

Wright State University

## CORE Scholar

---

Boonshoft School of Medicine Oral History  
Project

Boonshoft School of Medicine

---

4-25-1985

### Deborah Richardson interview (1) conducted on April 25, 1985 about the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University

Deborah Richardson

James St. Peter

Follow this and additional works at: [https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/med\\_oral\\_history](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/med_oral_history)



Part of the [History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

---

#### Repository Citation

Richardson, D., & St. Peter, J. (1985). Deborah Richardson interview (1) conducted on April 25, 1985 about the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University. .  
[https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/med\\_oral\\_history/12](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/med_oral_history/12)

This Oral Recording is brought to you for free and open access by the Boonshoft School of Medicine at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Boonshoft School of Medicine Oral History Project by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact [library-corescholar@wright.edu](mailto:library-corescholar@wright.edu).

**WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Medicine Oral History Project**

Interview date: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1985

Interviewer: James St. Peter

Interviewee: Deborah Richardson

**James St. Peter:** ...student at the Wright State University School of Medicine, the date is April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1985, the time is 3:00 pm and Ms. Richardson and I are in room 033c in the University Center here at Wright State University. Ms. Richardson, can you tell me a little bit about your background prior to coming to the School of Medicine here at Wright State, in particular your education background in high school.

**Deborah Richardson:** Basically all I did in high school was what was the typical college preparatory format, just what everybody took if they were expecting to go to college. I went to Greenon High School which is theoretically in Springfield, it's really out in the country but it's under the umbrella of being in Springfield. Went through four years, graduated in '74, had a fairly decent grade point, and first attended college in Mississippi because I was offered a scholarship really, that was the honest and true reason I went to school down there.

**J.P.:** When you were in high school, did you emphasize a medical preparatory program? Did you have any idea that you were going to go into medical school while you were in high school?

**D.R.:** No, not really. I was pretty interested in sciences, I recognized that in myself, so I had two years of biology, a year of chemistry, actually four years of math, which amazes me when I look back on it. So I took more sciences than the average student but I hadn't admitted to myself that I was interested in medicine and that I could seriously pursue it I think.

**J.P.:** You went to college where in Mississippi?

**D.R.:** I went to Mississippi University for Women, which is in Columbus, Mississippi. I went there for two years and at that point in time kind of changed directions. Moved to Florida and worked for a while as an accounting clerk and a typist, kind of finding myself I guess.

**J.P.:** At Mississippi University for Women, was it a premedical orientation then?

**D.R.:** That was also a time when I was not quite sure what I ultimately wanted to do. I started out majoring in biology and wasn't satisfied with that. Was really interested in theatre and so I started going in that direction. They didn't have a theatre major per say so I was working on a double major in speech and journalism and a minor in political science. And then I wasn't satisfied with that so that's when I quit school at that time and started working.

**J.P.:** Did you have an associate's degree when you left school?

**D.R.:** No, not at that point in time.

**J.P.:** So it was a four year school you were going to?

**D.R.:** Yes.

**J.P.:** How long did you remain out of school?

**D.R.:** About a year. I worked for a year in this one office that I worked in. And then at that point in time I realized that I felt like I was wasting my life. I wanted to do something where I was helping people. And so I looked around at the schools that were in that area, I lived in Jacksonville at the time, and the most reasonable thing for me to attempt was to go to Florida Junior College there in Jacksonville and get a nursing degree. So that was what I did at that point in time. And that took me another year and a half or so. And at that time I got two associate degrees, I got an associate in nursing and an associate in liberal arts because I had so many credits from Mississippi.

**J.P.:** So you had a nursing degree coming out of Florida State?

**D.R.:** Florida Junior College. Yes.

**J.P.:** Were you licensed as a nurse?

**D.R.:** Yes. Soon after graduating in July of 1979 with my nursing degree I moved back to Ohio and I had missed the boards that were offered in June so I had to wait until February but I went ahead and started working as an RN. And I worked at Springfield Community Hospital as an RN up until last year, varying amounts of either full time or part time. Because after I had worked full time for about a year I started back to school part time.

