

Society of University Surgeons
Ben Eiseman, M.D.- 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award

October 10, 2010

When I learned that the SUS was honoring Dr. Ben Eiseman with the Lifetime Achievement Award I was immediately filled with pride. Certainly Dr. Eiseman has numerous noticeable achievements as others have outlined and he has been a remarkable giant in academic surgery. Personally he was instrumental in molding my career, as he has done for many others.

In the summer of 1977, when I arrived as green but ambitious sub-intern in surgery at Denver General Hospital, Dr. Eiseman greeted me at 5:30 AM- sharp- and immediately took me to scrub in a trauma case. Thus began a 10 year whirlwind journey of immersion in surgery, personal growth, and career development. Shortly thereafter I asked Dr. Eiseman if I could get involved with a research project- to which he responded "I have just the project for you". He sent me to work with a young attending surgeon named Gene Moore, leading not only to my first publication and but also to a lifelong friendship.

Later during my surgery training, once I had decided on a career in academic cardiac surgery, I naturally went to Dr. Eiseman for advice. After counseling me on my career plans, he wisely advised me on the following course: first a research fellowship with Dr. Judah Folkman to develop a unique perspective for future investigation, then cardiac surgery clinical training with Dr. Frank Spencer at NYU. Both of choices tremendously impacted my ultimate career, and led to a lifelong association with Dr. Spencer as a member of the faculty at NYU. Interestingly Dr. Spencer related to me a similar story on how Dr. Eiseman influenced and facilitated his move to NYU years before.

Dr. Eiseman has always been especially inspiring, from his inquisitiveness that cut right to the core of a problem, to the way he believed in many younger surgeons and their unlimited abilities. In my office is one large picture, Dr. Eiseman at the top of Long's Peak. It's inscribed, "Aubrey, You'll be carrying my banner for years to come". There is nothing that I have been more proud to do.

Sincerely,



Aubrey Galloway, M.D.