

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 6, Number 2

Fall, 1996

Fourteen Graduate from Family Practice Residency Program in June

Members of the 1996 graduating class of the Family Practice Residency program were honored at an awards dinner at the DCH Regional Medical Center in June. They were joined by their families, CCHS faculty, and DCH officials as departmental honors and special awards were presented. Chief Resident **Angela Powell, M.D.**, received top departmental honors in Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, and Psychiatry. Dr. Powell was also chosen for the Resident Teaching Award by medical students.

Dan Moore, M.D., won the Pediatrics Award, and **Jeffrey Mathis, M.D.**, was recognized for excellence in family medicine with the *William F. DeShazo III* Family Practice Award. Chief Residents Dan Moore and Angela Powell also received University of Alabama captain's chairs in appreciation for their leadership.

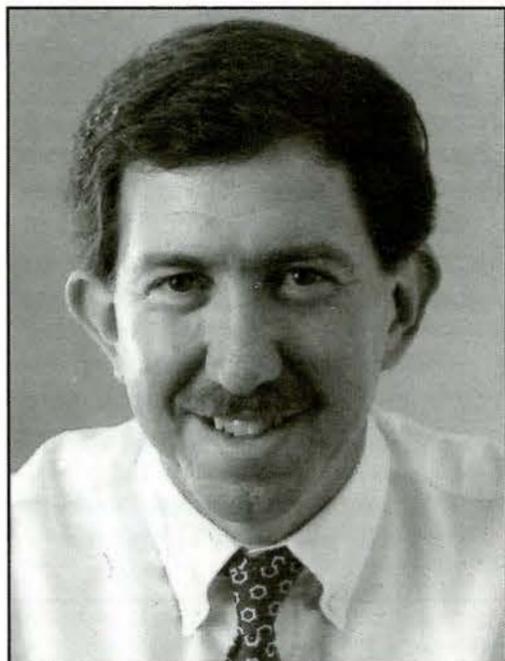
Tracy Miles, M.D., received the Dean's Award, special recognition to a first year resident who epitomizes the goals and mission of CCHS to train physicians in the art and practice of family medicine. **Dean Roland Ficken** presented this award, the *William R. Willard Award*, named for the late William Willard, M.D., founding dean of the College. **David Eaton, M.D.**, received the V.A. Award for outstanding work as a second year resident at the V.A. Medical Center in Tuscaloosa.

Dr. **Bill Curry** of Carrollton, an adjunct faculty member and preceptor for CCHS students and residents, who practices internal medicine in Pickens County, was the speaker. Dr. Curry served as Chief Resident for his class at Vanderbilt Medical School and has been a champion of primary care and a vocal advocate for rural medicine during his tenure as president of the Medical Association of Alabama and as founder and board member of RAHA, the Rural Alabama Health Alliance. He cheered the results of the program which sends its 223rd graduate into the practice of family medicine this year. "Two-thirds of this class are returning to their hometowns to practice," added Dr. **Marc Armstrong**, Residency Director.

Angela Powell and **Dan Moore**, Chief Residents for 1995-96, show off the chairs they received at the graduation dinner last June. (More pictures on page 8.)



Robert Centor Appointed Interim Dean



Dr. Robert Centor

Robert Centor, M.D., Associate Dean for Primary Care, University of Alabama School of Medicine, has been appointed Interim Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences.

Dr. Centor has been "on duty" in Tuscaloosa for several months already, however, assisting UA School of Medicine (UASOM) Dean **Harold Fallon** who had been serving as interim dean since Dean **Roland Ficken** retired July 1.

Dr. Centor commutes from Birmingham two days a week to conduct business at CCHS. He retains his responsibilities at UAB with Primary Care and as Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine. An internist, he spends time each week seeing patients in Birmingham.

"The faculty has been very appreciative of how smoothly Dr. Centor has furthered our mission to provide primary care physicians to serve the citizens of Alabama," said **Marc Armstrong, M.D.**, Director of the Residency Program.

Dr. Centor sees himself "as a vehicle for the faculty," and he enjoys working with the new UA President **Andrew Sorensen** and the newly appointed Provost (Dr. **Nancy Barrett**), who --in his words-- "are both enthusiastic and positive."

Jerry McKnight, M.D., Chairman of Family Medicine and President of the Capstone Health Services Foundation, commends Dr. Centor for his "vision for the college." "He has brought a high level of administrative expertise and stability to CCHS during this time of transition," said Dr. McKnight. "His dedication to primary care and his development of a responsive administrative structure will permit us to build an even better medical education program."

(Continued on p. 7)

UA President Appointed to BCM Faculty



Dr. **Andrew Sorensen** (right), who became President of The University of Alabama last summer, has received his faculty appointment in Behavioral and Community Medicine in the College of Community Health Sciences. He will teach CHS 520, a graduate course in epidemiology, in the spring semester. Dr. Sorensen and UA Trustee Dr. **Sandra Hullett** (left) helped to launch a new CCHS program in September. (See story on p. 2).

Ten Rural Medical Scholars Begin New Program with Accent on Primary Care at UA School of Medicine

The Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) of the University of Alabama School of Medicine's College of Community Health Sciences in Tuscaloosa was kicked off in September. In a special ceremony attended by the first scholars selected for the program, their families, CCHS faculty and alumni, UA faculty, and interested guests, RMSP was officially launched by Interim Dean **Robert Centor**, M.D., and UA President **Andrew Sorensen**.

"The new program selects and prepares ten outstanding rural scholars each year for Family Medicine or primary care practice in Alabama. The RMSP selects Rural Medical Scholars a year early, enrolls them in preparatory courses on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa in the year prior to matriculation to medical school, and provides a track of primary care instruction supportive of rural practice," said Dr. **John Wheat**, CCHS Associate Professor of Behavioral and Community Medicine and Internal Medicine, who helped create the program. Each Rural Medical Scholar will complete a year of general or graduate college study at the University of Alabama including two courses, *Rural Issues* in the Fall and *Introduction to Contemporary Medicine* in the Spring. Rural Medical Scholars will study at UAB for two years to complete Basic Medical Sciences in the University of Alabama School of Medicine. They will return to the School of Medicine branch campus in Tuscaloosa, the College of Community Health Sciences, to complete Clinical Clerkships (two years).

