



CONCORD UNIVERSITY

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, HONORIS CAUSA

Jean Lester Bennett, as a pioneer among female medical students and physicians, you went on to have a successful pediatrics practice in Florida. Your dream to become a doctor began early in your life and you set your mind and heart on fulfilling your childhood aspirations.

In high school you were known as "Doc" and this nickname remained with you at Concord where some of your professors called you by that name.

A native of Baileysville, West Virginia, you were valedictorian of your graduating class at Baileysville High School. Your pursuit of academic achievement continued at Concord. As a scholarship recipient, member of the Cardinal Key Honor Society and Who's Who inductee, you put your advanced knowledge into practice by teaching biology laboratory courses as a senior.

You received the physics award at graduation and earned a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry, magna cum laude, in 1956. You pursued a medical degree at the University of Florida College of Medicine. Graduating in 1960, you earned the distinction of being the first woman to graduate from that institution. You completed your post graduate training at Shand's Hospital and Georgia Baptist Hospital.

Establishing your practice in the Sunshine State, you worked in private practice as a pediatrician in Clearwater, Florida, for 40 years. You became known as a caring, trusted professional and were revered and admired by your patients and their parents. Affectionately known as "Dr. Jean," you saw generations of Floridians in your Myrtle Ave. Pediatrics Clinic before retiring in 2003.

Throughout your distinguished career, you have held a number of leadership positions, earned a list of honors, and gained the respect of your colleagues. Concord's Alumni Association named you the Outstanding Alumna in 1988 and you are now a member of the University's White Coat Society.

For your history as a trailblazer for female physicians, your exemplary career in medicine, and your service to countless patients, Concord University confers upon you, Jean Lester Bennett, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

CONFERRED ON
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