Plans Underway for New Building Approved by Board of Trustees

The College of Community Health Sciences and its Capstone Medical Center will move into a new building on the corner of 5th Avenue and University Boulevard in two years, according to the timeline CCHS Dean William Curry, MD, announced to college faculty and staff in September. The site is at the east entrance to The University campus. "Since it is so visible, the building will be a visitor's first impression of The University," said Dr. Curry, "an attractive location for donors who will have naming opportunities for the new building and rooms or furnishings within it." Groundbreaking is scheduled for summer, 2001.

Financing for the project will come from University funds, private donors, and a UA bond issue, said Dr. Curry. The pending sale of the UA Educational Tower at the hospital to DCH and approval by the Board of Trustees of architects for the project cleared the way for detailed planning for building. Associate Dean Marc Armstrong, MD, announced to college faculty and staff.

On Rounds
The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 10, Number 4  Fall 2000

Elizabeth Cockrum, MD
Recognized for Outstanding Commitment to Teaching

CCHS Pediatrician Wins UA's Top Teaching Award

by Lance M. Skelly
UA Office of Media Relations

Dr. Elizabeth L. Cockrum, associate professor of pediatrics in The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences, is one of four recipients of this year's Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award (OCTA) at UA.

Established in 1976, OCTA recognizes dedication to the teaching profession and the positive impact professors have on their students. Given by UAs National Alumni Association, the award is the University's highest honor for excellence in teaching. Previous OCTA recipients from the CCHS faculty are: James Leeper, PhD, Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Community & Rural Medicine; William Winternitz, MD, Professor, Internal Medicine; and former Community Medicine professor and UA Vice President, Harry Knope, PhD.

Dr. Cockrum joined the CCHS faculty in 1989. She was promoted to associate professor of clinical pediatrics in 1992. Cockrum has served as director of the pediatric clerkship for third-year medical students since 1991, and she also served as chair of the pediatric department at DCH Regional Medical Center from 1996-1998.

"Dr. Cockrum has the best knowledge base for care of pediatric patients I have ever encountered," said a colleague in a letter recommending her for the OCTA award. "This knowledge is accompanied by an extremely keen clinical acumen. Together, these qualities make her an outstanding pediatrician, enabling her to provide students with the best learning experiences possible."

Cockrum graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. She did her pediatric residency at The Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham. She instructs third- and fourth-year medical students at CCHS, a branch of the Capstone Medical Clinic and teaches pediatric emergency, in-patient and newborn nursery care at DCH.

This year's other OCTA recipients were Pam Buey, Professor of Law; Dr. Melondie Carter, assistant professor of Nursing; and Dr. Nick Stinnett, professor of human development and family studies.
New Building Planned for CCHS (continued from page 1)

who is overseeing the college's planning for the new facility, said he is consulting with faculty and staff in all CCHS departments and divisions to make sure the new building meets the varied needs of the college's multi-faceted role at The University—an academic unit of UA equivalent to other colleges, a medical practice site, and a teaching center for USOM medical students and family practice residents.

"In fact, it was the need to improve the clinical teaching facilities of our family practice center that necessitated the drive to build," said Dr. Armstrong.

"The new two-story building will be uniquely suited to the blend of private and academic medical practice, clinical teaching space, patient convenience, and faculty/staff offices that CCHS must accommodate," said Armstrong. He is working on architectural plans with Sherlock, Smith, and Adams in Montgomery and expects to get final drawings before the end of the year. This architecture firm has experience in designing clinic space for both private and academic medical medical practices and university building projects across the country, he added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nancy Rubin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The new building will be uniquely suited to the blend of private and academic medical practice, clinical teaching space, patient convenience, and faculty/staff offices that CCHS must accommodate,&quot; said Dr. Armstrong. He is working on architectural plans with Sherlock, Smith, and Adams in Montgomery and expects to get final drawings before the end of the year. This architecture firm has experience in designing clinic space for both private and academic medical practices and university building projects across the country, he added.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Nancy Rubin APA President

