Members of the 1999 graduating class of the Family Practice Residency were honored at an awards dinner at the Bryant Conference Center on June 15, 1999. The program admitted its first resident in 1974. The first class completed the program in 1976. Michael McBrearty, MD, the Chief Resident of that class, now practices in Fairhope, Alabama, said Marc Armstrong, MD, Residency Director, who presided at the event. Dr. Armstrong was the first resident in the program.

"With the addition of these fourteen graduates, 258 family physicians have completed the program, and 129 of these alumni are practicing in Alabama," said Armstrong. "More than half of this class," said Armstrong, "will be entering practice in towns with a population of less than 30,000." In the 25 years since it began, the CCHS residency has trained 258 family practitioners. Fifty percent of them are in towns smaller than 25,000; and 51 percent are practicing in Alabama.

Graduates were joined by their families, CCHS faculty, and DCH officials as departmental honors and special awards were presented. Chief Resident Beau Freeman, MD, received the Internal Medicine award and one of two Research Awards. Lon Haskell, MD, received two departmental awards: the Obstetrics and Gynecology Award; and the William F. DeShazo III award, for excellence in family medicine. Dr. Haskell and Clint McEntyre, MD, were co-winners of the Society of Family Medicine Resident Teaching Award, and Dr. Ireland, who presented the award, said that members of this class were all exceptionally good teachers.

Chelley Alexander, MD, was co-winner of the Research Award. Lori Stanfield, MD, received the Pediatrics Award, and Edward Denard, MD, won the Psychiatry Award. Dr. Amy Shenkenberg, MD, and Beau Freeman, MD, received University of Alabama captain's chairs for their leadership as chief residents.

Paul Molloy, MD, Department Chair, presented Adam Burrell, MD, the OB Fellowship Award for his year of work in the field. He also presented an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics to Karl Hasik, MD.

"Pipeline at Work: The Rural Scholar programs at CCHS identify and nurture outstanding rural students who are considering health-care or medical careers in rural areas. High school students came to campus this summer for one rural scholar program, and the fourth class of Rural Medical Scholars were just interviewed and selected. Preparing for the interview process on June 24 are Melissa Behringer, MD (back to camera), Dr. Jim Leeper, Dr. Roger Lacy, and Dr. Michael Taylor. (See page 3)

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Pipeline at Work: The Rural Scholar programs at CCHS identify and nurture outstanding rural students who are considering health-care or medical careers in rural areas. High school students came to campus this summer for one rural scholar program, and the fourth class of Rural Medical Scholars were just interviewed and selected. Preparing for the interview process on June 24 are Melissa Behringer, MD (back to camera), Dr. Jim Leeper, Dr. Roger Lacy, and Dr. Michael Taylor. (See page 3)

First Residency Reunion August 7 Celebrating 25th Anniversary of Program

Former family practice residents at CCHS are invited to the first formal reunion of residents on Saturday evening, August 7, at the NorthRiver Yacht Club. An elegant seated dinner preceded by a cocktail hour is planned. Dr. Jerry McKnight, Chair of Family Medicine and also a graduate of the CCHS Family Practice Residency, said he hoped all graduates will come and enjoy celebrating the 25th year of the residency program and catching up with former classmates and teachers. There will be a brief program, and special alumni will be recognized.

Training of family practice physicians, especially those who would locate in underserved rural communities, was an original goal of the Alabama Legislature in founding CCHS in 1972. The residency program opened in 1974. CCHS is a branch of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Its mission focuses on primary care and serving the health care needs of Alabama's rural areas.

A keepsake book with alumni profiles and photos of residents through the years is being compiled for the event. Alums—even if they cannot attend—are urged to send information and a photo for the book. A cocktail hour at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by dinner at 7:00. Former residents are asked to RSVP by July 23.

For more information, contact: Vicki Johnson, (205) 348-0093 (E-mail: vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu), or Jerry McKnight, MD, at (205) 348-2884 (mcknight@cchs.ua.edu).
Summer Reflections

CCHS Highlights 1998-99

by William Curry, MD, Dean

We recently compiled a list of the highlights at CCHS in the past year. A quick review shows how much significant work is being done here. I am especially pleased to see how well our faculty and staff are building team efforts in teaching, research, clinical service, and community outreach.