**J.P.:** In what?

**D.R.:** In biology. Came full circle.

**J.P.:** What were your goals when you decided to go back to school?

**D.R.:** To apply to medical school. And I think that actually it had been in the back of my mind, I mean in high school I remember joking about it, that I would really like to do that, but I didn't have the self confidence to really pursue it. And after I went through nursing school and practiced as a nurse I realized that I was capable of functioning as a physician and I was capable of studying at that required pace, or at least it seemed that I was because I did fairly well in nursing school. So I talked to Bob Wood, the premedical advisor here at Wright State, to find out what he thought my chances would be honestly, and he was pretty honest with me I think. He didn't try to create this dream world or anything, he was pretty down to earth and he felt that I had a good chance if I just went about it the right way.

**J.P.:** Why did you decide on Wright State University to go to medical school?

**D.R.:** Because I really strongly agree with their basic philosophy. I want to treat the whole person, and they seemed to be the school in Ohio that emphasized that the most. I didn't apply to any schools out of state.

**J.P.:** Did you apply to any other medical schools in the state?

**D.R.:** Yes, and I was accepted at other schools too but this is where I wanted to go. I wasn't going to apply anywhere other than Wright State but Bob said it would be a good idea to go ahead and apply at more than one just to be safe, so I did.

**J.P.:** What was the application process like, what did you have to do to apply to medical school? Are there any tests that have to be taken before you apply?

**D.R.:** Yes, you have to take the Medical College Aptitude Test I think, the MCAT for short, and people generally take that in the spring of their junior year, and I took that in the spring of 1982 without really preparing for it very well. I did fairly well, but I didn't do as well as I had hoped so I took it again in the fall and improved my performance.

**J.P.:** You were allowed to take it twice?

**D.R.:** Oh, you are allowed to take it several times. It's my understanding that several people do that, you know really extremely bright people can take it once and do extremely well and there's no need to take it again, but it's my understanding that it's fairly common to take it more than once. It's not encouraged, you want to try to do the absolutely best you can the first time, but I was a little overconfident and didn't prepare as much as I should have.

**J.P.:** What's the test composed of? Is it a rounded examination looking at all aspects of undergraduate work or is it biological sciences oriented?

**D.R.:** It's real science oriented but it looks at other abilities also. It's an all day exam that you sit for, and it's made up of biological questions, and inorganic and organic chemistry questions, and physics questions, then there's also a section on your reading comprehension abilities and I forget the exact title of the other section but they determine your mathematical understanding and your ability to read charts and diagrams and understand things like that. I don't remember the exact title for that. But it ends up taking the entire day. Each section is about an hour and a half to two hours long, it's a timed exam. That's just a means for them to determine if you have the ability to learn what they throw at you in medical school.

**J.P.:** Was there a minimum score required for entrance into medical school?

**D.R.:** Oh, I don't know that it's ever really put that way. They look at your scores. I think the maximum possible score is like fifteen on each section and most people I've spoken to that have successfully gotten into medical school seem to make, oh mostly nines and tens. Naturally there are some people who do much better than that but they probably have the tendency to go to more

high powered schools. Nines and tens and elevens, some people have gotten twelves or thirteens. It depends.

**J.P.:** So you took the MCAT examination, what was the next step in your application process?

**D.R.:** You have to fill out a form that's made up by the American Medical College Association and it's a standardized form that goes to this central place and they send copies to all the schools that you are applying to. That's called AMCAS for short. The AMCAS form. And they ask you questions about your educational background and there's a section where you have to put in all of the classes that you've ever taken and the score that you got, you have to figure out your GPA based on this complicated system that they have for you. There's a full page space for you to talk about yourself and talk about why you want to be in medical school and what you would do as a physician and different things along those lines. I relied on Bob Wood's help quite a bit getting that filled out and accomplished because the most difficult part for me was the part about myself because you're supposed to pat yourself on the back and I'm not real fond of doing that so it was like pulling teeth for him to get me to do it the right way. But that's what they want, they want to know how great you are, quote unquote.

