Curry Named CCHS Dean

William A. Curry, MD, FACP, has been named Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences. The appointment, effective July 1, 1998, was made by the University of Alabama School of Medicine Dean William Deal, MD, and Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President of The University of Alabama. With the appointment, Curry also becomes Associate Dean of UASOM for Tuscaloosa and Rural Programs. Dr. Curry had been Chair of Internal Medicine Senior Associate Dean at CCHS, and Assistant Dean for Rural Medicine for UASOM, and he has just completed a term as President of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA). Dr. Curry was a CCHS adjunct professor for 17 years while practicing internal medicine in rural Pickens County, his home. Dr. Curry graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Alabama where he was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honorary and a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship. He earned his MD at Vanderbilt and was inducted to the Alpha Omega Alpha national medical honorary. After completing an internal medicine residency at Vanderbilt University where he served as Chief Resident, he declined the opportunity to join Vanderbilt’s faculty because he wanted to practice medicine in a small town. He was CCHS Preceptor of the Year in 1984; and in 1993, he was elected to membership in the Carl Elliott Society at UA. He was president of the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine, and he has also been in numerous leadership roles with MASA prior to his presidency, chairing committees on access to health care and MASA activities related to primary care. He also led a joint task force.

CCHS Alum Jimmie Clark Wins Parke-Davis Award for Teaching from AAFP Foundation

Jimmie Clark, MD, MPH, a graduate of the CCHS Family Practice Residency, has been chosen by the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation to receive the 1998 Parke-Davis Teacher Development Award. She is one of 12 recipients from across the U.S.

Dr. Clark, who is in private practice in Tuscaloosa with CCHS alumni and former faculty member Dr. Cindy Dedmon, receives a cash award in appreciation for her commitment to family practice and future family physicians.

Dean Coggins Wins ACP Laureate Award

Former Dean Wilmer J. Coggins, MD, FACP, received the Laureate Award from the American College of Physicians at the June 12 meeting of the Alabama Chapter of ACP in Orange Beach, Alabama. Generally presented to senior physicians who have long-standing, acknowledged excellence and peer approval in the field of internal medicine, the Laureate Award honors Fellows and Masters of the American College of Physicians who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research, and service.

Dr. Coggins served as Dean of CCHS from 1980 until his retirement in 1991. He instituted the faculty practice plan at Capstone and obtained outside funding to initiate problem-based learning techniques and OSCE’s (Objective structured clinical examinations) for medical students.
Dr. Rubin Collaborating on Research Projects

Nancy Rubin, PsyD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, has an article in press in Medical Education. She and Elizabeth Philp, MD, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, have written "Health Care Perceptions of the Standardized Patient" about their on-going research.

In July, she and Dr. Rubin will make a poster presentation on this research at the 8th Ottawa International Conference on Medical Education and Assessment in Philadelphia. The poster will include the 4-year data in a 5-year study on the effect of being a standardized patient on perception of one's own health care.

Rubin is also preparing an article for Southern Medical Journal on "Abuse History: Is it Really Important in the Medical Encounter?"

Dr. Rubin is Principal Investigator for two empirical studies on defense mechanisms, one in patients with anxiety and depression and the other in patients with borderline personality disorder and obsessive-compulsive personality disorder. She is working with Drs. Rand and Lacy in the Dept. of Psychiatry and Dr. Karina Davidson in the UA Dept. of Psychology. She is also doing empirical research studies related to factitious disorder in primary care.

In a study in Blue Suite, she is collaborating with Dr. Elizabeth Philp of Family Medicine and Jim Hamilton, PhD, of the Psychology Dept. The study is a pilot for one in Red Suite for which NIMH funding has been sought.

In other projects, she is collaborating with Psychology faculty: Dr. Ben Thorn on the role of pain in memory; and with Dr. Lani Greening and pediatric faculty members, Drs. Evans, Cockrum, and Taylor, on diabetes and eating disorders in adolescent patients.

Phlip, Rand Win UA Grants

Elizabeth Philp, MD, and Elizabeth Rand, MD, have received research grant awards from The UA Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Dr. Philp's research project is "Family Physician Compliance with Established Pap Smear Guidelines." Dr. Rand's project is "Systems Issues in Multi-provider Mental Health Care." The RAC grant awards are for a two-year period beginning April 1, 1998.

