

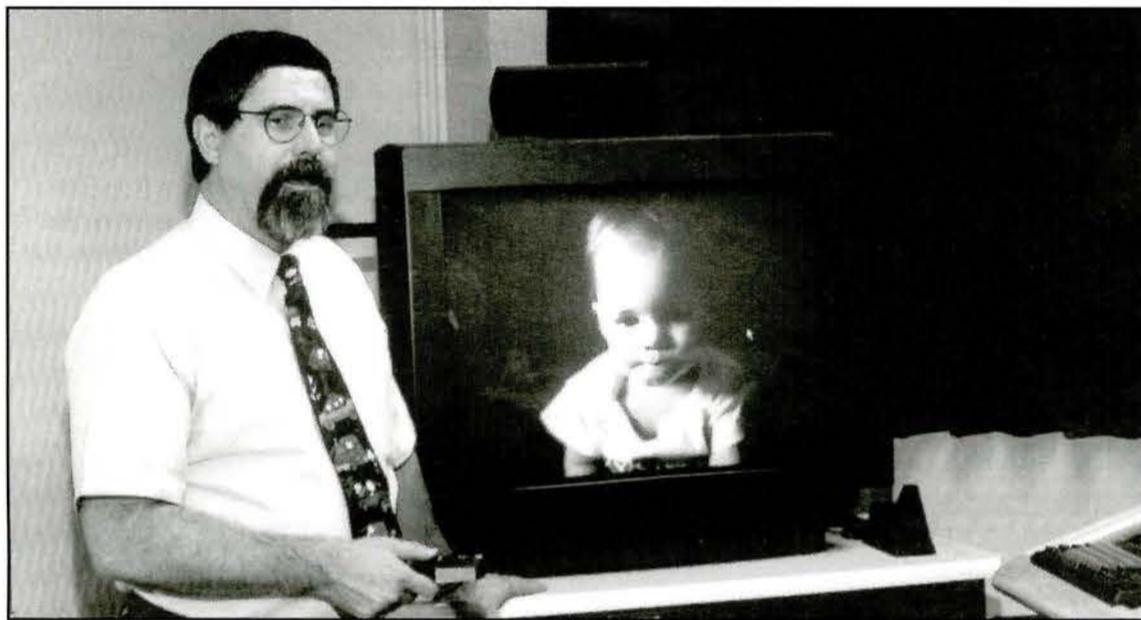
# On Rounds

The University of Alabama  
College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 9, Number 1

Winter 1999

## Willard Auditorium and Classrooms Now Equipped with Multi-Media Technology



Dr. Michael Taylor, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, demonstrates new teaching tools in the seventh floor conference room. A computerized control panel (to the right of the TV screen in this picture) is on a rolling podium. Dr. Taylor uses the hand-held mouse to control the white arrow pointer beside the baby's face. Handouts or internet information can also be projected.

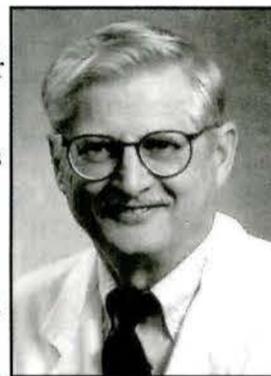
The 7th floor conference room and the Willard Auditorium in the Educational Tower at DCH and the Carrel Room at Capstone Medical Center are undergoing renovations to install state of the art multi-media equipment. **Dr. Michael Taylor**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and a member of the CCHS Medical Informatics Committee, has coordinated the modernization effort. "CCHS will have small, medium, and

large multi-media classrooms when the project is completed," he said.

The new technology replaces overhead projectors and slide projectors and adds innovations for sharing information in the classroom setting. The multi-media system provides internet access and projection in each room. A document camera will project X-rays or plain paper documents, and the computer will be able to

## Dr. Mozley Plans to Retire

**Paul Mozley, MD**, Professor and Chair of Obstetrics & Gynecology, has announced his plans to retire from UA on Oct. 1, 1999. He will step down as chair of the OB/Gyn Department on June 1. Dr. Mozley, who is also Chairman of the OB Staff at DCH, joined the faculty of CCHS in 1974. His career will be profiled in the next issue. Please send your Dr. Mozley stories and pictures to include in this article.



Dr. Paul Mozley

project Power Point presentations on screen. The equipment includes video capability and has a slide converter to show regular slides. Renovations include improved lighting and some new furniture. The auditorium and the Carrel Room are also getting new sound systems with ear-phones for the hearing impaired and touch panel controls on the podiums.

The renovation in Room 701 is completed, and several workshops have been held using the new equipment. This room uses a large TV instead of a screen. Dr. Taylor demonstrated the new capabilities there recently, and when bulleted information appeared on the screen, a shooting sound accompanied each bullet. He said some of the students have made dynamic presentations using the internet and video. He said he expects to see some very sophisticated programs by faculty and students within the next year as everyone learns the new technology.

The Carrel Room renovation with computer installation has also been completed. Chalk boards have been replaced with marker boards. Dr. Taylor expects the Willard Auditorium work to be completed during March and April.

A portable presentation unit (with document camera and laptop computer) should be delivered in March. It will be housed in the Health Sciences Library, available for faculty to check out. CCHS Dean **William Curry** said the projects were funded through a grant from the UA Provost's office. Provost **Dr. Nancy Barrett** also supported CCHS computer upgrades.

The Medical Informatics Committee at CCHS was formed to advise the Dean on advances in electronic capabilities and continue the progress begun with installing personal computers college-wide. The committee, chaired by **Dr. Thomas McHattie**, Associate Professor of OB/GYN, includes **Dr. Taylor**, **Dr. Bob Ireland**, Associate Professor of Family Medicine; **Dr. Jim Leeper**, Professor and Chair of Behavioral and Community Medicine; **Dr. Charles Taylor**, an Auburn University Pharmacy faculty member associated with the CCHS Internal Medicine; **Lisa Russell**, Director of the Health Sciences Library; **Donald Creel**, Coordinator of Business Services at Capstone Medical Center; **Julia Hartman**, CCHS Research Specialist; and **Shirley Florence** and **LeVada Grantham**, Assistants to the Dean.