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

• Excellent residency match
• Continued competitive board scores and academic performance
• Videotaped evaluations and individualized process assessments in internal medicine, pediatrics, and psychiatry/neurology
• Continued development and ongoing evaluation of problem-based and small group learning
• NABG grant to study rural environmental and occupational health issues, now contributing to UASOM basic science curriculum

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

• Celebrating 25th anniversary of Family Practice Residency
• SIU family practice residency graduates, 51% in Alabama, 50% in towns smaller than 25,000, fulfilling our rural mission
• One of eight practicing family physicians in Alabama are graduates of Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency

RURAL PROGRAMS

• State of Health in Rural Alabama Conference scheduled for April 27-28, 2000
• Rural Health in Rural America Program in its seventh year. Rural Medical Scholars Program entering its fourth year, with first class returning to Tuscaloosa for junior students July 1999. External review of program in progress, co-chairs by Former UA President, Jack Thomas and UASOM Dean emeritus Harold Folun
• Collaboration with UA Department of Biological Sciences in Rural Scholars Program, with grant from Howard Hughes Institute
• SIU Southern Rural Access Project Professional Pipeline Committee Chair from CCHS
• Area Health Education Center program development includes CCHS, working toward UASOM collaboration with UA College of Medicine for statewide development
• Medical researcher appointed to Department of Benelful and Community Medicine
• Ongoing joint projects with rural Alabama Health Alliance: telemedicine, agromedicine, rural Medical Scholars and rural Health Scholars support

RESEARCH

• Establishment of new position of Coordinator of Sponsored Programs
• Participation in clinical trial begun
• NWU “Covering Kids” grant to study State of Alabama Child health initiative “Milestones,” in partnership with UA College of Human Environmental Sciences, and in collaboration with Department of Public Health
• For the period June 1998-May 1999, rural funding has increased 16%, to $1,279,398 from $489,967 for the same period the year before

CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT

• Founding member of Alabama Health Network, along with DCH Regional Medical Center, Pickens County Medical Center, Bibb Medical Center, and Family Health of Alabama
• Successful bids by Alabama Health Network for District Four (Tuscaloosa, Pickens, Fayette, and Bibb Counties) and District Seven (Greene and Hale Counties)
• Growth of 7% in clinical income
• Establishment of after-hours clinic

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT

• Increased training and application of information technology by faculty and staff
• Multimedia equipment for two conference rooms and Willard Auditorium
• Teleconferencing project with DCH and Rural Alabama Health Alliance
• Selection of new management information system in process, collaborating with UA Russell Student Health Center and Capstone College of Nursing
• Clinical digital project, collaborating between CCHS and Health Sciences Library and UA College of Communication, an individualized physician resource for the medical internet

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

• Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine filled, with Alan Blum, MD, from Baylor University School of Medicine to begin work 7/99
• New Technology seminars for faculty and staff
• Appointment of Assistant to the Dean for Information Technology
• Research Colloquia

NEW BUILDING FOR CCHS

• Architectural study and preliminary drawings completed
• Funding sources identified
• Successful solicitation of existing UA property researching toward to DCH
• Major gift solicitations underway

That’s quite an eye-full. My thanks and congratulations to everyone who has contributed to these successes. Everyone who has worked in our College, I see signs that even greater accomplishments are on the way.

Medical Students Take OSCE July 26-August 4

The rising fourth-year medical students from all three campuses of the University of Alabama School of Medicine will once again participate in the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), which takes place this year July 26-August 5 in Tuscaloosa. Elizabeth F. Philip, MD, Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS, is OSCE medical director for the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

This four-hour exam assesses the students’ clinical skills, and passing the exam is a requirement for graduation. The National Board of Medical Examiners expects to implement an examination of this type as part of its licensing procedures within the next three years. Dr. Philip, the UASOM-Tuscaloosa Program, and OSCE standardized patient trainer Pat Norton have all been approved by the NBME to administer of this exam in this region when it becomes part of the national licensing process.

CCHS Leads Interdisciplinary Planning for Conference on Rural Health April 27-28, 2000

CCHS, along with The University of Alabama’s Colleges of Nursing, Human Environmental Sciences, and Social Work and the UA Office of Sponsored Programs, will host an interdisciplinary conference on Rural Health in Alabama April 27-28, 2000. The target audience includes physicians, nurses, hospital administrators, allied health professionals, state extension service agents, business and agricultural organizations in rural Alabama, and community leaders. The conference will be held at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. The interdisciplinary program will be chaired by John Wheat, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Community Medicine and Internal Medicine, and is coordinating input from the Administration, Nursing, Social Work, and Human Environmental Sciences at UA and from other partners around the state. For more information, contact: Kay Fendley in the Office of CCHS, (205) 348-1344, kfendley@cchs.ua.edu.