Health Sciences Librarians Serve as Officers in Professional Groups


How Race and Gender of Patient Affected Counseling During OSCE

Elizabeth Philp, M.D., and two CCHS researchers, Pat Norton and Julia Hartman, will present information from OSCE research at in July. Their study analyzes information from surveys and observations of medical students and standardized patients during last year's Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCE). OSCE is an annual evaluation of all third-year medical students at UASOM. Research by Philip, Norton, and Hartman for this presentation deals with how patient counseling differed when delivered to a male or a female, and whether race of the patient was a factor in how the patient perceived communication skills.

Two identical circuits of nine stations were used to assess the clinical skills of third-year medical students in encounters of trained standardized patients. For example, it was determined that the patient's race influenced the counseling method in which the student counsels a patient on child safety -- the "parent" was male in one circuit and female on the other circuit. Philip's study examined whether gender of the patient influenced the amount of information conveyed during the OSCE clinical encounter.

In station two, students were asked to perform a mental status exam on patients with signs of dementia. On one circuit the "patient" was African American, and at the same station on the other circuit, the "patient" was Caucasian. This study looked at whether the patient's race influenced the patient's perception of the student's ability to communicate effectively.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Capstone is using sophisticated 3-D ultrasound to sound high risk pregnancies and connect the images to the internet to consult with national or international experts on procedures to improve outcomes for mothers and their babies. The machine which makes it all possible, the Aloka SD-1700, is the first in Alabama and one of only a few in this country, according to CCHS Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Thomas McHattie, MD.

Dr. McHattie, who started practicing in Canada 20 years ago, used one of the first ultrasound machines and has extensive experience in obstetric ultrasound. An external probe and computer software generate detailed images on a monitor, so parents-to-be can see facial structure, even the baby's eyes blinking, and gender.

Physicians can check for problems and determine severity of conditions that require medical attention.

The amazing technology has brought media attention to the Capstone and Dr. McHattie who has been interviewed and photographed for news articles by Birmingham and Tuscaloosa newspapers and all the television stations in the Birmingham area. UA News Services writer Linda Hill said CNN had expressed interest in doing a segment on it.

Dr. Dr. Rand Contributes Chapter for Book on Mental Health Research

Elizabeth Rand, MD, co-authored with Dr. Lee Badger "Mood Disorders," a chapter in the 1998 textbook Advances in Mental Health Research, Williams and Ell, eds. NASW Press.

Pharmacy Training Programs at CCHS Benefit Residents, Patients

Charles Taylor, PharmD, and Debbie Byrd, PharmD, both Auburn University of School of Pharmacy faculty based at CCHS, and FM Assistant Professor Bobbie Adcock, MD, are developing a pharmacotherapy curriculum for first year family practice residents. Problem-solving related to actual patient cases and weekly meetings during the 6-month course emphasize evidence-based medicine and incorporate medication management principles.

A grant from Pfizer underwrites their efforts.

Dr. Byrd and Dr. Taylor have also launched a Primary Care Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at CCHS. Since very few residencies in specialized pharmacy practice are available, this new rural-based residency in primary care pharmacy practice will provide a unique one-year training period for post doctoral study. Chelsea Church, PharmD, from Oklohoma, the first resident in the program begins in July, 1998, and will focus on practice in rural clinics and with rural physicians, especially family physician Diane Schilling in Pickens County.

Dr. Byrd and Taylor are also supervising their students in poster presentations on medication issues as part of a Medication Awareness program.

Rare Technology Available at Capstone OB/GYN Dept.

