

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 8, Number 4

Fall 1998

Dean Curry Outlines Four Major Initiatives for CCHS

In First Joint Meeting of All Faculty and Staff

William A. Curry, MD, F.A.C.P., who became Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences on July 1, 1998, addressed an unprecedented joint meeting of faculty and staff on September 11 in the William R. Willard Auditorium to share his vision for CCHS and his 3-year goals.

Dr. Curry's 3-Year Initiatives

- New Facility to House all of CCHS
- Sustaining/Developing Clinical Program
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Technology Advancement

Reiterating the CCHS mission -- *to educate and train medical students and family practice residents; to provide services to patients that enable medical education to take place; and to engage in research to support educational goals and service to rural Alabama* -- Dr. Curry expressed his deep sense of the "great tradition and serious responsibility" he shares with all those present in upholding a powerful heritage of medical education.

"As I have met and worked with you, I am impressed with your dedication to the work of the college, your loyalty, your skills, and your openness to new methods and technology," said Dean Curry. "Indeed, it is your commitment, skills, and energy as a faculty and staff that will enable us to take our next steps. I am excited to be here, I am honored to be your dean, and I am ready to join you in getting to work -- to create a future that meets the needs of our students and the citizens of Alabama."

A Vision for CCHS

In the year 2001, CCHS will be providing quality education, expanded research, leadership in rural community health, and an excellent multi-disciplinary clinical practice in a new facility, managed effectively using advanced technology. We will be respected throughout Alabama as a place to visit, to work, to study, and to support financially.

-Dr. William Curry, Dean

The complete text of Dean Curry's remarks as well as summaries of it are available from the Dean's office. Call Shirley Florence at 348-7707. E-mail: sflorenc@cchs.ua.edu

Dr. Blum to Fill Gerald Wallace Endowed Chair of Family Medicine

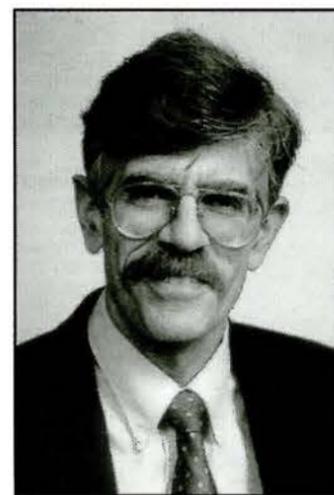
Professor **Alan Blum, MD**, one of the nation's foremost authorities on tobacco and its effects on society, renowned family medicine educator, practitioner and innovator, will join the CCHS faculty by early summer of 1999 as first chairholder of the newly created Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine.

Dr. Blum has spent the past ten years as a clinician and teacher of family medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. In 1977, he founded DOC (Doctors Ought to Care), a national non-profit organization assisting in school health education and in community health promotion through the mass media. He also created an International Tobacco Archive, one of the world's largest resources on tobacco problems. Dr. Blum is developing a Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society for instruction, research, and service. He is committed to instructional components for professional education and public education, and to an international research program that is a Collaborating Center for the World Health Organization.

Dr. Blum has received numerous awards for his work including the first "Smoke Free American Award" presented by C. Everett Koop; the first "National Public Health Award" from the American Academy of Family Physicians; the Humanitarian Award of the American Lung Association; and the Surgeon General Medallion.

Celia Wallace, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile, provided the \$1 million gift to create the chair in memory of her late husband, **Gerald Leon Wallace, MD**. She attributed his death from lung cancer to his being a cigar smoker and said she hopes that others can learn about the dangers of smoking through Dr. Blum's work as Gerald Leon Wallace Chair of Family Medicine.

Dr. Wallace, one of Alabama's most distinguished and innovative family physicians, founded Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile. The Gerald Leon Wallace, MD, Endowed Chair in Family Medicine is one of only a few endowed chairs in family medicine in the nation. It is the first endowed chair in CCHS and is a milestone toward expanding research in medical care focusing on family medicine. (Continued on p.4)



Dr. Blum

23rd Residency Class Joins Ranks of CCHS Family Physician Alums



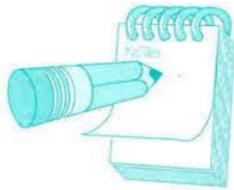
Members of the 1998 graduating class of the Family Practice Residency program were honored at an awards dinner hosted by DCH Healthcare Authority and DCH Regional Medical Center at the University Club on June 18. This is the twenty-third graduating class to complete the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency program at CCHS. Ten 1998 graduates join 234 previous graduates of the program in practice across the state, the South, and the nation.

Graduates were joined by their families, CCHS faculty, and DCH officials as departmental honors and special awards were presented. **Marc Armstrong, MD**, Director of the Residency program, presided. He was the first resident in the program in the early 70's.

Lisa Sward, MD, received the Internal Medicine award and the Research Award as well as the Society of Family Medicine Resident Teaching award. Chief Resident **Kent Kanatani, MD**, won recognition in family medicine, receiving the *William F. DeShazo III* award. Chief Resident **Chris Sward, MD**, received the Pediatrics departmental award. Dr. **Chris Sward**

(Continued on p.3)

Kent Kanatani, MD, (center) receives the William F. DeShazo III Family Medicine award from Family Medicine Chair Jerry McKnight, MD, (left) and Dr. DeShazo, Professor and Chair of Family Medicine Emeritus, for whom the award is named.



Faculty Notes

Send faculty news items to
Linda Jackson, Editor
Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35487.
Room 372 Nott Hall 348-1302

Promotion

Three members of the CCHS faculty have been promoted and **Elizabeth Philp, MD**, has received tenure along with promotion.



Elizabeth Philp, MD
Professor, Family Medicine

Dr. Philp is a medical graduate of Edinburgh University. She is American Board certified in Family Practice and a Fellow of AAFP. She has been student health physician and director of Student Health, set up standardized patient training programs, and directed objective structured clinical exams since 1986. She came to CCHS in 1992.



Robert Ireland, MD
Associate Professor, Family Medicine

Dr. Ireland, a West Point graduate from Clinton, MS, completed residency training at CCHS in 1984. He was in practice with his father in rural Mississippi prior to joining the CCHS faculty in 1991. He is assistant director of the Family Practice Residency and manages the rotations of residents and hospital rounds schedules of faculty.



Roger Lacy, MD, Associate Professor
Dept. of Psychiatry & Neurology

Dr. Lacy completed medical school at CCHS where he won the 1984 William R. Willard Award. He trained in Internal Medicine before his Psychiatry residency at the Menninger Clinic in Kansas. He was staff psychiatrist at a correctional facility, in private practice in Dothan, and directed a hospital addictive disease unit before coming to CCHS in 1994.

Research Projects

CCHS has a great deal of research underway or pending. **Kay Fendley**, Coordinator of Sponsored Programs in the Dean's Office, shared this information from a recent report.

An ongoing contract **David Hefelfinger, MD**, Chair of Pediatrics, set up with the Alabama State Department of Public Health funds the high risk clinic at Capstone for High Risk Infant Development.

Michael Taylor, MD, is conducting child abuse research with his study, "Sexual Abuse in West Alabama: A Prospective Case Study."

Elizabeth Cockrum, MD, is working with Dr. Jeri Dunkin, Capstone College of Nursing, P.I. of a two-year study of "Home Environment Control in Childhood Asthma." They have a proposal pending with the American Lung Association to further explore this topic.

Ashley Evans, MD, is collaborating with P.I. Terry Wall, MD, of UAB on "Child Health Outcomes Initiative: Sensory Screening in Primary Care Settings."

