
Meet Dr. Herman Eisen: UTMB's oldest living School of Medicine Alumnus

Today, at 100 years old, Dr. Herman Eisen fondly remembers the long hours of studying, life at the Phi Delta Epsilon house on Market Street and frat parties with live piano music courtesy of a professor during non-academic hours. But what he mostly remembers is that he never got to participate in a graduation ceremony because of the 1943 surprise hurricane that hit Galveston Island that summer.

Coming ashore with winds up to 132 mph, the University of Texas Medical Branch was forced to cancel commencement exercises for the class of 1943 and hunker down for yet another hurricane during Herman Eisen's tenure at UTMB. "My parents had planned to travel from Tyler to see me walk across the stage, but were forced to cancel their rare visit because of the storm," said Dr. Eisen.

After leaving UTMB, Dr. Eisen enlisted in the military and served as captain in both the Pacific and European Theaters of WWII.

In 1952, Dr. Eisen established Westchester Pediatrics in Los Angeles, CA where he served three generations of infants, children and adolescents.

During his career, he pioneered several innovative practices including his early efforts to encourage patients to take responsibility for their health through exercise and low-fat and low-sodium diets.

An avid scholar, Dr. Eisen wrote and distributed educational handouts to parents through various stages of child development and was the first pediatrician in the nation to create a special "teen lounge" waiting room.

Dr. Eisen retired after practicing medicine for more than 50 years in both Houston and Los Angeles. He is currently living in Los Angeles and is an avid reader.



1943 yearbook photo

Enjoying Galveston

Outside his Los Angeles office

Celebrating 100 years