## Dr. Tietze Dies

**Paul Elliott Tietze, MD**, Chair of Family Medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Tulsa, died January 27, 1999, at the age of 48 after a year-long battle with cancer. Dr. Tietze was a member of the Family Medicine faculty 1985-93 and Assistant Director for the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency. He also - for several years - was Director of Medical Student Affairs at CCHS.



Paul Tietze, MD

"Dr. Tietze was well liked and highly respected by his colleagues, the residents and medical students, and his patients as both a physician and a friend," said CCHS Family Medicine Associate Professor **Sam Gaskins, MD**. "Teaching young physicians and medical students was one of his highest priorities. He was the first family practice faculty member to receive a teaching award from the residents. He made many contributions to our medical education program here at CCHS and then moved on to Chair the Department in Tulsa and establish their Family Medicine teaching program as one of the finest in the Southwest.

His death is a profound loss for both his family and the academic medical community."

"The residents always felt that Dr. Tietze was someone in whom they could confide regarding all matters of medicine. He always had an answer that allowed them to balance the unique demands of medicine, education, and family," said **Blane Schilling, MD**, of Carrollton who was Chief Resident in 1993, the last year Dr. Tietze was at CCHS.

"Dr. Tietze was one of the most compassionate doctors I have ever known," said **Kelvin Sherman, MD**, a family physician in Waynesboro, Mississippi, who was also Chief Resident that year. "He was always concerned about our residents and their education. It is a great shock to learn of his death. Dr. Tietze is truly a role model for what a family practitioner should be."

Dean Emeritus **Wilmer Coggins, MD**, of Tuscaloosa, credited Dr. Tietze with major contributions to CCHS programs in medical education, research, and service. He extended heartfelt condolences to **Dr. Pamela Tietze** on behalf of all former faculty, staff, students, and residents and expressed how much Dr. Tietze had meant to everyone during his tenure here.

**Jerry McKnight, MD**, Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine remembers Dr. Tietze as "an excellent physician and teacher who displayed compassion for those individuals less fortunate in life."

(Continued on page 3)

## Leeper Focus Is Prevention

Dr. **James Leeper**, Professor and Chair of Behavioral and Community Medicine, attended a quarterly meeting February 10-11 in Atlanta of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services. The Task Force, formed and staffed by CDC, is charged with producing a guide that communities can use to develop prevention strategies. Dr. Leeper, who is on the Science Board of the American Public Health Association (APHA), is the organizational liaison representative for APHA to the Task Force. He has just completed terms of service as Chair of the Program Development Board, Co-Chair of the Joint Policy Committee, and ex-officio member of the Executive Board for APHA.

In January Dr. Leeper attended a conference sponsored by CDC, Minority Health Professions Foundation, Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine, and the Association of Schools of Public Health. The aim of the conference, "Eliminating Health Disparities through Prevention Research, 1999," was to encourage partnerships with the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) to do prevention research.

In November, Dr. Leeper and CCHS Research Assistant Tracy Palmer presented information on "The Alabama Child Caring Initiative: A Rural Community Success Story" at the 126th APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition. The presentation was co-authored by Dr. John Wheat, CCHS Associate Professor, and Dr. Alesa Judd, Chairman of the Bibb County Child Caring Foundation. (See related article next page.)

## Rubin and Philp Publish Article

**Nancy Rubin**, Psy.D., Assistant Professor, CCHS Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology, and **Elizabeth Philp**, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, wrote "Health Care Perceptions of the Standardized Patient," an article for *Medical Education*, volume 32, pp. 538-542. A standardized patient (SP) is trained to simulate specific medical conditions during OSCE (objective structured clinical exams) for third year medical students. The study examines whether shifts in perception of their own medical care may be related to the SPs becoming more educated consumers of medical services or if they relate specifically to the students.

## REFLECTIONS

# Producing Doctors with an Attitude

by William A. Curry, MD, Dean

In the February 1 *New Yorker*, a former Clinton administration health policy advisor, Atul Gawande, MD, now a surgical resident, addresses the problem of physician mistakes. Reviewing his own errors in a near-disastrous emergency room case, he describes the formal and informal processes by which all physicians, especially those in training, candidly review their toughest cases in order to improve future performance. It is not typical for physicians to write about such matters. However, Dr. Gawande does a credible job of reassuring the public, while acknowledging the human fallibility that will bedevil the best of systems.

My natural response is to examine these questions in the setting of our own clinical teaching program. We need conferences like the "M & M" that openly examine our decisions. (We have them.) We need systems to monitor "sentinel events" that can alert us to opportunities for improving the way the system works. (We have them too.) We need involvement by medical education committees. (We have them in abundance.) Departmental faculty need to meet and discuss each student's and resident's progress. (They do.)

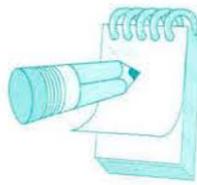
These are the responses of an administrator. To them, Dr. Gawande wisely responds in his article that the "Quality Improvement" approach alone cannot do the job. It's that bedeviling human factor that does us in. What we're talking about is how to train responsible doctors who will stay responsible. If that is done, then the systems can help them.

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 necessary research to support the educational and service components. The service area of the college is rural Alabama.