Jerry McKnight, MD, Chair of Family Medicine, has a proposal pending with the Health Resources and Services Administration on "Women's Health, Geriatrics, and Pharmacotherapy Curricula in Family Medicine Residencies" for 7/1/99-6/30/02.

Elizabeth Philp, MD, has a study underway on "Family Physician Compliance with Established Pap Smear Guidelines" and continues as P.I. of her 6-year longitudinal study on "In Which Way Do Changes in the Medical Curriculum Influence the Level of Satisfaction and Career Choice of Medical Students?" working with **Jim Philp, MD**, and **Cathy Gresham, MD**, of CCHS and **Chris Nagy, PhD**, of Human Environmental Sciences. She also conducts the Objective Structured Clinical Exams for all of UASOM and pilot tests OCSE cases for the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. **Philp** is also consultant to P.I. Frank Franklin, Ph.D., of the UAB Dept. of Pediatrics, in preparing a proposal to the National Institutes of Health for a Nutrition Academic Award and working with P.I. James C. Hamilton, Ph.D., Dept. of Psychology, UA, to submit a grant proposal to the National Institute of Mental Health for development of a questionnaire to identify patients with Factitious Disorders.

Debbie Byrd, PharmD, in the Dept. of Family Medicine, and **Charles Taylor, PharmD**, in CCHS Internal Medicine, have initiated a Primary Care Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at DCH Regional Medical Center, Department of Pharmacy.

Drs. **Byrd** and **Taylor** are working with **Bobbie Adcock, MD**, on a "Family Medicine Pharmacotherapy Curriculum" with a grant from Powers Rx Division, U.S. Pharmaceuticals Group, Pfizer Incorporated, and completed a project for pharmacy students, "Pharmacotherapy Poster Presentations: A Method to Facilitate Professionalism."

Dr. **Byrd** and Dr. **Taylor** have been awarded a grant from Auburn University, where they both serve as School of Pharmacy faculty members, for "Gaining Access to Pharmacy Services," the (GAP) Program; and they have applied for a research starter grant from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation for a Rural Education and Drug Information (REDI) Project on "Health care optimization for patients at high-risk for medication-related adverse events."

Robert E. Pieroni, MD, and Forrest Scoggins, PhD, are preparing a grant proposal for National Institute for Mental Health funding on "Treatment of Depression in the Elderly in Rural and Urban Settings." Dr. **Pieroni** and **Bill Curry, MD**, Chair of Internal Medicine and CCHS Dean, are working on a proposal to the Health Resources Service Administration (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services) for a Geriatric Education Center.

Dr. **James Leeper**, Chair of Behavioral and Community Medicine, works with program evaluation for West Alabama Health Services, Inc., and provides assistance on Perinatal Provider Education and Network Coordination for the Alabama State Perinatal Advisory Committee. He also serves as biostatistician for an Environmental/Occupational Medicine Academic Award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, a project which continues until 6/30/02. Dr. **Leeper** is also working with Dr. Min Qi Wang of UA, who is principal investigator (P.I.) of a study on "Smoking Behavior of U.S. School Dropouts."

John Wheat, MD, MPH, is P.I. of an Environmental & Occupational Medicine Academic Award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to develop a rural/occupational health curriculum for medical education. He also headed the planning grant from Health and Human Services to initiate an area health education center (AHEC). That grant, which ended Sept. 30, resulted in formation of the Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center, a newly incorporated 501(c)(3) organization. RAHEC will develop training for health and medical personnel, work on recruitment and retention of health providers, and promote rural community development.

Dr. **Wheat** is P.I. of the Rural Health Scholars and Rural Medical Scholars Programs funded by the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board, and he recently became director of a similar project for science scholars as part of a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to the UA Dept. of Biology to improve the biological sciences undergraduate education program. Dr. **Wheat** manages the Agrimedicine Research project of the Rural Alabama Health Alliance, and he is P.I. of the Child Caring Foundation project to assist and document how communities can get insurance for every child.

Elizabeth Rand, MD, Chair of Psychiatry and Neurology, is studying "Systems Issues in Multiprovider Mental Health Care," and serving as P.I. for a "double-blind placebo-controlled study of fluoxetine in treatment of PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) for Eli Lilly Laboratories. She is also working with David Coombs to get funding from CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) to create a "Screening Instrument for Suicidal Patients in Primary Care," and with **Roger Lacy, MD**, and **Nancy Rubin, PsyD**, faculty in the Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology, and others to fund

preliminary studies on "Defense Mechanism and Anxiety and Depression" and "Defense Mechanism and Personality Disorders" for subsequent NIMH grant proposals. In addition, Dr. **Rand** is preparing to renew her study of disability associated with mental disorders which she put on hold 11 years ago.

Dr. **Nancy Rubin**, in addition to her work with Dr. **Rand** and Dr. **Lacy** mentioned above, is conducting a multi-year study (1993-2002) with P.I. **Elizabeth Philp, MD**, on "The Effect of Being a Standardized Patient on One's Perceptions of One's Own Health Care," and collaborating on "The Role of Pain in Memory: Does it Divide Attention and Compete for Scarce Attentional Resources?" She also contributes to joint efforts on "Factitious Illness Behavior," "New Methods for Studying Factitious Illness Behavior," and "Diabetes and Eating Disorders in Adolescents."

(Continued on p.8)

Dean Curry on Research...

What about research? If you as faculty wanted to be Senior Investigators of the National Institutes of Health, you would be pursuing that somewhere else. We are a program of excellent clinical education. Few of us have research backgrounds. Clinical and teaching activities demand time and productivity. The state budget of CCHS is not enough to fund all that we do. Without clinical productivity, we are in the hole. So how and why should we find time and energy for research? In talking with you, I find that there is more than one kind of research.

Level one is to improve teaching or clinical practice. It may or may not involve publication, and it may or may not be funded. It coincides with faculty development. It happens because we care about what we do with students, residents, and patients, and how well we are doing it.

Level two research is funded, usually below \$50,000 per project. It involves a report which may or may not be published.

Level three research is funded, typically above the \$50,000 level, and it includes publication in peer-reviewed journals. It involves state, regional, national, and possibly international recognition.

So what kind of research do we do in CCHS? Clearly, we do some of all of it. Not every one of us can or should expect to do all three. Given our mission, however, every one of us should at least be evaluating the work we do. It is reasonable for every faculty member to be involved at any given time in at least one project -- at level one, or two, or three.

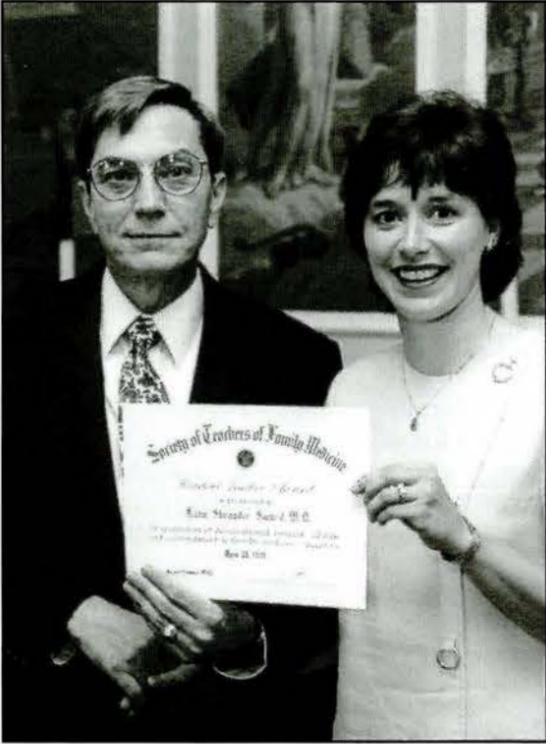
The key element is quality. We have this heritage and this responsibility for the next generation of physicians, and we need to know how we're doing at it.

