

Faculty Teaching Award

Each year, the graduating chief resident class reflects on the faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to teaching and a passion for training residents while at Duke. The Duke faculty as a whole is a devoted group of educators and all deserve the highest praise for their efforts in training the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons. This makes choosing one faculty member to be recognized extraordinarily difficult. The 2015 chief class chose Brian Brigman as the recipient of the teaching award.

Brigman attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and completed residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Nebraska, Creighton University Medical Center. He then went on to complete his training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA.

As a member of the Duke Orthopaedic Department, Brigman has enjoyed success in growing the orthopaedic oncology division both clinically and through his research efforts. He is a vital member of the Durham VA faculty where he takes on challenging cases alongside the residents.

Brigman was named program director of the Orthopaedic residency program in 2014 filling the very large shoes of the late and beloved William Hardaker Jr. Since this transition, Brigman has certainly risen to the occasion and provided the leadership, the wisdom, and of course, as it is with residents on occasion, the patience, to fulfill his role as program director with great success.

During a typical week, Brigman can be found explaining the intricacies of diagnosis in the oncology clinic to students and residents. His good natured and patient teaching style can be found in the operating room both at Duke and at the VA, teaching residents, not only anatomy and technique, but how to problem solve. When asked about his favorite aspect of teaching Duke residents, he states, “I enjoy seeing residents consider anatomy, or surgical options, or research questions that they have not considered before. Much of what we do in orthopaedic oncology is somewhat ‘out of the box’ and provides a great opportunity for residents to expand their view of what orthopaedic surgery is.” Finally, past and present residents alike know where to find Brigman every thursday evening. He is ever present at our basic science conference, “A&P,” helping the night move along with pearls of wisdom and a low, rumbling laugh during a moment of comic relief.

On behalf of all Duke trainees that have had the good fortune to work with Brigman, we congratulate him on this well-deserved award and look forward to his leadership in the future.



Chief's Dinner 2015: (From left to right) Elizabeth Hubbard, John Lewis, Tyler Watters, Andrew “Keola” Richardson, Brian Brigman, Mohamad Halawi, Norah Foster, Cameron Ledford, and Alexander Vap