

## Dr. Carol Spencer Kuhle, Class of 1964



Carol "Cookie" Spencer was a typical high school student who, after graduation, faced the reality of her times: limit your pursuit of a career to Teaching, Nursing, or Secretarial studies so that when the time comes you will be able to marry and raise children. Certainly don't consider becoming a doctor or a lawyer!

Carol followed the 'acceptable' path. She settled down and raised a family. However, she always wanted to be a doctor. So in her thirties, Carol threw caution to the wind. She went back to school and studied with a younger generation to realize her dream. And she became a physician with a practice in Family Medicine and Geriatrics at Mercy Mayo Family Medicine Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. Kuhle's tenure at Mayo Clinic has given her the opportunity to mentor many medical students, residents and fellows. She feels blessed to have had mentors in her life who saw more in her than she saw in herself, and who encouraged her to continue to grow and thrive. She tries -- and no doubt succeeds -- in passing that experience on to her mentees.

Last year, Dr. Kuhle became Section Head for the Women's Health Clinic at the Mayo Clinic. What a prestigious post and enormous achievement! By making a mid-life career change, especially one that required the time and educational commitment that medicine does, Carol Spencer Kuhle provides a shining example of what determination can achieve.