It means evaluation, discussion, dissemination, and follow-up. Call it whatever you like, but it can be called research.

UA Research Funds Available

The University of Alabama Research Advisory Committee (RAC) provides grants for up to \$5000 to full-time, permanent faculty for research projects. Funds may be requested for salary grant-in-aid (for all or part of summer), assistants, supplies, equipment, books, and travel. Some restrictions are involved.

January 29, 1999, is the deadline to apply. Applications and guidelines may be obtained in the RAC office, G-60 Rose. For more information or to request an application, call the RAC office at 348-5152.



Lisa Sward, MD, accepts the Family Medicine teaching award from Marc Armstrong, MD, Residency Director. Dr. Sward also won the Internal Medicine and Research awards.



The class of 1998 Family Practice Residents celebrated their graduation with dinner at the University Club on June 18. Seated: Tracey Miles, MD, Chris Sward, MD, and Lisa Sward, MD. Standing: Michael Dupre, MD, Jayson Fields, MD, David Zielinski, MD, David Williams, MD, Ann Drum, MD, Paul Guilbault, MD, and Kent Kanatani, MD.

Class of 1998 Family Practice Residents Honored at Graduation

(Continued from page 1)

and Dr. **Kanatani** also received University of Alabama captain's chairs to thank them for their leadership as chief residents.

Ann Drum, MD, received the Psychiatry award presented by Elizabeth Rand, MD, Chair of Psychiatry and Neurology. **Harvey Fair**, MD, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, presented the OB/GYN award to **Jason Fields**, MD; and **Paul Mozley**, MD, presented **Martin Harvey**, MD, the OB Fellowship Award for his year of work in the field. A 1997 residency graduate, Harvey won OB/GYN and Internal Medicine awards and Resident Teaching award last year.

Rock Helms, MD, received the V.A. award to a second year resident for outstanding work from Dr. **Robert Thornton** of the V.A. Medical Center. **Jeff Laubenthal**, MD, received the *Willard Award* Dean's Award, to recognize a first year resident who epitomizes the CCHS mission to train physicians in the art and practice of family medicine. This prestigious award is named for the late William R. Willard, MD, founding dean of the College, and the "Father of Family Medicine."

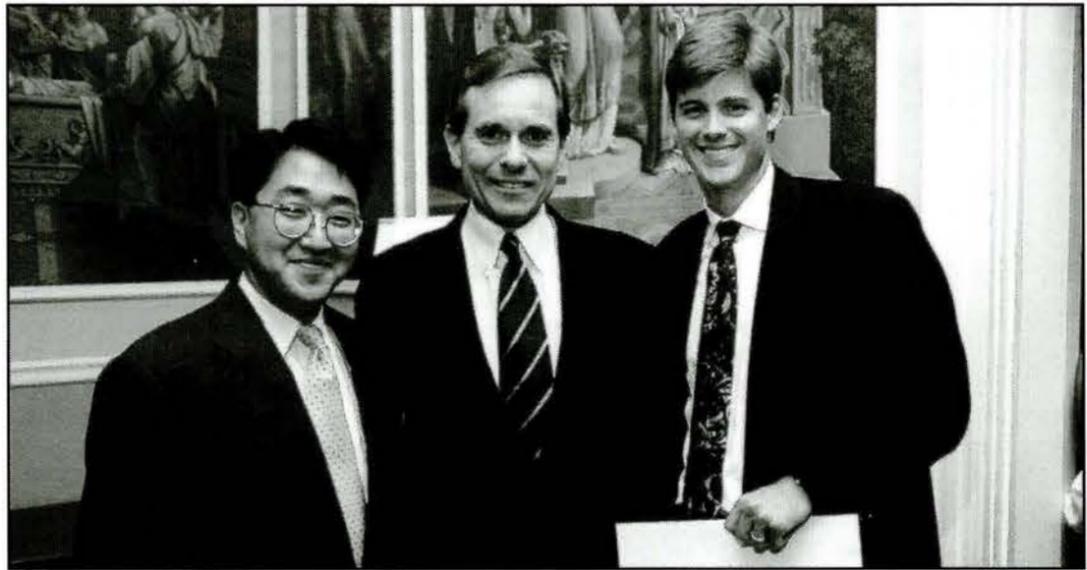
"We are the house Willard built," said Dr. **William A. Curry**, who was the graduation speaker. Dr. Curry urged the graduates to build relationships with patients, communities, and colleagues. He defined medicine as "a calling, not a business" and recommended compassion over "detached concern" in the ongoing transition to managed care. He shared personal experiences that had shaped his attitudes toward illness and the sick and advised grads to be aware of defining moments in their own lives which may affect their attitudes and sensitivity.



Ann Drum, MD, (right) accepts the Psychiatry award from Dr. Elizabeth Rand, Dept. Chair.



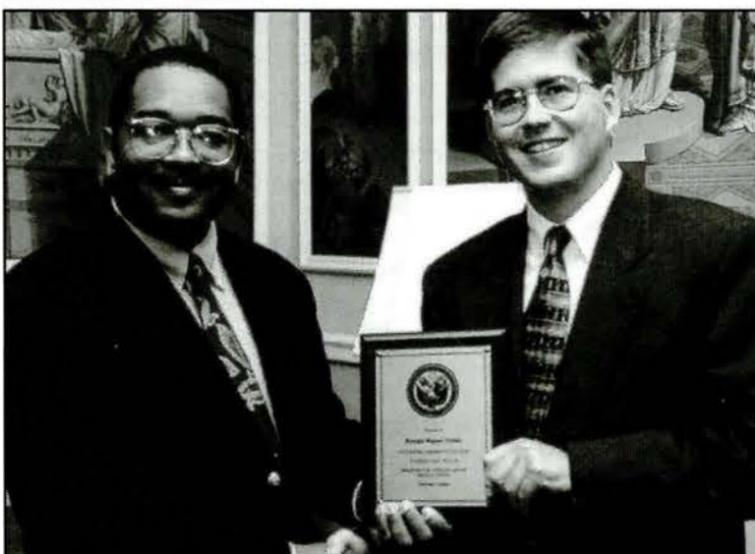
Above: Chris Sward, MD, (left) receives the Pediatrics award. Presenting the award is Ashley Evans, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics.



Above right photo: Dr. William Curry, Dean of the College and Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine, (center) recognizes Dr. Kanatani (left) and Dr. Sward for their service as Chief Residents.

Near right photo: Dr. Robert Thornton of the V.A. Medical Center (left) presents the V.A. award to Rock Helms, MD.

Far right: Jayson Fields, MD, (left) accepts the OB/GYN award from Dr. Harvey Fair.



Dr. Blum Appointed to Gerald Wallace Chair of Family Medicine

(Continued from page 1)

"Mrs. Wallace has a deep and abiding interest in developing medical professionalism through the education of young physicians. Out of that has come her generous and consistent support of our College," said Dr. **William Curry**, Dean of CCHS. "Alan Blum will be a model of that to students and residents every day - by showing them what it looks like to be a family physician who cares about patients, about families, about communities. Medical education today will be even better tomorrow and in the years to come because of her commitment."