An article by Family Medicine faculty Robert Ireland, PharmD, and Debbie Tyred, PharmD, both Auburn University of School of Pharmacy faculty based at CCHS, and FM Assistant Professor Bobbie Adcock, MD, are developing a pharmacotherapy curriculum for first year family practice residents. Problem-solving related to actual patient cases and weekly meetings during the 6-month course emphasize evidence-based medicine and incorporate medication management principles. A grant from Pfizer underwrites their efforts.
CCHS Recognizes Medical Graduates at Honors Convocation

Graduating medical students at CCHS were recognized on May 15 at the 1998 Honors Convocation at the Four Points-Sheraton in Tuscaloosa. Departmental and special awards were announced as 24 graduates were recognized. Cathy Gresham, MD, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of Medical Student Affairs, convened the awards ceremony, and Denise Stripling, class president, introduced the guest speaker. Dean Emeritus, James A. Pittman, Jr., MD, addressed the graduating class at the 22nd Honors Convocation for students at CCHS.

The William R. Willard Award, the Dean’s Award, was presented to Karen Burgess, MD. This singular recognition is awarded annually to a senior medical student for outstanding contributions to the goals and mission of the college. Denise Stripling, MD, received the James H. Akers Memorial Award, chosen by members of the graduating senior class and given annually to the Tuscaloosa senior who best personifies both the art and the science of the practice of medicine.

Jason Thurman, MD, received the Scholastic Achievement Award for the highest grade point average during the clinical years at CCHS. CCHS third year medical students Peter Chang and Chad Hamner were recognized for their election to the national medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha. (See article, p. 8.)

Melissa Behringer, MD, a family physician in Centreville, received the 1998 Community Medicine Preceptor Award presented annually by the Behavioral & Community Medicine Department. She was at CCHS for her clinical years of medical school, graduated from the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency, and is now an adjunct faculty member. This award, for teaching excellence and dedication, honors the preceptor who exemplifies the principles of community/rural medicine in practice. (Continued, p. 3.)

Karen Burgess, MD, received the “Student of the Year” award from the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. The Larry Mayes Memorial Scholarship Award, which provides assistance for work in an underserved area of this country or any country, was presented to a CCHS student this year, MSIII Sara LeStougeon. The award is given by the Mayes family in memory of Larry Mayes, a CCHS medical student who died in 1986 during rotation in Africa shortly before his graduation.

Three teaching awards were presented by the graduating class. Eugene Marsh, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology in the Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology, was recognized for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during the class’s junior year. The graduates presented the Patrick McCue Award for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during the class’s senior year to Lee Thomas, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery. Lisa Sward, MD, received the Resident Recognition Award for outstanding teaching.

Graduates of the University of Alabama School of Medicine completing medical school at the Tuscaloosa Program are: Roderick Adams, MD, Sami Ali, MD, Wade Alverson, MD, Karen Burgess, MD, Miranda Edwards, MD, Jeremy Franklin, MD, Kevin Giadrosich, MD, Rebecca Giadrosich, MD, Daniel Guralnick, MD, Tara Haynes, MD, Latonya James, MD, Dennis Jones, MD, Patrick Lowe, MD, Colin Martin, MD, Tamela Miles, MD, Matti Palo, MD, David Smith, MD, Sid Smith, MD, Denise Stripling, MD, Stewart Tankersley, MD, Jason Thurman, MD, Brian Wade, MD, Jim Wallace, MD, and Bart Wood, MD.

Melissa Behringer, MD, (left) with Rural Medical Scholar Terri Gottline, who shadowed her this year to learn more about rural practice. Dr. Behringer was named Community Preceptor of the Year by the Department of Behavioral and Community Medicine. The award recognizes dedication to teaching and being a practicing family physician who personifies the best aspects of community/rural medical practice. Dr. Behringer is a former CCHS medical student and 1994 graduate of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency, completed the OB Fellowship following her residency. She entered private practice in Bibb County in 1995 and serves as adjunct faculty in the Department of Family Medicine.

The Robert F. Gloor Memorial Award for excellence in Behavioral and Community Medicine was presented to Karen Burgess, MD, (left) and Miranda Edwards, MD, (right) by John Wheal, MD, Associate Professor of Community Medicine.

Assistant Professor of Family Medicine Bobbi Adcock, MD, presents the Family Medicine Departmental Award to Dennis Jones, MD, who was selected by the family medicine faculty as outstanding student.