**J.P.:** How long is the application process with that form?

**D.R.:** Well, that form goes to all the schools initially and I filled that out during the summer of '82 and I was applying for the fall of '83 so you have to start the process more than a year in advance. And then after the schools get your forms then they will send you their secondary forms is what they're called. And each school has a different form and format that they want you to fill out. For instance the University of Cincinnati, almost their entire form is narrative where they ask you a question and they want you to expand on that. Ohio State's was just where do you live and real basic, nothing deep at all. I shouldn't say that. And at Wright State the largest part of theirs was narrative again where you need to tell them more about yourself and more about what you've done that's health related and things like that.

**J.P.:** Did you have to include any recommendations from people?

**D.R.:** Oh yes. I forgot about that. Yes, the premedical advisory committee here at Wright State, if you worked through them and with them, will do that for you. They produce a letter of recommendation based on letters that you get from people that know you, instructors that know you fairly well, or at least that's the intention. So that was the route I took I think, I think if I remember correctly. We had to get people to write letters for us and then I think it was ultimately all put together into one letter but I'm not sure. I don't remember real well.

**J.P.:** Do you know who you had write letters of recommendation for you?

**D.R.:** Dr. Feld was my organic chemistry professor, Dr. Himsky was one of my physics instructors, I had one of the obstetricians that I used to work with write me a recommendation, asked them to, and I think I asked another professor, I think it was another organic chemistry professor that knew me fairly well if I remember correctly.

**J.P.:** And these were included in your first packet of application that you sent out to the AAMC?

**D.R.:** I think so but I don't really remember. I think that was the situation.

**J.P.:** So you found out that you were accepted to Wright State when?

**D.R.:** Oh well, that was farther on down the line. After you fill out your secondary's and send those in, then the school decides whether or not they want to interview you or not and Wright State was my first interview. That was in December, no, November. Oh shoot. I think it was November. Anyway...

**J.P.:** Of '82?

**D.R.:** Of '82, yes. And I was so nervous, because Wright State's where I really wanted to go. And I was just a basket case, but my first interview went really well. He was very nice, and tried everything he could to help me relax. Most of it didn't do any good though.

**J.P.:** Do you know who your first interviewer was?

**D.R.:** I think it was Dr. Peterson, he's really in the administration end of it so I really haven't had too much contact with him since then. But I'm pretty sure it was Dr. Peterson. And he asked me questions that I – this is another thing that Bob does when he's advising people. He kind of give you an idea of what kinds of questions to expect so that you can be prepared and you're not caught off guard. And so most of the questions I was pretty well prepared for. They ask you things about yourself, about your life history, they'll ask you for clarification of information on your applications. Sometimes they ask you philosophical questions if that's what they think is important. It really varies with the individual interviewer. Then my other interview here was a little more hardcore because it was with a clinician and he was an older physician so he was a little more to the point with his questions.

**J.P.:** Do you know who that was?

**D.R.:** I think it was Dr. Bromowitz but I haven't had any more contact with this person since so I'm not sure exactly what his position at the school is.

**J.P.:** When was that second interview?

**D.R.:** That was the same day.

**J.P.:** And how do you feel you came out of the first interview compared with the second?

**D.R.:** I don't know, just gut reaction I felt more comfortable in the first one than in the second one, but it could have just been that I was a little more intimidated because he was a clinician. I'm not sure. But basically they were both very nice and not threatening or anything like that, which is kind of what I expected from Wright State because it's my understanding that they're not really in it to be unpleasant. They just want to find out more about you.