-The mission of the College of Community Health Sciences

Like Caesar's ancient Gaul, all of medical education can be divided into three parts: knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The knowledge and the skills get plenty of attention, and while there are lively academic arguments about them, no one would argue that they will be overlooked entirely. Attitudes are a different matter. The SAT, MCAT, USMLE, and National Boards do not measure them. All

## Faculty Notes



Send faculty news items to  
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Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.  
Room 372 Nott Hall 348-1302  
Fax 348-9417 (Dean's office)

## Pharmacy Faculty at CCHS Get AU Patient Education Grant

Dr. **Debbie Byrd** and Dr. **Charles Taylor**, Pharmacy faculty from Auburn University associated with CCHS Departments of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine respectively, have obtained funding from the Auburn University Office of Outreach "Do Something" Grant Program for a project in Hale County, "Gaining Access to Pharmacy Services (GAPS): A Medication Assistance and Education Program" to provide medications through pharmaceutical company programs for the indigent, and to provide education about those medications. The project will help Hale County residents not eligible for other health programs, such as Medicaid. Working with the Family Resource Center's Mobile Health Clinic, a pharmacist will travel in rural Hale County one afternoon a week with a nurse and social service worker to deliver medications and counsel patients on using them.

Dr. Byrd, interviewed for an article in *AU Outreach* (Fall, 1998), said generating low literacy level medication education strategies is one of the project objectives. Dr. Taylor added that people need more than just information. "For example," he said, "many cannot afford medications or don't know how to use them, increasing their risks for health complications."

## Rural Health Conference Postponed

The first **Alabama Rural Health Conference** has been postponed until next spring. In the last issue, *OnRounds* announced that the conference was planned for April, 1999. Due to scheduling conflicts, the conference will not be held this spring. CCHS is continuing to spearhead interdisciplinary program planning for a statewide symposium on rural health issues. For more information, contact the Dean's Office, attn. Kay Fendley, Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326. (205) 348-1344. [kfendley@cchs.ua](mailto:kfendley@cchs.ua)

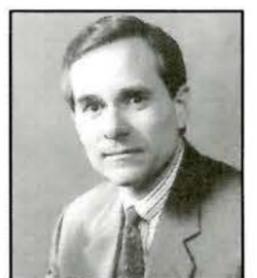
## Byrd and Taylor Achieve Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy

**Debbie C. Byrd**, Pharm.D., and **Charles T. Taylor**, Pharm.D., have each earned the designation of Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. This is pharmacy's highest credential in the specialty practice of pharmacotherapy. Both are members of the Auburn University School of Pharmacy faculty associated with CCHS: Dr. Byrd with Family Medicine; and Dr. Taylor with Internal Medicine. Board certification is a voluntary process for those already licensed and indicates that the pharmacist has demonstrated advanced knowledge and skills -- beyond what is required for licensure. Specialists are responsible for ensuring the safe, appropriate, and economical use of drugs in patient care and frequently serve as a primary source of information for other health care professionals. Of the more than 3000 licensed pharmacists in Alabama, Byrd and Taylor are two of only 14 who are Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy.

## Hefelfinger Writes for AAMC on Japanese Residents' Education

**David Hefelfinger**, MD, Chair of Pediatrics, was author of "Graduate Medical Education at Chubu Hospital, Okinawa, Japan" in the December issue of *Academic Medicine*, the journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Hefelfinger spent three months during his 1996 sabbatical as Visiting Professor at Japan's Chubu Hospital. He worked with Japanese pediatrics residents who generally get very little practice in basic patient-care tasks such as history taking and physical evaluation. He interviewed the 65 residents about their training and how they felt about performing basic pediatric procedures. He concluded that more attention should be given to training in general clinical skills in Japanese residencies and compared that conclusion with similar concerns that have been raised about U.S. residency training.

-Anita Traweek  
Dept. of Pediatrics



Dr. Curry

of us, even in the most personalized educational settings, find it vexing to confront problems relating to them. Yet we have to acknowledge that the dissatisfactions of patients and society with health care have less to do with the possession of knowledge and skills, and more to do with how those powerful tools are applied. I contend that one way to understand this is to look at the third member of the triad, at the attitudes of physicians.

So where does this lead us? I believe it takes CCHS straight to the heart of our mission. We are asking more of our faculty, staff, students, and residents, than knowledge and skill. We ask for good judgement and clear purpose in how those tools are to be employed. Medicine as a profession, like any profession, is characterized by self-regulation. An individual physician must be self-regulating to the degree that he or she exercises discretion in the use of knowledge and skill. Here are examples of attitudes we must encourage in our students and in ourselves:

1. Healthy attitudes toward skills and knowledge produce a clear sense of limits and the need for help.
2. Healthy attitudes toward ourselves produce self-honesty and accountability. These are the foundation of both self-discipline and peer review.
3. Healthy attitudes toward patients, families, and communities result in compassion and a broad view of health.

Dr. Gawande's inside look at academic medical peer review may bring criticism and even reproach, but I believe he has done all of us a service. Medicine is a complicated and difficult business, and successful practice requires a delicate balance of confidence and humility. Our patients need to know that we work continuously to maintain that balance, and that we are accountable not just to courts of law and regulatory bodies, but to one another as well. All this emphasizes for me the important trust that we hold as medical educators. Our charge is not only to impart knowledge and skills. If we are to fulfill our mission, we must teach by precept and by example the attitudes - the "habits of the heart" - that characterize the truly effective clinician.

## Child Caring Initiative Helping Communities Get Health Insurance Coverage for Children

*There are health consequences for uninsured children in rural Alabama. Research has shown a correlation between their insurance coverage and health outcomes.*

Uninsured children are an increasing dilemma in the United States, particularly in Alabama. According to the 1997 Current Population Survey an estimated 15%, or 179,000 Alabama children had no health insurance for all of 1996. Structural changes in the economy and workplace have shifted responsibility for insurance coverage from private to public sectors. While public providers with such programs as Medicaid and ALL-Kids have expanded eligibility levels, many children continue not to be enrolled due to a lack of information and socio-cultural barriers. In an effort to surmount these barriers, the Child Caring Initiative (CCI) was formed to provide for local control of outreach efforts to ensure that children enroll into a health insurance program.