Departmental Awards

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<tr>
<th>Behavioral &amp; Community Medicine</th>
<th>Karen Burgess</th>
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<td>Medicine Robert F. Gloor Award</td>
<td>Miranda Edwards</td>
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<td>Family Medicine Award</td>
<td>Dennis Jones</td>
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<td>Internal Medicine Award</td>
<td>Matti Palo</td>
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<td>Finner/Akers Award</td>
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<td>Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</td>
<td>Karen Burgess</td>
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<td>Pediatrics Award</td>
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<td>Peter Bryce Award</td>
<td>Karen Burgess</td>
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<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<td>Surgery Award</td>
<td>Denise Stripling</td>
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On ROUNDS • 3 • Summer 1998
Rural Health Scholars from Across the State at UA for Sixth Summer Program

The sixth annual Rural Health Scholars class was held this summer at the UA College of Community Health Sciences. The 28 high school students from rural Alabama arrived at The University of Alabama on June 7 for a 5-week summer session in which they experienced a taste of college life and learned more about health careers in rural areas. Rural Health Scholars, who will be seniors in the fall at high schools across the state, took two courses for college credit - EH200 (Creative Writing) and Chemistry 104 (which includes a chemistry lab). They also toured the University of South Alabama's medical school and made a field trip to Bibb, Fayette, or Pickens county to observe rural health providers.

Rural Health Scholars are chosen based on academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, and interest in rural health care. Three 1993 Rural Health Scholars (the first RHS class) - Kris Cummings, Joey Gasson, and Katie Powell - start medical school in July.

Future M.D.'s in Rural "Pipeline" Make Field Trip to Macon County

Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) will tell you that more physicians are needed in rural underserved areas of Alabama. WIFE has supported the efforts of Dr. John Wheat, Associate Professor of Community Medicine at The University of Alabama, to establish rural scholar programs that identify and encourage rural students who want to become physicians in rural areas.

In April, WIFE members in Macon County, Alabama, hosted a field trip for UA's Rural Medical Scholars who are entering the UA School of Medicine in July. The scholars are completing a year of study at UA about primary care in rural areas. The focus of the trip was health and medical needs, and rural residents told them about occupational hazards from first-hand experience. The students also toured Tallassew Hospital and met with Mike Peaden, a local family physician and alumnus of the Tuscavoska Family Practice Residency.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program enrolls outstanding rural students (college graduates or undergraduates in their senior year) for coursework and practicums related to primary care and rural practice in the year prior to matriculation to medical school. Members of the 98-99 RMSP class were selected (see related article next page) June 17, as the Rural Medical Scholars above prepared to join 96-97 RMS class members who are already at the UA School of Medicine. The RMS program maintains contact and provides peer support activities for scholars throughout medical training.

Other components of the "pipeline" are summer field work and rural research options for students at all levels, an interim course for Rural Health Scholars and other rural students during college years at UA, rural rotations for medical students and family practice residents at CCHS, a required community medicine rotation for all UASOM students, a fellowship in rural medicine, and a physician residency and retention effort conducted by the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board with UA, UASOM, other medical training programs, the state health department, other state agencies, and Alabama communities.
Emergency Medical Series 1998

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Michael Robards, M.D.</td>
<td>Acute Renal Failure</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>George Nunn, M.D.</td>
<td>Trauma to the Chest</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>David Hefelfinger, M.D.</td>
<td>Fluids and Electrolytes</td>
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<td>William Carey, M.D.</td>
<td>Hypertension Emergencies</td>
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<td>Steve Lovelady, M.D.</td>
<td>Airway Management</td>
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<td>Stephen Ikard, M.D.</td>
<td>Orthopaedic Emergencies</td>
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<td>Keith Debell, M.D.</td>
<td>DKA and Related Emergencies</td>
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<td>John Mantele, M.D.</td>
<td>Treatment of AIDS</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Ross Vaughn, M.D.</td>
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<td>A. B. Reddy, M.D.</td>
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<td>Omar Smith, M.D.</td>
<td>Urological Emergencies</td>
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<td>Charles Nevels, M.D.</td>
<td>Psychiatric Emergencies I</td>
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<td>Charles Nevels, M.D.</td>
<td>Psychiatric Emergencies II</td>
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August

