

2005 Co-Alumni of the Year

Dr. Martin Cummings, MD class of 1937

Dr. Cummings graduated from Haddon Heights High School in 1937 arriving everyday from Berlin NJ. He grew up on a small farm so the high school experience was at first intimidating and then exhilarating. His teachers "taught him how to think study and interact with his wonderful classmates". This experience gained him a full scholarship to Bucknell University where he prepared for his later admission into Duke University School of Medicine. This educational background enabled him to lead one of the most extraordinary careers in medicine, writing three books, meeting three presidents, and earning seven honorary doctorates.

Dr. Cummings became one of the first members of the Centers for Disease Control. He then went on to a professorship at Oklahoma University before being summoned by the Kennedy Administration to work at the National Institute of Health as chief of international research. In this role he established research facilities in foreign countries such as Bangladesh and Ghana.

Dr. Cummings completed his career by focusing on business computing and other technologies applying them to medicine. He completed his last 20 years of his professional life serving as the Director of the National Library of Medicine. "I always saw a connection between lab technology and my patients. I've tried to consider the human being and technology as part of the way I look at tackling medical issues".

Dr. Cummings currently lives in Sarasota Florida, where he volunteers his time teaching the vision disabled how to use computers.

"I've had a marvelous journey through medicine. I've been lucky that I never applied for a job – and I never had a position that I didn't like. I can say all my work started at HHHS where the good habits of study, scholarship, and services to mankind were instilled by the faculty that inspired me."