Lee Wallace (left) and K.C. (for Kristin Celia) Wallace greet Dr. Blum (center), who is the first holder of the Gerald Leon Wallace Chair of Family Medicine, established in memory of their father. They joined their mother Celia Wallace at a reception in October to honor Dr. Blum.

Mrs. Wallace hosted a reception at Springhill Hospital in Mobile in October to welcome Dr. Blum. Dean Curry and President Sorensen joined Mrs. Wallace, her son Lee and daughter K.C., and several hundred guests in the Gerald Wallace Auditorium to greet Doctor Blum. He told the gathering that he remembered his father's fight against tobacco in the years when "fighting tobacco meant fighting everything from politicians to the media to organized baseball." The Dodgers were sponsored by Lucky Strike, he explained.

Dr. Blum, the son of a physician, has previously shared lessons from his father with CCHS. He was the speaker for the 1997 family practice residents graduation, and his message to the class members was the importance of listening and communicating with patients, a lesson he said he learned in his father's waiting room -- also their living room -- during Dr. Blum's boyhood years. He gave many examples from his own experience as a family physician as well, sharing his sketches and stories of his patients. He learned that the real worry of one of his patients, an 84-year-old man who had to give up driving, was how he was going to continue seeing his two girlfriends. He also shared the joy of talking to his patients -- one who said his seizures were the only exercise he got, and a woman with Alzheimer's whose reply to "Do you know where you are?" was "Right here, doctor!"

Dr. Blum's involvement with patients and his advice to the 1997 graduates give insight into Dr. Blum's philosophy. He cautioned them to avoid medical jargon and acronyms, which he said "dehumanize your patients." He described "no jargon" days he had instituted in his teaching with jellybean penalties for any medical jargon used during rounds.

Dr. Blum received his BS in English literature from Amherst and his MD from Emory University School of Medicine. He completed his internship at McGill University in Montreal and his residency and subsequent fellowship in family medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine. He was selected for the prestigious Morris Fishbein Fellowship in Medical Journalism by the American Medical Association. Dr. Blum joins the Department of Family Medicine, with a clinical practice and teaching schedule of hospital service and conferences for medical students and family practice residents.



"We are all very pleased that Dr. Blum is joining our faculty," **Jerry McKnight**, MD, Chairman of Family Medicine, said. "His work as the first Wallace Chair of Family Medicine will add a new dimension to our efforts to train physicians for rural Alabama. His philosophy of patient care and commitment to health education and prevention match goals of this department, and his broad experience will give our students and residents new insights into family medicine."

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A Vision for CCHS

Excerpts from Remarks to Faculty and Staff

by

Dean William A. Curry, MD
UA College of Community Health Sciences



Dr. Bill Curry

"The tradition of The University of Alabama and its school of medicine, and of the College of Community Health Sciences, is a powerful heritage to uphold. It is the future of medicine itself, and the future of health care for our region, state, and nation, which are at stake. You and I share this great tradition and serious responsibility."

Building on Our Tradition

Founded in 1972 by the governor and the Alabama legislature, The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences had a mandate that was simple but difficult: *do something about the need for family doctors in rural Alabama.*

CCHS set out to train family practice residents and educate medical students with an emphasis on primary care and rural needs. Leading the new enterprise was William Willard, MD, the founding Dean of the University of Kentucky School of Medicine whose authorship of the charter document for the new specialty of Family Medicine, brought him recognition as "the father of Family Medicine."

In 24 years of residency, we have graduated 244 family practitioners. Fifty percent of them are in towns smaller than 25,000 and 51 percent are practicing in Alabama. One of nine family practitioners licensed in Alabama were trained here. Over 400 medical students have been here for their junior and senior years of medical school, scoring well on boards, entering virtually every specialty in an array of programs. Many of them are primary care physicians, with a sizeable number staying here for family practice residency training.



Dean William A. Curry, MD, paid homage to the late William R. Willard, MD, founding dean of CCHS, and recognized the leadership of retired deans in his first address to CCHS faculty and staff. Deans Emeritus Roland Ficken and Wilmer Coggins, MD, joined him for the meeting and this picture in front of Dr. Willard's portrait in the Willard Auditorium.

Currently, we are very busy fulfilling our mission. In teaching, we have a full complement of 25 junior medical students and 19 seniors. There are 39 family practice residents. We are 28 full-time and five part-time faculty. Our service component includes the only multi-disciplinary practice in West Alabama, with a clinic staff of 64. Academic staff numbers 44. In addition to these 244, we have 160 volunteer faculty who make essential contributions to our teaching mission. Community projects across the region and state address our rural mission. Research has new interest and energy. At this time, at least 16 of the 28 full-time CCHS faculty are engaged in 25 active projects totaling \$1.82 million in funding, 13 projects pending approval totaling \$1.13 million, and 12 projects in preparation.

CCHS Today: Working Together

The way I believe I can work most effectively as your dean will mean that most matters will be identified, evaluated, and discussed by groups of people. Overseeing all CCHS matters is the **administrative council**: the dean, associate dean for academic affairs (Dr. **Jim Philp**), associate dean for clinical affairs (Dr. **Marc Armstrong**), director of advancement and community relations (**Vicki Johnson**), administrator of Capstone Medical Center and assistant to the dean for finance (**John Maxwell**), and my administrative assistant (**Shirley Florence**).

Working groups for technology, research, and advancement will meet monthly to assure that we are networked across traditional departmental, disciplinary, and committee lines. The current committee structure remains unchanged at this time. The **Executive Committee** (the clinical chairs) will meet with me monthly.

Grand Rounds

Continuing Medical Education Lectures

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Willard Auditorium

Grand Rounds speakers during the fall have included **Robert Kreisberg, MD**, on "Osteoporosis," sponsored by Lilly (Slemmons); **D.J. van Leeuwen, MD**, on "Viral Hepatitis," sponsored by Amgen (Parisher); **David Bell, MD**, on "Type II Diabetes," sponsored by Bristol-Meyers (Fritz); and **Christopher Paramore, MD**, on "Lumbar Spinal Stenosis," sponsored by DePuy Motech (Llewellyn). The fall schedule concludes with:

November 20 "Treatment of Malignant Melanoma"
Sponsored by *Chiron(Freeman)*

Donald Miller, MD
Professor of Medicine
Hematology/Oncology, UAB

December 4 First Friday Conference
Sponsored by *CCHS*

Susan C. Fleming, D.M.A.
Associate Professor of Voice
UA School of Music

December 11 Tenth Annual Bahar Lecture
Sponsored by the *Natica Bahar Memorial Fund*

"Reflections and Perspectives:
A 50-Year Look at Medicine"

William B. Deal, MD
Dean, UA School of Medicine



Dr. Deal

December 18 "Contraception Update"
Sponsored by *Wyeth (Owen)*

Botros Rizk, MD
Associate Professor, OB/GYN
Director, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology
University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

For more information contact: Vicki Johnson,
CME Coordinator, 205/ 348-0093.
vjohanson@cchs.ua.edu

CME schedule is available on the internet at
<http://bama.ua.edu/~hslib/>

Research Committee Continues Lunch Series

The CCHS Research Committee continued its Research Lunch Series with a report November 10 by **Sam Gaskins, MD**, on practice demographics and OB services of residency grads. This is a forum for presentation of research conducted within CCHS or projects of interest from outside the College, said Dr. Rand, Research Committee Chair.

The research series is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. in the renovated Carrel Room at Capstone Medical Center. This change allows more access to the residents and students and also makes it possible to utilize the new technology available in the Carrel Room. Call 348-1325 for more details or to reserve lunch.