**J.P.:** Did you have any other interviews that day?

**D.R.:** No, not that day. That was it for Wright State. Those two people.

**J.P.:** What were the interviews at the other colleges like? Compare those to the Wright State experience?

**D.R.:** I interviewed at Medical College of Ohio at Toledo a few days later. And I had three individual interviews up there and you know, a tour of the campus and stuff. One of the interviews was with a female student who was I think a third year at the time. One was with a female instructor and one was with a male pathologist. I think he might have been an instructor also. But those went very well. I felt very comfortable at MCO. I think it helped that it was my second interview, so I had a little bit of experience behind me. But I was very relaxed at MCO, and they were very nice to me. I really enjoyed that interview. They did basically the same thing, they just wanted to find out more about me. And they asked me about some issues in medicine that were current at that point in time. I think one of them asked me about, for instance, my stand on abortion, and we talked about that for a while. And one of them asked me about how I saw medicine progressing in the future. We talked about that for a long time. And I remember the medical student asked me about my interest in theatre and stuff. So, it's was nice, I really enjoyed it. I felt really good coming out of that interview. And I did ultimately get accepted at MCO also and I imagine I probably would have enjoyed going to school there, just based on my experience with the interview, but I chose Wright State, naturally. The only other place I had an interview was at Ohio State.

**J.P.:** What was Ohio State like?

**D.R.:** Well, I wasn't going to go because I didn't really want to go to Ohio State but I had two friends who also had interviews scheduled that same day so we decided to go together and kind of make it fun. So I went, and I didn't go as prepared for that one as I had been for the other two. I think I really went into it with a negative attitude, which is silly. I shouldn't have done that but I did. Basically I felt like it was just a cattle call.

**J.P.:** What do you mean by that?

**D.R.:** Well, there were probably twenty or thirty of us that were scheduled for interviews that day and they herded you into this room and give you the general information about the college, and then they take you all around on this tour. That was fun, to get to see the school and that was the only opportunity I had to talk to any students because students served as tour guides. Then they herded us back into this room, and we sat there and talked, waiting to go to our individual interviews. It was really funny when I look at it now. I don't imagine I really gave them a real good impression because I was interviewed by two people at the same time. I sat at the end of a long table like this and they sat on either side of me and kind of took turns shooting questions at me. They were decent. It wasn't that they were unpleasant or anything like that but I just went with a negative attitude and I wasn't really well prepared. If I had really made an effort to get in there, I wouldn't have answered the questions the same way I ended up answering them because

I emphasized my interest in primary care and when asked about research I answered to the effect that research was extremely important, but that I myself couldn't see doing that full time as my own life's work and at that school that probably was not a really good answer. But that's okay. You know, chalk it up to experience.

**J.P.:** How long was it from your interview with Wright State until you got some notice back from them?

**D.R.:** Well, I found out from MCO about acceptance two days before Christmas, which was a real nice Christmas present. I was overjoyed that I just got accepted anywhere. And then I got real nervous wondering if I would be accepted at Wright State. And I finally found out in January that I was accepted to Wright State and I was just on cloud nine, ten, and eleven all at the same time. I was really, really excited. It was funny, I found out right before a biochemistry class with Dr. Batra and he's on the admissions committee. So when I went back to class, I didn't really pay too much attention and he was a little perturbed I think but I couldn't help it, I was too excited. So it was a couple months I guess. Another difference that I forgot to mention about the interviews between the different schools. At Wright State, each person took at least fifteen or twenty minutes, probably closer to a half an hour if not more with the interview. And with MCO each of them took almost an hour. At Ohio State, it was over in ten minutes. So that's another big difference. But you know, they had a lot of applicants. They don't have time to mess around I guess.

**J.P.:** What did you do to get ready to go to medical school?

**D.R.:** I guess I don't know what you mean. To prepare myself mentally or whatever?

**J.P.:** How were you going to pay for medical school?

**D.R.:** Well, I planned to rely on my husband's income as far as living expenses go. And I planned on applying for guaranteed student loans and any other loans that I might need to cover the expenses because it's extremely expensive.

