

Recipients of Alumna of Distinction for Excellence in Service Award

Congratulations to:

2020

Dr. Jaelene Mannerfeldt, MD'89, an obstetrician-gynecologist, has been called to remote and international service for most of her professional life. She has worked in Inuvik, Iraq, Pakistan, Laos, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda. Her time in Pakistan with Doctors without Borders strengthened her determination to make a difference in the lives of people in rural and remote locations around the world. Dr. Mannerfeldt has also dedicated 15 years to help establish and develop family medicine as a speciality in Laos. Today, the program has seen growth from zero to over 200 family medicine physicians working in rural Laos.

Dr. Mannerfeldt has recently focused her teaching efforts in Uganda and Tanzania. On an annual basis, she takes medical students to Africa to expose them to the developing world and rural medicine with the hope of inspiring new doctors to enter rural practice. She has been involved in maternal-newborn health projects in Tanzania and is continuing to contribute towards improvement in sexual and reproductive health for adolescents in East Africa.

Dr. Mannerfeldt is the director of Resident Affairs and Physician Wellness for Post Graduate Medical Education at the Cumming School of Medicine, where she works to improve the educational experience of residents in their various training programs.

Fun Facts – Driven by a desire to enter university as quickly as possible, she convinced her high school principal to allow her to take summer school thereby accelerating her path towards medicine. Life on the farm where she grew up was difficult and money was often in short supply. When she was a young student, Dr. Mannerfeldt was focused on becoming a physician, her father committed to doubling the herd to support her educational aspirations.