

# On the Shoulders of Giants: William S Ogden MD

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While there have been several accomplished graduates from the Duke Orthopaedic Residency Program, few of them have made as strong and direct an impact on the residency program as Dr William Singleton Ogden.

Dr Ogden was born in Macon, Georgia, on May 29, 1940. One of eight children, he demonstrated academic and athletic talents at an early age. He graduated with honors from Lanier High School in Macon and was accepted to both Georgia Tech and Columbia University. For family reasons, he ultimately accepted a full scholarship to play football at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina in 1958. He helped lead his team to the Tangerine Bowl in 1960 (now known as the Capitol One Bowl), where he started as a left guard. His work ethic showed both on the field and in the classroom. During his time at PC, Dr Ogden joined the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, who ultimately honored him with the Academic Achievement Award and recognized him as an outstanding athlete as well. He was named to the Associated Press All American Football Team as a Guard in 1959 and again as Tackle in 1960. In 1961, he was further recognized by being named to the Academic All-American Football Team. In only 3 years, he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in chemistry and mathematics.

Dr Ogden refused offers to play football professionally, instead deciding to pursue a career in medicine. He returned to Georgia to attend the Medical College of Georgia from 1961 to 1965. There, he served as both Class President as well as President of MCG's chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha. During his years of medical school, he also served as a research associate for the Department of Pharmacology. In 1965, he graduated first in his medical school class. Dr Ogden then completed a medicine internship at the University of Virginia, followed by a year of general surgery. From here, he moved to Durham for an orthopaedic residency. He took with him his wife and college sweetheart, Mrs Lou Ogden, whom he married on August 4, 1962. They also traveled with their son, William Singleton Jr, and their two daughters, Kea and Gray. During his 4 years of residency at Duke, Dr Ogden and Lou had two more daughters, Mary Mac and Kathryn. In addition, he began developing the Ogden Band Plate system, revolutionizing management of periprosthetic fractures when manufactured in 1976. Dr Ogden also had numerous publications throughout residency and had an impressive academic career. He was named a National Cancer Fellow in 1967, awarded the Piedmont Orthopaedic Society and the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy fellowships in 1968, named as a Southern Medical Research Fellow in 1969 and presented with the South Medical Association Research Award in 1970.

After residency, Dr Ogden served for 2 years as a major in the army. It was during this time that he and Lou welcomed their twin daughters, Anna and Genie. Dr Ogden also decided to enter private practice rather than return to an academic career at Duke. While not officially in academics, Dr Ogden began a Clinical Associate Professorship at Duke in 1972, while practicing in Danville, Virginia.

During his 15 years in Danville, Dr Ogden began what would be a career long commitment to the Duke Orthopaedic Residency Program. He and his wife welcomed Duke Orthopaedic residents into their home for meals. The residents worked daily in the clinic and in the operating room with Dr Ogden, experiencing first-hand the life and career of a general orthopedist. He taught his residents how to live a truly balanced life, leading by example. Lou remembers these years fondly stating, "his clinic was next-door to the house, so he was always home. He never missed a family dinner, and would return to the hospital to finish work afterward." On clinic days, he would frequently bring home his last patient to have supper with his family as well. Lou handled these surprise guests gracefully, saying 'with seven children, I was used to cooking for large groups.' Dr Ogden estimates that he helped to train nearly every resident in the Duke Orthopaedic program at least once between 1972 and 1986. He and his wife officially accepted two orthopaedic residents into their family when their daughters, Mary Mac and Genie, married Drs Greg Motley and Jeff Almand respectively (graduation year 1997).

Tragedy struck the Ogden household in 1982, when their first born and only son, Bill Jr, was killed in a car accident. From this sorrow, Dr Ogden and Lou found ways to honor Bill Jr's memory by giving back to both Duke Orthopaedics and Presbyterian College. Their donation to Duke established the William Singleton Ogden Jr, Memorial Travel Fellowship, which provides a resident with the necessary funds to travel to the annual Piedmont meeting. They also founded the William Singleton Ogden Jr, Memorial Scholarship at Presbyterian College, which provides tuition for a pre-med student. These substantial gifts have afforded Dr Ogden membership in the Founders Club at Duke and the William Plumer Jacob's Society at PC.