Starting in the summer prior to enrolling at UAB, Rural Medical Scholars will be involved in special medical experiences, including rural Preceptorships, Research, and Community Health Fairs. The University of Alabama School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Programs in Birmingham, Huntsville, Selma, and Tuscaloosa will give special consideration to Rural Medical Scholars when they apply.

The goal of the RMSP is to select applicants to the University of Alabama School of Medicine who have a rural background and the desire to become a rural physician and provide them with a special educational program which will influence them to practice in a primary care specialty in an underserved (rural) area of Alabama.

1996 Rural Medical Scholars are **Ann Davis**, B.S. (Emory), Talladega; **Kevin Ellis**, a senior at The University of Alabama (UA), Albertville; **Tom Holt**, B.S. (Auburn University), Elba; **Allison Hudson**, senior (UA), Verbena; **Drake Lavender**, senior (UA), Eutaw; **Trey Lightsey**, senior (UA, transferred from the University of Montevallo), Centreville; **Stephanie Morgan**, B.S. (Jacksonville State University), Cedar Bluff; **Elizabeth Smith**, senior (UA), Monroeville; **Paul Tabereaux**, B.S. (UA), Muscle Shoals; and **Angela Wilson**, senior (UA, transfer from Auburn), Walnut Grove.

CCHS Dean **Robert Centor**, M.D., introduced the new program, citing one of the University of Alabama School of Medicine missions: to prepare physicians to return to rural areas to practice. He reminded those present that UASOM Dean **Harold Fallon**, M.D., had made producing primary care physicians a priority of his administration. He also complimented the work of the Primary Care Advisory Board, which is working with UASOM to recommend strategies and policy that will increase the effectiveness of recruitment and preparation of primary care physicians. Dr. **John Brandon**, called the RMSP an historic moment for rural Alabama. He said that the Alabama Academy of Family Practice and the Rural Alabama Health Alliance (RAHA) have been working for decades to recruit and train doctors from rural areas to practice where



Showing their support for efforts to recruit and place primary care physicians in rural areas, **Marc Armstrong**, M.D., CCHS, **Sandra Hullett**, M.D., UA Board of Trustees and head of a rural clinic in Greene County, and **Mike McBrearty**, M.D., Fairhope family physician, at the RMSP announcement ceremony. All three are graduates of the CCHS Family Practice Residency.



University of Alabama President Andrew Sorensen poses with Stephanie Morgan, 1996 Rural Medical Scholar from Cedar Bluff, at the announcement ceremony of the program on September 12.

they are most needed. He reviewed the history leading to establishment of CCHS in the early 1970's by Governor George Wallace, the closing of several family practice residency programs in the state due to lack of funding, and commended the dedication of **Neal Christopher**, M.D., and Speaker of the Alabama **Jimmy Clark** to the cause of medical education. He applauded the creation of the rural rotation for family practice residents and plans to make CCHS a research leader for rural health care.

Dr. **Andrew Sorensen**, President of The University of Alabama, was the keynote speaker for the event. Saying he preferred the term "outreach" to "service" in defining the published mission of The University ("Teaching, Research, and Service"), Dr. Sorensen stressed that all research does not have to be done in a lab, and he said, "We can't wait for them [rural communities] to knock on our door. We need to reach out to them. We should be showing other medical schools how to reach out to rural areas. I want to hear that 'Tuscaloosa's campus is leading the way!'"

I am very excited about the prospect of broadening the mission of the College of Community Health Sciences. In the past there has not been as much integration of both teaching and research as there could be between the CCHS faculty and faculty in other divisions of the University such as the School of Social Work, the Capstone College of Nursing, the College of Human Environmental Sciences, and the College of Education. I am hopeful that as CCHS broadens its mission and enhances the quality of its relationships with faculty and students in other parts of the University, such interaction will stimulate a substantial increase in the quality and quantity of externally supported research. I also hope that we will have more interdisciplinary teaching programs as our nation moves towards the implementation of managed health care, and also as we develop more effective outreach programs to those living in rural areas, especially in West Alabama.

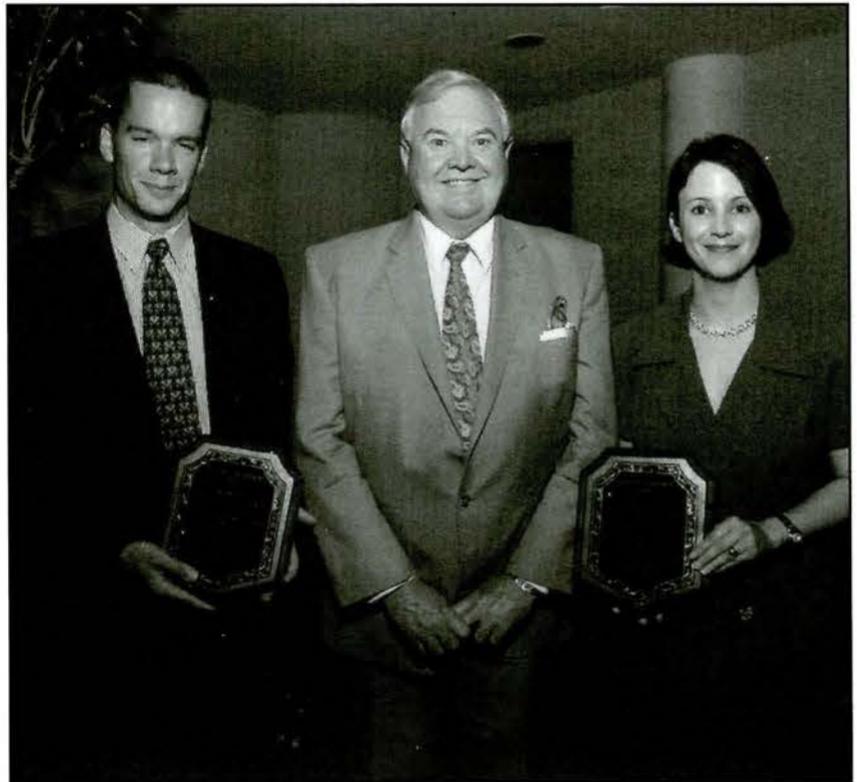
**Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President
The University of Alabama**
October 4, 1996

Dr. Sorensen also gave examples of successful earlier programs related to rural outreach: Bioprep, which identified and mentored talented high school students; the BC/BS-CCHS collaborative program operated to provide access to medical care for all children in Bibb County, and the Agrimed program with its rural internships and clerkships which introduce students to the role of health professionals in small communities. In a separate statement (see box), Dr. Sorensen amplified his hopes that CCHS will retain and expand its leadership role in rural research.

