

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 9, Number 4

Fall 1999

Alumni Return to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of CCHS Residency

More than 160 guests attended the 25th anniversary reunion of the Family Practice Residency on August 7 at NorthRiver Yacht Club in Tuscaloosa. Present and former faculty joined alums at their first reunion since the program began in 1974.

Former CCHS family medicine residents and their spouses and guests enjoyed visiting with old friends, colleagues, and teachers over dinner in the elegant setting on Lake Tuscaloosa surrounded by part of **Jack Warner's** famous art collection.

Dr. **Mike McBrearty** of Fairhope received the first Willard Alumni Award, named in honor of the founding dean of CCHS and its residency program, William R. Willard, MD. In presenting the award, Chairman of Family Medicine **Jerry McKnight**, MD, called McBrearty the "heart and soul and conscience of family medicine in the modern era in this state." McBrearty was the youngest president of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, is active in MASA (the state medical association), and has served on the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board for a decade.

Dr. McKnight and Residency Director **Sam Gaskins**, MD, presided at the program, which included reminiscences, awards, and a preview of the future.

"Sam has directed this program for more than half the years of its existence," said Dr. McKnight. "This reunion is a celebration of Dean Willard's vision and the people--many with us tonight--who helped to make it reality."

The central purpose for which CCHS and the family practice residency were founded was to increase the number of primary care physicians in rural Alabama. Dean **William Curry**, MD, in his remarks reviewed the accomplishments of the program, congratulated the graduates on their success, and outlined future plans for the college's rural mission.

The mission of the College of Community Health Sciences is 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.

"Over 25 years of residency, we have graduated 258 family practitioners," said Dean Curry. "Fifty percent of them are in towns smaller than 25,000; and 51 percent are in practice in Alabama. One in eight family physicians in practice in Alabama graduated from the CCHS residency." *(Continued, p. 4)*



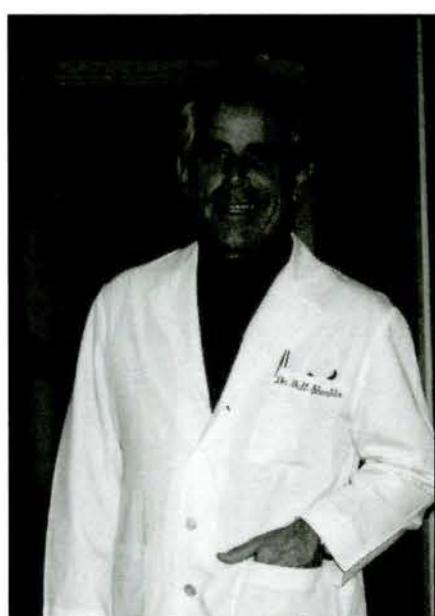
Many alumni were recognized for achievement and generosity at the Anniversary dinner on August 7. Top: Robert Lahasky, New Iberia, LA ('85). On the left, top to bottom: Marcia Chesebro, Huntsville, AL ('82); Bruce Longest, Bruce, MS ('89); and Larry Sullivan, Huntsville, AL ('77). Top to bottom in the center: Daveta Best Dozier, Thomasville, AL ('85); Melissa Behringer (wearing white), Centerville, AL ('94); John Brandon, Gordo, AL ('81); and Mike McBrearty, Fairhope, AL ('76). On the right, top to bottom: Frank Dozier, Thomasville, AL ('85); Barbara Geater, Memphis, TN ('96); Garry Magouirk, Fayette, AL ('83); Stuart Hendon, Montgomery, AL ('97); and Trent Beaton, Wynne, Arkansas ('85).



Dr. Mike McBrearty, second from right, received the first Willard Alumni Award at the 25th Anniversary Residency Reunion. L-R: Cindy Rutland McBrearty; Dr. Richard Rutland, first director of the Residency; Dr. McBrearty; and Mrs. Rutland at NorthRiver Yacht Club. The McBreartys, from Fairhope, and Cindy's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rutland of Fayette, were among over 160 guests at the anniversary celebration held at the NorthRiver Yacht Club. More photos from the 25th Anniversary Reunion, pp. 4-5.

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Bill Shamblin, MD, former Chair of Surgery, furnishes state-of-the-art computer lab: p.3

What If?

(September 17, 2004)

Tuscaloosa, AL--Dr. William Curry, Dean of UA's College of Community Health Sciences, announces today that the College has been awarded a special Baldridge Award for its quality, excellence, and impact on rural health care.

The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences is recognized for its ability to integrate teaching, research, clinical service and community outreach with the highest standards of quality and excellence.

Combining the best in medical technology and teaching with a dedicated faculty and staff, it has been able to prepare primary care physicians who have made a measured difference in the health of people in rural and underserved areas.

Our faculty base their teaching in a multidisciplinary clinical practice from which they have created a model interdisciplinary approach – one that focuses on the needs of each patient they see. Hundreds of our graduates make a difference in the lives of thousands of people every day.

-Scenario presented as part of Vision 2005

Reflections

Celebration and Renewal as College Marks Anniversary, Sets Goals

by William Curry, MD, Dean

This is a time of celebration and renewal at CCHS. From the pages of this issue of *OnRounds*, there are plenty of examples. At the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Family Practice Residency, we not only enjoyed retelling tall tales and renewing friendships; we recommitted ourselves to the ideals of our college. The following month, we initiated a strategic planning process that identified the four areas that are our highest priority in the next year in order to achieve the vision originally stated a year ago:

"In the year 2001, CCHS will be providing quality education, expanded research, leadership in rural community health, and excellent multi-disciplinary clinical practice in a new facility, under effective management that uses advanced technology... We will be respected throughout the state of Alabama as a place to visit, to work, to study, and to support financially."