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Steve Lovelady, M.D.</td>
<td>Trauma Patients with Multiple Injuries</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>James Shotts, M.D.</td>
<td>ENT Emergencies</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Ashley Evans, M.D.</td>
<td>Pediatric Seizures</td>
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<td>David Rice, M.D.</td>
<td>Respiratory Failure</td>
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<td>George Kudlafka, M.D.</td>
<td>Eye Emergencies</td>
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<td>Albert White, M.D.</td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Thomas McHattie, M.D.</td>
<td>OB-GYN Emergencies</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Thomas Scott, M.D.</td>
<td>Allergy Emergencies</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>John Wains, M.D.</td>
<td>Acute Abdomen</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>S. B. Sundar, M.D.</td>
<td>Lower GI Bleeding</td>
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Continuing Medical Education credit is available. CME lectures are held in the Willard Auditorium on the first floor of the UA Educational Tower at DCH Regional Medical Center, beginning at 12:15 p.m. For more information, contact Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, 205/348-4095.

Date

Rural Health Board and Family Health Care of Alabama Work Together in Lead Agency Role

CCHS has been actively working with officials of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and leaders in Alabama health circles to help organize the state’s proposal for a special grant to improve access to health care in the rural South. Only eight southern states are eligible to apply, and only one application from each state will be accepted. Alabama’s proposal for RWJ Foundation funds under the Southern Rural Access Grant Program will be a joint effort led by the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board and Family Health Care of Alabama. An agreement between the two brings the strengths of each to the lead agency role.

Family Health Care of Alabama has a strong record of service to the disadvantaged rural population in West Alabama, a record which has provided influence among national foundations, the Public Health Service, and community health centers. The Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board, created by the state legislature, has statewide representation with members appointed by the Governor, leaders of both houses of the state legislature, and community health centers.

On June 25, the Alabama Extension Service convened a planning meeting for Stakeholders associated with the Alabama Rural Health Board and Family Health Care of Alabama. The meeting was a joint effort led by the Alabama Academy of Family Practice to identify stakeholders and to facilitate the application process. Dr. Wheat worked with Mary B. Carter of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to prepare the application for Alabama Extension Service.

Since only one proposal per state will be considered, it was critical that a strong partnership be forged at the outset, said Dr. John Wheat of CCHS, who has been active in the process to identify stakeholders and to facilitate the application process. Dr. Wheat worked with Mary B. Carter of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to prepare the application for Alabama Extension Service.

For more information, contact Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, 205/348-4095.
New Residents Start in Family Practice at CCHS

First year residents in the Family Practice Residency arrived in Tuscaloosa at the end of June to begin a three-year training program.

Ashley Burchfield, a Tuscaloosa native, received her M.D. from UASOM. She is particularly interested in obstetrics and may be interested in doing OB Fellowship after her residency. Ashley and her husband, Ron, have a son, Heath Alexander, born in January.

Kris Citty, an Arkansas native, received his M.D. in May from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. He has always wanted to be a physician like his father, Jim. He credits his father’s abilities, patience, and compassionate nature for shaping the kind of physician he wants to be. Kris and his wife Jenny have one daughter, Kizzie.

Brad Gaspard is a Louisiana native. He received his M.D. from LSU – New Orleans in May. Brad and his wife Robin married in April and spent their honeymoon in England. He enjoys golf, skiing, horseback riding, playing guitar, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Sharon Hill, an Alabama native, received her M.D. in June from the University of South Alabama in Mobile. Her extracurricular activities have included volunteering at a local shelter for abused women and children and tutoring at local children’s home. Sharon wants her residency experience to include advanced obstetrical training.

Natasha Harder is from Tennessee. She received her M.D. in June from the UT College of Medicine in Memphis. She has always known she wanted to be a physician and, for the most part, knew she wanted to be a family physician. Natasha grew up in a small town and wishes to return to one to practice after her residency.

Tara Haynes has been a medical student at CCHS for the past two years. She received her M.D. from UASOM in May. She is an Alabama native, born in Montgomery but reared on a farm in a very small town. She believes this rural life and a very close family inspired her to be a family physician. Tara Haynes graduated from the University of Alabama College of Education and received her M.D. in May from the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Steve Roberts, a Kentucky native, graduated in May from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. He has always wanted to be a rural physician and a very close family physician. Tara Haynes married her M.D. in May from the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Ben, who has an impressive record in football himself, and his wife Leigh Anne are avid Crimson Tide football fans. Ben’s brother, Paul, starts at center for UA.