December 8: John Wheat, MD
"The Rural Physician Survey"

January 12: James Leeper, PhD
"25 Year Trends in Infant Mortality in Alabama Counties"

The CCHS Research Committee is encouraging medical students and residents to become involved in research. At a dinner in September, sponsored by the Research Committee and Bristol Myers-Squibb, staff presented information on the College's resources to support research, and Dr. **Elizabeth Rand**, **Mike Taylor, MD**, **Sam Gaskins, MD**, and **Charles Taylor, PharmD**, shared some of their research projects. Mentors with similar research interests will be matched to residents and students who request one. A follow-up meeting will be held Nov. 24. For information, contact Dr. Rand at 348-1325 or erand@cchs.ua.edu.

-Martha Cook, Health Sciences Library



Class of 2000 Medical Students Begin Clinical Training at CCHS

Twenty-four UASOM third-year medical students began their clinical rotations in Tuscaloosa on July 1, 1998. Pictured in the Willard Auditorium during orientation, they are (with hometowns and degrees):

Left-right, first row-- **Stephanie Brown**, Marion and Frisco City, Alabama, B.S. in Biology, The University of Alabama (UA). **Gene Acupan**, Decatur, B.S., Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). **Katisha Vance**, Montgomery, B.S., Chemistry, UA. **Allen Foster**, Stafford, B.S., Biomedical Sciences, University of South Alabama.

Second row, l-r-- **John Waits**, Northport, B.A. in Music, UA. **Melissa Wysong**, Mobile, B.S. in Biology, Georgetown University. **Moncanya Chatman**, Mobile, B.S., Microbiology, Auburn University. **Cathy Skinner**, Tuscaloosa, B.S., Biology, UA. **Paula Belew**, Winfield, Alabama, B.S., Pharmacy, Samford University. **John B. Averette**, Tuscaloosa, B.S. in Biology, Vanderbilt University. **Hitesh Patel**, Grove Hill, Alabama, B.S., Chemistry, UA. **Ray Nettles**, Raleigh, North Carolina, B.S., Pre-Medicine, UA.

Third row, l-r-- **David Derrer**, Birmingham, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Auburn University. **Salih Faldon**, Albany, Georgia, B.S., Biology, Albany State College. **Ronnie Roan**, Birmingham, B.S. in Biology from UAB. **Claiborne Stanford**, Birmingham, B.S., Mathematics, Birmingham Southern College. **Chip Mueller**, Owens Crossroads, Alabama, B.S., Chemical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology. **Stephanie Freeman**, Tuscaloosa, B.S., Molecular Biology, UA. **Jay Bray**, Brundidge, Alabama, B.S., Biology, Troy State University. **Scott Fulgham**, Reform, Alabama, B.S., Cytotechnology, UAB. **Rob Bolling**, Fayette, B.S., Chemistry, Auburn University. **Don Yarbrough**, Birmingham, B.S., Biology, Vanderbilt University.

Class members not pictured -- **Kris Jones**, Florence, Alabama, B.A. in Bible and B.S. in Social & Behavioral Sciences, Freed-Hardeman University. **Ed Shackelford**, Sulligent, B.S. in Biology, Harvard University.

Office of Medical Student Affairs
Cathy Gresham, MD, Director
Mary Kay Hannah, Program Assistant

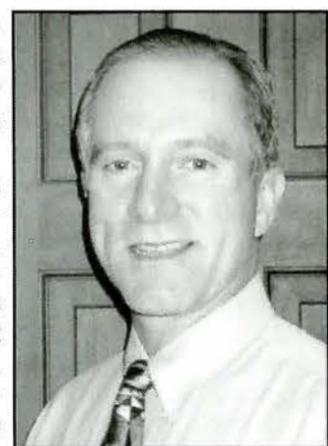
New Faculty Member Dr. Karl Hasik Brings Rural Practice Experience to Department of OB/GYN

Karl J. Hasik, MD, Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, joined the OB/GYN faculty October 1. He came to CCHS from Quincy, Illinois, where he was in a multi-specialty clinic of about 60 physicians. He also worked with family practice residents who were training at the hospital where he was on staff.

Dr. Hasik earned a B.A. in psychology and his MD degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He won medical school departmental honors in human ecology and behavioral science, surgery, and obstetrics and gynecology. He also received a letter of commendation in psychiatry and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honorary medical fraternity. He did residency training at East Carolina and completed his residency at St. Louis University. Dr. Mozley, Chair of OB/GYN, who taught at East Carolina, remembers Dr. Hasik as "the #1 resident in the program." He said he was delighted to bring Dr. Hasik to Tuscaloosa to teach and practice as the obstetrical patient load at the Capstone Medical Center grows.

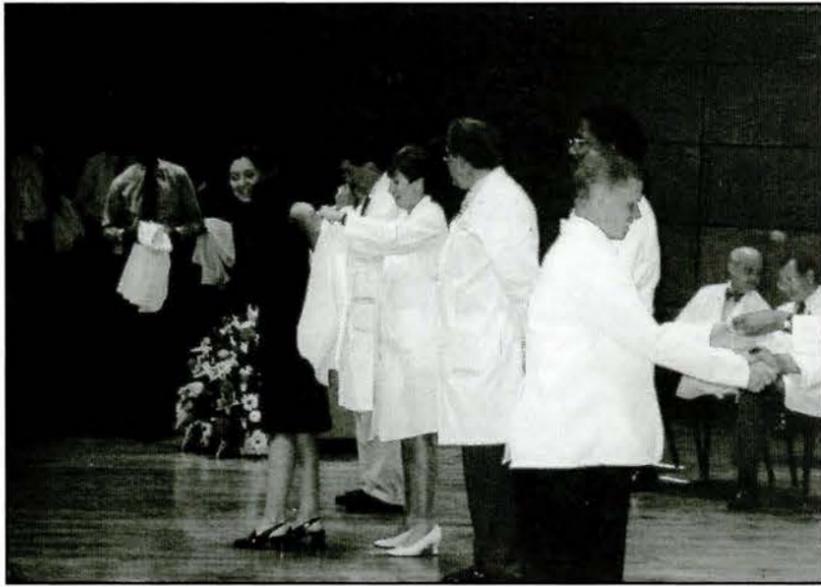
Dr. Hasik said he has wanted to teach but was caught up in the "charge" he gets from patient care. Originally attracted to family medicine, he found he liked obstetrics and the chance "to grow with patients from the beginning." He has spent the past fifteen years in private practice of OB/GYN, including directing four rural clinics in the Corpus Christie, Texas, area in 1993-94 and working with rural and indigent patients in Nevada. He has practiced primarily in St. Louis and surrounding small towns. He has experience in training and supervising nurse practitioners as part of his practice and spoke of extending OB/GYN care in underserved rural areas by using allied professionals. Rural practice, he says, which may not have the most advanced technology and fast turnaround of lab tests, requires a physician to focus on the patient and make diagnoses without all the tools and imaging available in urban facilities. This focus on the patient and his belief in "treating all patients with dignity, no matter what their race, religion, or ability to pay" are critical elements of his philosophy. He said he looks forward to teaching and hopes to share with students and residents the importance of "never losing sight of the patient as a person."

He and his wife Kathy, a former home ec teacher, have an 8-year-old son, 7-year-old daughter, and five-year-old twins. Not surprisingly, he spends much of his leisure time in family activities, including cub scouts, brownies, and tee ball, which he hopes to coach now that they are settled in Tuscaloosa. He also enjoys golf and is training to run in a marathon within the next year. Kathy, who has sung professionally, and their daughter are already practicing to sing in the special Christmas program at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.



