Dr. Kevin Dahlman '92

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While a student at University School of Milwaukee, Kevin Dahlman '92 enjoyed math, science, and theater. He thought he would pursue a career in engineering or physics, or go into the family business, Dahlman Construction. It wasn't until receiving his B.S. in Engineering Physics and B.A. in Religion from Hope College in Holland, Michigan that he considered a career in medicine.

"I worked as a youth activity director with middle school students for a nonprofit in Holland and loved it—being with families and seeing kids grow and improve. But I missed the sciences. I was looking for a career that would marry science problem-solving skills and working with children and families, and I thought I could either be a teacher or a pediatrician," Dahlman said.

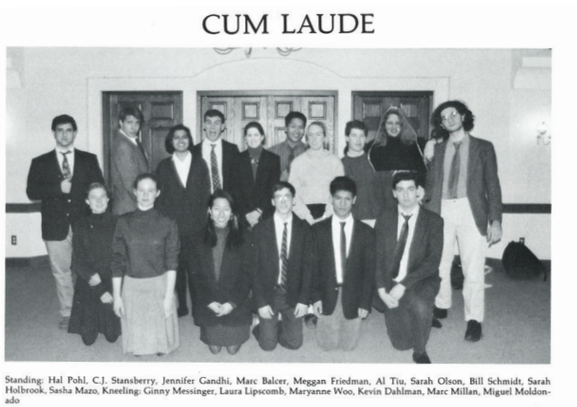
Between taking some prerequisite medical classes at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and waiting to take the MCATs, he substitue taught in USM's Middle School for the 2000-01 school year.

"I absolutely loved teaching and adored my time at USM. I look back on it as one of the best years of my life. But I knew in my heart that a career in medicine was the right choice."

Dahlman attended the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. While there, he participated in a medical student exchange program with the University of Oslo Faculty of Medicine in Norway. He completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

During his internship year he met his wife, Kristine, who has a deep connection to USM. Her mother, Patti Camp, was a kindergarten teacher at the school for 29 years.

During his final year of residency he participated in a trip to Russia as part of an American Academy of Pediatrics program, where he had the opportunity to speak with pediatric leaders in Moscow and St. Petersburg. It also inspired him and Kristine to start the application process to foster and adopt. "That's how we grew our family.



Standing: Hal Pohl, C.J. Stansberry, Jennifer Gandhi, Marc Balcer, Meggan Friedman, Al Tiu, Sarah Olson, Bill Schmidt, Sarah Holbrook, Sasha Mazo, Kneeling: Ginny Messinger, Laura Lipscomb, Maryanne Woo, Kevin Dahlman, Marc Millan, Miguel Moldonado

Getting three beautiful children through the Milwaukee County foster care system, two of whom attend USM," he said of Benjamin '30, Jeffrey, and Annaliese '33.

After graduating he began his career at Aurora Health Care, where he is now the medical director for Aurora Children's Health and a pediatrician at the Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin clinic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he served as a volunteer physician consultant for USM, where he played a vital role in advising school administrators on how to keep students, faculty, and staff safe while re-opening the school for in-person learning. He helped school officials develop strategies for contact tracing, symptom monitoring, mask mandates, on-site COVID-19 testing for students and employees, and obtaining vaccinations and boosters. He also provided vital assistance in helping the school obtain personal protection equipment, establishing cleaning protocols, and determining the logistics around social distancing.

"It was a team effort with the school trying to negotiate a difficult pathway to see how everyone could return to school safely while reassuring parents, teachers, and staff they were in as safe of an environment as they could possibly be during this time," said Dahlman.

In addition to his role as a volunteer physician consultant, Dahlman joined the USM Board of Trustees last fall. He also sits on the community physician advisory panel for the University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital and the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin advisory board to provide insight as a community pediatrician.

"Kevin was instrumental in putting together USM's COVID-19 plan, which allowed our children to return to the school in a safe environment. Our family was incredibly thankful to have the chance to return in person when most other schools were still virtual. In addition to this massive undertaking, Kevin and Kristine generously open their home for reunion celebrations, which have been greatly enjoyed by many from the classes of the early '90s."

— Barbie Brennan Nelson '91, lifelong friend



"Kevin Dahlman has a deep love and appreciation for University School of Milwaukee. His strong devotion led him to be our principal medical advisor during the pandemic. He embraced the idea that students need to be in school and helped us create a roadmap to be successful."

— Steve Hancock, USM's head of school