Dean Initiates Vision 2005

Strategic Planning Outlines Goals

William Curry, MD, Dean of CCHS, presented "Vision 2005" at a joint faculty-staff meeting in September. The Vision statement is the preliminary result of a strategic planning meeting which involved department chairs, Dean's staff, and Clinic administrators. The planning session was conducted by John Dew, EdD, Director, Continuing Quality Improvement for The University. Two questions were posed:

*Where are we?
and
Where do we want to be?*

Strengths and weaknesses of the college were listed and discussed, and goals for the future were proposed and prioritized. Four focus areas were identified. Issues to be addressed fell into four categories:

- income sources
- clinical efficiency
- image
- building

Dr. Curry stressed that feedback and involvement by every individual and work group at CCHS is critical in refining the strategic plan. He has been and will continue to meet with small groups throughout the college to ask for advice and define action steps. He plans to devote very third Executive Committee meeting to strategic planning follow-up. The next meeting of the Strategic Planning Group will be in September 2000.



Dean William Curry listens during a vision strategy meeting for faculty and staff.

We have seen significant progress already in all those areas. Our educational programs remain strong, effective, and innovative. Research has new energy, making us better teachers and clinicians as we expand knowledge in health care, particularly in rural Alabama. Compared to other colleges of the University, our ranking in contract and grant awards has moved from number nine to number four in the past year. Rural Medical Scholars are benefiting from the support of the school of medicine and state government, and now increasingly from private gifts, as seen by the DeBakey Scholarship award to **Emily Dolbare**.

The April 2000 Rural Conference enjoys partnerships from around the UA campus and the state. It now has added strength from the Kettering Foundation and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. Our faculty's clinical practice shows a number of promising trends, especially the renewed growth in our vital obstetrics program. Work continues toward a new building to house our growing academic family.

And a family it is. More and more we are connecting and reconnecting with each other throughout our faculty and staff, understanding better how every one of the 244 of us has a unique contribution to make. We are coming to realize, I believe, that the health and effectiveness of the UA College of Community Health Sciences/School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa depends not just on programs, statistics, and rankings, but on relationships among ourselves, with other members of the UA system, and with those in the communities which we and our alumni serve.

One measure of those relationships is our advancement program. Private gifts--quite simply--make it possible for us to take advantage of educational and service opportunities that we otherwise cannot

...The health and effectiveness of the UA College of Community Health Sciences/School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa depends...on relationships among ourselves, with other members of the UA system, and with those in the communities which we and our alumni serve.

pursue. We have had several generous examples in just the past few weeks: Dr. Bill Shamblin's gift to establish a state-of-the-art computer lab for our students, Mr. Jack Warner's hosting the Lister Hill annual fund reception, and Mr. Jimmy Faulkner's gift to the college in memory of **Finus** and **Martha Gaston**. Support for our annual fund from alumni and friends of the college continues to grow, for which I am grateful.

We have just recently bid farewell to **Elizabeth Philp**, MD, who retires after a productive career as Professor of Family Medicine, with special accomplishments in the area of the evaluation of medical student learning. **David Hefelfinger**, MD, has announced his retirement for February 2000, after guiding our excellent Department of Pediatrics as Professor and Chair. We welcome **John Burnum**, MD, as Professor of Internal Medicine, and **John Brandon**, MD, who is increasing his work with us in the Rural Medical Scholars program.

There is indeed much to celebrate, much for which we can be thankful as a college. Thankful and renewed, we can enjoy the work for which our college was established just over twenty-five years ago. That purpose is easy to remember, for we see it every day in the faces of the patients, students, and residents with whom we work. It is an exciting time to be here.

Dr. Shamblin Provides New Computer Lab for Medical Students

Medical students in Tuscaloosa will soon have state-of-the-art computers to use, thanks to a former faculty member who said he really enjoyed teaching medical students. Dr. **Bill Shamblin**, who initially organized the Department of Surgery and recruited volunteer faculty when the medical school branch campus was founded in Tuscaloosa, has contributed funds to establish the computer lab. It will be located in Room 502 next to the medical student lounge at the hospital.

Dr. Shamblin's gift to the University of Alabama School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa is the result of his long association with the college and his appreciation for what the medical school here has meant to the medical community, he said. Dr. Shamblin served for twelve years as Chair of the Department of Surgery and taught students and residents throughout his 27 years of private practice in Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Shamblin said he modeled the department here after the one in Birmingham with modifications to suit this community. Having trained at Mayo Clinic under Dr. Kirklin, who founded the Kirklin Clinic for UASOM, he said he knew many of the faculty there and was able to get advice to start the program here.

He is proud of the reputation which the University of Alabama School of Medicine has built over the years, and he said that the medical school in Tuscaloosa shares in that achievement and has been an asset to the hospital and physicians practicing here as well. Many were attracted to practice in Tuscaloosa because a faculty position with the college was part of the package, he said.

Dr. Shamblin came from a "medical family." His father and uncles were Tuscaloosa physicians, and he is part of a second generation of Shamblin physicians. He added that of his four children and 13 grandchildren, none are presently in medicine, so the medical legacy may be ending, but he wanted to "give something back to the college that has meant so much to me."