Karl Hasik, MD

"Pipeline" Working as First Rural Health Scholars Start Medical School



State health department data reveal a shortage of family doctors across Alabama. The most medically underserved areas are Alabama's rural counties and some inner-city areas, says John Wheat, MD, Associate Professor of Community Medicine and Internal Medicine at CCHS. The special focus of the College of Community Health Sciences is to prepare physicians for rural practice. Wheat says studies show that urban-reared primary care physicians, aside from family physicians, are no more likely than specialists to practice in rural areas. To protect the health of rural Alabamians, who contribute heavily to the state's economy through agriculture, mining, and forestry, we must recruit outstanding students from rural areas who understand and appreciate the rural lifestyle.

Identifying and nurturing these students is the purpose of two programs at The University of Alabama: Rural Health Scholars Program (for rising high school seniors) and Rural Medical Scholars Program (for pre-med students in the year prior to medical school). These – along with rural rotations during medical training and preceptors who practice in small towns – are part of a "pipeline" that Dr. Wheat and others have envisioned to encourage students who wish to pursue medical or health careers in rural areas. Practice sites with rural physicians and a curriculum with characteristically rural topics are essential supports for the rural pipeline. Three members of the first (1993) Rural Health Scholars class interested in becoming family physicians started medical school at UAB this summer. These scholars are Kris Cummings from Chilton County, Joey Gasson from Limestone County, and Katie Powell from Marshall County. Katie is the first of the scholars to complete both rural scholar programs in the "pipeline." She was a Rural Medical Scholar last year.

Katie Powell became interested in medicine when she took anatomy in high school. Salutatorian at Douglas High School in Boaz, she received a full academic scholarship and matriculated in the honors curriculum at Belmont University in Nashville, earning her Biology degree in three years. She performed with the Vanderbilt University marching band color guard during college and worked as a nursing assistant at Vanderbilt Medical Center in neurology. She plans to be a small town family physician and said that the rural scholar programs gave her some insight into her planned career.

"I was always interested in helping the underprivileged, and I had thought of becoming a medical missionary – perhaps in Africa or somewhere in the third world," said Katie. "The Rural Health Scholars Program showed me that I need not travel to another country, or even another state, to help underserved people. Medical need exists in rural Alabama."

During her year as a Rural Medical Scholar, Katie attended class lectures, participated in community health projects and field trips, and assisted at the employee health clinic at Harrison GM plant in Tuscaloosa. She also spent one day a week with Dr.



Katie Powell examines a chart with Dr. John Brandon at his Gordo office. Top photo: Katie receives her white coat from Dr. Cathy Gresham last July at a ceremony in Birmingham for the incoming medical students.

John Brandon at his family practice in Gordo.

"The Rural Medical Scholars Program provided an unbiased, practical view of rural family practice and prepared me for a variety of issues related to healthcare in rural areas," she said.

Dr. Brandon's grandfather was born on the family farm in Pickens County, and Dr. Brandon has been known since boyhood in this rural community where he is in practice.

"You can't hide in a small town," he says. "A family doctor holds a special place in the community, and it is a great responsibility. People want to talk to you at lunch or the drug store and will seek your opinion on many aspects of their lives. Katie cares about people, and her patients will know she is truly concerned about them."

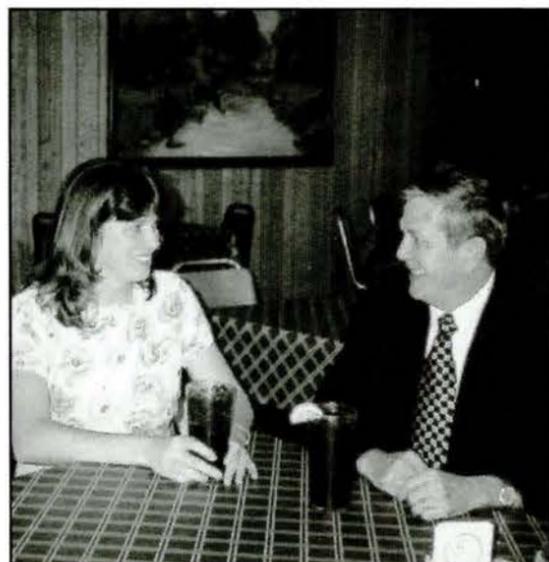
Med Student Going Home to Frisco City

Many young people from small town Alabama go away to college and never return. Stephanie Brown ("Buffy" Chandler), a 1989 graduate of Frisco City High School in Monroe County could have been one of them. Instead, CCHS medical student Stephanie Chandler Brown won a National Merit Scholarship, graduated from UA, and is working toward returning to her hometown as a family physician. She recently completed a community medicine/rural rotation with Sage Smith, MD, in nearby Monroeville. He is an appropriate mentor since he, too, went away to become a physician and returned home to practice.

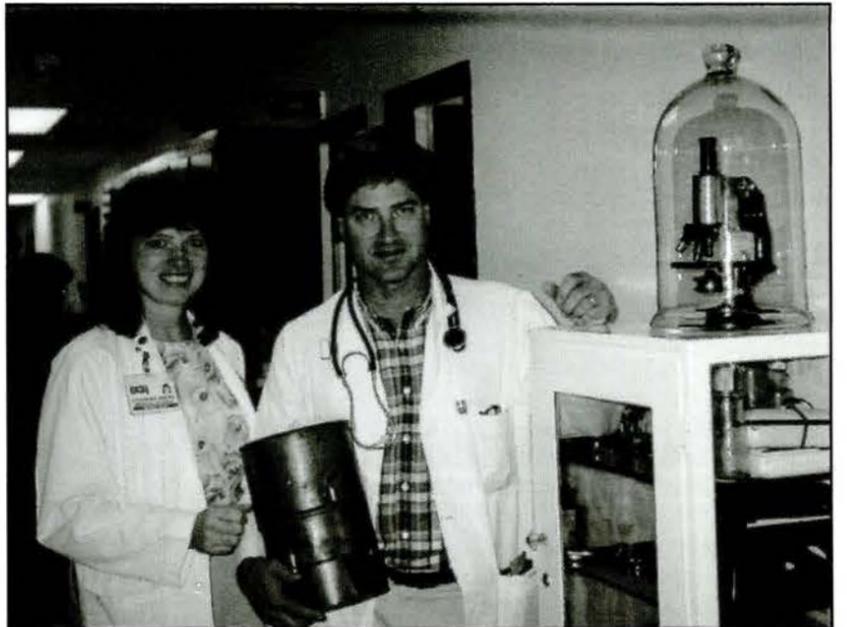
"There is a lot to tell students that they don't learn in major medical teaching settings," says Dr. Smith, when asked why he serves as preceptor for medical students and residents. An example is sitting down beside a patient to talk instead of standing over his or her bed, and he also teaches his students to ask permission to examine a patient before doing so and to try not to interrupt someone's breakfast. These things show respect for patients, he explains.

"These are people with diseases, not just diseases," he says. Dr. Smith also shows students the role of the physician in the community and the responsibility they too will have.

"I live with these people," says Dr. Smith. "I see them at church and in the grocery store. They teach my children. We go to ball practice together. They want to know what I think about their problems. There is no anonymity for a small town doctor. They know my truck. They know my dog's name is Deke. They know my voice on the telephone. I am a care giver and service person at all times."



