**Who has been your greatest inspiration and why?**

I would say it was my dad who had started his own design business in the midst of the Great Depression that survived his entire career.

**When did you decide you wanted to be an architect?**

After considering engineering for one year of college, I realized my talents, abilities and interests were most attuned to architecture.

**What compelled you to focus on healthcare architecture?**

Healthcare, in particular hospitals, are the most complex and challenging building type. It also is integral to living and health, in that we all ultimately strive to be well and the environments for staying well and treating illness are the greatest opportunity for creativity.

**Can you describe your philosophies regarding the relationships between architecture, healthcare, and the community?**

It is all integrated as is life. And as in life we strive to maintain or return to balance, and seek to live our lives in places and environments that bring us comfort and reassurance. I am a believer in the premise that through life’s activities we can be mentally and physically challenged, and emotionally and personally rewarded. These philosophies are the foundation to creating environments that meet today’s needs and are able to sustain future opportunities.

**What are some of your proudest accomplishments professionally? Personally?**

There are a handful of project “gems” that I have been blessed to be part of bringing to fruition. My sons, “I hate (love) my sons”, and the woman who made them possible.

**Have you had to face any significant challenges in your career? What were they?**

At the baseline, it has always been landing a good job and/or project. Part of it was becoming involved in the challenging field of healthcare architecture, and the primary has been achieving that ultimate status of a healthcare programmer, planner and designer.

**Are there any cartoon characters that you do particularly good impressions of?**

Donald Duck, and also Mickey Mouse, Goofy and Yogi Bear.

**Did Dela wear her New Jersey?**

I really donut know, but Alaska!

**What is next for you?**

Helping (continuing to help) my sons and their families be the most they can be to be happy!