Rubin Is State President

Associate Professor of Psychiatry Nancy Rubin, PsyD, becomes President of the Alabama Psychological Association (APA) beginning January 1, 2001. A native of New Hampshire, she earned her doctorate in psychology at the University of Denver and completed her clinical psychology internship at West Virginia University. As APA President, Dr. Rubin has been active in the APA since 1991 shortly after she joined the faculty of CCHS. Dr. Rubin has chaired the APA Scientific and Academic Affairs Committee, Awards Committee, and Convention Committee and served on the APA Committees for Ethics, Membership, and Finance. She was secretary of the organization from 1998 through 1999 and is currently president-elect. She represented Alabama at the American Psychological Association (APA) State Leadership Conference on "Partnerships for Power" in March, 2000. The Alabama Psychological Association (APA) was founded in 1950 for the advancement of psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting human welfare. Members of APA work to promote research in psychology, the highest standards of quality and usefulness of applied psychology, and dissemination of psychology in the interest of human welfare. The association sponsors annual conventions, workshops, continuing education opportunities, community activities, and student research awards. Dr. Rubin will preside over the APA annual conference June 21-24, 2001 in Fort Walton, Florida.

Psychologist Harriet Myers Retires

Dr. Harriet Myers, a Tuscaloosa psychologist who has served on the Psychiatry faculty at CCHS for more than two decades since 1983, retired in October. Dr. Myers will continue her private practice, but her duties at Capstone will be assumed by Dr. Melissa Kuhajda, a new part-time faculty member. Dr. Elizabeth Rand, Chair of Psychiatry, and her staff in the Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology hosted a reception to honor Dr. Myers' service to the college on October 19 at the Capstone Medical Center. "We are extremely fortunate to have such an outstanding psychologist to teach our students and residents over the years," said Dr. Rand.

(continued p. 6)
Family Practice Residents
Receive Awards at Graduation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Jeff Laubenthal, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OB/GYN</td>
<td>Woody Herring, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>Robyn Germany, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>Jeff Laubenthal, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Erik Richardson, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Bobby Jones, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Teachers of Family Medicine</td>
<td>Chris Germany, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeShano Award (Family Medicine)</td>
<td>Michael Elliott, MD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This class of 2000, the twenty-fifth to graduate from the CCHS family practice residency, brings the total number of family physicians trained here to 270. Laura Satcher, who is at CCHS completing additional training as an OB fellow, is included in this number. She is the eleventh recipient of the obstetrical fellowship, which was initiated at CCHS in 1988 with funding from the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board. Dr. Cindy Desdmon was the first OB Fellow.

Burdette Wins Willard Award

Jennifer Burdette, MD, former CCHS medical student and UASOM graduate, received the 2003 Willard Award at the awards banquet for graduating residents in June.

Rural Medical Scholars Program Reviewed by National Panel

A national panel which recently evaluated the Rural Medical Scholars Program (R MSP) concluded that the RMSP has made an "excellent start" and "achieved success in a number of ways." The panel, co-chaired by Dr. Harold Fallon, Dean Emeritus, UASOM (University of Alabama School of Medicine), and Dr. Joab Thomas, President Emeritus of Penn State University and former UA president, worked in four independent subcommittees: 1) Administration/Organizational Commitment; 2) Recruitment, Selection, & Financial Aids; 3) Curriculum; and 4) Mission, Growth, & Evaluation. The subcommittees interviewed RMSP students, faculty, and UASOM administrators and submitted their findings and recommendations.

The panel concurred that it is essential to secure permanent funding for the program in order for everyone to recognize it as a stable part of the institution.

The final report noted that rural Medical Scholars are succeeding in medical school and having a positive impact on classmates at UASOM, as evidenced by their peers' choice of the Tuscaloosa campus for clinical training in the third and fourth years. The first class of Rural Medical Scholars graduates from medical school this year, and the fifth class has begun its prematurculation year at UA.

Although there was some doubt that preparing only ten rural physicians a year would be adequate to meet the need created by the retirement of current physicians, the panel recommended that the program be maintained at its current size for the present and emphasized that stable funding should be instituted.

"Additional data measuring the outcomes of residency choice and some assessment of eventuul practice location may support an expansion of the program," concluded the report. For copies of the evaluation report, contact John Wheat, MD, MPH, Professor of Community and Rural Medicine, founder and director of the Rural Medical Scholars Program: jwheat@cchs.ua.edu or (205) 348-1303

For information on an application: 205-348-6502; kwales@cchs.ua.edu

OnRounds • Fall 2000

3
Meet the Third Year Medical Students at CCHS...

Joseph Patrick Austin graduated from Scottsboro High School, then earned a BS degree in Biology from UAB. His honors include the UAB Scholars Award, Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award, and UAB Department of Biology Honors Research. He also achieved early acceptance to the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Julia Lett Boothe, a Rural Medical Scholar from Northport, has known from an early age that she wanted to be a physician. She worked as a volunteer at Northport Hospital DCH during her teen years before earning her biology degree from The University of Alabama, where she was a member of several honor societies including Alpha Lambda, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Golden Key, and Phi Eta Sigma. She received her Master’s Degree in Public Health from the UAB School of Public Health.