Alabama Health Network to Provide Medicare Maternity Care in Six Counties

Capstone Medical Center and CCHS physicians will be coordinating maternity care as part of the Alabama Health Network (AHN) starting August 1. AHN was awarded the Medicaid Maternity Waiver contract from the state in December to serve six West Alabama counties. Capstone is one of the founding partners of the Alabama Health Network, a nonprofit corporation formed by local providers to improve health care services in West Alabama. The five founding members are Bibb Medical Center, Capstone Health Services Foundation, DCH Regional Health System, Family Healthcare of Alabama, and Pickens County Medical Center. AHN will serve patients in District Four (Bibb, Fayette, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa Counties) and District Seven (Greene and Hale Counties). An innovative computerized Maternity Care Tracking System created by Dr. Tom Mellett, Associate Professor of OB/GYN at the College of Community Health Sciences and Medical Director of AHN, will be used to monitor treatment plans with Care Coordinators and local physicians.

Grand Rounds

1999 MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERIES

By William R. Willard, MD, DCH
12:15 p.m. Lunch is served at noon.

For more information, contact Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, (205) 348-0093.

vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu

JULY

1 George Nunn, M.D. “Trauma to the Chest”
2 Bryon Lipsen, M.D. “Acute Renal Failure”
6 Steve Lovelady, M.D. “Airway Management”
8 Ashley Evans, M.D. “Pediatric Seizures”
10 John Mantle, M.D. “DKA & Diabetic Emergencies”
13 Richard Hoppes, M.D. “Respiratory Failure”
15 Stephen Ransome, M.D. “Orthopaedic Emergencies”
18 Ar. R. Reddy, M.D. “Upper GI Bleeding”
20 Omer Smith, M.D. “Urological Emergencies”
22 John Mantle, M.D. “Treatments of AMI”
23 William Curry, M.D. “Hypertension Emergencies”
27 James Shotts, M.D. “ENT Emergencies”
29 Charles Nevels, M.D. “Psychiatric Emergencies I”
30 Charles Nevels, M.D. “Psychiatric Emergencies II”

AUGUST

3 James Geyer, M.D. “Neurological Emergencies”
5 Elyan Feldly, M.D. “Trauma with Multiple Injuries”
6 Eugene Marsh, M.D. “Stroke”
10 S. B. Sandar, M.D. “Lower GI Bleeding”
13 Michael Taylor, M.D. “Child Abuse”
19 Ross Vaughn, M.D. “Congestive Heart Failure”
23 George Kazaftis, M.D. “Eye Emergencies”
26 Thomas McHaffie, M.D. “OB/GYN Emergencies”
27 Ashok Vaghjimal, M.D. “Infectious Disease Pearls”
30 John Wains, M.D. “Acute Abdomen”
31 Thomas Scott, M.D. “Allergy Emergencies”

On Rounds • 2 • Summer 1999
Twenty-six rising high school seniors from rural Alabama counties attended the seventh session of the Rural Health Scholars program at UA this summer. This year’s class includes students from 21 rural counties and 24 different high schools. The Rural Health Scholars Program is conducted by the College of Community Health Sciences, a branch of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Participants are high school students from rural areas who will enter their senior year in the fall. This year’s 28 Rural Health Scholars lived in a dorm on the UA campus during a 5-week summer program which began June 24, 1999. These outstanding high school juniors from rural areas were chosen based on academic achievement and interest in rural health careers. They took English and Chemistry courses for college credit; made field trips to Bibb, Fayette, and Pickens Counties and the medical school in Huntsville; and attended lectures on rural health careers.

The Rural Health Scholars program was initiated in 1993 by John Wheat, MD, Associate Professor at CCHS, UA Chemistry Professor Dr. Robert Garner, and Cynthia Moore, now the program’s director.

“We have had seven classes of rural high school students from all across the state preparing to enter the Rural Medicine Pipeline, said Dr. Wheat. "To date, nine of these students have entered or have been accepted to medical school. Cynthia Moore deserves a great deal of credit for making this program such a success.”

In the first six years, 171 Rural Health Scholars attended the program. (21% are African-Americans, and 66% females). These scholars represent 45 rural Alabama counties.