The state of the art computer lab for medical students will contain seven work stations. **Michael Taylor**, MD, associate professor of pediatrics and Technology Committee member, is overseeing remodeling and the purchase of equipment. One station will house a HP Color LaserJet Printer/



Dr. Curry, left, thanks Dr. Bill Shamblin for his generous contribution for a state-of-the-art computer lab for medical students. Jimmy Faulkner of Bay Minette and UA President Andrew Sorensen, right, also addressed guests at the Lister Hill Society reception hosted by Tuscaloosa businessman and civic leader, Jack Warner, at the Mildred Warner home.

Fax connected by network to all six computers and a scanner. The room will be furnished and updated to accommodate the equipment, including a new air conditioning and heating system and an entry door with ACT card access for security.

Dr. Shamblin received formal thanks for his gift at a reception in October. (Related story below.)

Jack Warner Hosts Reception to Benefit Lister Hill Society at Mildred Warner Home

The Mildred Warner Home was the site of a reception on October 28 to benefit the Lister Hill Society. The historic structure in downtown Tuscaloosa, restored by Gulf States CEO **Jack Warner** in memory of his mother, houses part of his famous collection of art and antiques. Mr. Warner greeted guests including UA Chancellor and Mrs. Tom Meredith at the reception and treated visitors to a narrated tour. UA President Andrew Sorensen was present and expressed appreciation for Mr. Warner's generosity to the University, citing Warner's personal attention to refurbishing of the President's Mansion with a story of a Warner Scholarship recipient and new freshmen who him asked if he knew Mr. Warner.

Faulkner Gift Honors the Gastons

Special guests at the reception were Mr. and Mrs. **Jimmy Faulkner** of Bay Minette. Mr. Faulkner recalled his efforts on behalf of the Wallace administration to establish the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa. He also presented a gift to the college in memory of his dear friends, the late Finus and Martha Gaston. The Gastons' son, Finus, who was recently appointed interim athletic director at UA, acknowledged the memorial and spoke of his family's long and happy association with The University.



Lister Hill Society guests enjoyed refreshments in the garden and toured Warner's world famous art collection.



Jimmy Faulkner, left, and Mrs. Faulkner with Dr. Finus Gaston, whose parents were honored with a memorial gift from the Faulkners.



Jack Warner visits with Dean Curry, left, and UA President Andrew Sorensen, right, during a benefit for the Lister Hill Society at the Mildred Warner Home in October.

25th Anniversary (Continued)

Dr. Curry reviewed the teaching role of CCHS, which is shared by 28 full-time and five part-time faculty, family practice residents, and 160 volunteer faculty, whom he called "essential to our teaching mission." He introduced **Alan Blum**, MD, who came to fill the **Gerald Leon Wallace**, MD, Endowed Chair of Family Medicine at CCHS.

"Our service component includes the only multi-disciplinary practice in West Alabama, with a clinic staff of 64," said Dr. Curry.

"In addition, we have community projects across the state which address our rural mission. Ongoing joint projects with the *Rural Alabama Health Alliance* include telemedicine, agromedicine, and the Rural Medical Scholars and Rural Health Scholars.

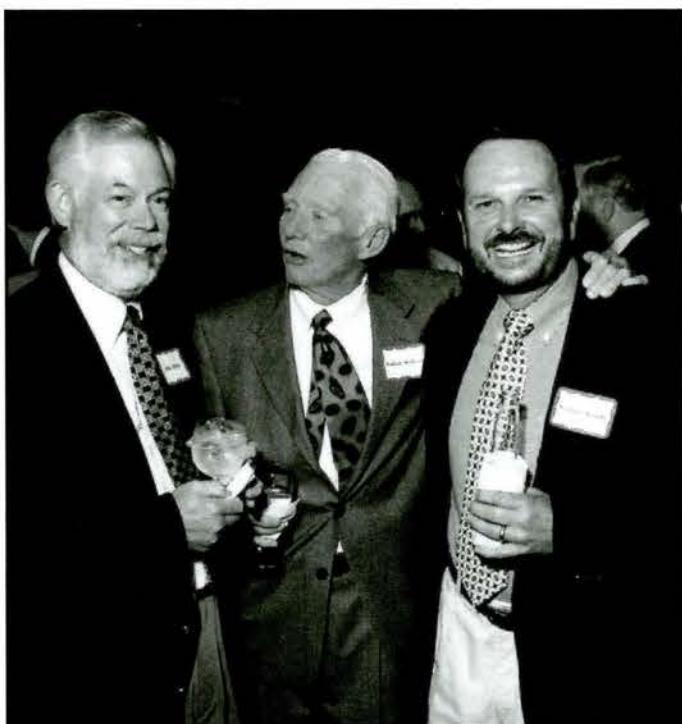
CCHS, co-host of the *Alabama Rural Health Conference* scheduled for April 27-28, 2000, chairs the interdisciplinary program planning committee for the conference. CCHS is collaborating with the UA Department of Biological Sciences to implement the *Rural Science Scholars Program*--similar to Rural Health Scholars--with grant funds from the Howard Hughes Institute. CCHS chairs *RWJ Southern Rural Access Project Professional Pipeline Committee*, and houses the *Rural Alabama AHEC* (Area Health Education Center), working toward UASOM collaboration with the University of South Alabama College of Medicine for statewide AHEC development.

Dr. Curry also described the college's interest and energy devoted to rural research. He said that extramural funding had increased 161%, to \$1,279,398 from \$489,967 for the same period the year before. 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, and CCHS is participating in several clinical trials.

He called attention to the drawing for a new clinic and college facility (See p. 6), which was displayed as guests entered the dining room. It includes space for the CCHS offices and health sciences library now in five locations.