Graduating Medical Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

Honors Convocation for graduating medical students at CCHS was held on May 18, 1996, at the Moody Music Building on the UA campus in Tuscaloosa. Departmental awards and other special presentations were announced as 19 senior medical students were recognized. Members of the class elected to the prestigious medical honorary *Alpha Omega Alpha* were **Robert Douglas Hamiter, M.D.**, **Stephen Joseph Langston, M.D.**, and **Marc Thomas Warner, M.D.** Dr. Warner and **Heather Turner, M.D.**, shared the *Scholastic Achievement Award* for highest GPA during the clinical years.

Members of the class of 1996 completing their training at CCHS also include: Chelley Kaye **Alexander, M.D.**; Brian Carlos **Bacot, M.D.**; Todd Douglas **Bell, M.D.**; Dearl Vonstol **BirdSong, Jr., M.D.**; Rachel Zippert **Chatters, M.D.**; Kimberly Gladney **Dobbs, M.D.**, and Thomas Elwyn **Dobbs, III, M.D.**; Benjamin Lester **Glover, M.D.**; Cedric Leon **Harris, M.D.**; Charles Brantley **Lehman, M.D.**; Monica **Popov, M.D.**; Angela Kynard **Smelley, M.D.**; Jonathan Michael **Stanfield, M.D.** and Lori Livingston **Stanfield, M.D.**; and Kimberly Michelle **Stewart, M.D.**



The Scholastic Achievement Award for the highest grade point during the clinical years was shared by **Marc Warner** (left) and **Heather Turner** (right). They were congratuated at Honors Convocation by Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine, **James Philp, M.D.** (center).

Departmental Awards

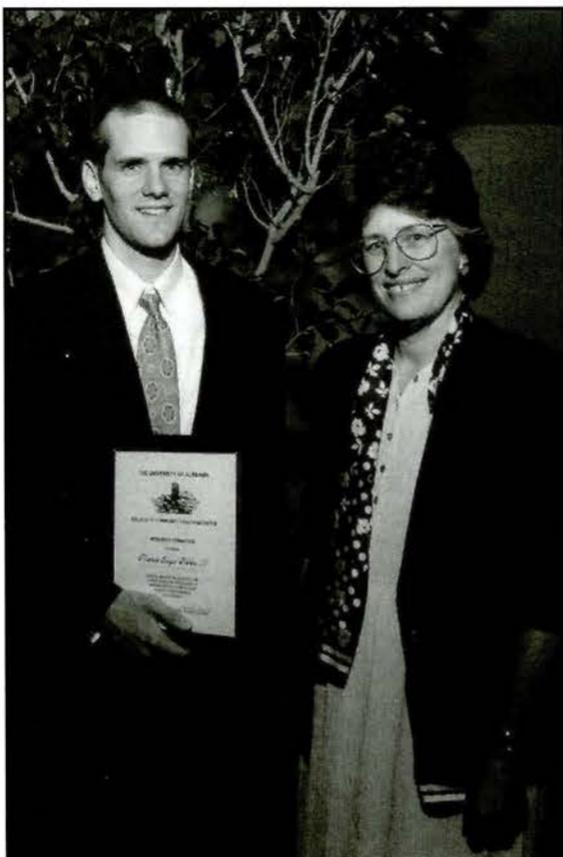
Senior medical students were chosen by faculty in each department for outstanding work during their clinical years. Honored were:

<i>Robert F. Gloor Award</i>	
Behavioral and Community Medicine	Thomas E. Dobbs, III
Family Medicine Award	Lori L. Stanfield
Internal Medicine Award	Marc T. Warner
<i>Finney/Akers Memorial Award</i>	
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Monica Popov
Pediatrics Award	Kimberly Gladney Dobbs
<i>Peter Bryce Award</i>	
Psychiatry	Heather S. Turner
Surgery Award	Stephen J. Langston
Research Award	Thomas E. Dobbs, III

Faculty recognition awards were given by the senior class to Dr. **E. Eugene Marsh**, a member of the Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology, for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during their junior year and to Dr. **Angela A. Powell** for her outstanding teaching as a resident. The *Patrick McCue Award* for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during the class's senior year was presented to Dr. **Michael P. Robards**, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine. Dr. **John Brandon**, an adjunct faculty member who has a family practice in Gordo, Alabama, received the *Community Medicine Preceptor Award* presented annually by the Dept. of Behavioral & Community Medicine.

The *William R. Willard Award*, the Dean's Award, was presented to **Heather Turner**. **Todd Bell** won the Veterans Affairs Medical Center "Student of the Year" designation, and **Cedric Harris** received the *James H. Akers Memorial Award*, given annually to the Tuscaloosa senior who best personifies both the art and the science of the practice of medicine as chosen by the graduating senior class.

Editor's note: **Richard A. Lytle, Jr.**, a medical student on the Birmingham campus of UASOM, was awarded the Larry Mayes Memorial Scholarship. He will use the funds provided by the Mayes family in memory of their son, a senior medical student at CCHS who died on rotation in Africa, for study and work in Nepal.



Dr. **Thomas E. Dobbs** receives the Research Award from Professor **Elizabeth Rand, M.D.**



John Wheat, M.D., (left) with **John Brandon, M.D.**, who received the Rural Preceptor Award.



Michael Robards, M.D., receives the outstanding teaching award from Dr. **Lori Stanfield**.

Thirteen First Year Residents Enter Family Practice Program

by Kay Hall

New first year residents arrived at CCHS on June 24, 1996. They will be practicing at the Capstone Medical Center and DCH Regional Medical Center. The following information was gathered to introduce them to CCHS faculty and staff. Where each completed medical school is in parentheses after his/her name:

Chelley Alexander (Univ. of Alabama) - Chelley's interest in Family Medicine was inspired by her strong interest in relationships between health and issues of poverty. Following graduation from college, she began a fellowship to study medicine in a third world country. In her spare time, Chelley enjoys writing poetry, gardening and spending time with her husband, Hugh Lee, and her daughter, Ashley.