Funding is provided largely by the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board, and supplemented by small hospitals, school students from rural areas who will enter their senior year in the fall. This year’s 28 Rural Health Scholars were interviewers in the program, and their families enjoy a picnic on Woods Quad to kick off the 1999 5-week summer program, the seventh session of the Rural Health Scholars Program.

### 1999 Rural Health Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and County</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Abernathy</td>
<td>Dadeville High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Bailey</td>
<td>Gordo High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Brewer</td>
<td>Albertville High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared Chandler</td>
<td>Billingsley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Cheeris</td>
<td>Red Level High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Childs</td>
<td>Fort Dale Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek Claxton</td>
<td>Clements High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hester Lindiss Cook</td>
<td>Headland High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Davison</td>
<td>Georgiana High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Emerso</td>
<td>West Bolcon High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Glasgow</td>
<td>Randolph County High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Heupei</td>
<td>Central High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Johnson</td>
<td>Haleville High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caci Langford</td>
<td>Notasuga High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Lott, Cullman</td>
<td>Vinemont High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Naugher</td>
<td>Cherokee High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Pascel</td>
<td>Albertville High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artie Pati</td>
<td>Indian Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monica Pettway</td>
<td>Selma High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Pugh</td>
<td>Clarke County High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Rogers</td>
<td>Geraldine High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dekalb</td>
<td>Collinsville High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamele Shepard</td>
<td>Selma High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Smith</td>
<td>North Jackson High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Steeley</td>
<td>Addison High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Thompson</td>
<td>Brathtaw High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alisha Vaughn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Rural Medical Scholars Chosen

The fourth class of Rural Medical Scholars will enter the program in August. Members of the class were named June 24, following interviews at CCHS with rural physicians and medical faculty from Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. Forty-four applicants from rural Alabama were considered. The scholars starting this year are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural Medical Scholar</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel “Lee” Armistead</td>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>Choctaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven “Dustin” Bright</td>
<td>Alberville</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Campbell</td>
<td>Pinson</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kara Carpenter</td>
<td>Millport</td>
<td>Pickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Freeman</td>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Marker</td>
<td>Hokes Bluff</td>
<td>Elewah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RaSheda McCalpine</td>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>Hale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad McIroy</td>
<td>Town Creek</td>
<td>Lawrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Sides</td>
<td>Cordova</td>
<td>Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew White</td>
<td>Jackson’s Gap</td>
<td>Tallapoosa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We have eight rural students in year three of medical school, nine in year two, eleven in year one, and ten selected to enter next year,” said Dr. John Wheat, Director of the Rural Scholars program. Members of the first class of Rural Medical Scholars returning to CCHS this year as third year medical students (see also, page 8) are:

- Angela Cifton
- Anne Davis
- Kevin Eills
- Tom Holt
- Drake Lavender
- Stephanie Morgan
- Elizabeth Smith
- Paul Taberoux

“Susan Guin, RMS program coordinator, and LeVada Grantham, who has assisted with administration of the program, have done an excellent job in making this program work,” said Dr. Wheat.
Class of of 1999 Residents Honored at Graduation

(Continued from page 1)

The class of 1999 Family Practice Residents celebrated their graduation with an awards dinner at the Bryant Center on June 15.

Front: Angela Smelley, Chelley Alexander, Eddie Dennard, Rock Helms, Lori Haskell, Rob Hankenhof, and Lori Stanfield

Second row: Amy Shenkenberg, Beau Freeman, Mike Watkins, Rob Helms, Rob Hankenhof, and Lori Stanfield

Not present for the photo: Davis Woodward.

Dr. Burnum addresses the graduating class.

Dr. John F. Burnum, Tuscaloosa internist and CCHS clinical faculty member, was the graduation speaker. Dr. Burnum helped to establish CCHS in the early 1970's. He was introduced by Jerry McKnight, MD, Chief of Family Medicine, who recalled his first day of rounds as a CCHS resident on Dr. Burnum's service in 1984.

Dr. Burnum acknowledged the changes in medicine through the years, and he said that medicine will always be changing. "But the friendship between physician and patient does not change," he emphasized. "Some light years ago during my training, we were advised to 'keep your distance' as a professional," he said. But he said that the friendships with patients were an integral and very rewarding part of his practice. He shared some of the ways he had cultivated friendships with his patients -- telephone calls, letters to families of patients, and seeking out family members of patients in the hospital. These things mean a lot, he said. And his caring attitude apparently was even more important to his patients than his medical expertise.