An architectural study and preliminary drawings are complete, and the sale of the UA Ed Tower at the hospital to DCH has paved the way for CCHS to pursue building. Major gift solicitation is underway, and there are numerous naming opportunities for alumni and friends of the college, said Dean Curry.

Speakers in addition to Dean Curry were Dean Emeritus **Wilmer Coggins**, MD; Fayette family physician **Richard Rutland**, who helped to found CCHS and served as first residency director; Dr. **Bill DeShazo**, professor and former chair of Family Medicine; and Dr. **Riley Lumpkin**, one of the first CCHS faculty members.



Mike Belyeu ('77) Albertville, Dr. Bill DeShazo, Nick Knight ('77) Selma.

"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."

-William A. Curry, MD, Dean

CCHS Alumni Donors

Capital Campaign

John Michael Belyeu
Frank Dozier and Daveta Best Dozier

Lister Hill Society

Marc Andrew Armstrong
James Trent Beaton
Melissa Blair Behringer
John Earl Brandon
Marcia Jane Chesebro
Jimmie Denise Clark
Lisa Dean Columbia
Daveta Elaine Best Dozier
Frank Leonard Dozier
Barbara Geater
Alton Stuart Hendon
Robert Burdette Ireland, Jr.
Tom Bruce Longest
Ernest Edward Martin, Jr.
Michael Leigh McBrearty
Jerry Thomas McKnight
William Larry Sullivan
Michael Aubrey Wells
Frederick Lee Yerby

Endowed Chair of Family Medicine

Thomas John Burchett
Lisa Dean Columbia
Michael Leigh McBrearty

They reviewed the history of the college and told stories of night call (speaking of facilities!) from a trailer in DCH's parking lot.

The College recognized donors who have supported CCHS through giving to the *Lister Hill Society*, the new endowed Chair of Family Medicine, and the capital campaign.



Residency Director Sam Gaskins, MD, presides.

Alumni Awards

The Residency Program presented awards for leadership and academic achievement and the Willard Alumni Award during the program.

Alumni Leadership Awards recognizing involvement in state or national family medicine organizations were presented to:

Sandral Hullett (1979 graduate), member of the Board of Trustees, The University of Alabama System, and a frequent contributor to medical and government policy discussions at the national level regarding primary care/rural health.

Preston McDonald (1980), who served as state president of the Alabama chapter of the Academy of Family Physicians;

Carol Johnson (1986), a member of several medical school committees and also involved in selection of Rural Medical Scholars;

Jamie Gauthier (1990), who earned his MPH in Occ Med and has held state AAFP positions;

Fred Yerby (1993), District Representative, AAFP;

Blane Schilling (1993), President Elect, state Academy of Family Physicians and winner of the prestigious national Parke-Davis teaching award, chair of the steering committee and first president of the newly incorporated Rural Alabama Health Education Center;

Randall Weaver (1994), Rockford, AL, vice president, Southeast, of the Alabama Academy (state chapter of AAFP- American Academy of Family Physicians);

Melissa Behringer (1994), Board of Directors of the state AAFP;

Florencia Patterson (1994), Montgomery, AL, and **Beverly Joseph** (1995), Sylacauga, AL, state AAFP District Representatives; and

Jimmie Clarke-Travis (1995), Tuscaloosa, who has been active on national committees for the American Academy of Family Physicians, earned her MPH in 1997, and is also a Parke-Davis teaching award winner.



John and Pat Ross, Joe Barnes, Randy and Andrea (Saxon) Lamberson



Dr. Bill Owings, now a full-time faculty member, Dr. Charles Eddins ('91), Monroeville, AL, and his wife Marla enjoy the pre-dinner social hour on the patio overlooking Lake Tuscaloosa.

Academic Achievement Awards were presented, and Dr. Gaskins recognized graduates who have contributed to medical education:

Ted Simmons (1976), faculty appointment at the University of Texas.

Marcia Chesebro (1982), who has won a UAH teaching award for her work at the Huntsville branch of UASOM and is earning her MPH.

Bob Ireland (1984), CCHS faculty member and assistant director, Family Practice Residency.

Jeff Hemp (1984), teaching at the University of Illinois program in Peoria.

Robert Moore (1986), assistant professor with the program in Alexandria, La.

Pam Tietze (1987), faculty member at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa.

Jimmy Robinson (1988), teaching sports medicine with CCHS.

Bobbi Adcock (1991), CCHS family medicine faculty, director of pre-doctoral education.

Kelly Elmore Hunter (1995), faculty at Anniston family practice residency.

Matt Porter (1996), Assistant professor, Dept. of Family Medicine, Texas A&M.

Tracy Ray (1996), sports medicine faculty at new program in Chattanooga.

Many other CCHS alumni are preceptors for our residents and medical students, including **Bob Grubbs, Cindy Dedmon, David Tuten, Perry Lovely, Chris McGee, Doug Woodward, Bob Posey, and Bob Thornton**.

"Our most published alumnus who is a practicing physician is **Tom Dodd** (1979)," said Dr. Gaskins. Alumni in missionary medicine are **Ray Brown** (1990), now in Chad in East Africa, and **Julia Weeks**, who completed her internship at CCHS and has been in Zaire for many years.

"The 25th Anniversary reunion was a true celebration of the success of our residency program and the success and accomplishments of each and every one of our graduates," said Dr. Gaskins, who directs the program. "It was extremely heartwarming to see how many graduates were able to make it back for the reunion and to learn how successful each had been. I only wish we had had more time to visit with everybody who could attend."