Edwin Dennard (LSU, New Orleans) - Edwin's interests range from team sports and literature to history and politics. He has three children to whom he tries to impart his enthusiasm in these areas. Edwin graduated from Cornell Law School in 1983. With his background in law and finance, he believes it is possible he may someday have a role in health care management or policy.

Lucius Freeman (Univ. of South Alabama) - better known as Beau. He was born and raised in Jasper, Alabama. Beau credits the influence of his family doctor on his decision to go into family medicine. On a personal level, Beau enjoys spending time with his wife, Stephanie, playing golf, swimming, and (what else?)...ALABAMA FOOTBALL!!

Robert Hankenhof (LSU, New Orleans) - Even though Robert hails from New Orleans, his goal, after residency is to practice in a small to moderate sized town, as close as he can to the style of the old "country doc." His wife, Angelle, can find Robert hunting, fishing, and discussing politics in his spare time!

Lon Haskell (Univ. of Nebraska) - Lon was born in Salt Lake City and raised in American Fork, Utah. He credits his early fascination with life sciences to his father who is a biology teacher. During college he took off two years to complete a mission for his church in Zurich, Switzerland. In medical school he was very active in many organizations and formed a completely student-sponsored award for outstanding health professions educator. He and his wife, Londa, have a son, Sean, who will be two in November.

Ronald Helms (Univ. of South Alabama) - prefers to be called "Rock." He was born in Birmingham and raised in Pell City. Rock has always been interested in Family Practice as a specialty, especially in the area of preventive medicine. His outside interests include hunting, fishing, golfing and softball. Rock and his wife, Jennifer, have two children, Trey and Meredith.

Bill McArthur (Univ. of Mississippi) - Bill doesn't remember ever wanting to be anything other than a doctor! After completing his residency, he may want to do an obstetrics fellowship before he returns to his hometown of Cleveland, Mississippi, to practice. Bill enjoys boating, jogging, Tae Kwon Do, and motorcycling. He and his wife Christine are newlyweds.

Amy Shenkenberg (Texas Tech Univ.) - Amy is from Denver, Colorado. Her goal is to work in organized health care in the early part of her career; and, ultimately practice medicine in a rural community. Amy's husband, Craig, is a Captain in the Air Force, who will be stationed at Columbus, Mississippi. She enjoys aerobics, running, tennis, basketball, racketball and reading.

Angela Smelley (Univ. of Alabama) - is an Alabama native. Her small-town upbringing and friendship with their local family doctor factored into her decision to become a Family Medicine doctor. Angela's outside interests include photography, running, bench aerobics and cooking. Her husband, Tony, is the owner of NorthStar Paramedics Services.



New residents at orientation last summer posed with Dr. Armstrong in front of their first practice site, Capstone Medical Center, where they treat patients in Red Suite and Blue Suite family medicine clinics. **Front row:** Mike Stanfield, Lori Stanfield, Chelley Alexander, Angela Smelley, Rob Hankenhof, Rock Helms. **Second row:** Amy Shenkenberg, Bill McArthur, Mike Watkins, Eddie Dennard, Lon Haskell, Beau Freeman. **Back row:** Hugo (Rowdy) Valdes and Dr. Marc Armstrong, Residency Director.

Lori Stanfield (Univ. of Alabama) - is another Alabama native, hailing from Andalusia. After her residency is completed, she plans to return there to practice. Lori enjoys reading, playing the piano, boardgames, She and her husband, Mike (read on for more info), have a son, Avery.

Mike Stanfield (Univ. of Alabama) - the other Stanfield in the program! Mike, too, is a native Alabamian, born in Demopolis, raised in Albertville. Family is very important to Mike; and, he wants to practice and raise his own family in the same rural environment in which he was raised. He enjoys reading, golf, athletics in general, and spending time with his family (aforementioned wife, Lori, and son, Avery).

Hugo Valdes (LSU, New Orleans) - more commonly referred to as "Rowdy!" He was born and raised in New Orleans. Rowdy was attracted to Family Medicine because of the ability to establish long-term relationships with patients. He wants to practice medicine away from big city crime, traffic, smog and stress. His true passion is duck hunting; but he also enjoys fishing, watching ESPN and spending time with friends and family.

Mike Watkins (LSU, Baton Rouge) - is a native of Louisiana. He believes his true love for, and ability to get along with, people, plus the influence of his family's doctor shaped his decision to go into Family Medicine. In his spare time, Mike enjoys playing basketball, skiing, fishing, drawing, and reading. Additionally, we know from first-hand knowledge, Mike is a great cook (he prepared Cajun Pasta for last year's Christmas party!).

Note: Two (un)professional photo sheets-- new Residents and incoming Medical Students--are available from the Office of the Residency Program and Medical Student Affairs. On July 1, 27 third year medical students from the Birmingham campus of UASOM joined us for their clinical years. For additional information about the new group of Medical Students, check with **Mary Kay Hannah**, Program Assistant for Medical Student Affairs.

Chief Residents are **Martin Harvey, M.D. & Stuart Hendon, M.D.**

Committee Encourages Research by Faculty and Students

The CCHS Research Committee, chaired by **Elizabeth Rand, M.D.**, Chair of Psychiatry and Neurology, has recently completed a survey of research by CCHS faculty, residents, and students to identify and compile publications by members of the college. These are available in the Health Sciences Library. The Committee also awards research grants of up to \$2500 to tenure track faculty to support current research projects. Priority is given to applications from junior faculty, and grant requests will be reviewed after the next deadline, December 15, 1996.

The Research Committee also welcomes requests to reimburse travel expenses for medical students and residents who present research at a local or regional professional meeting. In

the spring the Research Committee accepts nominations for its annual research awards to one graduating medical student and one graduating family practice resident.

