculty, three postdoctoral fellows and a visiting scientist from China) and their families (25 people in all) packed up and moved to the University of Louisville School of Medicine for outstanding professional and personal opportunities.

Several years after arriving in Louisville, Dave began a “short” academic leadership experience in the Medical School Dean’s Office. That experience is now in its 28th year. Dave has been blessed with great opportunities, professional advancement and wonderful people to work with (now a professional staff of 72) and the years have flown by. Two sabbaticals in Germany, the arrival of baby Matt (1986), the direction of four successful LCME national accreditation reviews of the School (and current work on the 5th review), innovative new educational approaches and tremendous advances in the academic programs of the School have highlighted these years.

Dave and Jill are enjoying their recent years as “empty-nesters.” This phase of life has provided them with more personal time together and more opportunities to participate in cultural, academic and social activities and to travel the world – 6 continents, 42 countries – and counting. It is a rich time of life. At present Dave looks forward to continuing to work with administration, faculty, staff and students to further improve the academic programs of the Medical School and to make them “as good as we know they can be!” Some day retirement (with more time for other interests) will be a consideration, but probably not as long as Dave continues to enjoy “going to school” each day.