

HALL OF FAME

Drew A. Williams, Class of 2018

BC, a 31-year-old mother of two children presented to the labor and delivery unit triage, along with her husband, while I was working the first day of my OBGYN clerkship and also my first day of OB call. After being notified that BC had just arrived to triage, already dilated to 8cm with her third child, I quickly made my way to the room to meet the couple who would soon take up a small spot in the long-term memory region of my brain.

On entering their room, I met a wonderful husband and wife who were elated by the nurse's recent finding on cervical exam that she was, in fact, in active labor. They would not be going back home to wait for active labor to take hold; they were here now, having a baby, about to meet the 5th member of their growing family who has caused so much nausea, discomfort, back pain, and sleepless nights of tossing and turning. At first introduction, BC and her husband seemed a little apprehensive and unsure about this male medical student standing in front of them asking questions, and about me being a part of their most personal and joyous process of delivering a new life into this world. In between the intense contractions that were about three minutes apart, we each learned that their two other children, one boy and one girl, were about the same ages as my two children. They almost immediately seemed much more at ease on learning that I too, am a parent, and even more so on learning that I had previously been a part of numerous deliveries as a firefighter paramedic. I soon felt welcomed and even appreciated by this great couple. What they didn't know though, is that deep down, I was a little nervous. Nervous about being a part of the delivery of their child in a new role, wearing a white coat and embodying the honor, trust, integrity, and responsibility that comes with the weight of these white sleeves.

Despite the overwhelming thought among all of us that she would be delivering soon, BC was able to hold off rapid progression of her labor long enough to get the epidural anesthesia that she so longed for. Following her epidural, in a new state of relative comfort and anticipation, we were able to discuss further her other children, how excited they were to soon meet their baby brother, and her plans to breastfeed exclusively, as she had done twice before. Then it was finally time to bring the little guy into this world. I rapidly donned my gown, boot covers and sterile gloves with the haste of donning my fire bunker gear in the middle of the night to head off to some emergency. Although I can say with certainty that the latter would have been seen by some onlookers as much more fluid movements.

What happened over the next five to ten minutes should in no way ever be used as an example to a primiparous woman about what vaginal delivery is like and what to expect. The combination of effective epidural anesthesia and a multiparous women, in this case, resulted in about three active pushes and what might be considered a low-tone grunt. BC's baby boy entered this world into the welcoming arms of a male student doctor now smiling ear-to-ear, internally reflecting on the joy he felt at the births of his own two children. Three people entered into the hall of fame that evening in March 2017; I into theirs as the student doctor who helped deliver their youngest son into this world, and they into mine as the couple who gave me the honor of being a part of the birth of their son, the first while supporting the weight of this white coat on my back. ■

Drew A. Williams is a 4th year medical student, husband, father of two children and a Tallahassee native. Prior to medical school, Drew worked an eight-year career as a Firefighter Paramedic, which ultimately led him to pursue becoming a physician.

HEART DISH *(opposite)*

Hana Bui, Class of 2020

Hana Bui is a full-time student, part-time ceramicist, and full-time mother to Bingo the cat.