Other members of the Research Committee for 1996-97 are Dr. James **Leeper** and John **Wheat**, M.D., Behavioral and Community Medicine; Mike **Taylor**, M.D., Pediatrics; Elizabeth **Philp**, M.D., and Sam **Gaskins**, M.D., Family Medicine; Dr. Nancy **Rubin**, Psychiatry and Neurology; Lon **Haskell**, M.D., Resident 1; James **Parker**, MS4; Helvi **McCall**, Health Sciences Library; and the CCHS fiscal officer from the Dean's Office.

Note: Please request guidelines for research grants from Dr. Rand, Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology. Submit all publications to Helvi McCall for the research collection at the Health Sciences Library. Alumni are especially encouraged to share their research for this collection.

Third Year Medical Students Come to CCHS for Clinical Rotations

The Class of 1998, medical students who will spend their third and fourth clinical years at CCHS, arrived at Orientation in July. They shared some information about themselves for *OnRounds*:

Roderick Adams, Montgomery, Alabama, graduated from Harvard University in 1992. He has been interested in medicine since he was a small child, and he wants to pursue a career in primary care. He is single, and when asked about hobbies and interests, he said, "You mean there are medical students somewhere who still have those?!"

Sami Ali is from Mobile and graduated from Spring Hill College.

Wade Alverson, Pell City, Alabama, graduated from Auburn University in March, 1993. When he has time, he jogs and enjoys golf and tennis. Church and family are other interests. His wife's name is Beth.

Jennifer Burdette, Wetumka, Alabama, graduated from The University of Alabama in 1994. She and her husband Steve have a son named Andrew. She enjoys working with people and plans to go into family practice in Alabama. She has always been interested in science and medicine.

Karen Burgess, Orange Beach, Alabama, said she loved science and wanted to work with people. She graduated from The U of A in 1994. She likes to spend time with family, attend football games, read, and go to the beach.

Miranda Y. Edwards, Albany, Georgia, a 1994 graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, is interested in health care and serving the community through primary care. Her hobbies are music, shopping, and reading.

Jeremy Franklin, Montgomery, Alabama, plans to become a pediatrician. He graduated from UAB in 1994 and has a special interest in military history.

Kevin Scott Giadrosich of Birmingham, Alabama, graduated from UA in 1989 and became interested in medicine because it combines learning and working with people in a unique and rewarding way. He is engaged to Rebecca Henderson (below), and they plan to be married on January 4, 1997. His interests are conversation, reading, tennis, running, theology, and eating.

Dan Guralnick, Seattle, Washington, graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1994. Both parents are involved in health care and he enjoys science which led him into medicine. He plans to go into internal medicine and hopes to do a fellowship in sports medicine. He enjoys tennis and traveling.

Tara Haynes is from Montgomery, Alabama, and she graduated from The University of Alabama in 1993.

Rebecca Elizabeth Henderson of Birmingham graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee in 1994. She is interested in pediatrics, she says, because she wants to work with children. She is engaged to classmate Kevin Giadrosich and her interests are art, music, and movies.

Latonya James, a 1993 graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, is from Mobile and describes herself as "a people person." She likes to read, watch movies, and listen to music (especially jazz).

Dennis M. Jones, Cullman, Alabama, graduated from UAB in 1994 and chose medicine so he could combine his interest in science and working with people. His wife's name is Tracie.

Sara Kim graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1993 and she plans to enter internal medicine. She is from Birmingham, Alabama, and enjoys tennis, museums, dancing, and eating good food.

Patrick Lowe of Haleyville, Alabama, graduated from Samford University in Birmingham in 1993. His interests include photography, traveling, and backpacking.

Colin Marino from Tuscaloosa graduated from UA in 1992 and went into medicine to help people. His hobbies are competitive water skiing and karate.

Tamela Miles, a 1994 UAB graduate, is from Tuscaloosa.

Matti Palo is from Enterprise, Alabama, and graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee. He likes scuba diving, movies, eating out, weight lifting, and soccer.

Elizabeth (Libby) Sanders is married and graduated from Auburn in 1993.

David A. Smith is an Alabama football fan from Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He graduated from UA in 1994. He plans to go into pediatrics because he likes working with children. His hobbies are golf and tennis.

Sid Smith is from Texarkana, Texas, and became interested in medicine because his father is an internist. He thinks he will enter a surgical residency after graduation. He has a degree from Samford University, and his interests include hunting, fishing, golf, tennis, travel, and church.

Denise Stripling of Vernon, Alabama, graduated from UA in 1991. She is married and enjoys music, sports, and reading.

Stewart Tankersley, an Auburn graduate, is from Montgomery. He plans to go into surgery or obstetrics and calls medicine "the noblest of professions" ("if motives are true," he adds). He likes Auburn Football (with a capital F), basketball, tennis, and politics.

Jason Thurman from Nashville is a 1994 Vanderbilt University graduate.

Brian K. Wade is from Meridian Mississippi. He graduated from Birmingham-Southern College in 1994. He enjoys softball, golf, football, and most outside activities.



Third year medical students who will be at CCHS for two years of clinical rotations had their picture made with **Dr. Cathy Gresham**, Director of Medical Student Affairs, at orientation on July 1, 1996. **FRONT ROW:** Sami Ali, Miranda Edwards, Karen Burgess, Denise Stripling, Jennifer Burdette, Tamela Miles, Sara Kim. **SECOND ROW:** Dr. Gresham, Colin Marino, Rebecca Henderson, Dan Guralnick, David Smith, Tara Haynes (wearing pearls), Roderick Adams (standing between and slightly behind two women in second row), Libby Sanders, Brian Wade (between and slightly behind Libby and Latonya), Latonya James, Jeremy Franklin. **BACK ROW:** Jim Wallace, Wade Alverson, Sid Smith, Kevin Giadrosich, Stewart Tankersley, Dennis Jones, Jason Thurman, Bart Wood, Matti Palo, Patrick Lowe.

Bart Wood, Thorsby, Alabama, says he has always found medicine fascinating. He has wanted to be a doctor for as long as he can remember. He wants to practice in a rural area since he likes hunting and fishing. He also enjoys basketball and golf.

Note: Colin Marino is the Third Year Class Representative. The new Fourth Year Medical Student Class President is **Stephen Barnes**.

Dr. Koopman Will Give Annual Bahar Lecture in December

William J. Koopman, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Medicine at UAB, will present the annual *Natica Bahar Memorial Lecture* on December 13 at 12:15 p.m. His topic is "New Possibilities for Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis."