Begun in Bibb County, Alabama, in December 1995, CCI is a community-driven program linking underserved rural school children with a health insurance source and access to health care. The mission of the Child Caring Initiative is to assure that every child in the community is enrolled in a health insurance program, receives medical care and health information appropriate to age, and develops expectations about personal health and hygiene. The Initiative was replicated to Fayette County in May 1998. CCI represents a collaborative effort among Bibb County, Fayette County, UA's College of Community Health Sciences, Capstone College of Nursing, the Rural Alabama Health Alliance, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. A local policy board directs the day-to-day activities, which include conducting child health screenings through the local school system for the identification of child health needs and active outreach and enrollment efforts for families needing health insurance.

The University of Alabama is assisting communities in managing and analyzing their health fair data. Research on results from Bibb County's health fairs examines the relationship between health insurance and child health outcomes based on data gathered during the Initiative's first two years, 1996 and 1997. Data were gathered on a cohort of school-aged children, kindergarten through grade 12, from a single, rural west Alabama community. Nearly 16% of children participating in Year 1 were uninsured. This figure was reduced to 12% in Year 2. The most frequently identified health abnormalities included dental, visual, and auditory health deficits; and the local community chose to focus their efforts to reducing the prevalence of these problems, particularly dental and visual deficits. Year 2 outcomes revealed significant reductions in the number of referrals given for abnormalities, with an almost 50% reduction in dental referrals.

**-Tracy Palmer**  
CCHS Project Director  
Child Caring Initiative

*Tracy Palmer, a research assistant in the Dept. of Behavioral and Community Medicine at CCHS, coordinates UA's involvement with the CCI partnership. She works with public and private agencies and community volunteers to increase the number and percentage of children who have health insurance. She has made numerous presentations on the work of the Child Caring Initiative and presented research findings at national meetings. She also led Alabama's collaboration on a grant proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for funding to increase insurance coverage and improve access to health care for children. For more information, contact her at CCHS, Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326. tpalmer@cchs.ua.edu*

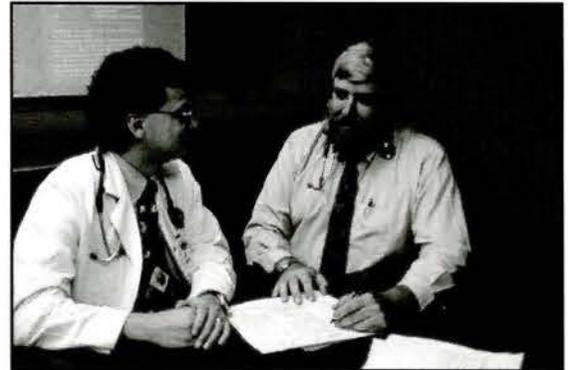
## CCHS PHOTO ALBUM



Dr. Tietze dressed as Castro for a Halloween luncheon at Capstone. He recently reminisced by e-mail about the event to Dr. Bobbi Adcock, one of his former residents.

### In Memory of Paul Tietze 1951-1999

A member of the Family Medicine faculty and Assistant Residency Director at CCHS, 1985-93



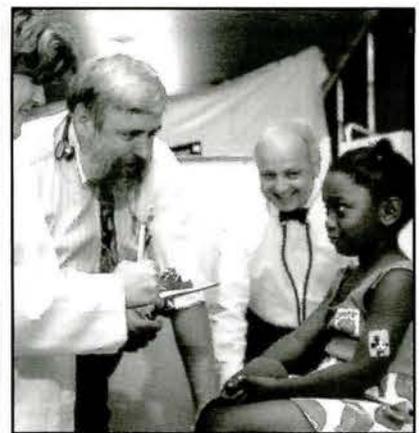
(Above) Dr. Tietze with Resident Chris McGee, MD, in 1992.

(Left) At the 1993 graduation of family practice residents, Dr. Paul Tietze, left, with Chief Residents Kelvin Sherman and Blane Schilling and Residency Director Sam Gaskins, right, as UA chairs are presented to Drs. Sherman and Schilling for their service.



(Below left) Family Medicine faculty in early 90's: Standing - Jerry Jones, Paul Tietze, Sam Gaskins, Bob Ireland, and Dan Rodman. Sitting - Jerry McKnight, Margaret Garner, Pam Tietze, Alan Maxwell, and Elizabeth Philp.

(Below, right) At OSCE testing in Coleman Coliseum in a makeshift exam room.



## Dr. Tietze (Continued from page 1)

"Paul was a big, kind-hearted man with a great sense of humor and keen wit. He manifested a level of intellectual honesty that immediately recognized the disingenuous. He was missed by us when he moved to Tulsa and will be sorely missed by the Family Medicine academic community now that he is gone," said Dr. McKnight.

"What I remember and treasured most about Paul were his compassion and integrity," said Dr. Russ Anderson, Chair of Family Medicine at LSU School of Medicine and former CCHS family medicine faculty member and Associate Dean. "He was a big rugged guy with the gentlest heart in the world. Many times I watched him work with patients with tremendous patience and compassion and was always impressed by it. The other thing was his integrity. If he told you he would do something, he did it and there was no question about it. He was strong in his beliefs and always constant to them. Paul meant a lot to me and I am going to miss him."

Retired CCHS Dean Roland Ficken, who appointed Dr. Tietze Director of Medical Student Affairs, said, "He was loved and admired by our medical students, and all our residents who had the good fortune of receiving their training during his watch held him in the highest regard." Dr. Ficken credited Dr. Tietze's efforts to initiate the PBL (problem based learning) process on this campus. He also helped organize the first OSCEs (objective structured clinical exams) here at CCHS to assess skills of all 3rd year medical students the UA School of Medicine.

Dr. Tietze was a native of Oklahoma, and he earned his MD degree from the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. He and his wife Pam, who completed her residency training here and was on the CCHS faculty, have two sons, David and Travis. Dr. Pamela Tietze has joined the Family Practice faculty of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. The address of the Department of Family Practice is: 9920 East 21st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129. Phone: (918) 663-6884.

