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Following my graduation I married Marjorie (Muffi) Payne, and we are approaching our twenty-fourth anniversary this summer. We have two children of whom we are immensely proud. Rett, now a sophomore at Dartmouth College, is a graduate of the Hotchkiss School. Our daughter, Jory, is graduating from Hotchkiss this spring and will attend Trinity College. Both children were heavily recruited athletes: Rett in ice hockey and lacrosse and Jory in ice hockey, field hockey, and lacrosse.

Professionally, I attended and graduated from the Albany Medical College in 1973. I found medical school to be significantly easier than Yale; I finished at the top of my class! I completed a six-year residency in neurological surgery at Albany following graduation and then fellowships in pediatric neurosurgery at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Boston and The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Returning to Albany, I became the first pediatric neurosurgeon in the region and have been practicing at the Albany Medical Center Hospital ever since. Currently I am an Associate Professor and Vice Head of the Division of Neurosurgery. My responsibilities include research, teaching, and clinical practice. Medicine continues to be rewarding; however, bureaucratic interference is becoming more and more intrusive.

Outside of the hospital, when my wife and I are not traveling to our kids’ games, we are involved in renovating a “new” home. A converted grist mill, originally built in 1720, rebuilt (on the old foundation) in 1823, and converted to a house in 1977, the structure sits on a stream, the Vlykill, just feet from the crest of an eighty foot waterfall. Between the mill and the property, we have all we can handle in the upkeep. Over the past two summers, a retired carpenter and I rebuilt two large barns, each over one hundred years old.

Since our children have been out of the house for the past four years, Muffi (all one hundred pounds of her) has become involved in dog training and competition. Her Rottweilers have earned degrees in obedience, tracking, and schutzhund training. Although outweighed by the “beasts,” she rules the roost (of course, the same could be said for our relationship).

Yale leaves an everlasting impact on all of its students. For me the pursuit of learning and the responsibility to do your best are but two of the legacies of my Yale education. Pediatric neurosurgery leaves little room for second rate effort, nor did Yale.