For more information or a schedule of future continuing medical education lectures, contact Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, (205) 348-0093.

CME Special Emphasis Weeks Planned

Osteoporosis and Psychiatry

Continuing Medical Education (CME) has scheduled two special emphasis weeks during the spring semester. Osteoporosis will be the topic of lectures January 20-24, 1997. During the week May 5-9, Psychiatry will be the focus.

"First Friday" Lectures Announced

The First Friday Arts and Letters series will present three special programs during spring semester, 1997.

February 7: "The Mars Rocks" **Gene Byrd**, PhD
Professor, Astronomy

March 7: "Women's Rights" **Martha Morgan**, J.D.
Professor, Law School

May 7: Performance **Cornelius Carter**, MFA
Assistant Professor
Theatre and Dance

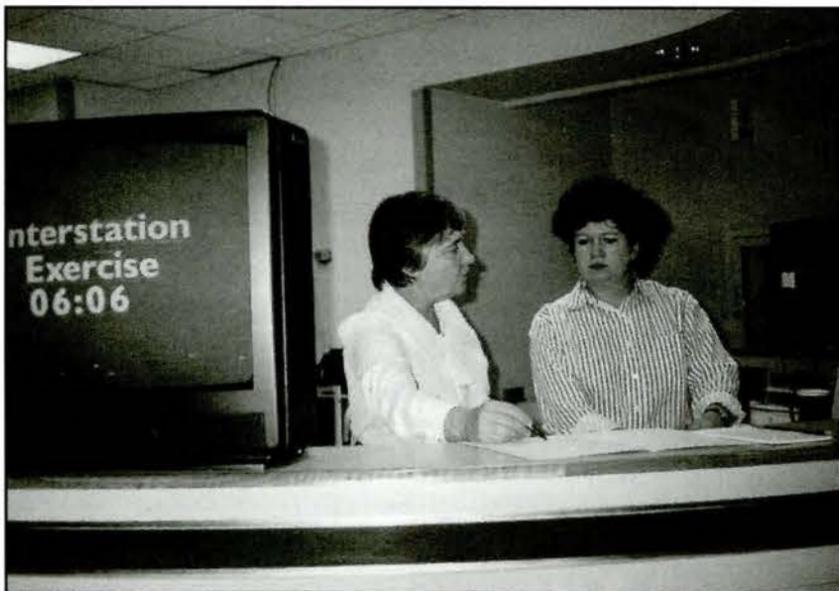


Pat Norton, standing with clipboard, watches as observers monitor on closed circuit televisions the standardized patient encounters with medical students during their clinical examination.

Right: CCHS senior medical student **April Butsch** completes an interstation exercise outside the patient room during her OSCE exam. **Dr. James Philp** looks on.



Below: **Dr. Elizabeth Philp**, left, and **Pat Norton** review the rotation of medical students through the exam stations during one of the ten-minute interstation periods. Eighteen standardized patients (nine on each hall) portrayed nine case histories during each OSCE testing session. A large TV monitor faced each hall, so students could gauge their time during interstation exercises. UASOM students from the Birmingham, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa campuses came to the OSCE testing site at the V.A. Medical Center in Tuscaloosa.



OSCE Uses Standardized Patients to Test Clinical Skills

Philp Field Tests for National Board of Medical Examiners

The 1996 Senior Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) was held in September at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tuscaloosa. All fourth year medical students from the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM) participated in this evaluation of their clinical skills: they were graded on their interpersonal skills and ability to communicate with patients, take histories, and examine patients. **Elizabeth Philp**, M.D., who developed the OSCE method of examination for UASOM, also collaborated with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to pilot using standardized patients in the licensure testing process.

Students progressed through nine 15-minute "stations" during a four-hour testing session. Each station, located in a patient room on a new and presently unoccupied hall at the V.A. hospital, presented a standardized patient (SP) simulating an illness or medical problem. Standardized patients were trained extensively before the OSCE to answer questions about their history and portray the physical or lifestyle ailment of the various cases being presented as part of the testing. All SP stations were videotaped and evaluators watching on individual monitors in a separate screening room graded the student's performance, using a checklist of essential items developed for each case.

During the ten-minute interval between patient encounters while SP's were completing checklists, the students read X-rays, charts, or EKG's and wrote prescriptions as part of their exam.

Pat Norton, M.L.S., Medical Education Project Coordinator in the CCHS Department of Family Medicine, worked with **Dr. Elizabeth Philp**, Associate Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS and UASOM Director of the OSCE, to recruit and train the standardized patients. Four of the stations were being pilot tested for the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). At these stations, medical students and standardized patients evaluated the process.

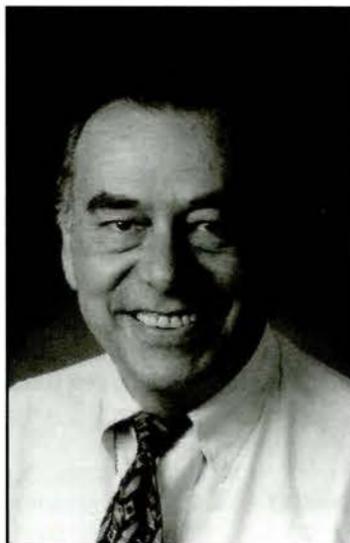
Daniel J. Klass, M.D., Director of the NBME Standardized Patient Project, complimented the work of Dr. Philp and her SP team in a letter to Dr. Philp. As the NBME plans for implementation of a performance-based test for patient-centered clinical skills, he said, "we are encouraged to discover that high quality SP programs exist in sites such as yours. . . . We very much look forward, therefore, to continuing to work with your program, and to enhancing our ability to implement a high quality test that uses standardized patients for national licensure."

Students may soon be required to pass the OSCE to receive NBME licensure. The starting date is projected for 1998-2002. The class of 1997 is the first for whom the OSCE results directly affect the outcome of their medical education. The UASOM Medical Education Committee has set up a remediation policy for students who did not pass the OSCE. "The remediation will be designed to address the student's specific weaknesses based on the OSCE and their third-year clerkship evaluations," said Dr. Philp.