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If you are interested in exploring opportunities and options in designing a charitable gift for the College of Community Health Sciences, contact:

Dean **William A. Curry**, MD, (205) 348-1288  
or

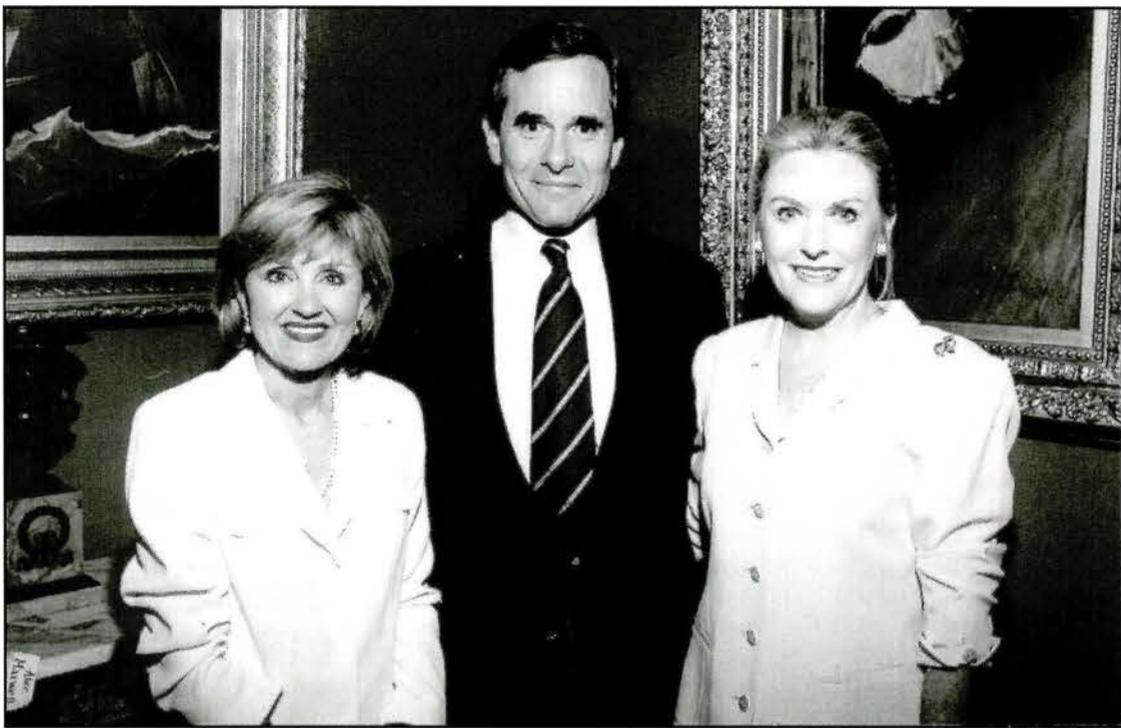
**Vicki Johnson**, Dean's Office, (205) 348-0093  
College of Community Health Sciences  
P. O. Box 870326  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326

## Lister Hill Society Raises Funds for Medical Education at CCHS

Ongoing assistance for medical education at CCHS is provided by the *Lister Hill Society*. The Lister Hill Society, named in honor of the late U.S. Senator from Alabama who worked for better health care for all citizens, is the annual fund for CCHS, the College of Community Health Sciences. The focus of this branch of the University of Alabama School of Medicine is community medicine and primary care, especially in the preparation of family physicians to care for patients in rural areas.

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

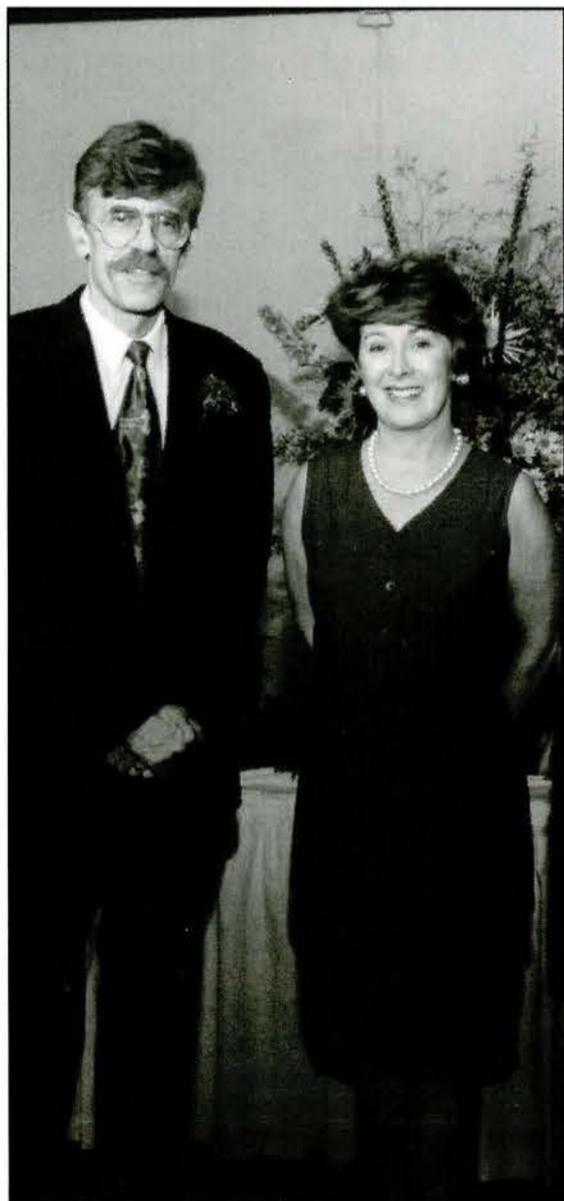
A benefit held at the President's Mansion last fall raised \$15,000 in cash and pledges to support CCHS activities not funded by the state education budget. Lister Hill Board members **Alice Maxwell** and **Anne Monfore** planned the event and said the Board hopes to involve alumni and friends of CCHS in additional activities to increase voluntary giving. The Board invites you to help support medical education.