"Only three of forty thank-you notes I have received over the years thanked me for my professional knowledge. The rest thanked me for being kind and concerned," he told the graduates.

"Patients in Alabama indicate friendship by bringing food to the doctor," he continued, saying this custom had its roots in religion. "I averaged ten gifts of food a month--lots more in peach season and tomato season, and muscadine jelly was a biggie!"

Dr. Burnum addresses Grads

Family Physicians in CCHS Class of 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Practice Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chelley Alexander, MD</td>
<td>Northport, AL</td>
<td>Undecided, Tuscaloosa, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin Dennard, MD</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Tulane Medical School, New Orleans, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beau Freeman, MD</td>
<td>Jasper, AL</td>
<td>Private Practice, Pratville, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Hankenhof, MD</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Iberia Family Practice, New Iberia, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lon Haskell, MD</td>
<td>American Fork, UT</td>
<td>Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL (4 yr commitment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Helms, MD</td>
<td>Pell City, AL</td>
<td>Private Practice, Pell City, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clint McEntyre, MD</td>
<td>Blakely, GA</td>
<td>Northport ER &amp; First Care, Tuscaloosa, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Shenkenberg, MD</td>
<td>Brighton, CO</td>
<td>DCH ER, Tuscaloosa, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Smelley, MD</td>
<td>Greensboro,AL</td>
<td>DCH ER, Tuscaloosa, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Stanfield, MD</td>
<td>Andalusia, AL</td>
<td>Opp Family Medicine, Opp, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Stanfield, MD</td>
<td>Albertville, AL</td>
<td>Opp Family Medicine, Opp, AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowdy Valdes, MD</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>North Oaks Family Medicine, Hammond, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Watkins, M.D.</td>
<td>Houma, LA</td>
<td>Houma Family Practice, Houma, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis Woodward, M.D.</td>
<td>Louisville, MS</td>
<td>Winston Family Practice, Louisville, MS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information compiled by Anne Marie Colvin, Program Support Assistant, University of Alabama Family Practice Residency Office (205) 348-1370

Below left photo: Beau Freeman, MD, (r) receives the Internal Medicine Award from Dr. Jim Philp, Professor of Internal Medicine and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Center photo below: Dr. Robert Thornton of the V.A. Medical Center (left) presents the V.A. award to Robyn Germany, MD. She and her husband Chris were co-winners of the award. He was on duty the night of graduation.

Below right: Dr. Karl Hasik (left) received an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics. The award was presented by Dr. Paul Mozley, retiring chairman of OB/GYN.

OnRounds • 4 • Summer 1999
Edward Dennard, MD, (l) receives the Psychiatry Award from Assistant Professor Nancy Rubin, Psy.D.

Adam Burrell, MD, (r) received recognition for completion of the OB Fellowship from Dr. Paul Mozley.

Lori Stanfield, MD, (r) receives the Pediatrics award from Ashley Evans, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics.

Left: Dr. McKnight (r) thanks Dr. Armstrong for his service as Residency Director with a plaque. Below: Dr. Evans and Lori Stanfield. Right: Kay Hall, who will retire as Residency Coordinator in October, gets a hug from Beau Freeman and gifts of appreciation.

Lon Haskell, MD, (l) and Clint McEntyre, MD, (r) were co-winners of the Society of Family Medicine Residents Teaching Award. Dr. Ireland, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Director of the Residency presented the awards.

Alexander and Freeman Win Research Awards

Chelley K. Alexander, MD, and L. Beau Freeman, MD, were presented Research Awards at the resident graduation on June 15. They each received a plaque and a $100 prize in recognition of their research activities during their residency programs in CCHS.

Dr. Alexander collaborated with Debbie Byrd, PharmD, Department of Family Medicine at CCHS, and Shea Pitts, PharmD, Department of Pharmacy at UAB Hospital, on an article entitled "Hydroxyurea in Pregnant Sickle Cell Patients: Two Case Reports." The study involved two patients who became pregnant while taking hydroxyurea for sickle cell disease and delivered live infants with no congenital anomalies. Dr. Alexander collected all pertinent patient data, reviewed the literature, and helped draft the manuscript, which has been submitted to the journal, *Pharmacotherapy*.

