1974 Craig grad achieves success in medicine, academia

In 1974, Hawkins broke his neck in a collegiate rug game two weeks before graduating from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. The accident left him unable to walk and with extremely limited use of his hands. Hawkins spent six weeks in a traction bed in Pittsfield, MA before flying to Craig.

Throughout his life, Dr. Hugh Hawkins continually surprised people, never allowing his quadriplegia to define him. The Craig Hospital graduate is a radiologist and active community volunteer. In his 25 years at the University of Cincinnati, he pursued medical education, including direct student teaching and computers in medical education, clinical practice in emergency medicine and breast imaging and clinical research on imaging utilization.

He became a full professor before leaving academics to build breast imaging practices at two private institutions.

Following his discharge the family moved to Cincinnati where he started his internship in Internal Medicine at Cincinnati General Hospital. He then completed his Residency in Radiology.

"There were no computers; we had to deal with films and fluoroscopy equipment. Since I have no use of my hands, I had to make a few adjustments," he says.

Hawkins hired a pre-med student to assist him. Each year during residency he hired a person to work with him, doing fluoroscopy, hanging films, and helping with projects.

They were essential for getting work done, especially before digital equipment," Hawkins said.

As technology changed and Hawkins took on his professional work at the University, the program evolved, and his aides, seventy-five in all over 37 years, began working with him on academic and translational research and papers. Over 90 percent of the aides then went on to medical school.

Dr. Katie Dolbec worked with Hawkins in 2005 after her college graduation.

"My year as an AIDE in Radiology gave me applicable knowledge that I took with me into my first year of medical school – I was able to participate in patient interactions, learn procedural skills, participate in reading radiology studies, and work on independent projects. Hugh provided the

He called his medical school career "great fun" and said the years at Craig were a "life changing experience." Hawkins says he continues to be active in the medical profession and also volunteers with charities.

The Craig Hospital Foundation offers the Pedal4Possible Sponsorship to help provide a fun and healthy adventure for everyone. Pedal4Possible has raised $50,000 to $1,250 with varying benefit levels. For more information about the event, to purchase a sponsorship, or to register visit pedal4possible.org.
Redefining ROI: The Campaign for Craig Hospital

In February, Craig Hospital Foundation staff reached a major milestone in the Redefining ROI Campaign when they met the $18 million goal for unrestricted and program funding! Staff will continue working with donors to raise the remaining $11 million needed to fund the renovation and expansion project.

The hospital recently took possession of the full fourth floor of the Craig West building. This spinal cord injury floor includes additional patient rooms, a new bistro café, an expanded therapy gym, an adaptive technology lab, patient transfer room, wheelchair shop and clinical staff offices. Demolition is underway on the second floor, and work continues on the south side of the third floor.

A variety of spaces are available for naming in the new and renovated West Building for gifts starting at $50,000. These major gifts significantly bring to life the spirit of Craig’s patients, graduates, and mission, of Craig’s patients, graduates, and mission.

To watch a time-lapse video of the Brain Wall project, visit craighospital.org/blog/how-do-you-fuel-your-brain

Craig Hospital PUSH Dinner raises nearly $1.3 million

Craig Hospital’s biggest fundraiser of the year, the annual PUSH dinner, took place on February 27. The presenting sponsor for the 2015 event was Empower Retirement. PUSH was attended by 1360 people and brought in an estimated $1,276,889 for Craig Hospital programs, research and patients.

Patrick Ireland, a survivor of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting and Craig “graduate,” was awarded the Christopher and Dana Reeve Inspiration Award.

This award is given in recognition of Ireland’s determination, advocacy, and commitment to serving as a positive and influential role model to those who have sustained a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. Also at the dinner, Steve Peters accepted the Dave and Gail Liniger Spirit of Craig Award. This new award recognizes a Craig graduate who, through their community service, professional achievement, and personal support of Craig’s patients, graduates, and mission, significantly brings to life the spirit of Craig Hospital to others in the community.

To watch the PUSH dinner honoree videos featuring Patrick Ireland and Steve Peters, visit craighospital.org/events/2015-push-dinner.