Editor's Note: *The Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) is an annual project of the OSCE Committee of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Volunteers from the community and The University are recruited and trained as standardized patients. For more information, contact Dr. Elizabeth Philp or Pat Norton in Family Medicine, (205) 348-2880.*

Dr. Fair Joins Obstetrics and Gynecology Faculty

Paul D. Mozley, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, announces the appointment of **R.H. Fair**, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., as Assistant Professor of OB/GYN at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa Program. Dr. Fair has been in private practice in Mission Viejo, California, since 1972. He has served five terms as Chief of OB Services at Mission Hospital Medical Center and been a member of the Board of Directors of the hospital and Chief of Medical Staff. Dr. Fair earned his B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska. He completed his internship at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, and his OB/GYN residency at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. He was a research fellow in the Department of Anatomy during medical school and a research fellow during his residency as well. He has postgraduate continuing education in treatment of sexual dysfunction, microsurgery for restoration of fertility, cervical dysplasia, and laparoscopic surgical techniques.



R.H. Fair, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Fair and Sharon, his wife of 36 years, have two grown children living in California. Their daughter works in the movie industry in Hollywood, and their son works in a custom surfboard business. Mrs. Fair, an interior designer, is commuting to and from her business in Laguna Beach, California. They have bought an 1830 house in an historic district near the UA campus and plan to restore it. Dr. Fair's hobby is marlin fishing, and he often goes with friends to Key West or Mexico. His dream, he says, is to live in a grass shack on a Mexico beach.

Dr. Fair said he looks forward to teaching in a primary care program — "students make it worthwhile" — and he thinks there is great potential for research on maternal and child health in rural areas. He is particularly interested in interdisciplinary networking, delivery of medical care, educating community health care providers, and educating citizens in prevention. He cited the theme of a meeting of OB/GYN professors as one that coincides with his idea of medical education: "To learn, to care, to change."

Centor Appointed (from p. 1)

Dr. Barrett and Dr. Andrew Sorensen, the new president of The University of Alabama, have both expressed their desire "to position the College as a leading center for research in the practice of rural medicine and the training of physicians for rural practice."

"I feel very fortunate to be asked to take on this role," said Dr. Centor. "This is a wonderful opportunity to help steer the college toward the future." His charge is "to work with the CCHS faculty in refining and focusing the College's mission statement" and advise Dr. Barrett on "options for future directions of the college," according to her letter to faculty and staff announcing Dr. Centor's appointment.

Dr. Centor said he does not expect the mission to change but to become more explicit. When finalized, the mission statement will be presented to Dean Fallon and President Sorensen. The search for a dean has been suspended until the mission statement is in place.

Dr. Centor describes academics as a three-legged stool: teaching, research, and service. Our service in medical education is clinical, he says, but each leg of the stool must be equally strong. He sees CCHS as "uniquely situated to study the issues in rural medicine and training of primary care physicians."

"What's special is our location in the middle of a rural and underserved area. We need to make our service more efficient and build on the great strength in education that is here," said Dr. Centor. He sees his role as helping CCHS

CCHS Mission Statement Approved by Faculty

The revised draft of the CCHS mission statement was voted on by faculty and approved as follows:

The School of Medicine will provide the physicians and expertise needed for accessible, high quality and compassionate health care for the citizens of Alabama through education, research and service associated with the training of medical students and primary care physicians with a special emphasis on rural areas.

The mission statement has been presented by Dean Centor to UA President Andrew Sorensen and Provost Nancy Barrett and UASOM Dean Harold Fallon.

move in the right direction so that a new dean can come in to a medical school strong in all three areas.

Dr. Centor brings two particular strengths to his new role: he is himself a primary care physician and he grew up in a small town. He feels that his boyhood years in Marion, Virginia (a town of 8,000) gave him a feeling for rural communities and the culture of the South. He has also spent much of his career advocating for primary care education and he still sees patients as a primary care physician.

Prior to coming to UAB in 1993, Centor was professor and chairman of General Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia. During his 14 years at Virginia, he served for

three years as director of internal medicine education at St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond. Dr. Centor is author of numerous publications, and he is on the editorial board of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. He has been recognized for excellence in teaching at Virginia and UAB.

He earned his B.A. at the University of Virginia in and his M.D. at the Medical College of Virginia in 1975, later serving there as chief medical resident. He completed postdoctoral training in Preventive Medicine at Stanford and a renal research fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

Dr. Centor is "an addicted golfer." He and his wife have a daughter at Emory University and a 15-year-old son at home.

Dr. Byrd and Dr. Owings Join Family Medicine Faculty

Byrd Brings Pharmacy Expertise to CCHS

Debbie C. Byrd, Pharm. D., has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS. She is concurrently Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Practice for Auburn University School of Pharmacy in a special arrangement between the University of Alabama School of Medicine and the Auburn University School of Pharmacy. The shared pharmacy faculty member position supervises pharmacy students on rotation while assisting CCHS faculty, residents, and students with drug therapy.

"I am basically a consulting specialist like other specialists a family physician may call in on a case," said Dr. Byrd. "Pharmacology is one aspect of a physician's training, but it is my whole occupation. Drug therapy, medication interactions, and adverse drug reactions are my area of specialization. Patients who see several physicians and take medicines prescribed by different ones are particularly at risk for having drug interactions that may nullify the advantages of drug therapy or may even be dangerous."

Dr. Byrd is a 1994 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis, Tennessee, and completed a general residency in Pharmacy Practice at the Regional Medical Center in Memphis before entering the specialty residency at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Her primary care residency at the NIH gave her a chance to participate in a number of research projects including a study on herbal therapy use by outpatient clinic patients. Many of these patients had exhausted all traditional methods of treatment and were experimenting with alternatives while receiving medical services. Dr. Byrd is also helping to evaluate the use of vitamin K in outpatient management of anticoagulation. Her other research in progress includes study of psoriatic arthritis, automated therapeutic drug monitoring, and portable protime monitoring in a cardiology clinic.

While she was in the Washington D.C. area, she was an adjunct assistant professor of pharmacy at Howard University School of Pharmacy and taught Nursing Pharmacology in the Nurse Practitioner Department at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda. She also served as preceptor to pharmacy students and residents and lectured in Catholic University of America Baccalaureate Nursing Program.