Bobby Jones is a Mississippi native who graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in May. His interest has always been in rural medicine and he intends to return to a rural area to practice after residency.

Mike Kelly, another Alabama native, graduated from UASOM in 1994. Mike did a Navy internship in Internal Medicine prior to serving with the Marines where he has been stationed in Hawaii. He and his wife, Traci, and their two sons are happy to be back home in Alabama.

Gloria Morgan, from Puerto Rico, received her M.D. in May from Ponce School of Medicine. Prior to going to medical school, Gloria taught intermediate and advanced courses in math and English integrates with computer science. After completing her residency, she wants to practice clinical medicine and would enjoy teaching. Gloria and her husband, Mark, have four sons.

Dr. Coggins is the current Dean of the CCHS, and his wife, Dr. Glenda Coggins, is a retired dean of the CCHS.

Curry Named Dean... (from p. 1)

Laureate Award... (from page 1)

These methods, piloted at CCHS, are now used with students from all three campuses of UASOM.

Dr. Coggins, born and reared in Madison, Florida, graduated from Georgia Military Academy and completed medical school at Duke University. His residency training was in internal medicine at Georgetown University Medical Center and the University of Florida. He and his wife, Dr. Deborah Coggins, were in private practice together in Florida for seven years prior to joining the faculty of the University of Florida to become Director of the General Medicine Clinic and later became Director of the University Health Service. He and colleagues conducted a major study of long-term heavy users of marijuana and studied diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of infectious diseases related to similar programs in mental health, suicide prevention, and prevention of substance abuse. Dr. Coggins also participated in a medical school project in rural health sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in which medical students received outpatient training in rural clinics.

Dr. Coggins was inducted into the Florida Blue Key, an honorary society for students, alumni, and faculty of the University of Florida and received the Ruth Boynton Award for distinguished service from the American College Health Association. He is a consultant to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Health Resources and Services Administration in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. He is Dean Emeritus of CCHS and Professor Emeritus in the Dept. of Internal Medicine. He continues to serve as President of the Lister Hill Society, a voluntary association which supports CCHS.

Dr. Coggins and his wife, Deborah Coggins, MD, are parents of five children. Since his retirement, Dr. Coggins travels extensively.
We Knew You When

Looking at the CCHS album...

In its first 25 years, CCHS has seen a number of former students, residents, and faculty go on to leadership positions in medical education, particularly family medicine training programs across the country. One of the first family medicine faculty members at CCHS, who helped launch the college and served as associate dean, Russ Anderson, MD, is now Chair of Family Medicine at LSU. In a recent phone visit, Dr. Anderson recalled other physicians with CCHS roots who are leaders in medical education. One who is nearby is Rick Streiffer, MD, a 1980 residency graduate, now Chair of Family and Community Medicine at Tulane. He also mentioned former medical student George Kaiser, MD, who is Chair of Family Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Former resident Jerry McKnight, MD, is Chair of Family Medicine here at CCHS; and the first resident in the CCHS program (in 1974), Marc Armstrong, MD, is now Director of the Family Practice Residency. Former CCHS family medicine faculty members, Paul Teitze, MD, and Alan Maxwell, MD, who worked here with Dr. Anderson and Dr. McKnight, are also in positions of authority. Dr. Teitze is Chair of Family Medicine at the University of Oklahoma, Tulsa; and Dr. Maxwell is Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs at the University of Kentucky.

Notes from Alums

Randall Weaver, MD, (’94 residency grad) is medical director of Family Health Care of Alabama, which has 23 clinics serving west and central Alabama. Family Health Care recently merged with West Alabama Health Services based in Eutaw to form Family Health Care of Alabama. Dr. Weaver practices at the Rockford Family Health Center in Coosa County. Sandral Hullett, MD (’79) is Health Services Director of Family Health Care of Alabama. Her practice is at the clinic in Eutaw.