For more information, or to request photos from the event, contact **Vicki Johnson**, CCHS Director of Advancement, (205)348-0093.
vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu



Mike Peaden, Lisa Columbia, Joe Barnes, and Fred Yerby



Dr. John Brandon, ('81) Gordo, and his wife Anne look at the 25th Anniversary Alumni Directory, a gift for alumni who attended or contributed to the Lister Hill Society, Endowed Chair, or capital campaign.

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.

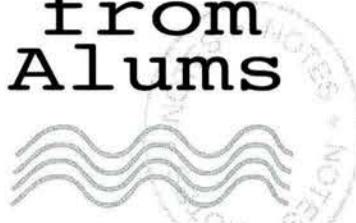


Barbara Geater (left) with Diane Kerr, CMC Sr. Charge Nurse.



"Green Team" Reunited: Harrison Moore ('82), Atmore, and his wife Joanne; Robert Ireland ('84) and his wife Lynn; David Barnes ('83), Monroe, LA, and his wife Carolyn; Garry Magouirk ('83), Fayette, and his wife Jan; Randy Hankins ('85), Hazelhurst, MS, and his wife Janet; Frank Dozier ('85) and Daveta Dozier ('85), Thomasville, AL.

Notes from Alums



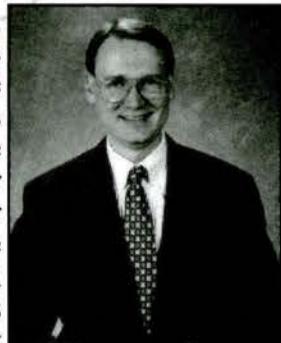
Kenneth Ponder, MD, ('91 medical grad) has been recognized by the American Diabetes Association and the National Committee for Quality Assurance for providing quality care to his patients with diabetes. Dr. Ponder's care includes the key Provider Recognition Program measures of eye exams, blood pressure tests, nutrition therapy among others. When people with diabetes receive quality care, they are less likely to suffer complications such as heart attacks, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, and amputations.

Dr. Ponder is in practice at Orlando Regional Medical Center, where he completed residency and has been caring for patients with diabetes for 5 years. He lives in Niceville with his wife Sarah and daughter Claire.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance is a non-profit organization that is widely recognized as a leader in assessing and reporting on quality of care by managed care organizations.

The American Diabetes Association, founded in 1940, supports research, information, and advocacy. Diabetes is the sixth-leading cause of death by disease in the U.S. and it has no cure.

Beth Bryant-Powell, MD, FACC, (1989 medical graduate), finished residency at Virginia Mason Medical Center in 1992 and went on to complete a cardiovascular fellowship at the University of Florida in 1996. She is in private practice in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She and her husband, radiologist Allen Powell, have a son, Allen Orlo Powell, Jr., born January 10, 1999.



Kenneth W. Ponder, MD

McKenzie and Johnson Join Conference Planning

Bob McKenzie of the Kettering Foundation in Ohio and **Martha Johnson** of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service based at Auburn University have joined the planning committee for the **Alabama Rural Health Conference** set for April 27-28, 2000.

"Having been in the President's Office at the University of Alabama when CCHS was created, I have always admired the mission and practice of the college," said Dr. McKenzie, who worked in the UA President's Office and at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare with David Mathews and retired from the University faculty in 1997. "This conference provides a wonderful opportunity to take a comprehensive look at what needs to be done to improve rural health in Alabama. I look forward to helping bring professional and public concerns together in developing the conference."

Dr. McKenzie was a program officer for the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, for two years, coordinating institutes and workshops on community decision-making. He has returned to Alabama and continues as an associate of Kettering, a research foundation investigating how to make democracy work as it should.

Martha Johnson, Assistant Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, brings the perspective of county agents from across the state and their experience with community action to the planning committee.

"Her enthusiasm for the possibilities of local initiatives to improve rural health is a valuable addition to our preparation for this conference," said **John Wheat, MD, MPH**, Chairman of the Program Planning Committee.



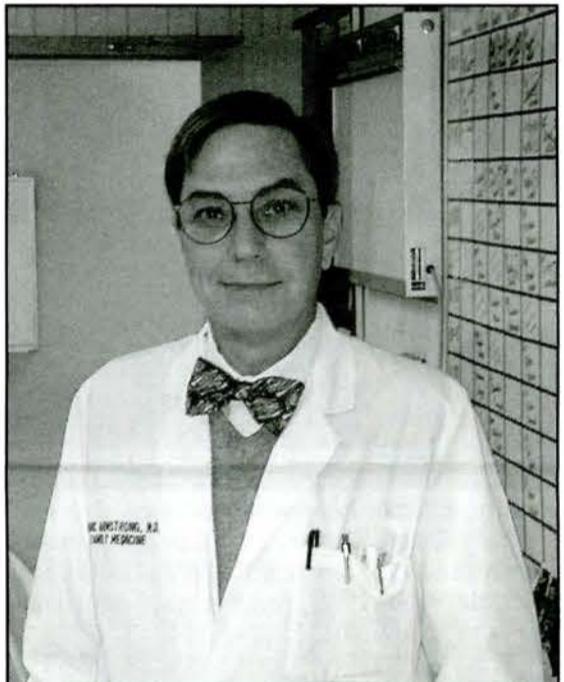
Board of Trustees Considers New building for College

Preliminary plans for a new building to house the clinics, staff and faculty offices, and health sciences library of the University of Alabama school of Medicine in Tuscaloosa--the UA College of Community Health Sciences--have been approved by The University of Alabama administration and presented to the UA Board of Trustees. A site has been chosen, and selection of an architect is underway. Dean Curry said UA has completed sale of the UA Educational Tower to DCH, and the College is exploring naming opportunities with donors.