**J.P.:** When did you get married?

**D.R.:** Oh, 1980.

**J.P.:** While you still were in Florida?

**D.R.:** No. This was after I'd come back to Springfield.

**J.P.:** Did the people here at Wright State help you out with your applications for financial aid?

**D.R.:** Oh, as much as they could. Really the biggest part of it is filling out the silly forms and I hate doing that. But you know, they'll advise you on what you need to do and what information you have to provide and that sort of thing. They're as helpful as anyone could be. I was initially perturbed and I'm still mildly perturbed but it's one of those things you have to live with. In

medical school, I'm going to make a general statement, it's my understanding that it's like this at all the medical schools. But in medical school, you not only have to provide your financial information and your spouse's if you're married, but you have to provide your parents' financial information, no matter how many years you've been married, no matter how long you've been independent. I've been independent since I was nineteen, and I'm 28 now so that was initially very upsetting to me because I had no intention and I have no intention of asking my parents for money. For one thing I know it wouldn't do any good. But really, that's one of the biggest things that irritated me about financial aid. And when my dad first had to fill out the form there was a big storm but it's something that he's used to now and we just go through the motions now because it's something we have to do. That's one thing that really sticks in a lot of peoples' throats, I mean there are people in my class that are in their thirties and they have to provide their parents' information. And it seems so ridiculous.

**J.P.:** Were you ever tempted to utilize the military option?

**D.R.:** Oh yes. I was very tempted because it is a very nice arrangement. They pay for your tuition and books and fees, you even get a stipend. It's a very nice arrangement. But you pay dearly for it. I am a military brat. My dad was in the air force for 23 years, so that was the entire time I was growing up. And I'm one of those people that does not have a good impression of military life. So I went through a lot of trouble to find out about the military option and what my obligations would be, and I was in the process of filling out the forms when I did some really serious soul-searching and realized that I would not be being honest with myself if I did that. I don't like authority especially if it seems artificial, which that is how the military kind of is. You know, it has to be, because there has to be some discipline. But I just ultimately decided that I was not going to put myself in that situation. So I chose not to go that route. But it is really nice for people that are willing to make the sacrifices that you have to make.

**J.P.:** What is the registration process like for medical school? Is it like a normal undergraduate education process?

**D.R.:** No, not really. They send you the materials in the mail and you just send them back in with a big check and when you get back your notification of registration all it says is medical registration, 24 hours.

**J.P.:** What does that mean?

**D.R.:** Well, the actual school form that we get back from Wright State University as a whole just says medical registration and you're taking X number of hours, which is generally 24 hours. And then we get back from the school of medicine information pertaining to the specific classes we're taking each quarter. And they break it down for us as to how many hours each week. They make up an extensive schedule so we'll know where to be when, you know, how high to jump.

**J.P.:** As a graduate student, and as a nursing student you're operating under usually the bare essentials for getting from class to class to class. Are there many more amenities in the medical program? For instance do they give you a place to put your books and things like this?

**D.R.:** Well, I'm trying to think. I went to a junior college in nursing and so facilities for everyone in general were comparatively limited. At Wright State when I was finishing my bachelor's degree we had the availability to rent lockers but they aren't made available to all students equally. There's only a certain number of them. At Wright State in the medical school they provide decent sized lockers for us to store our things in which is nice. Which makes sense because by the end we'd all be deformed from carrying around all the big books, but I guess you can call that an amenity.

**J.P.:** What were the differences between nursing school and medical school? Did you notice any of the differences? Is it a great difference coming from a regular undergraduate program and going into medical school program? Is there kind of a culture shock there?