Tracy Lynn Brooks graduated from John Carroll High School in Birmingham and Birmingham-Southern College with a BS in Biology. She was in Alpha Epsilon Delta, Beta Beta Beta, and Omicron Delta Kappa. Tracy feels that a good physician must learn not only biology, chemistry, and physics, but also understand people and human nature.

Kristopher Wayne Cummings was at CCHS in 1993 as a Rural Health Scholar from Chilton County High School (the summer after 11th grade). He earned his BS in Biology from the University of Alabama and was a founding member of the UA Rural Health Student Association. Kris was a Presidential Scholar at UA and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He served as president of the Golden Key National Honor Society and was inducted into other top honoraries including Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, and the premed honorary, Alpha Epsilon Delta. He won a Golden Key National Honor Society scholarship to study medicine (one of only ten awarded nationally each year). Kris maintained a 4.0 grade point average at UA, received the Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar Award in Arts and Sciences, and was named the outstanding graduating senior in Biological Sciences.

Jeffrey David Faggard has wanted to be a physician since he was twelve years old, and he looks forward to the role of physician as teacher and counselor. A graduate of McGill-Toolen in Mobile, he graduated cum laude from the University of Alabama with a BS in Biology. He was inducted into Gamma Beta Phi, Golden Key, and Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Societies.

Clifton Earl Garris graduated from Leroy High School in Montgomery County and earned a BS in Biology from UA in 1991. He also completed a BS in Nursing from the University of South Alabama in 1995, graduating cum laude, before he entered the UA Rural Medical Scholars Program. He earned his Master’s in Public Health specializing in occupational health and safety at UAB in his first year as a Rural Medical Scholar. His honors include Sigma Theta Tau (the national nursing honorary) and the Excellence in Nursing Practice Award. Clifton and his wife, Melissa, are proud new parents of Evan Michael born May 31, 2000.

Joseph Aristide Gassen, III, attended the first session of the Rural Health Scholars Seminar and Field Work in 1993. During his field work, he gained an appreciation for physicians’ relationships with their patients. He graduated from Clements High School in Athens, and he received a BA degree from the University of Alabama with a double major in Biology and Philosophy. His honors include Alpha Lambda Delta, Blue Key, Golden Key, Cardinal Key, and Gamma Beta Phi.

Teresa Leigh Gottstine has worked as a volunteer for the Care Giver’s Association and as an emergency room technician, where she witnessed the challenging, service-oriented aspects of medicine. Terri graduated from McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, and she received a BS in Biology from Spring Hill College in Mobile. Her honors include Who’s Who Among Students of American Colleges and Universities and Dean’s List. She is also a Rural Medical Scholar (RMS) and earned her Master of Public Health degree from UAB in her first year as an RMS.

Matthew Heath Hale grew up in a rural community in Bibb County where he was able to observe the practice of medicine by shadowing a family physician in office and hospital settings. He was also able to round with physicians at large inner-city hospitals. He graduated from Bibb County High School in Centreville and earned a BS in Biology from Sanford University. His honors include Alpha Epsilon Delta, Beta Beta Beta, Who’s Who Among American College Students, and Omicron Delta Kappa. A 1997 Rural Medical Scholar, Heath pursued a Master’s in Public Health from UAB during his first year as an RMS.

Christopher Niles Hillman looks forward as a physician to having an impact on other peoples’ lives. He feels that even though there will be times when despair is greater than good news, providing hope and healing to a patient makes this profession worthwhile. Chris is from Rankin County, Mississippi, and earned a BA in music from the University of Alabama. He was in Mortar Board, Student Health Advisory Council, Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Honors Program Student Association.
Beverly Flowers Jordan was the 1994 Valedictorian of Zion Chapel Honor Society. Beverly is also a Rural Medical Farmer, and on the Executive Committee of the UASOM Family Medicine Interest Group. She and her husband Mickey have a four-year-old son, Dustin.