CCHS Dean William Curry, MD, (center) with Alice Maxwell (left) and Anne Monfore, who planned the Lister Hill Society reception at the President's Mansion last fall. The event raised \$15,000 in cash and pledges to support medical education activities not funded by the state's education budget.

### Lister Hill Society Board of Directors

*Wilmer J. Coggins, M.D.*  
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## UA Trustees Approve New Center at CCHS

### Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society

The Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, established at Baylor College of Medicine by **Alan M. Blum, MD**, the new Chair of Family Medicine at CCHS, will be moved to UA when Dr. Blum (in photo at left) moves from Baylor to the College of Community Health Sciences. The University of Alabama Board of Trustees approved the Center relocation to UA at a recent meeting. The Center was founded by Dr. Blum to explore the role and influence of tobacco historically and in contemporary society through an interdisciplinary approach. The Center's work includes research, education, and community service and outreach. This purpose supports the mission of the College of Community Health Sciences to train medical students and primary care physicians and engage in related research and service.

Instruction, research, and service at the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society focuses on:

- A two-fold instructional component that includes professional education and public education. The educational program for health professionals will include the development of curriculum for medical students, residents in a variety of specialties, and allied health professionals. The public education program is community outreach, a school-based program developed for primary and secondary education levels.
- International collaborative research includes joint projects and faculty exchange with the World Health Organization and its Collaborating Centers.
- A service and outreach program through development and maintenance of the Center's web-site, the development of traveling exhibits, interdisciplinary short courses and seminars on tobacco issues, and periodic publications.

Celia Wallace with Dr. Alan Blum (left), who will be the new Gerald Wallace Chair of Family Medicine at CCHS. Mrs. Wallace's million dollar gift to CCHS in memory of her late husband created the first Chair of Family Medicine at UA and one of only a few in the entire country. Mrs. Wallace is CEO of Mobile's Springhill Memorial Hospital, which was founded by Dr. Wallace, a family physician.

## Lister Hill Society Supports CCHS Rural Mission

The Lister Hill Society, in conjunction with the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS), is dedicated to the support and advancement of medical education, healthcare services, and research, with particular emphasis on primary care and rural healthcare. Board members provide leadership to:

- give the College the benefit of their individual and collective advice;
- meet with College and University leaders to review current programs and make recommendations for future endeavors; and
- assure a continuing flow of funds to assist the College in providing medical education, health research, and service to the people of Alabama.

The College of Community Health Sciences was created by the Alabama legislature in 1971 to train physicians and medical students for family practice in the state's sparsely populated areas.

Over the last two decades, the CCHS family practice residency for physicians has become one of the largest and most successful programs in the nation. By 1998, more than half of its 244 trained graduates were practicing in rural areas or towns of less than 25,000, and over 50% were practicing in Alabama. In fact, one of every eight family physicians practicing in Alabama was trained at CCHS.

## Larry Mayes Society & Scholarship Available to Medical Students

The Larry Mayes Society met in December at the University Club for dinner. 4th year medical student **Chris Gahraus**, spoke on "Unrealized Utility of C-Reactive Protein."

The **Larry Mayes Society** is an organization on the Tuscaloosa campus which allows medical students to meet with faculty and residents informally in a social setting.

### Scholarship Applications Due March 29

The Larry Mayes Fund also provides an annual award to a rising senior for study abroad. The **Larry Mayes Scholarship** is based on grade point, class rank, and an essay by the student on what he or she hopes to gain from study abroad. It is available to medical students on all three campuses of UA School of Medicine.

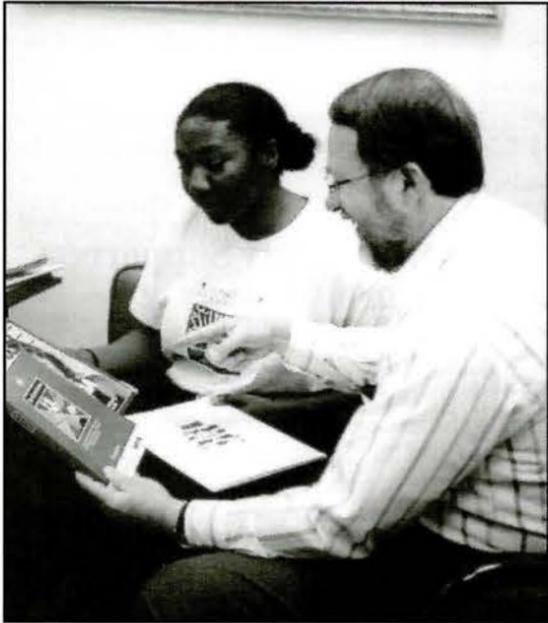
For more information, contact the CCHS Office of Medical Student Affairs, Box 870378, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0378. Phone: (205) 348-1384.

## Dr. Leeper Studies Rural Medical Care and Physician Recruitment in Australia

Dr. James Leeper, CCHS Professor and Chair of Behavioral and Community Medicine, traveled to Queensland Australia last fall to work with the Rural Education Research and Development Center at James Cook University. He did follow-up consultations as part of the Fulbright grant which funded Dr. Wheat's trip to Australia in 1997 to compare medical education, and the recruitment and placement of physicians for rural area.

Dr. Leeper studied methods of the rural training track at James Cook University, which has a similar mission to CCHS. The program there does not recruit rural students and retention rates for rural practice are lower than those of CCHS.

Dr. Leeper visited two physician-training sites, one in Townsville and another in the interior in Towoomba. The top aboriginal health



Dr. Leeper shows information from his visit to Australia to his research assistant, Audra Ford of Tuskegee.

### Research Lunch Series Continues

The Research Lunch Series sponsored by the CCHS Research Committee continues this spring. The series provides a forum for presentation and discussion of research of interest to our faculty, residents, and students. Presentations are held the second Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. in the Carrel Room.