**D.R.:** Oh, huge volumes of differences.

**J.P.:** What is it that you think affected you right off the bat?

**D.R.:** Well see it's kind of funny because I thought that I had prepared myself as well as you can possibly, I thought that I went into this really well prepared, because I talked to everybody that I possibly could that was like in it a year ahead of me and things like that. I asked them all kinds of questions and got all their advice and everything and I thought I was really ready. But I still wasn't ready. There was just... I don't think that there is any way that you could possibly explain it sufficiently to someone who hasn't experienced it. It is just overwhelming. It is amazing. Sometimes, I can't believe I have accomplished as much as I have accomplished. Then in the same breath I think that oh, I haven't really accomplished that much. But it really is amazing the amount of material that they throw at us.

**J.P.:** Thinking back, to you remember the orientations that they put you through as a first year student?

**D.R.:** There was a couple of days where they oriented us.

**J.P.:** What did they talk about?

**D.R.:** It was kind of a mixture of things. Different faculty members spoke to us and tried to prepare us for the load I guess. Different students ahead of us spoke to us and tried to prepare us for what each year would be like and they did an excellent job. They did everything they could and I spoke at the orientation for this year's first years. Another section of the orientation is lifestyles and I spoke in the lifestyles section from a woman's perspective.

**J.P.:** You said there were different sections of the orientation. What were the different sections?

**D.R.:** Well there was one section talking about first year, second and so on. Then there was a lifestyle section where someone talked about being female, where someone talked about being a minority student, where someone talked about being a married student, where someone talked about being a single student. Might have been more things in that. There is also several occasions in those two days where you break up into small groups of about eight or ten incoming first years

and two second year students serving as group leaders and you do little get to know ya things and you get to ask the second years' questions. It's just an opportunity to get to know a few people individually and it's nice because they try to pick people out of various parts of the alphabet because once you start you're split up into two halves of the alphabet often, ya know especially in lab sections and anytime they have a limited space they will split ya up alphabetically, so ya don't get to know the people in the other half of the alphabet quit as well, but then there was different faculty and administration people who would welcome you and try to let you know their particular service would be if ya ever needed it. Like Dr. Seraono spoke about his role and how he can help you if you need help different people like that. And then we had a fun party.

**J.P.:** What was the party like?

**D.R.:** Oh it was a lot of fun. It was kind of a picnic out at Kelley's Hill and the second years', see the second years' are in charge of the orientation for the incoming first years' every year and so the second years' put it together and a few of the second years' were there but ya know it was mostly all of us lost people and it was fun. They cooked out hamburgers and had volleyball and all that kind of stuff and beer and pop. We just kind of stood around the camp fire and got to know people. It was fun. It was a challenge ya know to get up the nerve to talk to people that you have never met before

**J.P.:** Were there a lot of faculty there?

**D.R.:** I don't remember a lot of faculty being at that particular get together. I don't know. Don't think a lot attend that particular party, but they attend other parties and there are other occasions though out the year where they make an effort to get together with the students.

**J.P.:** In your orientations do you, was there a lot of, pre-course orientation or was it just devoted to settling people in, in the process?

**D.R.:** It was just settling people in. As far as orienting you to a course ahead of time, umm I don't remember them doing that a whole lot of that. Which, looking back, it would be nice if there was some way they could do that and depending on your available resources you can try and kind of prepare yourself. I prepared myself, as best I could, by trying to take the recommended undergraduate things. Like I took biochemistry to try and prepare myself and I had a far amount of chemistry and I took, well I was a major in biology, so I took a far amount of that and of course a lot of the things that see there are requirements that you have to take as a undergraduate to apply to medical school, s that supposedly prepares you. Doesn't really. It does to a degree at least you recognize the words when you see them again, but there is just nothing to prepare you for the mountains of material and I thought that nursing school was difficult. It is not easy to get through nursing school, but at least in nursing school I was able to study a lot and get rewarded with good grades. That hasn't been true for the most part for me in medical school. I, there have been classes where I studied beyond anything I ever thought I was capable of doing and I was still only able to pass and that's very frustrating. That's a very difficult thing to deal with. I still don't think I have come to grips with that.

