

Eugene H. Blackstone, MD

Dr. Blackstone's undergraduate, medical, and postdoctoral education (medicine, mathematics, computer science, statistics) were at the University of Chicago. After internship, he served as Chief of Cardiovascular Research Branch at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, Fort Rucker, 1969-1972 as an Army Major, before his faculty appointment in 1972 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. There he worked with pioneering heart surgeon, Dr. John Kirklin, who had moved from Mayo Clinic to Alabama to develop a medical university. In 1980 he became an endowed University Professor. In 1997 he joined the Cleveland Clinic as Director of Research, Cardiovascular Outcomes Registries and Research, in the Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute. He has authored nearly 1000 medical publications.



His father, who came from multiple generations of string players, asked C. Omar Musser, Northwestern University, what instrument might an uncoordinated youngster be able to play. "Give him a pile of wood." So, for much of grade school, he played marimba. Study of piano and organ followed under the tutelage of the Chairperson of the Music Department of the college in which his father was a professor, with commitment to practice at least 4 hours/day. He received top state rating in piano, playing Debussy's "Reflets dans l'eau" (Reflections in the water) from Images Book 1. For over 40 years he was a church organist and pianist.

In 1983 he commissioned the head voicer John Hendriksen and head pipemaker Tom Anderson of Aeolian-Skinner, then no longer in existence, to design a specification and make the pipes for a new 68-rank pipe organ for their Birmingham home. It was then moved to Cleveland and a new home was designed by Richard Fleishman and built on Breezy Bluff in Bratenahl. The instrument was expanded to 137 ranks and 7,430 pipes, the 3rd largest pipe organ in a private residence in the world.

His wife, Janet, with a master's in early child education, taught 1st grade most of her career, retiring in 2019 as elementary principal of Cornerstone Christian Academy. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.