Dr. Freeman collaborated with Dr. Byrd, Sam Gaskins, MD, CCHS Department of Family Medicine, and Amy Parrish, PharmD, Pharmacy Department at UAB Hospital, on "Warfarin and Ciprofloxacin Interaction: Case Report and Controversy." This case involved a 77-year-old male who developed a fatal intracerebral hemorrhage while taking warfarin and ciprofloxacin. Dr. Freeman collected pertinent patient data, reviewed the literature, and helped draft the manuscript, which has been submitted to the *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*.

-Martha Cook
CCHS Research Committee

Dr. Chelley Alexander (l) and Dr. Beau Freeman (r) display their research awards. They are pictured with Dr. Elizabeth Philp, who presented the awards at graduation.
Pieroni Collects New Honors and Participates in Varied Research

Robert E. Pieroni, MD, professor in Internal Medicine at CCHS, who completed 25 years of service with the University this June, also serves as a colonel in the Army Reserves. In May he received the Humanitarian Medal and the Army Commendation Medal (5th Oak Leaf Cluster) for medical support of areas of El Salvador devastated by Hurricane Mitch in the spring. He was also selected for the 2000 Who’s Who in the World. He was re-nominated for inclusion in next year’s Who’s Who in America.

He is co-investigator on a new U.S. Army grant just funded by the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Pieroni will be working with Principal Investigator Forrest Sogin, Ph.D., of the UA Department of Psychology, in the research project, “Quality of Life of Alabama’s Rural Health Recipients.” Dr. Pieroni is co-author with senior author Ayman Soubani, MD, Tuscaloosa pulmonologist and clinical assistant professor of Internal Medicine, of “Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: A Clinical Update,” published in the May issue of the Southern Medical Journal. The article was selected as CME article of the month.

Dr. Pieroni, who is Vice-Chairman of the Health Science Section of the Alabama Academy of Science, was author or co-author of six presentations at the Academy’s Annual meeting held at the University of North Alabama in April. He presented information on how to recognize and assisting patients with acute myocardial infarctions in obtaining appropriate medical care; and reviewed characteristics and case studies of patients with insulin-dependent diabetes (often referred to as “Syndrome X”). He was co-author of another Academy of Science presentation, “The Influence of the Internet on Affective Disorders and Interpersonal Relationships” by Neil Williams, Lisa Kains Russell, and Allan Bernhardt.

In other Academy meeting activities, he was co-author (with lead author C. Edward Shackleford) of a presentation on substance abuse and assisted preparing a presentation of research by Sherry Wedgeworth, Director of Library Services at Capstone Medical Center, titled “Utility of Hormocysteine Measurements in a Family Practice Center.”

He presented a Conference Session Workshop at the annual meeting of the Alabama Gerontological Society in April on “Herbal Medicine: Current Status.” He completed a two-year term on the V.A. Hospital Research and Development Committee this spring and has just completed two years of service on the FDA Committee on Good Manufacturing Practices for Medical Devices. He was one of two physician reviewers and traveled several times a year to Rockford, Maryland, to do reviews. He recently received a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with the FDA.

Dr. Thomas McHattie has been appointed by Dean Curry to serve as Assistant to the Dean for Information Technology. In his new position, Dr. McHattie will maintain his current responsibilities as OBIT/OGYN faculty member. He will have responsibility for oversight of the information systems of CCHS including both administrative, academic, and clinic systems, and he will have primary responsibility for student computing network,” said Dean Curry. “In addition, he will provide leadership in the development of goals, policy, and procedure concerning hardware, software, implementation, and security issues involving computer technology.”

McHattie will serve as liaison to other units on campus, including the Seebeck Computer Center, and to the Birmingham campus of the School of Medicine.

Dean Appoints Hasik and McHattie to Expanded Roles

Dean Curry has named Karl Hasik, MD, as Interim Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He recommended Dr. Hasik for distinguishing himself as a teacher and clinician and said he looked forward to his joining the CCHS leadership team. Dr. Hasik spent fifteen years in private practice, including directing four rural clinics in Texas, working with rural and indigent patients in Nevada, and delivering OHGYN care in small towns around St. Louis. He worked with family practice residents in Quincy, Illinois, where he was part of a multi-specialty clinic staff of about 60 physicians.

Dr. Gaskins Is Interim Residency Director

Dr. Sam Gaskins, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, became Interim Residency Director on July 1. “Dr. Gaskins has 13 years of experience leading this residency program,” said Dr. Jerry McKnight, Chair of Family Medicine, who made the appointment.

