

Drs. Kelly and Kevin DeHart: Seeing double in dermatology

By Nancy P. Sykes

“Having a twin is actually what makes me unique,” says Dr. Kelly DeHart, who practices dermatology at Pariser Dermatology Specialists Ltd. “Without my brother I’m not really special or different. I wish everyone could have a twin.”

“We like the attention we get,” says Dr. Kevin DeHart, also a practicing dermatologist at Pariser. “We get some stares and it’s a great conversation starter.”

The DeHarts were born in Southwest Virginia and grew up in a small community where they were the only twins. The trait runs in their family. They were in the same class all through school and attended West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine together, earning degrees in general and medical dermatology. Dr. Kevin’s residency was in Largo, Florida,, and Dr. Kelly went to Cleveland, Ohio. “Finding residency positions for two

dermatologists at the same time and place is difficult,” says Dr. Kevin. Dr. Kelly came to Pariser and has been there for five years. Dr. Kevin went to

Seattle, Washington. “I was ready for something different,” he says. “It was supposed to be temporary, but I liked it and stayed four years.”

Though a country apart, the brothers found many opportunities to be together. For example, they frequently met at medical conferences.

When a position became available at Pariser a year ago, Dr. Kelly convinced Dr. Kevin to apply. “I always knew we would eventually be together,” he says.

The brothers are Doctors of Osteopathy (D.O.). How does that differ from M.D. (a medical doctor)? “Not much,” says Dr. Kevin. “The D.O. is relatively new and there are fewer schools. The osteopathic approach is more holistic and includes more emphasis on manipulative therapy. However, the training is similar. Both require an undergraduate degree (pre-med or science), four years of medical school and two to six years in a specialty.”

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Doctors Kevin (left) and Kelly DeHart give their physician’s assistant Melissa Alcox a routine mole check.

CATHERINE ROGERS

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Letters to the editor

Thank you for the wonderful article in the [March issue of the] *Oyster Pointer*. Jesse Hines did a wonderful job. I have received favorable notes and comments about the article.

I have worked in the park since the inception of the paper. It has provided a sense of community to Oyster Point and has built a great reputation for itself. Happy 25th anniversary.

Teresa Denner, CFM, CRPC, CFP, assistant vice president and investment associate, Merrill Lynch

On behalf of Allen Jones and the entire staff of Dominion Pediatric Therapy & Associates, Inc., we would like to say thank you for the article featuring our clinic in the [February issue] of the *Oyster Pointer*.

We thank Cynthia Davis for taking the time to meet with our staff and writing such a positive and informative article highlighting our clinic and the services we provide for the community. We feel as though

this article will provide the community with information about a service that they may not have been fully aware of in the past.

The staff of Dominion Pediatric Therapy & Associates, Inc.

Thanks for featuring our firm in the May *Oyster Pointer*. We were very pleased with the article written by Brian DePrinzio. He did a great job combining information about the firm with the personal touches about me. What a talented young man.

*Diane B. Carter, Director
Cherry Bekaert LLP*

I wanted to say thanks for the write-up about Virginia Peninsula Photography [on the April cover]. It was a nice story and photo. We've gotten some nice comments back about the article and wanted to especially thank Catherine Rogers who wrote the feature.

Gerry Neary, Virginia Peninsula Photography

OysterPointer



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The staff thanks you, the businesses of the Oyster Point area and the advertisers of the *Oyster Pointer*, for supporting this publication. Your continuing support enables the *Oyster Pointer* to serve as the primary vehicle for exchange of information in the Oyster Point area.

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DeHART, continued from page 1

Why did they both choose dermatology? "It was love at first sight," says Dr. Kelly. "It's not unusual for us to like the same things and we both went for it. Now it is great having someone to consult with."

Pariser Dermatology Specialists has six offices from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach. The brothers divide their time among two or three of them each week. "We usually work together at least three days a week," says Dr. Kelly. Pariser is the largest dermatology practice in Virginia, with 140 employees. It was founded in 1946 by Dr. Harry Pariser, M.D. His two sons are now the owners. The practice is involved in many areas of community service. "We often attend community events and hand out sunscreen and moisturizer," says Dr. Kelly. "We attend health fairs and offer screenings at large companies."

The brothers see patients from two months old to 105 years. They are involved in all aspects of the field except cosmetic. "The skin is the largest 'organ' in our body," says Dr. Kevin. "It is the window that can expose what is going on inside. So many diseases manifest themselves on the skin." "We see a lot of drug reactions," says Dr. Kelly. "Unfortunately, melanoma is on the increase, even in children, because of tanning. Every day we see someone who has never been to a dermatologist."

The DeHarts live in the same condo complex in City Center. "We love it there," says Dr. Kelly. "We are happy to see how the Center has grown, with so many fun events and restaurants." The brothers usually eat dinner together and often go to the gym together. "I always have a racquetball partner," says Dr. Kelly. Both also enjoy other sports and spending time with friends. They also travel together and recently flew to

Las Vegas, just for fun. "We go to a lot of conferences, especially those in warm places," says Dr. Kelly. Last year they attended a tropical disease conference in Tanzania, Africa. "We learned all kinds of cool things," he says. They also went on an eight-day safari. They have been to Hawaii and Aruba. "We love to travel," says Dr. Kevin. Last Christmas the whole family went to Cancun. "We think memories are more important than presents," he says. There is also an annual twins/multiples convention in Twinsburg, Ohio. "We'll go someday."

How are they different? "I like facial hair," says Dr. Kevin. "I have always had a beard, mustache or goatee. Dr. Kelly has tried a beard, but doesn't like it. Obviously, that helps people tell us apart." Did they ever trade places? "We used to do it on April Fool's Day at school. We could fool our teachers, but not our friends," says Dr. Kevin. "Our mother sometimes mixes us up on the phone." Dr. Kelly says that he can't always identify himself in childhood photos.

"We do some things separately," says Dr. Kelly, "but we have more fun together. So we shop together and trade clothes. We like the same foods and enjoy eating together."

They unanimously agree on some parting advice: Get your skin checked! ◀

► TO THE POINT

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CORRECTION: The email address for Charles (Buddy) Alligood, May's guest columnist, was incorrect. The correct address is budlite61@gmail.com.



FIND THIS PEARL

somewhere in this issue to be entered in a drawing to win a prize from the *Oyster Pointer*!

Send an email to editorop@aol.com with the page number of the hidden pearl to be eligible for the drawing. Please include your name, address and phone number.

CONGRATULATIONS to our April contest winner:

Sharon Flick

Travel Consultant
Warwick Travel Services, inc.

Location: Page 10

Prize: Yummy bag of
Oyster Pointer M&Ms!