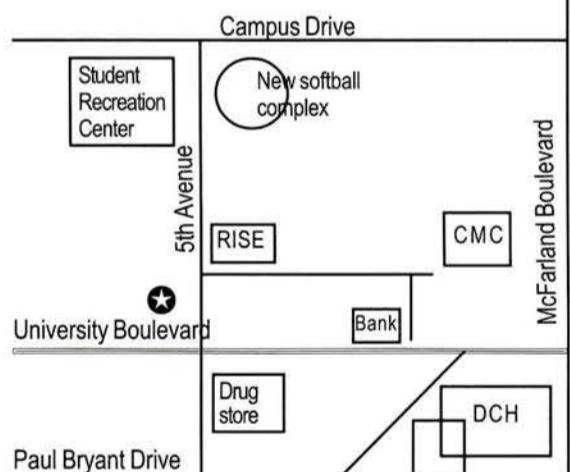
The Board of Trustees is expected to consider the proposal again at its February meeting, said Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Marc Armstrong, MD, who is heading up the building project. Dr. Armstrong, who worked with a multi-specialty group practice in Texas prior to coming to Tuscaloosa, said he learned a lot about the building of medical facilities when that group built two hospitals and three practice sites.

"There is a lot that can be done wrong," he said. "For example, our present clinic is inefficient for providing primary care because it has lots of hallways and nurses can't control the patient flow well." Continued accreditation of the Family Practice Residency is also a factor in seeking a new building. The college was cited in its last accreditation review for inadequate training facilities.

The proposed two-story 68,000-square-foot building will house all of the college together. Offices, departmental staff, medical clinics, the library, and the business office are in five separate locations now. The building site is on the corner of University Boulevard and 5th Avenue. The new building will be across from the Stallings Center (RISE). The site is near the continuing care retirement community called Capstone Village, planned for 20 acres between RISE and the new UA softball complex being built at the corner of 5th and Campus Drive.



Associate Dean Marc Armstrong, MD, at the Capstone Medical Center, a facility he hopes will be replaced. Above: artist's rendering of the proposed building. Below: proposed site is represented by the star.



Medical Students Recognized

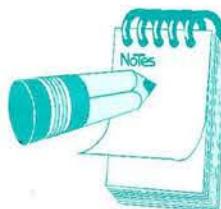
Scott Russell Fulgham, a fourth year Tuscaloosa medical student, and **Carrie Smith Knight**, a third year student in Tuscaloosa, have been elected to AOA, the prestigious national medical honorary.

Senior medical student **John Bryan Waits** spoke to the Larry Mayes Society fall meeting on Preventive Agricultural Medicine. Though farming is one of the most dangerous occupations, agriculture's health issues have been subordinate to those of industry until only very recently. Waits used a visit to an Alabama cotton farm during his Rural Medicine rotation as a springboard for a literature review of agricultural health issues. Most pressing were toxic chemicals, trauma and injury, respiratory disease, infections, stress, and family issues.

The rural family physician is in a unique position to prevent morbidity and mortality by social action and early diagnosis, he concluded. His research was made possible in part by a grant from the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board.

Faculty Notes

Send faculty news items to Linda Jackson, Editor
ljackson@cchs.ua.edu
348-1302 Fax 348-9417 (Dean's office)



Philp and Rand Take New Leadership Positions

James Philp, MD, assumed the title Senior Associate Dean effective October 1. In addition to general responsibilities as a member of the leadership of the College, Dr. Philp will continue his work in the development of innovative programs in the evaluation of medical student learning, our promotion and tenure process, library programs, and his clinical teaching responsibilities.



Dr. James Philp



Dr. Rand

Dr. Leeper on Advisory Board at University of Iowa

Dr. James D. Leeper has been asked to serve on the newly organized Advisory Board, University of Iowa College of Public Health. The former Department of Preventive Medicine & Environmental Health in the University of Iowa's College of Medicine became a College of Public Health on July 1, 1999. Dean James Merchant has called on the Board to advise the College of Public Health on degree programs, research programs, community outreach programs, and development. The first meeting of the advisory board was October 21, 1999, in Iowa City, and it will meet fall and spring each year. Dr. Robert F. Woolson, Professor and Head, Department of Biostatistics, who nominated Dr. Leeper, said he believed Leeper would provide an important voice.

Dr. Elizabeth Philp Retires



Dr. Elizabeth Philp

Elizabeth Philp, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, retired October 31. A medical graduate of Edinburgh University, she came to CCHS in 1992 from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in North Carolina, where she was associate professor of family medicine and director of the Standardized Patient Program and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE). In 1993, she started and has since directed the OSCE program for the UASOM.

A native of Scotland, Dr. Philp practiced in Aberdeen, Scotland, and Hertfordshire, England, prior to moving to the U.S. Dr. Philp will be a consultant to the OSCE Program as UASOM makes progress to becoming a national test site for this examination. She will also maintain an interest in research she has ongoing in the college until studies are completed and published.

She and her husband, CCHS Senior Associate Dean James Philp, MD, have three grown children. She plans to spend time visiting her grandchildren, resuscitating her golf game, and working on her many hobbies and interests. She says she plans to devote some energy to remodelling the Philp family home in Scotland.

Lisa Russell, MLS, Associate Professor and Chief Medical Librarian in the Health Sciences Library (HSL), retired October 1 after more than sixteen years of service to CCHS.

