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Short-term goals are overshadowed by longer-term issues. A traditional career in medicine is shaken by the loss of one’s parents to medical mistakes. Instead of treading the same path or forsaking the profession altogether, I opted to attempt to change some of the ways in which medicine works, from an information standpoint. Over the last decade, I have taken an entrepreneurial approach to create, for physicians, computerized medical record systems and computerized textbooks and, for patients, health information kiosks in public places. Never did I think, a quarter of a century ago, that I would question a profession’s methods. Yet how challenging it is to dream up elegantly simple and innovative ways to improve our well-being. It is even more satisfying to see them transformed from idea to reality.

The process of medical training was prolonged (perhaps too prolonged), involving experience and travel in South America. One fortunate outgrowth was an interest in craft art, which evolved into new respect for the emerging contemporary crafts movement here in America—and collecting. Some pieces have ended up in the Yale Art Gallery, allowing me to forge a new relationship with the University. Exposure to Gallery activities has, in turn, opened up new collecting opportunities and an ever richer home environment.

And speaking of the home, it always seemed difficult in college approaching a “big weekend” without a date. The thought of coming back to the “big reunion” without a (first) wife seemed daunting. Fortunately, fate and very good fortune intervened, several years in advance, with my 1992 marriage to Barbara Wallraff, senior editor of the Atlantic Monthly. What a pleasure it is to have the intellectual wealth of the magazine come home for dinner every evening. It recalls, in some measure, the range of ideas which I treasured at so many meals in Commons and at Morse. The abiding lesson from Yale a quarter century ago is to foster intellectual inquiry in pursuit of a liberal education, at home and at work. I hope that the next decades permit me to continue in the same path.