Mike Peaden, MD, (’92 residency grad) a busy family physician in Tallassee, took time to visit with the Rural Medical Scholars on their field trip to Shorter and Tallassee in April. A Florida native, Dr. Peaden said he chose to practice in a small town where he could make an impact.

Kelly Hunter, MD, a 1995 residency graduate in practice in Anniston, will serve as a member of the faculty for the new family practice residency program at Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center in Anniston, the ninth family practice residency program in the state. Neal Camup, MD, will be program director. The first residents begin in July, 1999.

Brent McLarty, MD, a 1997 residency graduate practicing in Pickens County, will take over the family practice of Dr. Robbins in Aliceville when Dr. Robbins returns home to Nova Scotia.

Bobbi Adcock, MD, (1991 Residency grad) and Robert Ireland, MD, (1984 Residency grad), both new members of the CCHS Family Medicine faculty, co-authored one of the top four articles in American Family Physician in 1997. More than 100 articles by family physician authors were judged for editorial presentation, including tables and illustrations; scientific substance; originality; and relevance to family practice. Their article, "Secondary Hypertension: A Practical Diagnostic Approach" appeared in the March 1997 issue.
Honors and Awards for CCHS Faculty and Students

CCHS Medical Students Elected to AOA
Peter Chang and Chad Hamner, third year medical students at CCHS, have been elected to the prestigious medical honorary Alpha Omega Alpha. Election to AOA is a distinction that accompanies a physician throughout his or her career. Scholastic excellence is a key criterion (only the students in the top quartile of their class are eligible for election), but capacity for leadership, compassion, and fairness in dealing with one's colleagues are also considered by AOA chapters when electing new members. The honorary promotes scholarship and research in medical schools, encourages a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and recognizes high attainment in medical science, practice, and related fields.

Alpha Omega Alpha is the only national honor medical society in the world. Founded by William Webster Root and five other medical students in Chicago in 1902, there are 123 active chapters in the U.S. and Canada. The tenets of the society are a modern interpretation of the Hippocratic oath: "It is the duty of the members to foster the scientific and philosophical features of the medical profession, to look beyond self to the welfare of the profession and of the public, to cultivate social mindedness, as well as individualistic attitude toward responsibilities, to show respect for colleagues, especially for elders and teachers, to foster research and in all ways to ennoble the profession of medicine and advance it in public opinion...."

CCHS Rural Health Scholar Wins National Honor Scholarship
Kris Cummings, 1993 Rural Health Scholar and later an RHIS counselor from Chilton County High School, has been awarded a Golden Key National Honor Society scholarship for study in medical education. Only ten awards are made nationally each year. He entered medical school in July at UAB. Kris maintained a 4.0 grade point average at UA, earning his degree in biology in May. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa, received the Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar Award in the College of Arts and Sciences, and was named the outstanding graduating senior in the Department of Biological Sciences. He served as president of the Golden Key National Honor Society, and he is in numerous honoraries including Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. He has been active during college in community service organizations and was a founding member of the Rural Health Student Association.

Clarks Wins Award (from p.1)
of the family medicine specialty, was the first dean of CCHS and promoted the study of community medicine as an important part of physician training.

"Enthusiastic and competent preceptors like Jimmie Clark are the essential component of training in community medicine," said Wheat. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Clark received her MD degree from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and completed the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency in 1995. She then earned her Master's in Public Health from UAB. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians Student Interest Task Force.

OnRounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

The College of Community Health Sciences is a clinical branch campus of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Established in 1972, CCHS emphasizes family practice and the other primary care disciplines and provides a sound basic medical education for all medical students assigned to this campus. CCHS also trains family doctors through a three-year family practice residency program to meet the urgent need for family physicians. A primary focus of the CCHS mission is seeking solutions for rural health care problems in Alabama.

OnRounds is published quarterly by The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences to keep alumni and friends informed of CCHS news and issues that affect this medical school and its graduates. Please send address changes and information to OnRounds, College of Community Health Sciences, Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0326. Contributions are welcomed and will be included as space permits. Contact the editor at (205) 348-1302.

Linda Jackson
Senior Associate Dean

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