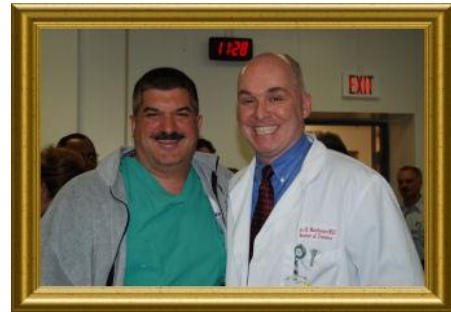


Alumni Focus: Marc Matthews, M.D., M.S.G.

In 1990 Marc or “Dutch” Matthews graduated with the Master of Science in Gerontology from Baylor University, Institute for Gerontological Studies at Baylor University. Today he is Marc Matthews, M.D., Associate Medical Director of Trauma Services and Vascular Surgery of the Arizona Burn Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Quoting the familiar saying, “youth is wasted on the young,” Marc looks back fondly at his time at Baylor University. “As a youth I had been to schools in California and the east coast, but when I got accepted at Baylor, I really was not sure where Waco was.” Dr. Matthews is a graduate of U.C.L.A. and came to Baylor to study biology and to get a Ph.D. However, it was Dr. Ray Wilson, a member of the faculty in the Biology Department, who told him that he clearly likes people and is good at science and health, so he should be a physician.



Dr. Marc Matthews (right) pictured with a colleague at the Arizona Burn Center

Marc notes that he wishes today that he could go back to the Institute for Gerontological Studies and really appreciate it. “Not a day goes by that I don’t use what I learned in my gerontology degree.” Dr. Matthews works as a physician and surgeon with persons who have severe burns. Persons from all over the southwest come to him after car accidents, home fires and various other traumatic events. He notes that the older adults are the ones who made the world as it is today. Marc tells of an elderly woman who is an expatriate from England. She was 10 years old living in London during the Battle of Britton. She remembers the terror of the bombs and all the houses in her neighborhood that were destroyed. She notes that at one point, a group of captured Nazi pilots were being employed to dig air raid bunkers in her neighborhood and she was able to talk with one of them. She noted that he did not really want to be bombing London, but was doing what he was told to do by his superiors.

Dr. Matthews also talks about an elderly man, a retired colonel, who was deeply impacted by a death march that he and his men were forced to walk in Southeast Asia. The colonel kept a black book documenting all of the places his men died and were buried. An effort has recently been mounted to try to find the bodies of these men and bring them home.

Baylor University and the Institute for Gerontological Studies are important memories for Dr. Matthews. He notes that he did not appreciate Ben Dickerson or Dennis Myers as much when he was here as he should have, but is grateful for all that he learned and for his friends and colleagues still working in medicine with older adults. Youth may be wasted on the young, but Marc clearly did not waste his youth.

Jim Ellor