



Alums “Making a Difference”

Dr. Liz Mueller
St. Thomas Aquinas Class of 1977

As the first urology trained urogynecologist in the nation, Elizabeth (Liz) Mueller, MD, MSME has been a pioneer in the field of women’s health. She is an alumni of St. Thomas Aquinas (Trinity), where she attended from 1974 to 1977. Her time at St. Thomas Aquinas (Trinity) was a strong foundation for the inspirational woman that Liz was to become.

Liz did not always plan to be a physician. Her career in medicine started early, when she studied at Barnes Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis. Though she loved medicine, she did not find the satisfaction she was seeking in nursing and decided to switch career paths. Liz attended the University of Missouri-Rolla where she studied Mechanical Engineering and then continued to receive a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering at Washington University. She then went to work for Procter and Gamble-Soap Manufacturing Company. Though her career was going well and she was having great success, there was still a lack of satisfaction in her work. At a time when most of her colleagues and friends were establishing themselves in their chosen careers, Liz decided she wanted to go back to her first passion of medicine and become a physician.

Liz attended the St. Louis University School of Medicine for her MD. She decided to enter the field of Urology and matched with the Department of Urology at Loyola University Chicago: Stritch School of Medicine (SSOM). During her residency at SSOM, she was again pulled to a new direction and chose to apply for a fellowship program to study in the relatively new subspecialty of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at SSOM, where she was the first Urology trained resident to combine the fields of Urology and Urogynecology. Her successful completion of fellowship training has motivated several other Urology residents to follow in her footsteps.

Liz is now an Associate Professor at LUMC in the Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Urology. She also serves as the Medical Director of the Division of Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery. She is past-president of the Society of Women in Urology and has served on the board of the American Urogynecologic Society. With her chosen career, she has found both the career satisfaction that she was seeking and is able to use her educational training to provide students with a well rounded fund of knowledge and experience that not only motivates these learners, but provides an example of how one should follow their true callings. Her career is an example how an academic physician should function; she is a skilled surgeon, a devoted and passionate teacher, an avid researcher and has been published in several national and international medical journals. She is often an invited lecturer at local and national conferences and has been on to the Dr. Oz show, where Liz and her partners spoke on the topic of pelvic organ prolapse.

Liz has found her home in the Chicago area, where she lives with her partner, Dorrie and they have a set of 8-year old twins, Jonathan and Mia Rose. She has a love of photography and enjoys spending as much time as possible with all of her five sisters who really did turn out to be her best friends (like her mom told her). **When she reflects on her life, her best memories of St. Thomas Aquinas (Trinity) are all of relationships formed during high school, involvement in extracurricular activities (Life and Leadership Council, Varsity Softball and Tennis). In addition, she will never forget the faculty who took the time to encourage and mentor her.**

