

# James L. Holly, M.D.

## Response to my approaching induction (March 18, 2016) into the NSU Long Purple Line

On January 11, 2016, I received a letter from the President of Northwestern State University announcing that on March 18, 2016, I would be inducted into the NSU Long Purple Line ([Letter of Dr. Holly being inducted into The Long Purple Line at Northwestern State University](#)). In his letter, NSU President, Dr. Jim Henderson said, “The University’s objective is to make the selection for the Long purple line the most prominent honor presented by Northwestern State to its alumni. To date only 115 people out of more than 75,000 alumni have been selected for this recognition.” NSU was founded in 1884 as the Louisiana State Normal School, from which my paternal grandmother received a teaching certificate in 1918. In 1944, it became Northwestern State College.

This honor is greatly appreciated by me and along with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from my School of Medicine in 2012 fulfills another unspoken desire to have made a significant contribution to both schools. In my academic career, I attended seven colleges and Universities.

1. Texas A&M University (1961-62 – Pre-Veterinary Medicine)
2. Northwestern State College (1962-1965, History & Philosophy, NSC became Northwestern State University in 1970)
3. Nicholas State University (Spring 1966, night School, six hours toward a teaching certificate while teaching 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts in Golden Meadow, Louisiana)
4. Baylor University (MA in History, 1966-1967, Pre-Medicine Perquisites, 1968-1969, part time)
5. McClendon County Community College (1968, part time, Calculus)
6. University of Texas Health Science Center School of Medicine (1969-1973)
7. Harvard University, (Harvard Kennedy School, Shaping Healthcare Delivery Policy, January-February, 2013)

Each academic experience was valuable but Northwestern and the University of Texas formed the foundation of my career and professional life. In 2012, my School of Medicine awarded me the Distinguished Alumnus Award. ([James L. Holly, M.D., receives 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award from School of Medicine](#); [Presentations - Dr. Holly's Acceptance Address for the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio School of Medicine](#) and [In The News - The Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly Distinguished Professorship, which has been seen ungraded to a Distinguished Chair](#))

My link to Northwestern is deeply embedded in my soon to be 51-year marriage to Carolyn Ann Bellue Holly. The “team” we formed as students at NSU is the core of our lives and is acknowledged in the comments below. The following link is to the announcement of the Carolyn Bellue Holly Distinguished Professorship at Northwestern State University. Attached to this announcement are eight other links to descriptions of the NSU 1965 Class Jubilee celebration in May, 2015 and news articles about the same ([Letters - Comments on The Carolyn Bellue Holly Distinguished Professor of Teaching and Learning Endowment Announcement](#)).

The following comments were made after announcement of the endowments on May 8, 2015. Dr. Chris Maggio said: “The key is that Carolyn and Larry are and have been, for fifty years, a team. It is impossible to separate the contribution of one from the other. Without Carolyn, Larry affirms, he would have been a much different and lesser person. Those are not words but truth and reality, Dr. Holly said: "Carolyn and I 'went to medical school together.' All that we have done has been as a team and without her; I would never have accomplished what we have in our life." Those accomplishments were summarized in a September 19, 2011 letter from Mr. Ted Carpenter who said:

“On behalf of Universal American, we are delighted to make a contribution to the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio to the endowment of the James L. and Carolyn Holly Distinguished Chair in Patient-Centered Medical Home. We are making a total contribution of \$100,000 in honor of Dr. Holly. Enclosed is an initial check for \$50,000, and we are pledging the remaining amount by July 21, 2012.

“Our organization works with thousands of physicians across the United States. Further, we collaborate with dozens of physician leaders who dedicate themselves to organizing outstanding patient care by seeking new and innovative ways to improve the entire patient care process. We are very fortunate to work with some of the very best physician leaders in the country.

“That said, Dr. Holly is in a league by himself. His energy, passion, and unrelenting commitment to improving quality of care is without equal in my experience. He drives positive change within his practice and community, implements value-added technology to improve clinical outcomes, reads and writes prolifically regarding clinical and public health issues and generously shares what he has learned with all interested parties across the United States. Under Dr. Holly’s leadership, SETMA has been honored countless times for their innovation, technology and services to the community. By far, however, their greatest accomplishment is the care and quality that each SETMA patient receives. They are the real beneficiaries of this extraordinary physician practice.

“For all these reasons, it is a real pleasure to support the endowment for the new Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly Distinguished Chair at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

“Sincerely, Theodore M. Carpenter Jr.  
President Universal American, MA Division”

It took several weeks after receiving Dr. Henderson's letter for me to grasp how much this award means to me and to my family. It is gratefully and humbly received. This was not unlike my oldest grandchild, who, when he was awarded the Distinguished Graduate of his Company in Basic Training in the United States Army, argued that others were more worthy. His Commanding Officer told him: "This is not a discussion; it is an announcement."

It is so little to say, "thank you," but in addition my wife and I will continue to conduct ourselves in such a way as to bring honor to her membership in The Purple Jackets while at Northwestern and to my (indeed our) induction into The Long Purple Line.

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