

Alumni Give Back

With nearly two decades separating their training at Bascom Palmer, ophthalmologists Mark Daily and J. William Harbour had not met before last year when Harbour was awarded the Mark J. Daily, M.D., Endowed Chair.



Dr. Mark Daily

Daily, a 1970s graduate of Bascom Palmer's residency and fellowship program, is the first Bascom Palmer alumnus to fully fund a chair at the Institute. "I was moved to give this gift to Bascom Palmer

out of appreciation for the gift it gave me," Daily says. "Bascom Palmer gave me outstanding mentors and exceptional training that made my career in ophthalmology possible. I hope this gift will help the Institute continue its long tradition of discovery and excellence that has saved or restored the sight of countless people around the world."

Following his training at Bascom Palmer, Daily established a successful vitreoretinal practice at Wheaton Eye Clinic in Illinois. He joined the faculty at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine and now serves as clinical professor of ophthalmology at Hines Veterans Hospital. "They say that a good doctor can do a very good job in taking care of eyes but an excellent doctor takes care of patients, and that's what I learned at Bascom Palmer," says Daily.

"In this time of increasing economic challenges it becomes more and more difficult to not only perform research, but to train the next generation of physicians and scientists," Harbour says. "I am honored to hold the inaugural Daily Chair which will be directed to retinal research programs. This will allow Bascom Palmer to move quickly in new innovative areas of training and research."



Dr. Gordon Miller

Miami Beach ophthalmologist GORDON R. MILLER, M.D., had plans to follow a career in internal medicine. His plans were shelved in favor of a career in ophthalmology because of Dr. Edward W. D. Norton, the founding chairman of Bascom Palmer. "Dr. Norton was a remarkable man who was like a guiding light to me," says Miller.

Following medical school at Washington University School of Medicine, Miller completed a residency in ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer and served as chief resident in 1966. Known for his wonderful sense of humor, Miller adds, "I like to think that I was Dr. Norton's favorite resident!" Miller says that Norton was tireless, not only in his efforts to recruit a great faculty to Bascom Palmer, but also to serve his fellow man. "Whenever there was a question regarding a diagnosis or a problem with a patient, Dr. Norton was always available to answer questions and to teach, teach, teach," says Miller.

Miller launched a long and successful career as an ophthalmologist in private practice in Miami Beach, specializing in oculoplastics.

Following Norton's personal example of service, Miller taught at the Miami Veteran's Administration Hospital for 15 years as a volunteer faculty member.

As a Bascom Palmer "alumnus," and throughout his career, Miller has shared his time, energy and expertise to support Bascom Palmer's mission of medical education. He is also a long-time supporter of the Mary and Edward Norton Library of Ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer.

In honor of Norton, Miller's estate plans include a generous bequest to create the Gordon R. Miller Endowed Chair in Oculoplastics. As he says, "This gift is a tribute to the Chief [Dr. Norton] and the great institution he founded."