Marc Armstrong, MD, who has been serving dual administrative roles as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs as well as Residency Director, will now be fulltime Associate Dean.

Dr. Charles Taylor Appointed Director of DCH Pharmacy Practice Residency

Charles Taylor, Pharm.D., CCHS Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, was appointed Director of the Pharmacy Practice Residency Program at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa in May. A pharmacy residency is a 12-month, fulltime postgraduate training program in a defined area of pharmacy practice. The DCH program is one of the few accredited pharmacy residencies in the state. Most pharmacy residencies are based in hospitals and related facilities. Consequently, pharmacy residencies have been closely associated with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

Pharmacy residencies are the only form of postgraduate professional practice experience in pharmacy for which there is a national accreditation program. Residencies differ from other forms of professional practice education in pharmacy, such as externships, clerkships, internships, fellowships, and training residencies, in that they provide residents with opportunities to conceptualize, integrate, and transform accumulated experiences and knowledge into improved drug therapy. Residents spend the year working in various practice settings, including acute patient care and ambulatory care, and participate in research initiatives. There are currently 359 ASHP accredited pharmacy residency programs in the country. Graduates have not routinely sought further training, said Dr. Taylor. “Only about 9% of pharmacy graduates in 1998 (750 persons) completed accredited residency training,” said Taylor.

Byrd and Taylor Chair Professional Committees

Debbie Byrd, Pharm.D., CCHS Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, was named Chair of the Pharmaceutical Care Committee for the Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

“Pharmaceutical care describes a patient-oriented practice in which the pharmacist is responsible directly to the patient for quality of care,” said Dr. Byrd, “and the purpose of the pharmaceutical care committee is to develop, foster, and promote the concept of pharmaceutical care to Society members.” Charles Taylor, Pharm.D., chair of the Educational Grants Committee of the Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists. This committee seeks funding at the national level for programs to improve pharmaceutical care through certification, continuing education, professional development, and clinical research.

Dr. Byrd and Taylor are Assistants of Clinical Pharmacists at Auburn University School of Pharmacy, with joint appointments at CCHS in a cooperative arrangement between the two institutions. Dr. Taylor is Clinical Assistant Professor on the Internal Medicine faculty, and Dr. Byrd is Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS.

Dr. Byrd is Residency Director for the Auburn University School of Pharmacy/DCH Regional Medical Center Primary Care Residency Specialty Rotation. Lori J. Ousey, PharmD, a graduate of Auburn’s School of Pharmacy started her residency this summer. Dr. Byrd and Dr. Taylor, and Elizabeth Chester recently prepared and submitted a successful grant proposal for the Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Educational Grants Committee to introduce new practitioners and new graduates of Alabama’s pharmacy schools to issues in pharmacy leadership. The project, “Development and Implementation of a New Practitioner Leadership Development Conference” was funded by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

Dr. Byrd and Dr. Taylor will both teach Auburn summer continuing education seminars. Dr. Byrd is presenting “Implementing a Medication Assistance Daily” and Dr. Taylor will teach sessions of the Auburn University School of Pharmacy’s 1999 Summer Resort Continuing Education Programs. Dr. Taylor will speak on “Advances in Heart Failure Pharmacotherapy.”

Dr. Byrd is also coordinating an Anticoagulation Conference for pharmacists and other healthcare practitioners on education and management of patients requiring anticoagulation therapy. The course includes home study, classes in Auburn, and case management interventions.
Favorite and Funniest Memories

Rick Gober is one of many alumni who responded to a request for information and memories for a keepsake book for the Residency Reunion which celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Family Practice Residency. His favorite memory of CCHS is the Labor Day funniest thing that happened to him at CCHS was inadvertently setting off a three-truck fire alarm at DCH while he and colleagues were smoking cigars in the residents’ trailer after the birth of his daughter in 1976. Ted Simmons, now practicing in Lewisville, Texas, recalled his rotation in Centreville as the funniest thing he remembered. (He didn’t elaborate.) But Curt McLemore, now practicing in Montgomery, fondly recalls Centreville because he met his wife there.

