

William L. Healy
Orthopedic Surgeon
Class of 1970



A well-rounded scholar-athlete, Bill Healy found in the Needham High School environment fertile soil for personal and academic growth. He remembers in particular the encouragement of English teacher Clare Curtin, but he notes that in general his teachers and coaches as well as his classmates taught him "to think and learn." In that supportive atmosphere, he discovered that perseverance is one of the greatest virtues. "My ability to keep working and keep improving has contributed to my personal and professional achievements."

Healy's high school interests ran largely to athletics. He played on the varsity football, wrestling, and track teams; was a member of the Varsity Club; and served as sports editor for the *Advocate*. Conscientious to a fault, Healy enjoyed his successes but agonized over his failures. ("I still can't believe," he says, "that we lost our Thanksgiving Day football game to Wellesley when I was a senior.")

Healy's work ethic was rewarded with the Alice Gates Science Award, the Glover Memorial Hospital Academic Scholarship, the Needham Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship, and a Needham High School Varsity Club Scholarship. He attended Amherst College, earned varsity letters in football and rugby, and graduated *cum laude* in 1974. In 1978 he earned an MD from the State University of New

York, in Brooklyn, where he met his wife, Angela Carroll Healy, who is also a physician.

After completing his internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore, Healy was awarded a fellowship to study trauma and reconstructive surgery at Landeskrankenhaus in Graz, Austria, and in 1983 he joined the orthopedic surgery faculty at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 1985 he returned to Massachusetts to practice at the Lahey Hitchcock Clinic, in Burlington, and in 1991 was named chair of the department of orthopedic surgery there. His particular expertise lies in the reconstruction of fractured and arthritic joints.

A member of innumerable hospital committees and professional societies, Dr. Healy is an activist and a leader in orthopedic medicine and surgery. His professional affiliations include membership in the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery, the American Orthopedic Association, the Hip Society, and the Knee Society. He is a consultant reviewer for several prestigious medical publications, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and his published articles and abstracts number almost two hundred. He has presented papers at over one hundred regional and national medical meetings, but lest you think he is all business, two of these papers are entitled: "Tattoos I Have Known" and "Ode to Total Hips or Lament for Cement."

A Needham native and one of four brothers, Healy remembers that from 1967 to 1977 "there was always a Healy kid in Needham High School." He is grateful to his brothers and to his parents for their love and support. And now, despite his commitment to his chosen field of endeavor, Healy makes time to enjoy his own family, to play some golf, and to be involved in his community, Concord, where he coaches youth baseball and basketball. In addition, he is a loyal and active Amherst alumnus and is currently serving as president of the class of 1974.