**J.P.:** While you were going through nursing school and you had a specific course load and specific type of lifestyle that you had to adjust to regimented program type construction. Your introduction into nursing school was it much different from your introduction into medical school? Was it the same kind of fillible getting you used to the process type of orientation?

**D.R.:** I don't remember my orientation very well because it has been so long ago. I'm sure that they had to do a certain amount of it. The program that I was in, in Jacksonville, was kind of comparable to this program because they made use of the area hospitals for use to rotate through and it's just the same at Wright State, so I don't really remember my orientation to nursing school very well, to tell you the truth.

**J.P.:** When you were going into the medical school you was coming in as essentially as a student who had been through high school and a certain amount of graduate work and then taking some time away from studies do you feel like it gave you an advantage going back into medical school? In terms of maturity and experience.

**D.R.:** To a certain degree. I feel more confident in my decision, I think than someone coming straight through high school and college and straight into medical school might feel because I have experienced several aspects of everyday working world and so I know that I made the best possible decision I could have. There are still days I question my decision and question my sanity at making this choice because it is so disruptive of any kind of normal life at all, there is no such thing for us. You adjust as well as you can. Some people don't adjust, but most people find some way to cope with it.

**J.P.:** Is it more difficult being a married student than it was when you were a single undergraduate?

**D.R.:** No, actually I think there are advantages. Naturally there are going to be advantages and disadvantages to any way you look at it. If you're single you don't have to worry about letting someone know you are going to be late or apologizing to them for missing dinner with them or things like that, but the nice thing about being married is that there is someone there for ya when you have what little time there is to spend. You don't have to worry about going through the dating process and all that kind of stuff and it's also advantageous practically speaking to have someone who's bringing in a paycheck because there is just a world of difference, I think, in the stress level of someone who, like myself, has someone at least providing the living expenses versus someone who does not have a spouse and does not have a source for living expenses so their having to borrow even more and that's just got to be terrible to think about. I mean I don't look with pleasure paying back all the loans I have gotten and I really haven't gotten as many as a lot of people do.

**J.P.:** Speaking of financial burdens what was your first trip to the book store like?

**D.R.:** Pretty traumatic. It was really bad looking at the prices of those books. You get used to it. No, you don't get used to it. You do not get used to it. The books are just unbelievably expensive and they are very heavy and the bill really hits you when you stand there and they add it all up, but you do what you have to do and I was just looking at the books I'm gonna have to get for

next year and most of them are like 70, 80, 90 dollars apiece and you just wanna drop your teeth, but oh well you do the best you can.

**J.P.:** When did you actually start to process just do medical students' start the course process the same time as the undergraduates start at Wright State?

**D.R.:** No, they started us in first year a couple of weeks early. They're real flexible at Wright State. This is one of the things that they've done in response to feedback from students. They increased the first quarter from the normal ten weeks up to like eleven weeks. A little more than eleven weeks I think it was to give us more time because gross anatomy is all crammed into one quarter and I don't know if it really helped or not but that's just, ya know, my opinion, but we started a couple of weeks ahead the other people. Our schedule very rarely coincides with the rest of the university. Which I have pretty much gotten used to, but it still surprises other people when I am discussing it at people outside the school of medicine. It makes it real difficult to interact with other people and one big fact is that medical students still have a tendency to be real isolated. They're so busy that they don't really have the time to worry about what's going on around them and I'm sure at least myself it really bothers me to not be able to pay attention to what's going on at the national level, at the international level right here on campus. I have missed a lot of things that have taken place right here on campus, just because I get so wrapped up in trying to keep up with the studies and trying to study for a test or whatever but it's just slips right by me. So, that's one kind of sad thing about medical school, is there is very little interaction between medical students and other students.

**J.P.:** Well Mrs. Richardson I would like to thank you very much for this first interview. In our next interview I would like to cover your first actual year here in medical school at Wright State. How you adapted to the rigorous schedule and course load here.

**D.R.:** OK