John Johnson, now at Crestview Medical Clinic in Crestview, Florida, remembers sticking Dr. Mozley in thethumb with a large suture needle during surgery and the time that Jimmy Robinson loudly paged Mark Woods on a voice beeper while Dr. Woods was examining a patient in the E.R. Mark Dean, now at the Family Practice Clinic of Dothan, Alabama, tells of being sent to York, Alabama, to pick up a newborn one dark and stormy night and the helicopter getting lost somewhere over Mississippi. When he finally got back, Dr. Choi had sent search parties looking for a crashed helicopter. Mark Miller of Kilgore, Texas, said a Chippendale dancer skit at Lampoon was his funniest memory, and Robert Moore of Alexandria, Louisiana, said he liked to recall those on-call ping-pong games with “Mr. Consistent Return” Emfinger and others, and he had many funny memories...if he “could only remember names???” David Bennett, who has a practice in Inverness (Birmingham area) recalls moonlighting, the friendships of the call team in the residents’ lounge, and almond balls. Reminiscence in person with old friends and new on August 7 at NorthRiver Yacht Club. (More excerpts from our mailbag next time!!)

New Associate Professor in Behavioral and Community Medicine

Dr. Higginbotham Named Director of CCHS Health Research Consulting Service

John C. Higginbotham, Ph.D., M.P.H., has joined the faculty of the Department of Behavioral and Community Medicine. Dr. Higginbotham became Associate Professor and Director of the CCHS Health Research Consulting Service on June 1. “It is my sincerest hope that through collaborative research efforts and joint projects within the University and with other institutions, we can shed more light on rural health and effect positive change for all Alabamians,” said Dr. Higginbotham.

Dr. Higginbotham came to CCHS from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine where he was assistant professor of epidemiology in the Department of Preventive Medicine and director of the University Wellness Center. He also chaired the Preventive Medicine Curriculum Development Committee at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

“Dr. Higginbotham has a strong history of collaborative research and excellent grant writing skills,” said Dr. James Leeper, Chairman of Behavioral and Community Medicine. “We look forward to his leadership as CCHS research efforts expand.”

Dr. Higginbotham was assistant professor (1990-95) and is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Gerontology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. In 1992, he received his Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences with a major in Preventive Medicine and Behavioral Epidemiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston.

He was honored in 1992 as "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" in the School of Allied Health Sciences at UT Galveston.

Dr. Higginbotham is a licensed commercial airplane pilot and a licensed amateur radio operator. He holds a second degree black belt in Kodokan Judo and is an avid outdoorsman. He and his wife, Kristi, have a 14-year-old daughter, Stacey, and two sons, John Austin, who is almost 3, and Collin, 20 months.

Articles on Rural Health Sought

Dr. Higginbotham is Guest Editor of Family and Community Health for an upcoming issue devoted exclusively to Rural Health and is discussing manuscript possibilities now. He encourages interested contributors to contact him by e-mail at jhiggin@cchs.ua.edu or (205) 348-7259.
Group Helps Patients Cope with Stress of Chronic Illness or Emotional Stress

Harriet Myers, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, will lead a group session for those dealing with the stress of chronic illness. "Seven weekly sessions will help participants learn to overcome the daily habits that worsen their condition and rob them of energy," said Dr. Myers.

Achieving Wellness in Chronic Illness is a group approach for patients with illnesses such as Coronary Disease, Pulmonary Disease, Hypertension, Diabetes, and individuals who suffer ongoing emotional distress or worry.

"Achieving Wellness in Chronic Illness" is a medical group therapy that offers those with chronic illness or significant long-term stress an opportunity to make healthy choices and to learn simple yet profound methods for reducing stress in daily routines.

An eight-week group session begins the second Tuesday in September. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Capstone Medical Center.

Dr. Harriet Myers, Clinical Associate Professor at the UA College of Community Health Sciences, will conduct the group sessions. She is a clinical psychologist and nurse with 25 years of experience in health care. She has also studied with several nationally known experts in lifestyle change and stress reduction. Dr. Myers utilizes a multi-faceted approach to healthier living for individuals with chronic disease. This approach combines methods shown to be effective by recent medical research. Participants in the group sessions will learn beneficial skills in Stress Reduction, Nutrition, Physical Relaxation, Mindfulness Practice, and Exercise. An optional subgroup on Smoking Cessation will be held during the half-hour prior to each regular group meeting.

Health insurance will most likely cover a portion of the fees; and registration is underway now. To refer a patient, or to discuss the suitability of this intervention for your patients, call Dr. Myers at (205) 758- 2534. For more information or to register, call Dr. Harriet Myers, or call Linda Reynolds at Capstone Medical Center, 348-1263.

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On ROUNDS

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

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