
Alumna of the Year Award

Diane Artress Connelly, '88

Diane Artress Connelly is a wife, mother, sister, and friend to many. Diane was born in Marietta, Georgia, and is the youngest of four Artress girls, all of whom graduated from Georgia-Cumberland Academy. While here, she made lifelong connections with teachers and students alike.



Diane graduated magna cum laude from Andrews University with a major in English in 1992. Diane's father and uncle were physicians as is her older sister, Karen (Artress) Orquia, '83. For GCA career day, she had followed obstetrician Dr. Art Butterfield and had enjoyed this opportunity. After careful consideration, she enrolled in Loma Linda University School of Medicine. While in medical school, Diane took an additional year to earn a master's degree in public health, with an emphasis in Health Education and Promotion. She graduated in 1997. With a strong interest in women's health, she soon specialized in obstetrics and gynecology. It was a good decision. Over the last 28 years, she has delivered approximately 5,000 babies!

Since 2007, she has been an attending physician at Kaiser Permanente in Riverside, California. She is a diplomat of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and an Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society member. In addition to her work seeing patients, she co-chairs the Bioethics Committee, served on the Blood Management Appropriateness Committee, and enjoys teaching medical students and residents. She was voted one of the Physicians of the Year by the Southern California Physicians Medical Group for Kaiser Permanente in 2014.

Diane also serves her church, the local community, and her family. For many years Diane volunteered in children's ministries at the Loma Linda University Church. Diane met her husband, Alan Connelly, '88, at GCA, and they will celebrate their 29th anniversary this June. They have a daughter, Allison, a Southern Adventist University student majoring in biology, who plans to attend medical school. While the Connellys have called Loma Linda, California, home for over 30 years, she has maintained close ties to friends and faculty from GCA. Those who know her appreciate and admire her faith, kind spirit, laughter, and example of wife, mother, sister, and friend.