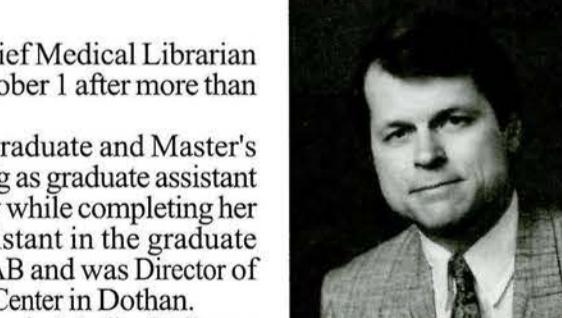
A native of Atlanta, Russell received undergraduate and Master's degrees from The University of Alabama, working as graduate assistant to **Barbara Doughty** in the Health Sciences Library while completing her MLS. After graduation she was a research assistant in the graduate program in Hospital and Health Administration at UAB and was Director of the Medical Library at Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan.

Throughout her career, Russell has been active in Medical Library associations, serving in numerous committee positions, as state president, secretary/treasurer of the regional association, and president of local associations in Tuscaloosa and Jefferson County. She is currently serving her second double term as state treasurer and is president-elect of the Library School Association.

Russell has presented at national, regional, and state conferences and published articles in professional journals. She co-directed a project funded by \$25,000 from the National Library of Medicine to introduce Alabama family physicians to online searching and information retrieval.

Russell plans to continue work with Dr. Steven MacCall, School of Library and Information Studies, on the Clinical Digital Libraries Project. She is an active member of the Kiwanis Club and is an elder at First Presbyterian Church. She plans to travel with her husband James, relax, and spend time with her 4-year-old niece Taylor.

Nelle Williams is serving as Interim Chief Medical Librarian at HSL.



Dr. John Brandon

John E. Brandon, MD, a Pickens County family physician and past president of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, has become medical director of Rural Scholars programs. He will continue practicing while devoting halftime to RMSP and RHSP.

Dr. Brandon, president and one of the founders of the Rural Alabama Health Alliance, has supported the rural scholar recruitment effort through since it was initiated and volunteered many hours as advisor and preceptor to medical students and residents, Rural Health Scholars, and Rural Medical Scholars. He is on the Admissions Committee and Primary Care Committee for the UA School of Medicine. He has practiced in Gordo since 1981.

Dr. Brandon graduated from Tuscaloosa High School and Davidson College in North Carolina. He received his MD from Tulane School of Medicine and completed the CCHS family practice residency.

Robert Pieroni, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine has been selected as reviewer for clinical relevance of questions on the Internal Medicine Certification and Recertification examinations. He is a reviewer for the *Journal of Quality Medicine* and is peer reviewer for AAFP Foundation grants.

Dr. Pieroni is co-investigator of an NIMH-funded project concerning geriatric depression in the rural primary care setting in which many former residents have volunteered to participate.

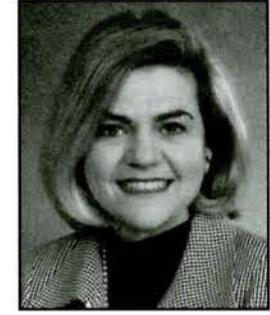
Michael Taylor, MD, promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics effective 8/15/1999, has published an article, "Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder on the Frontlines: Management in the Primary Care Office," in *Comprehensive Therapy* 1999;25:313-325.

Dr. Taylor has also been in charge of equipping multimedia classrooms at the UA Educational Tower at DCH and the Capstone Medical Center. He recently notified faculty and staff that all three multimedia classrooms (Ed Tower 701, Willard Auditorium, and the Carrel Room) are now fully functional and online with the network.

"This means that you can copy a presentation on the server and access it from any or all of the three classrooms," said Dr. Taylor. "This will be useful for last minute corrections, but mostly for presentations that have a great deal of video or pictures." He also suggested putting the presentation onto a rewriteable CD.

Bobbi B. Adcock, M.D. has been accepted into the UAB Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP) (two-year program). "The CRTP award by the National Institutes of Health places UAB in an elite group of academic institutions that conduct clinical research." She is also author of "Facial Numbness: A Manifestation of Sarcoidosis," published in the May-June 1999 issue of *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*.

Margaret Garner received the Medallion Award from the American Dietetic Association at the ADA Annual Meeting in October in Atlanta. She was nominated by the Alabama Dietetic Association and is only the 6th Alabamian to receive the peer-reviewed award, which is presented for exceptional service, outstanding professional leadership abilities, dedication to high standards for the profession, and devotion to the spirit of service to others in dietetics and other fields. The Medallion award recipient is selected by the Honors Committee of the ADA Board of Directors as an outstanding role model who has been a source of inspiration in moving the profession forward. **Judy Bonner**, Dean of Human Environmental Sciences at UA, prepared the nomination.



Margaret Garner

John Wheat, MD, has been appointed by Governor **Don Siegelman** to represent Alabama on the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Appalachian Health Policy Advisory Committee. He met in October with representatives from 12 other ARC states, **Jesse White**, Federal C-Chairman, and **Henry King**, ARC Health Manager, to set the agenda for discussions over the next two years. The group will meet three times a year to discuss priority health issues which affect multiple states. Dr. Wheat reported to the governor after the initial meeting that "the relationship of rural health to the economic vitality of small towns is the theme that unites everyone."

"Alabama has something to add to the discussion," said Dr. Wheat in his report to the Governor, "including the remarkable decrease in infant mortality in Pickens through developments of a local health care system, the building of a Rural Medical Pipeline to attract rural students to produce rural physicians for Alabama communities, and Bibb County's success at enrolling practically all children in health care insurance programs and providing a source of primary care."

