As many in the Duke Community are aware, the Feagin Leadership Program is named in honor of Dr John Feagin, a Duke University Emeritus Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, a true leader in the strictest sense of the word. This academic year marked a new year in the eligibility of orthopedic surgery residents to participate. Funding for this opportunity was graciously provided through the Piedmont Orthopaedic Society and the Duke Orthopaedic Surgery Department. One resident was selected as a Piedmont Orthopaedic Society leadership scholar and one as the Duke Orthopaedic Surgery leadership scholar. Feagin Leadership Program instills several leadership values throughout the year-long training and focused on the pillars of the core leadership model: Emotional intelligence, teamwork, selfless service, integrity, critical thinking, and patient centeredness.

The 2017 to 2018 Feagin Leadership Scholars had a formative weekend on the annual Scholar’s Summit in Vail, Colorado. Taking the time to get out of Durham created an ideal environment for the scholars to reflect on their experiences in the Program so far and to continue to build their relationships. The weekend was kicked off right with a lunch stop at a Colorado classic, Beau Jo’s Pizza in Idaho Springs, where scholars got the chance to try mountain pies, complete with honey on the crust. The next stop was at the 10th Mountain Division Soldier Statue, located in Vail Village. Throughout the weekend, the 10th Mountain Division served as a unifying theme and inspiration. The 10th Mountain Division fought in World War II in the mountains of Italy and faced some of the roughest terrain in the war. The division was founded to provide forces with special skills in winter and mountain warfare, and their bonds were forged through treacherous and difficult training to prepare them for the ultimate test. The evening was complete after an informative session on Business Etiquette led by Ann Taylor.

On day 2, the Summit was in full swing with scholars continuing on their journey of self-discovery. The morning started with a session on Resilience, led by Joe Houde. The scholars were encouraged to think about their metaphorical buckets and experiences in life that let water leak out and others that help refill the bucket. Next, the scholars delved into establishing and defining their core values. After doing some deep and difficult digging into their guiding principles, the scholars enjoyed a relaxing afternoon schedule; sadly, there was not enough snow for skiing to be on the agenda. The day finished with an inspiring lecture by Dr Matt Provencher about building and refining high-performing teams and a happy hour with Vail community leaders. On the final day of the Summit, the scholars met with their teams and Dr Taylor to continue to work on their team projects and to process the journey they had taken together over the weekend. Although Vail is far away from Durham, it provided the perfect setting for the scholars to get out of their comfort zone and continue to develop their leadership philosophies.

There is some additional exciting news from the Feagin Leadership Program: This year’s Feagin Leadership Forum will serve as the launch for the Feagin Alumni Network (FAN)! The mission of FAN is to create lifelong connections between alumni of Feagin Leadership Program and the current Feagin Scholars that promotes continued leadership learning. For those who have participated in the Feagin Leadership Program, check your e-mail for FAN updates and look for the FAN table at the forum.

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2017–2018 Feagin Leadership Scholars