May 26, 2011

To the Duke Physician Assistant Program Graduates, 1967 to 1971

On behalf of Duke University, it gives me great pleasure to recognize you, the first graduates of Duke’s Physician Assistant program from 1967 to 1971. Duke is extraordinarily proud of you as pioneers in our University’s history and in your profession. After graduating from Duke, you were instrumental in the creation of the professional association, the accrediting body, the board certification agency, and the educational association for physician assistants. You rose as leaders to establish a profession that now claims nearly 80,000 practicing physician assistants and whose work has done so much to improve access to high quality, cost-effective health care.

As the birthplace of the PA program, Duke has become a model for physician assistant programs at more than 150 colleges, universities, and medical centers nationwide. We take continued pride in the outstanding quality of our program, as evinced by its recent ranking as first in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

Duke University salutes you as educational and professional trailblazers. You are truly exemplary Duke alumni, and we at Duke are deeply grateful for all the ways your leadership and commitment have transformed the delivery of healthcare.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Brodhead