In 1986, Dr Ogden and his family moved to Whiteville, North Carolina, where he practiced for another 15 years. He continued his relationship with Duke by regularly accepting residents to train, with Lou welcoming these residents into their home for meals. Still managing to balance his personal and professional life, Dr Ogden continued to publish articles on a wide range of topics and received national acclaim for the Ogden Anchor, one of a number of implants Dr Ogden has developed during his career. During this time, he also served as the Chairman of the Piedmont Orthopedic Foundation in 1992 as well as Chairman of the Goldner Chair Fund at Duke University Medical Center from 1992 to 1998. To date, Dr Ogden is one of the largest contributors to the Goldner Chair Fund. He has also served on the President's Advisory Board at Campbell University and was recognized with the President's Service Award from Campbell University in 1999.

From Whiteville, the Ogden's moved to their home in Montreat, North Carolina in 2001, allowing Dr Ogden to act as the Chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Asheville VA. They briefly resided in Greenville, Mississippi, from 2003 until 2005, living close to their daughters, Genie Almand and Kea Cassada, and their families. While in Mississippi, Dr Ogden continued to practice general orthopaedics. In 2005, the Ogdens moved once more back to their Montreat home, where Dr Ogden has resumed his position on the faculty of the Asheville VA. During his time in Asheville, Dr Ogden has worked closely with four Duke Orthopaedic residents a year, with each resident spending 6 consecutive months in Asheville.

His athletic and academic successes as well as his and his wife's philanthropic donations have been recognized on multiple occasions. Dr Ogden received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Presbyterian College in 1975. He was inducted into the Graves Province Court of Honor in 1984, which is the highest alumni award granted by the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Dr Ogden joined an impressive group of orthopaedic surgeons when, in 2001, he was the honored guest at the Piedmont Orthopedic Society. Since 2002, Dr Ogden has annually been listed in the 'Best Doctors in America, Inc.' He is also a Shands Circle member of the OREF. In appreciation for his lifetime of service to the Duke Orthopaedic residency, the chief residents selected him as the Frank Bassett, III, MD, Faculty Teaching Award in 2004. In 2005, Dr Ogden was the honored guest of the North Carolina Orthopaedic Society. Presbyterian College recognized him again in 2007, awarding him an honorary doctorate as a Doctor of Public Service. For his outstanding football career, he was inducted to the Macon Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

In the orthopaedic world today, residents will hear the words 'Triple Threat'. This is a description of an attending surgeon who has managed to act as an outstanding clinician, academician and department leader. Most people find that this is a near impossible task. Being a leader in even one of these domains takes a lifetime of work, especially when also trying to make time for a family. Throughout his career, Dr Ogden has managed to do each of these things and more. Balancing work and family, Dr Ogden and his wife raised a son and six daughters, each incredibly accomplished. They celebrated 51 years of marriage last August and have 13 grandchildren, who they cherish. The Ogdens, their children and their grandchildren are all regular attendees at the Piedmont Orthopedic meetings in Sea Island, Georgia.

Anyone who has had the privilege of working with Dr Ogden has realized that he is a true renaissance man. An active Presbyterian, he has served as a Deacon and ruling elder of his church. He is also master banjo player and a leader of a family of musicians. Dr Ogden is also an accomplished painter, with one of his paintings being sold for \$3200 at the Art for Hearts auction in Jackson, Mississippi. He is a master gunsmith and has passed on his passion for fine shotguns and shooting to his children, grandchildren and Duke Orthopaedic residents alike. Dr Ogden is also a passionate naturalist, writing a weekly article for his junior-high newspaper as 'Willie the Woodsman' in his youth, and continuing to write the weekly hunting and shooting column 'Notes from the Double Gun Company' for a local newspaper until 2000. He is also a master Taxidermist, donating a collection of specimens to a children's museum while a resident, then later teaching taxidermy to museums and his grandson's scout troops.

Although never living in Durham since completing his residency, Dr Ogden has managed to work with and teach an innumerable number of orthopaedic residents since 1972. He has given these residents not just the knowledge and skill set required of an orthopaedist, but also his wisdom about life and family. He has been a true mentor and giant of Duke Orthopaedics.

Special thanks to the Ogden family for their assistance with this article.

**Elizabeth W Hubbard MD**

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