

SHANNON FOSTER '95

Trauma surgery is Dr. Shannon Foster's passion, only surpassed by her passion to prevent trauma in the first place.

"We are the balance of general surgery, critical care and trauma," Foster said. "Our lives are never boring. However, the best treatment of trauma is preventing it. There are no 'good cases.' Lives are shattered and changed forever."

Foster has lectured and is a published author on numerous topics, such as prevention of firearms related injuries, seatbelt awareness, distracted driving and domestic violence.

"There are no accidents in the trauma world. Everything has a cause—a decision, an action, a lack of preparedness—and is preventable," Foster said. "This explains my time and efforts in identifying behaviors, lifestyles and decisions where a simple bit of education can save a life."

Foster earned a scholarship and followed her brother Scott to Hoban. She made the most of her high school days, from lettering in soccer four years, to performing musicals each spring, to mock trial. Hoban's focus on service was an area that resonated with Foster.

Foster attended the University of Akron, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology, and then earned her medical degree from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. She was accepted into the residency program at the Mayo Clinic in general surgery and was invited to a fellowship appointment in surgical critical care in 2008.

Today Foster is the attending surgeon at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center in West Reading, Pa., and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She also serves as the assistant director of clinical services in the Department of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. In addition, she is director of performance improvement and clinical services at the Reading Trauma Center.

In addition to her medical role at two hospitals, Foster is a clinical assistant professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and in the Department of Surgery at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Foster is married to Adam Smye-Rumsby, "a wonderful Scotsman immigrant who relocated to the United States for me." They met while she lived in Minnesota.

"Hoban is a shining light on the hill," Foster said. "It was then as it still is now. The opportunity to walk those halls changed my life and built me into the person I am today. It taught me to serve, and in doing so, taught me how to lead."