

As a sophomore at Grant County High School, Dr. Craig Martin knew that he would pursue a career as a pharmacist. He attributes his dream to how important the pharmacists were to the “fabric” of the Grant County community, “pharmacists were the most accessible healthcare providers in town, and their influence went well beyond the pharmacy counter.” Specifically, he saw the impact our pharmacists had on our community and that was an “important influencer” on his career choice.

Upon graduating from Grant County High School in 1992, Dr. Martin enrolled in the pre-pharmacy program at Eastern Kentucky University. In 1999 Dr. Martin graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy with his Doctor of Pharmacy degree. It wasn’t until he entered the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the University of Kentucky that the vast amount of opportunities around Pharmacy became apparent. It was during his time at UK that he chose to specialize in infectious diseases. Dr. Martin completed specialty postgraduate training in 2002 and began a decade-long stint as the Infectious Diseases Pharmacist Specialist at UK HealthCare in Lexington. Dr. Martin has received numerous awards, though he feels the most validated from being recognized with the national Outstanding Practice award from the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists in 2002.

Dr. Martin grew up the child of educators. “Rather than endorsing a single career path, they instead helped me understand that education and self-improvement were lifelong pursuits.” Being a practicing specialist at UK, Dr. Martin had the opportunity to teach in clinical settings as well as the classroom. He soon realized teaching was in his blood. “I loved every second of [teaching]. There was something about seeing the students’ blossoming interest in their career, and being able to participate in that transition, that hooked me.”

Teaching is not the only interest to come from his pharmacy background. Once Dr. Martin left his

clinical practice in 2012 he became a full-time professor and administrator. In 2015 he received his Masters in Business Administration degree from Morehead State University. He recalls, “I felt a newly emerging interest in business, specifically as it relates to higher education.” This interest has served him well, along with teaching, where he received the Michael J. Lach Award for Teaching Innovation at the UK College of Pharmacy in 2017. Dr. Martin is the Associate Dean and Chief Operating Officer of the UK College of Pharmacy. He utilizes his business knowledge and expertise daily to ensure that the UK College of Pharmacy remains a Top Ten Pharmacy Program in the nation. At present, the college is ranked sixth in the nation.

Dr. Martin’s career at the University of Kentucky continues. As he begins to reflect on the question of a professional legacy, he is modest. “Right now, it is more about having a lasting influence than climbing any more ladders. I want to leave a positive impact on the profession of pharmacy and the lives of the pharmacy students who walk through our doors.”

Craig and his wife Valerie, a Grant County High School 1994 Graduate and successful physical therapist, have three children together and live in Georgetown Kentucky. Dr. Martin reflects that “Valerie is the most supportive and loving wife... She is the perfect complement to round out my weaknesses. We make a formidable team.” Their three children, Tyler, Caleb, and Avery “have a strange way of keeping me young and making me feel old at the same time.” He muses. “Our family is far from perfect, but our love for each other is fierce”.

Grant County High School is proud to present Dr. Craig Martin as the Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient for 2021.