Dr. James Leeper, Chair of Community Medicine, started this semester's series in January with information on Thirty-year Infant Mortality Trends in Alabama. In February, Tracy Palmer, Graduate Assistant and Project Director of the Child Caring Initiative, discussed "Impact of Health Insurance on Child Health Outcomes."

On March 9, Dr. James Philp speaks on "Unpredictability in Learning." His research involves Problem-Based Learning, in which students take written examinations based on learning issues they bring to their PBL sessions, and application of this method in residency training.

On April 13, Steven MacCall, Instructor, School of Library and Information Studies, will present his dissertation research on Internet information retrieval. The subjects for his study were drawn from CCHS Family Practice faculty, residents, and medical students. This work is part of a larger research program in Digital Libraries that aims at aiding physicians and clinic staff in using electronic information resources effectively in patient care.

The May 11th topic is a joint research project on Defense Mechanisms by Dr. Nancy Rubin and her collaborators, Dr. Karina Davison and Michael MacGregor, a graduate researcher, both from the UA Psychology Department.

Two new members have joined the Research Committee. Brad Gaspard, MD, represents the residents, and Edward Shackelford is the new medical student representative.

For more information, contact the CCHS Research Committee Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Rand: [erand@cchs.ua.edu](mailto:erand@cchs.ua.edu) Phone: 348-1325

-Martha C. Cook, Assistant Professor  
Technical Services/Systems Librarian  
Health Sciences Library, CCHS

problem was diabetes, he said, but poverty and high rates of alcoholism were also concerns. He observed that female teen smoking and domestic violence were issues as well.

He also participated in a program for high school students similar to the Rural Health Scholars program at CCHS. In Australia, he said, 10th graders choose career paths and their remaining high school curriculum is determined by those choices. After high school, students who plan to be doctors go directly into a 6-year medical school program. 18 of the 20 students in the session he attended were female, and he later met ten medical students, nine of whom were female. Australian males are hard to in-

terest in the academic preparation necessary for medical careers, said Dr. Leeper. As part of the high school program, which took place during their spring break, the students got overviews of health disciplines and "shadowed" health professionals at Townsville General Hospital, aboriginal health clinics, and emergency medical services at a fire station.

Public health problems, said Dr. Leeper, included heart disease and cancer, and infectious tropical diseases which are transmitted by mosquitoes. The northern tip of Australia can be reached on foot from New Guinea at low tide, and there is a problem with migration of wild pigs and other disease-carrying animals.

## Dr. McHattie Helps Victims of Hurricane George

### Medical Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

CCHS Assistant Professor of OB/GYN Thomas McHattie, MD, returned in February from a weeklong medical mission to Samana in the Dominican Republic. The people there were still dealing with the after-effects of Hurricane George. The storm swept through the Caribbean in September the week before the team makes a regular fall mission trip to the country which occupies part of the same island as Haiti. Dr. McHattie was one of thirty-one doctors, nurses, technicians, and lay volunteers who made the trip set up by Midwest Medical Mission of Toledo.

He described extreme poverty and inadequate medical care. Local physicians at government hospitals don't get paid regularly and can see only a fraction of the patients who need care, he said. They don't perform surgery except in extreme emergencies because the poor facilities and equipment they have to work with put patients at extremely high risk. So many people came every day to the clinic set up by the mission volunteers that armed guards were on duty for crowd control.

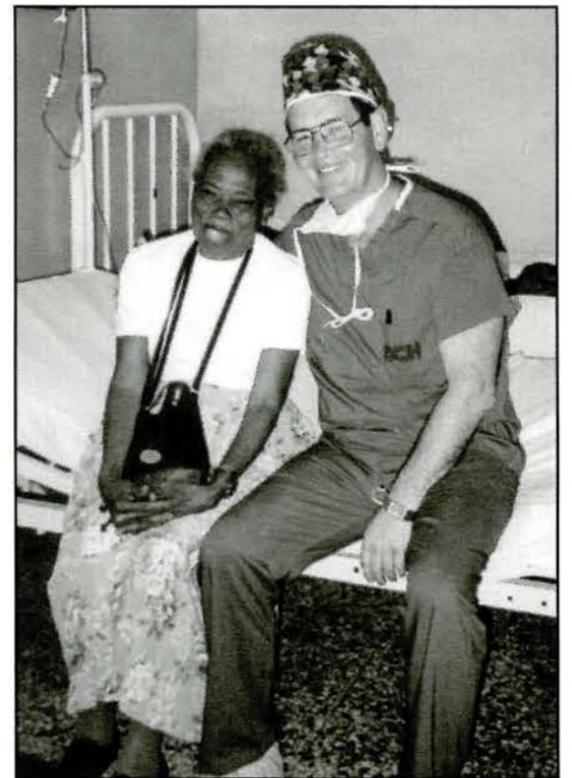
"The people here do not get regular care and their needs are great," said Dr. McHattie. The local physicians appreciate the mission's help, he added. Conditions have actually improved since he started going there three years ago, said Dr. McHattie, who travels twice yearly to locations in the Dominican Republic with this team. He said tourism, industrial development, and new political leadership are helping the economy, but the average annual income there is only \$550.00.

Dr. McHattie said the team played tourist before they returned home: they went whale-watching because every humpback whale in the Atlantic comes to Sanama Bay in February and March to have their calves. The local government is very protective of the whales, and boats are required by law to cut their engines when a whale approaches. They also visited the first church in the New World, San Cristobel in Santo Domingo, and visited the botanical gardens. It is one of the five largest in the Western Hemisphere, said Dr. McHattie, who was particularly interested in the huge collection of medicinal herbs and plants there and the folklore and witchcraft associated with them.

RIGHT: Dr. McHattie comforts the mother of one of his surgical patients during his work in Samana, D.R.



Dr. McHattie, right, performs one of the sixteen operations he did while he was there. The team saw over 1,000 children and 280 adults during the five-day period.