Billy McCrory--local pharmacist, former Frisco City mayor, and founder of its medical board--employed Stephanie in his drug store when she was a high school co-op student. Filling prescriptions for local residents at the only pharmacy in town, he knew how far people were traveling to get medical care, not just across the county to Monroeville, but to Mobile and Pensacola as well. He wanted to



CCHS medical student Stephanie Brown (left) worked with preceptor Sage Smith, MD, at his family practice in Monroeville (above) during her first clinical rotation. Dr. Smith is showing Stephanie equipment used by his grandfather who was a G.P. in Monroe County. The technology and procedures have changed, but he still has patients who remember his grandfather, and the relationships he has in the community are still an important part of a medical practice, he says.

Below left: Stephanie visits with pharmacist Billy McCrory at the cafe in Frisco City, after touring the local clinic he helped to initiate.

get medical care in Frisco City, he said, and he started working with local leaders and the hospital in Monroeville to start a clinic in Frisco City. He also encouraged Stephanie to consider becoming a doctor.

"I knew Buffy could do it," he said, using her teenage nickname. And he hopes to see Dr. Stephanie Brown in practice at home in years to come. Stephanie received scholarship help from her hometown and the state health department through the "Rural Family Practice Act" to help finance medical school. On the home front, her mother has moved in with her in Centreville while she is in medical school to help care for her two children, 7-year-old Alex and 2-year-old Jessica, during the week while Stephanie's husband, Larry Brown, Jr., lives and works in the Frisco City area. They are together at home in Frisco City on weekends.

"We have a real Sunday mentality," she said, talking about the weekly leave-taking on Sunday afternoons. "But sometimes, it all comes together. It was great to be home for this rotation, not only to work with Dr. Smith...I got to watch Alex play in his T-ball all star games!" She plans to return to Monroeville for her family medicine rotation, and Dr. Smith thinks it's important for her to get obstetrical experience as she trains for family practice.

Notes from Alums

Please send alumni news to OnRounds. Be sure to include your graduation date from med school or residency and your current address and phone. We always enjoy sharing your pictures. Color or B&W prints in sharp focus usually print well.

McBrearty Becomes Hospital's First Medical Director

Michael McBrearty, MD, a 1976 graduate and first Chief Resident of the CCHS Family Practice Residency, was recently named first medical director of Thomas Hospital in Fairhope. He, with other hospital leaders, was on the cover of the August issue of *M.D. News, Gulf Coast Edition*, standing in front of new construction underway at the growing hospital. The lead article of this business and lifestyle magazine for physicians was "Thomas Hospital: Physicians and Hospital Work Together for Better Care." Dr. McBrearty was quoted extensively in the article, and his comments about community involvement and support for growing medical and health care services were used to conclude the article.

"Medicine is about people," said Dr. McBrearty. "The new buildings and facilities are wonderful, but the patients need to know that all of this is for their good...If you put the patients' needs first, then everything else falls into place."

John Brandon Featured on Sports Page

John Brandon, MD, a 1981 Residency graduate now practicing in Gordo, was the subject of a front page feature article in the October 7 *Tuscaloosa News* sports section. He was praised for his role as team physician, attending 210 varsity games in a row for the past 18 years. Present and former Gordo coaches expressed their appreciation for Dr. Brandon's volunteer service. (All he receives for his work is a team hat and shirt.) Dr. Brandon trained under CCHS family medicine professor and UA team physician **Bill DeShazo, MD**. He said that "the college environment is tremendous," but he has "more fun" at the high school level. He likes being part of the community, and "football is a big part of community life."

'98 Grads Enter Practice

Our newest alums--1998 residency graduates (See p.3)--have chosen the following practice sites:

Ann Drum, MD, private practice, Rainsville, AL.

Mike Dupre, MD, private practice, Opelousas, LA.

Jayson Fields, MD, U.S. Navy at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C.

Paul Guilbault, MD, practice with Ed Martin MD, Oschner Clinic, Mandeville, LA.

Martin Harvey, MD, 97-98 OB Fellow, Family Medical Associates, Collins, MS.

Kent Kanatani, MD, group practice, Cahaba Family Medicine, Pelham, AL.

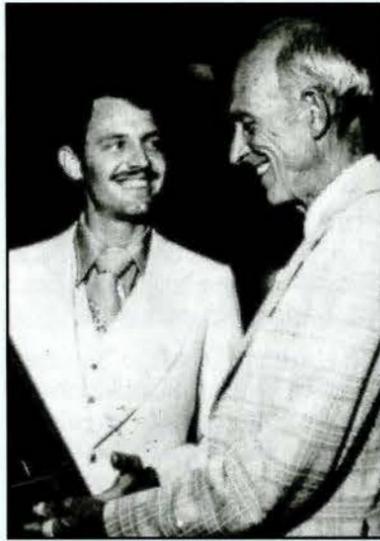
Tracey Miles, MD, Maude Whatley Health Center, Tuscaloosa.

Chris & Lisa Sward, MD, Cartersville Family Practice, Cartersville, GA.

David Williams, MD, VA Emergency Room, Tuscaloosa.

David Zielinski, MD, Sacred Heart Medical Group, Destin, FL.

CCHS PHOTO ALBUM



Mike McBrearty, MD, (left) with Dean Willard in 1976 and (above) more recently outside his office in Fairhope.



The Lister Hill Society held a reception at the President's Mansion on the UA campus in September, raising \$10,000 to benefit medical education. Board members attending included (l-r): Wilmer Coggins, MD, Dean Emeritus and president of the Lister Hill Society; Bill Shamblin, MD; Vicki Johnson, CCHS Director of Advancement; Roger Lacy, MD; Anne Monfore, who was co-chairman for planning the event; Tommy Hester; Alice Maxwell, event co-chair, and William Winternitz, MD.

Dr. Stephenie Dillard with her husband, James Geyer, MD, and their daughter Sydney at home in Tuscaloosa.



Tuscaloosa Medical College Graduates Recognized by UAB

The UAB Medical Alumni Association's **1998 Community Service Award** recognizes the extensive contributions made by the 855 graduates of the two-year Medical College of Alabama which operated in Tuscaloosa, 1922-45.

"These outstanding physicians served their country in World War II, served their communities by bringing medical care to the towns and communities across the South, and have rendered tremendous service to the medical profession as teachers and mentors," says *Synopsis*, the newsletter of the UAB Health System.

The School of Medicine was moved to Birmingham in 1945. CCHS, the branch of the UA School of Medicine in Tuscaloosa, was founded in 1972. A plaque engraved with the honorees' names will hang in the Medical Alumni Building. *-Synopsis, Sept. 28, 1998, p. 3*

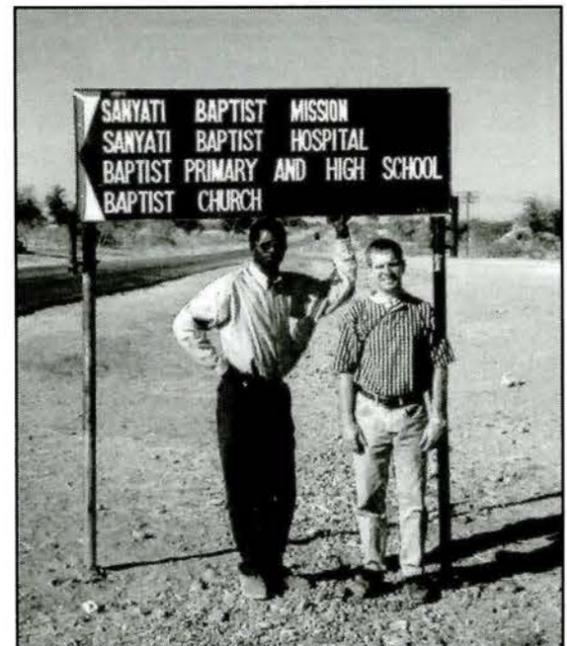
Dr. Schilling's Mission Trip Becomes African Adventure

Blane Schilling, MD, a 1993 residency grad, returned to his Pickens County family (and OB) practice from Zimbabwe on September 2 after a 3-week mission trip. He took care of the sick and delivered babies at the Baptist hospital in Sanyati. He said the medical care was similar to what he provides at home, but his experiences with local wildlife while running near Victoria Falls were not. He encountered a water buffalo, the meanest African game animal, who looked ready to charge. Dr. Schilling decided to reroute behind bushes until he could get out of sight. Then he met two huge wart-hogs who were four feet high at the shoulder and decided to finish his run early. Once he was home, he organized a fund-raiser run to help restore the "face in the window" of the Pickens County Courthouse. Participants didn't have to worry about meeting water buffalo or warthogs. And there was a nice trophy... he designed it himself!