Dr. Byrd is a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University where she was coach of the 1988-89 women's track team. She has umpired softball since she was 13 years old, and she reluctantly (given her joint appointment by two top SEC rivals) admits that she and her husband, Robert, are big University of Tennessee fans. When I interviewed her, they had just returned from a "victorious" [her addition to first draft] football weekend in Knoxville.

Dr. Byrd was always interested in health care, and she was attracted to clinical work in which she "teaches" patients and physicians about medications. She is "very impressed with the quality of physicians at CCHS," she said. "They show a warmth toward their patients, and the faculty put a lot of energy into teaching the students and residents that their patients are people, just like their own parents or grandparents."

This coincides with her own philosophy and personal goal: "I am very interested in patient education and would eventually like to set up a special clinic just for patients with compliance problems, those taking multiple medications, or those who need close monitoring due to drug interactions or frequent dosage changes." She also enjoys speaking to patient groups and the lay public about drug therapy.

Dr. Owings' Practice Experience Invaluable



Dr. Byrd

Dr. Owings

Dr. William Owings has practiced medicine for over 30 years. He has been a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians since 1965 and a Charter Fellow since 1973. He is past president of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, and he received the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. He belongs to the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Emergency Physicians. Modestly, he says of his decision to join the CCHS faculty full-time: "I have a few things I can teach residents and I want to do it while it is still fresh." Dr. Owings, a lifelong resident of Centreville, closed his practice of general surgery and family medicine on October 1 to join CCHS as Clinical Professor of Family Medicine.

Dr. Owings grew up in Bibb County and speaks of going with his father, "an old time country doctor who made house calls." He knew before he graduated from high school at age 16 that he wanted to be a doctor. He graduated from The University of Alabama and Tulane Medical School by the time he was 22, then trained in a surgical residency at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, Kansas, and served two years as a surgeon in the U.S. Army. Dr. Owings returned to Centreville to open his practice of general surgery and family medicine in 1965. He inherited many of his father's patients who had waited the two years since his father's 1963 retirement to become his patients.

Dr. Owings has been a CCHS preceptor and adjunct faculty member for over twenty years. One of his early trainees was Marc Armstrong, M.D., the first Resident at CCHS (in 1974) and now Director of the CCHS Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program at DCH. His respect for Dr. Owings is evident. "Bill Owings was the primary reason I came to Tuscaloosa to do my residency, and since my return [in 1995 to head the residency program], working with him has been one of the primary delights of being here," says Dr. Armstrong.

Dr. Owings said leaving his practice was a difficult decision, but he felt that his patients would be well cared for by the physicians now established in Bibb County. In an open letter to the people of the county published in the *Centreville Press*, he commended Hospital Administrator Terry Smith and the Hospital Board for vision and careful planning which had kept the county from sharing "the desperate plight of many rural counties of this state, without physicians or hospital."

"While I have been able to influence a limited number of medical students and residents through exposure to my current practice," he said, "there is now an urgent need for full-time teachers with recent, direct experience in rural practice to nurture and inspire them in their training. This is the task I have set for myself."

Dr. Owings is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He teaches courses in the management of trauma and casualties to military and civilian doctors worldwide.

"Bill Owings brings crucial skills and experience to our college at a time when our primary care mission is being re-emphasized in medical education. He has successfully practiced in a rural county for over thirty years, and he can share his commitment and expertise with young doctors who are needed in these communities," said Jerry McKnight, M.D., Chair of Family Medicine. "We are extremely fortunate to have him on this faculty. Students, residents, and patients will benefit now, and rural communities who recruit well-trained physicians from CCHS will benefit in the future."

Graduates Enter Family Practice



Family physicians graduating from the CCHS Family Practice Residency Program at DCH Regional Medical Center in June 1996 gathered for a last group photo before moving on to practice or further training. Their next practice sites are listed after their names. **SEATED:** Tracy Ray, Sports Medicine fellowship at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio; Barbara Geater, joining Walter Rentrop, M.D., in private practice in Memphis, TN; Jeffrey Mathis, Montgomery Family Medicine in Montgomery, AL; Angela Powell, entering an OB fellowship here at CCHS; Gary Fowler, Carraway Family Medicine, Winfield, AL; and Donna Dillard, Cahaba Family Medicine, Pelham, AL.

STANDING: Judson Smith, joining Birdsong, Keating, and Smith Family Health Associates, Jasper, AL; Keith Morgan, Guntersville Arab Medical Center, Arab, AL; Dan Moore, Elberta Clinic, Elberta, AL; Douglas Woodward, DCH Regional Medical Center Emergency Room; Wade Richardson, Scott & White Clinic, College Station, TX; Matt Porter, Scott & White Clinic, Waco, TX; Rick Graves, Montgomery Family Clinic, Montgomery, AL; and David Elliott, Baptist Health Center Medical Clinic, Hayleyville, AL.



Dr. Marc Armstrong (right), Family Practice Residency Director, talks with 1996 Graduation speaker William Curry, M.D., of Carrollton. Dr. Curry, an advocate for primary care, serves as preceptor and adjunct faculty member.



Dr. Jeff Mathis (center), a 1996 graduate won the William F. DeShazo, M.D. Family Practice Award for outstanding performance during his residency training. He is congratulated at graduation by Jerry McKnight, M.D., (left) CCHS Chairman of Family Medicine, and Dr. Bill DeShazo, Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine, for whom the honor is named. Story on Page 1.

OnRounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

OnRounds is published with the assistance of the Lister Hill Society. The Lister Hill Society, named in honor of the late U.S. Senator from Alabama who worked for better health care for all citizens, is the voluntary support group for the College of Community Health Sciences. The focus of this branch of the University of Alabama School of Medicine is community medicine and primary care, especially in the preparation of family physicians to care for patients in rural areas.

Contributions from alumni and friends to the Lister Hill Society fund cash awards to outstanding medical students and residents, special projects, student travel to medical meetings, alumni publications, research expenses, and library information.

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1996 Lister Hill Donors will be listed in the Winter issue of *OnRounds*. Please send contributions to CCHS, Lister Hill Society, P.O. Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487. For more information, call Vicki Johnson in the Dean's office, (205) 348-0093.

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