## CCHS Surgery Department Chairs Combine Private Practices

Not only will Joseph Wallace, MD, Chair of Surgery for CCHS, and Timothy Winkler, MD, Associate Chairman of Surgery, share the work of the Department of Surgery, they also share a private practice as members of "Surgical Specialists of Alabama, P.C." Their partners are surgeons, Dr. George Nunn and Dr. Richard Stuhr (formerly members with Dr. Wallace of Surgical Associates of Tuscaloosa, P.C.), Dr. John Waits and Dr. Howard Falgout (originally Tuscaloosa Surgical Specialist, P.C., where Dr. Winkler conducted his private practice). As of January, all six board certified physicians are located at 1031 Fairfax Park as Surgical Specialists of Alabama, P.C.

Their practice specializes in general, thoracic and vascular surgery, colon and rectal surgery, gastrointestinal endoscopy, and laparoscopic

surgery. The physicians (who are referred to as the "Super Six" by medical students and the O.R. and E.R. staff at both hospitals) are all affiliated with the College and provide training for medical students and residents.

-Nikki Moore  
Dept. of Surgery

### Early Match - Ophthalmology

Please join us in congratulating Peter Chang and Ben Roberts who have achieved early matches in Ophthalmology. Peter matched at Baylor College of Medicine-Houston and Ben at UAB. We are very proud of them!!!

-Dr. Cathy Gresham, MD, Director  
Office of Medical Student Affairs



## CME Supporters

Contributing to CME programs at CCHS

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for Geriatric Psychiatry

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Rhone-Poulenc Rorer

Searle

State Department of Mental Health  
and Mental Retardation

## Honors Convocation College of Community Health Sciences

May 15, 1999  
6:00 p.m.  
Sheraton Four Points



**Graduation**  
Tuscaloosa  
Family Practice Residency  
June 15, 1999  
6:00 p.m.  
Bryant Conference Center

**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. 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

## Grand Rounds

### Continuing Medical Education Lectures

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Willard Auditorium  
DCH Regional Medical Center

Spring 1999

Speakers in January and February included Hewitt Ryan, MD, VA Medical Center Tuscaloosa (Geriatric Depression); Michael Hamilton, MD, MPH, Duke University (Treatment of Obesity); Harvey Fair, MD, and Thomas McHattie, MD, CCHS Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology (History of Oral Contraception Development); William B. White, MD, University of Connecticut School of Medicine (The Timing of Cardiovascular Events); Rich Whitley, MD, UAB Children's Hospital (New Developments in Neonatal HIV Infection); Michael Waldrum, MD, UAB Pulmonary and Critical Care (To Code or Not to Code); and Ross Bunch, MD, of Tuscaloosa. The February First Friday Conference on Arts and Letters was "Fear of Litigation" by UA Psychology Professor Dr. Stan Brodsky and Doctoral student Chad Tillbrook.

March 5 **First Friday** "Performance and Lecture"  
Sherry Cohen, DM, Professor of Flute, UA

March 12 "Management of Esophageal Reflux Disease"  
Robert R. Schade, MD, Professor and Chief  
Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
Medical College of Georgia

March 19 "Brain Chemistry of Addiction: A Brief Recap"  
Roger Lacy, MD, Associate Professor  
Psychiatry and Neurology, CCHS

March 26 "Reducing Incidence of Breast Cancer  
in Women of High Risk"  
John Carpenter, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Hematology/Oncology, UAB

April 9 "Women and Alcoholism"  
Paul Ragan, MD  
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

April 16 "Specific Cox II Inhibitors: New Approach to  
Treating Pain and Inflammation"  
Douglas C. Conaway, MD  
Care First Health Specialists, Myrtle Beach, SC

April 23 "Global Eradication of Infectious Disease"  
Sten Vermund, MD, Professor and Chair  
Epidemiology, UAB

April 30 "Treatment of Vascular Lesions"  
Paul Gardner, MD  
Children's Hospital, UAB

May 7 **First Friday Conference**  
"Olmec Archeology and New Information"  
Richard Diehl, PhD, Director,  
Alabama Museum of Natural History  
Professor of Anthropology, UA

May 14 "COPD"  
Randall Young, MD, Professor of Medicine  
Pulmonary and Critical Care, UAB

May 21 "Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment  
of Pulmonary Embolism"  
John T. Owings, MD  
Assistant Professor, Surgery and Attending Surgeon  
University of California-Davis Medical Center

May 28 "Osteoporosis Nutrition"  
Sarah Morgan, MD, Director  
Osteoporosis and Treatment Clinic  
Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences, UAB

For more information, contact:  
Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, (205) 348-0093  
e-mail: [vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu](mailto:vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu)

The Grand Rounds schedule is located on the internet at:  
[http://bama.ua.edu/~hslib/1999\\_SPCME.html](http://bama.ua.edu/~hslib/1999_SPCME.html)  
(the UA CCHS Health Sciences Library)

### "Achieving Wellness in Chronic Illness" Group Meets at Capstone

The Department of Psychiatry and Neurology at Capstone Medical Center is sponsoring a series of eight-week lifestyle change groups. The first session of "Achieving Wellness in Chronic Illness: A Group Approach" began Jan. 26, and two subsequent groups will follow. The group meets on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at Capstone Medical Center.

This medical group therapy, for people with such conditions as high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic stress, smoking-related conditions, or coronary artery disease, focuses on lifestyle changes through education, practice, and maintenance of healthy daily habits. A major group activity will be Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction,

a powerful technique for motivation and resolve in exercising, quitting smoking, reducing alcohol intake, lowering calorie consumption, and calming anxious feelings. Psychologist Dr. Harriet Myers, a CCHS Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, is conducting the group sessions.

Subsequent group sessions begin on April 6 and June 15. For more information, contact Dr. Myers or Linda Reynolds at (205) 348-1265.



Dr. Harriet Myers

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