Dr. Wheat also met with extension faculty from 13 southern states in Nashville in early October to plan rural health activities. He led discussions on agromedicine and rural health educational programs. The meeting was sponsored by the Southern Extension Research Activity (SERA) Interest Group on Health. In addition he is working with Dr. **Rex Culp** of UA Human Environmental Sciences to launch the "Covering Alabama Kids" health insurance project funded with nearly a million dollars from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Wheat and Culp are co-principal investigators. **Tracy Palmer** is Project Director.



Dr. John Brandon

Higginbotham to Conduct Cancer Project at CCHS

The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences has received funding for a prostate cancer project. **John C. Higginbotham**, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, Behavioral & Community Medicine, obtained the grant for a "Minority Population Focused Collaborative Training Award," from the United States Department of Defense (DOD) Prostate Cancer Research Program. Dr. Higginbotham's project is entitled "Investigating the Ethnic Disparity in Prostate Cancer Morbidity and Mortality in the Rural Deep South."

"We have long known that African American men have higher rates of prostate cancer, present at later stages, and die as result of the disease more often than white men," said Higginbotham.

Dr. Higginbotham said he hopes the project will help bring attention to the prostate cancer problem in the rural Deep South and that our efforts here at the University of Alabama will impact this dread disease. Collaborating on this grant are two internationally known physician scientists, Dr. **David Schottenfeld**, a cancer epidemiologist from the University of Michigan, and **Jackson Fowler**, a Urologic-Oncologist from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. For more information, contact Dr. Higginbotham at (205)348-7259 or jhiggin@cchs.ua.edu.

Bahar Lecture To Bring Schenker to UA

The 11th annual Bahar Lecture at noon December 10, 1999, in the Willard Auditorium, is sponsored by the Natica Bahar Memorial Fund. The speaker is **Marc Schenker**, MD, professor and chair, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, UC Davis. His topic will be "Current Issues in Occupational Lung Disease."

-Vicki Johnson, Director of Advancement and CME

Committee Wants More Student and Resident Research

The CCHS **Research Committee** kick-off dinner at Cypress Inn September 23 was jointly sponsored by the Research Committee and The Lister Hill Society to stimulate students' and residents' involvement in research. **Nell Williams**, MSLS; **Kay Fendley**, CCHS Director of Sponsored Programs; and **John Higginbotham**, PhD, presented information on the resources available in the College for research. **Elizabeth Rand**, MD, **Bobbi Adcock**, MD, **James Leeper**, PhD, **John Wheat**, MD, and **Mike Taylor**, MD, discussed many of their past and ongoing research projects. For information, contact Dr. Rand, Chair of the Research Committee, at (205)348-1325 or erand@cchs.ua.edu.

Research Lunch Series Resumes

The Research Committee hosts the **Research Lunch Series**, a forum for presentation and discussion of research within our College or projects of interest from outside CCHS. The monthly series is held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Carrel Room at 12:15 pm. On October 12, **Chip Mueller** and **John Waits**, Fourth Year Medical Students, presented "Effect of Artificial Flavoring on the Electrolyte Concentration and Osmolality of Oral Rehydration Solutions." On Nov. 9, Fourth Year Medical Student **Ed Shackelford** presented "Outcomes on Child Abuse Evaluation Cases," and "A Prospective Study of Psychosocial Job Strain and Birth Outcomes" by Dr. **Kathryn Oths**, Department of Anthropology, is set for December 14.

-Nelle Williams, Interim Chief Librarian

Dolbare Is First DeBakey RMS Scholar

Emily Dolbare of Bigbee, Ala., has been selected as the first DeBakey Foundation Rural Medical Scholar in the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMS). Rural Medical Scholars enter the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM) after a year of study in primary care, community medicine, and rural health. They follow a primary care track, including clinical training at the Tuscaloosa campus, which emphasizes rural health care. The DeBakey scholarship, available only to students in RMS, provides assistance for tuition, fees, books, room and board, and other school-related expenses for a Rural Medical Scholar in the last undergraduate year and four years of medical school at UASOM.

Miss Dolbare graduated in May from UA. She was president and a founding member of the UA Rural Health Student Association and a Community Medicine student assistant. She was admitted to top senior honoraries at The University including Mortar Board, Blue Key, Omicron Delta Kappa, Cardinal Key, and Golden Key. She was president of Gamma Beta Phi honorary and a member Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Alpha Epsilon Delta, the pre-med honor society.

"We face an urgent need to boost the number of physicians practicing medicine in rural America," says Dr. **William Deal**, UASOM dean. "Programs such as RMS and financial support from the DeBakey Foundation give us the opportunity to attract and retain young people who are committed to bringing high quality health care to rural communities."

As a Millry High School student, Miss Dolbare participated in the UA Rural Health Scholars Program. She later was counselor for RHSP, which has enrolled 197 high school students from 45 rural counties since 1993.



Dr. Alan Blum (above), on the stairs at the President's Mansion, used his own camera to get a photo of the crowd who attended a reception to welcome him to CCHS. In a more formal shot, Dr. Blum (l), who has been appointed to the Gerald Wallace Endowed Chair of Family Medicine, poses with Dean Curry, Celia Wallace, and UA President Andrew Sorenson. Mrs. Wallace endowed the faculty chair in memory of her late husband, a family physician and founder of Springhill Hospital in Mobile.

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

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

On Rounds is published quarterly by CCHS. Send information to the editor, Box 870326 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. (205) 348-1302, ljackson@cchs.ua.edu

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