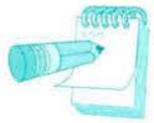
Medical Graduates Return to Tuscaloosa Area

Stephenie Dillard, MD, a native of Coker, and a CCHS medical student who graduated at the top of the 1993 UASOM class, has returned to Tuscaloosa to live. Dr. Dillard won the Internal Medicine Award and Scholastic Achievement award at CCHS. She completed residency at UAB and a fellowship in pathology in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is working with CytoPath in Birmingham. Her husband, **James Geyer, MD**, a neurologist at Neurology Consultants of Tuscaloosa, has recently accepted a CCHS clinical faculty appointment. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Sydney, and expect a baby in May.

Dr. **Winternitz** is happy to report that former CCHS medical student **Curtis Tucker, MD**, is a radiation/oncology specialist at the DCH Cancer Center.



Dr. Schilling (right) and a medical student from the University of Zimbabwe medical school on rotation with Dr. Schilling on an earlier trip to the Baptist mission hospital.



Faculty Notes (Con'd) CCHS Manuscripts and Presentations

David Hefelfinger, MD, is lead author of an article comparing post-graduate pediatric medical education in the USA and Japan.

Timothy Winkler, MD, and **Joseph Wallace, MD**, are co-authors of "Substernal Goiter," an article submitted for publication. They are also collaborating in preparation of two other articles: "Two cases of parathyroid carcinoma" and "Malrotation manifest as acute obstruction in a 20 year old patient."

Bobbi Adcock, MD, and **Debbie Byrd, PharmD**, made a poster presentation, "An evaluation of primary care residents' knowledge of pharmacotherapy," at the 1998 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in July 1998. Dr. **Adcock** and Dr. **Byrd** are preparing an article on the same topic for submission to *Pharmacotherapy and Academic Medicine*.

Dr. **Adcock** has submitted "Facial Numbness: a Manifestation of Sarcoidosis" to the *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*, and she is working with lead author **Sam Gaskins, MD**, on "Twenty-two year reassessment of obstetrical practice patterns among family practice graduates."

"Health care perceptions: do they change for the standardized patient?" by Dr. **Nancy Rubin, Elizabeth Philp, MD**, and **Julia Hartman** will be in *Medical Education and Assessment*, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Elizabeth Philp's article, "Persistent Cough," has been accepted by *American Family Physician*. Dr. Philp, with Dr. **Nancy Rubin** and **James Philp, MD**, wrote "Problem based learning in a family medicine residency program," an article for *Family Medicine*. She was also lead author of "Asthma: Education in a residency program using the OSCE format" with former faculty member **Colleen Beall** for *Family Medicine*.

Cathy Gresham, MD, has written "Physician's attitudes toward children with AIDS: Issues of group care" with co-authors **Chris Nagy** and **Peggy Jessee** of the UA College of Human Environmental Sciences.

Roger Lacy, MD, co-wrote an article published in the March, 1998 *Southern Medical Journal* entitled "Illicit alcohol (moonshine) consumption in West Alabama revisited."

James Philp, MD, was lead author of "Ten year observation of problem based learning: A guide to future evaluations?" and "Fair reliable essay examinations for a problem-based curriculum" in *Advances in Medical Education*. (Seventh Ottawa International Conference on Medical Education and Assessment, 1997, pp. 571-74).

He was co-author with former CCHS faculty member **Tracy Johns, PharmD**, of "A problem-based approach to non-redundant resident education," in the same book. Dr. **Philp's** articles, "Self-directed library research by family practice residents in problem based learning" and "Five-year positive and negative student evaluations of clinical problem based learning," have been accepted for publication.

Nancy Rubin, PsyD, has an article in press for *Medical Education* on "Health care perceptions of the standardized patient," with **Elizabeth Philp** as co-author.

Elizabeth Rand, MD, wrote "Guidelines to Maximize the Process of Collaborative Treatment," a chapter in *A Practical Guide for Medication Back-Up*, published by American Psychiatric Press, Inc. (In press). She has submitted "Priapism in a patient on sertraline" to *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, and she is preparing "Use of the PRIME-MD in a university health service."

Charles Taylor, PharmD, is co-author of "Modification of weight-based heparin nomogram" in *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* 1998. He is co-author of "Determination of method-specific therapeutic APTT ranges for heparin monitoring," "Omeprazole and cyanocobalamin deficiency," and "Vancomycin-induced neutropenia associated with fever."

Robert Pieroni, MD, is co-author with CCHS medical students or recent graduates of several abstracts in *Journal of Alabama Academy of Science*, Vol. 69, 1998: "Diagnosis and treatment of myelodysplasia" (with **Jennifer Burdette**), "Antiphospholipid syndrome: Clinical spectrum" (with **Mukul Mehra** and **Grant Eudy**), "The utility of C-reactive protein (CRP) in infectious and other

disease states" (with **Chris Jahraus**), and "Hyperlipidemic Pancreatitis" (with **Miranda Edwards, MD**). He collaborated on "Use of Romazicon in Combined Benzodiazepine and Alcohol Toxicity" with **Greg Bradford, PharmD**, of DCH; Internal Medicine faculty member **Charles Taylor, PharmD**; and medical student **Les Lenning**. He also collaborated on "The relationship between homocysteine and premature vascular disease" with faculty from the UA Dept. of Human Performance. These topics were presented at the society's annual meeting. He has made several presentations on chronic fatigue syndrome, and published "Physical activity assessment in the elderly: A review."

In August, Dr. **Pieroni** was selected Vice Chairman for Health Sciences of the Alabama Academy of Science. Pieroni, listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Medicine and Health*, received an honor closer to home when he was named "Physician of the Year" by the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on Sept. 27.

Lisa Russell, Chief Medical Librarian, Health Sciences Library, and **Martha Cook**, Technical Services/Systems Librarian, presented the poster "Using Clinical Digital Collections to Provide Web-Based Information Services" at the Medical Library Association meeting held in Lexington, KY, in October. It featured the Clinical Digital Library project developed by **Steven MacCall** of UA, which can be used on campus and in remote preceptor clinics in rural sites.

For more information or individual instruction in using clinical digital collections, contact Lisa Russell at (205) 348-1362 or lrussell@cchs.ua.edu.

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For more information:

Kay Fendley, CCHS Dean's Office, 205/348-1344
Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326
kfendley@cchs.ua.edu

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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. 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 which 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.

William A. Curry, MD
Dean

Linda Jackson
Editor

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences
P.O. Box 870326
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0326

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