



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



# DAVIDGE HALL

*Preserving the Past for  
Future Generations*

# The University of Maryland School of Medicine invites you to join us in a campaign to *restore* **DAVIDGE HALL.**

Situated on the northeast corner of Lombard and Greene Streets, Davidge Hall enjoys recognition as the oldest existing teaching facility in America continuously used for medical education. The building was constructed by Robert Cary Long Sr., an important Baltimore builder and later architect. Design of the building, however, exhibits characteristics found in the architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe who built America's first anatomical theater at the University of Pennsylvania in 1806. There is evidence to suggest that French architect Maximilian Godefroy, with Latrobe's assistance, may have been involved with the design.

In addition to its continuing use as a functioning medical building, Davidge Hall is recognized for housing the Akiko K. Bowers Museum of Medical Artifacts, one of the finest medical museums in the country featuring artifacts from the earliest days of organized medical education in America.

In 1970, Davidge Hall was designated an official historical site by the Maryland Historical Trust. Four years later it was entered on the National Register of Historic Places and, in 1997, was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

## **RESTORING a HISTORIC LANDMARK**

The very history of medical education itself is enshrined in the building and its teaching chambers. These facilities remain among the only tangible evidence of how medicine was taught in the early 19th century. Distinctively, Davidge Hall and its large group lecture spaces remain vibrant resources as they continue to advance the School's core mission of providing an outstanding medical education.

Davidge Hall has been in constant use as a medical educational facility for more than 200 years and has survived with a remarkable amount of its original building fabric intact. This is in large measure due to the quality of its original construction, careful stewardship, and the appreciation of many generations of students, faculty, and alumni. Now more than three decades since its last interior restoration, the building is in critical need of new mechanical (particularly HVAC) and electrical systems. Planning is underway to address these issues as well as increasing accessibility to the third-floor lecture hall. Naming opportunities for the building's five signature rooms will support these restoration efforts.



*Items from the Alan Burns Collection of Anatomical Specimens, part of the Akiko K. Bowers Museum of Medical Artifacts.*

# *Davidge Hall* **NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**



Your support will enable the Medical Alumni Association and the School of Medicine to restore the interior spaces of Davidge Hall for 21st century continued use in medical teaching, while preserving them in a historically sensitive fashion that protects the signature characteristics of the facilities. These rooms are used nearly every day of the academic year and are vital to preserving our history and tradition.

## **Chemical Hall** *(top right)*

The first floor lecture hall is known as Chemical Hall, a semi-circular theater which no doubt gets its name from the brick kiln-like niches built into its front wall where chemical experiments were performed. The room accommodates more than 200 students. An October 25, 1820 newspaper account stated “No room for similar purposes, in any country surpasses it.”

## **Anatomical Hall** *(below)*

Directly above Chemical Hall on the third floor is Anatomical Hall with its rows of rising circular seating, much the same as its counterpart downstairs. The domed ceiling has a beautiful decorative network of semicircles and rosette patterns. It was in this room that the Marquis de Lafayette was awarded the first honorary doctorate from the university in 1824.



## **Dissecting Room**

Located on the second floor and entered by a door to the right of the landing was a “suit[e] of anatomical rooms, finished with great neatness,” according to the newspaper account, “and furnished with every convenience for facilitating students in the acquisition of this very important and fundamental branch of medical education.”

## **Classroom**

At the left of the grand entrance is the building’s sole classroom. The newspaper account reported it was “prepared, with great elegance for the reception of the chemical and philosophical apparatus,” some of which had been obtained in Paris and England; it was reported “in extent, magnificence and adaptation to the experiments of modern chemistry. The room was painted green and “decorated with busts, which have a fine classical affect.”

## **Library**

The room at the right of the grand entrance was “handsomely fitted up for the accommodation of students during the intervals of lecturing,” according to the newspaper account. Here there was “the nucleus of a medical library and tables supplied with the popular medical essays and journals of the day.” The books were obtained from the family of the late Dr. John Crawford, an early faculty member.

# Building a **LEGACY** for the future

Your leadership ensures success of our next renovation project to return Davidge Hall to its original splendor. By making a gift to support this project, you will demonstrate the importance of preserving this iconic building so that we may continue to use it to teach future generations of aspiring physicians. Moreover, you will leave a lasting footprint on the institution – your generosity will be remembered for decades, perhaps even centuries, to come.

For more information, contact Larry Pitrof, executive director, Medical Alumni Association of the University of Maryland, Inc., at 410-706-7454 or [larry@medalumni.umaryland.edu](mailto:larry@medalumni.umaryland.edu) or the Office of Development at 410-706-8503.



## **DAVIDGE HALL** *Naming Opportunities*

**\$2,000,000**

*Name Chemical Hall*

**\$2,000,000**

*Name Anatomical Hall*

**\$500,000**

*Name the Dissecting Room*

**\$250,000**

*Name the Classroom*

**\$250,000**

*Name the Library*

**University of Maryland School of Medicine Office of Development**

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