

Bobby and Margaret Raynor: The seeds of generosity

For Dr. Bobby C. Raynor, DDS '67, the seeds of his desire to give back to the University were sown in the fertile soil of Duplin County, where he grew up on a farm in Chinquapin, N.C.

"I guess you could say that I graduated from Chinquapin University High School," Raynor said. "I called it a 'university' because you could study a variety of subjects, which included agriculture, English, math, French and home economics. It was a small high school—just 29 in my class—but we got a good education, and 25 of us went on to college, which was a lot for a rural school back then."

After graduating from Wake Forest University, Raynor attended the UNC School of Dentistry. As a student, he met his wife, Margaret Ferguson Raynor, a 1967 graduate of the UNC School of Nursing. After graduation, Bobby began practicing dentistry in Garner, where he has now served the community as a general dentist for more than 40 years. Margaret's nursing degree led to a career at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, where she worked with hospital staff and UNC medical students until she retired in 2010.

Both the Raynors came from families where giving to churches, to schools and other organizations came as naturally as breathing. "My family always gave to our church and to the University of Nebraska, where Dad went to dental school and Mom went to undergrad school," Margaret said. "Over the years, Bob and I got involved in fundraising for both the UNC School of Dentistry and the School of Nursing. As we learned more about each, we began to appreciate what the needs really were."

At the dental school, Bobby's recent support includes two naming gifts for spaces in the new Dental Sciences Building: \$100,000 for the Dr. B.C. and Mrs. Margaret Raynor Dining Area and \$25,000 for the Dr. B.C. and Mrs. Margaret Raynor Café. Bobby also serves on the steering committee that's leading an effort to raise \$6.1 million for construction of the building.

"The best reason I know for giving is because the School of Dentistry needs it," B.C. said. "The state is generous, but contributions from alumni and friends are critical to the school's success. We're naming these dining areas because our school has needed something like this for a long time. We're also going to be able to hold continuing education classes, have larger classrooms for students, and, of course, the improved research space and faculty offices. Margaret and I are happy to have our names associated with it."

Together, the Raynors have also funded four dental school scholarships, which each award \$5,000 per year to four deserving students. Two of the scholarships, the Raynor/Miska Scholarship and the Raynor/Holland Scholarship, honor former dental school faculty members who taught Bobby when he was a student. The

Raynor/Ferguson Scholarship and the Raynor/Garcia Scholarship honor Margaret's father and brother-in-law, who were dentists.

Each year, the Raynors enjoy meeting the scholarship recipients at the annual dental school scholarship dinner. "It's really gratifying to meet the students at the banquet," Margaret said.

The couple has also contributed to the Clifford Sturdevant Operative Dentistry Research Fund and the John W. Stamm Distinguished Professorship, which honors a former dean of the School of Dentistry.

"Once you get in the habit of giving, it's easy to continue," Margaret said. "It's so important to have good faculty. We've got to be sure we're grooming the best new faculty in all areas of the University. It's so important for them to have lab space, to be able to take sabbaticals and to offer other perks that help retain good faculty."

Through their giving to UNC, the Raynors believe they are giving back from what has been given to them. "By being a dentist, I had a little extra money to invest to buy some farmland and a few tractors," Bobby said. "As a matter of fact, my patients can sit in my dental chair and look out the window at a field where I grow a few things, like millet, soybeans and coastal Bermuda hay. I've been able to buy a little land and sell some land over the years, and that's enabled Margaret and me to give back to the University. It's something we've enjoyed being able to do and plan to continue doing."

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