Rutwij (Rick) Kishor Jotani, a 1997 Rural Medical Scholar from Talladega County, believes that the practice of medicine offers moral rewards and a sense of spiritual gratification that no other profession can. Rick graduated from Talladega High School, where he also received his BS in Biology from Birmingham-Southern College, and received his MPH from UAB. He was in the National Biology Honor Society, on the Dean’s List, and was a Charles Vai Teaching and Research Fellow.

Paul Benjamin Kerr was active during his high school and college years working with his community, church, and schools, experiences that taught him much about relating to people. Ben has also been active in AAFP and AMA medical student organizations. A graduate of Hamilton High School in Marion County, Ben graduated magna cum laude with a BS in Chemistry from Harding University. His honors include Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Chi.

Nada Bashir Memon was a Student Researcher at The University of Alabama where she also received the Randall Undergraduate Research Award and a Phi Kappa Phi Creative Research Scholarship. She graduated magna cum laude with a BS in Biology.

Margaret Tait Moore volunteered at the East Alabama Medical Center in the ambulatory care setting. Witnessing firsthand the important role doctors play, Meg graduated from Wilcox Academy in Camden, and she earned her BS in Nutrition at Auburn University. Her honors include Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key, and Alpha Epsilon Delta. She is married to Jason Moore.

Carl Anthony Narducci, from Homewood, originally planned to be a pharmacist and earned his BS degree in Pharmacy from Sanford University and was inducted into the Rho Chi Pharmaceutical Honor Society. Tony completed a Master’s degree in Genetics at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and his growing interest in the human body, disease, and how drugs interact with both led him to medical school.

Frederick Alexander Nettles became interested in medicine at age six, when he witnessed his local emergency room. He learned about his own qualifications for Eagle Scout. Alex subsequently became an ambulance driver and volunteer in hospitals. He served as a senior surgical technician at the Mobile Infirmary before being accepted to medical school. Alex graduated from Monroe Academy, and he earned his BS from the United States Military Academy at West Point. His military honors include the 5th Corps Distinguished Leader Award, two Army Achievement Medals, and an Army Commendation Medal.

Allison Lynn Paulk has been interested in medicine since she was a child, and she was able to work with and observe physicians with their patients because of her interest. She learned that a large part of practicing medicine is solving mysteries—putting the pieces of a puzzle together and then reaching a medical conclusion. Allison graduated from Northview High School in Dothan, and she received her BS degree in Biomedical Science from Auburn University. Her honors include Alpha Epsilon Delta, Alpha Lambda Delta, Cateor Society, and Mortar Board. Allison is Tuscaloosa campus class representative, troubleshooting when there are problems and serving as liaison between her classmates and the administration (at CCHS and—as needed—in Birmingham).

Nikki Lee Price graduated from Thompson High School in Alabaster and earned her BS in Pharmacy from Sanford University. Her honors include Dean’s List and the Sterling Compounding Award. Nikki has a genuine compassion for people, a desire to treat disease, and a personal need to make a significant difference in the lives of others.

Michael Todd Sanford from Birmingham graduated from Wakke Forest University with a BA degree in Business. Todd and his wife, Melinda, have five children, and he has found his calling as a community activist—especially teaching his three young sons how to fish, hit a baseball, play golf, and go camping. Todd attends the Hoover Church of Christ, and his long-term goals include medical mission work.

Bradley Thomas Smith, a 1997 Rural Medical Scholar, graduated from Fayette County High School and earned his BA degree in Music at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in 1999. He is a Registered Nurse in the Operating Room at the University of Alabama in Birmingham’s H. L. Miller Comprehensive Cancer Center. Bradley has also been active in several honor societies including Sigma Kappa Psi, Golden Key, and Sigma Theta Tau (the national nursing honorary). He entered the Rural Medical Scholars Program in 1997.

Mark Burnette Wall graduated from high school at the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, and he received his BS degree in Biology from the University of Alabama. Mark believes that the practice of medicine is an art that has the ability to inspire, encourage, and personally touch the life of someone else.

Nancy Bohannon Office of Medical Student Affairs

Robert Drummond Thornton graduated from Edgewood Academy in Elmore, Alabama, and he received his BS degree in Biomedical Science from Auburn University. Rob’s dream has been to become a doctor, and he feels that great reward is found in helping people and then seeing firsthand the effects of that help.

Joseph Allen Tubbs graduated from Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and earned his BS in Nursing at UA. As a Registered Nurse, he has worked at UAB’s Heart Transplant ICU. Joe feels that medicine is a highly stimulating, fulfilling, and demanding profession that calls to people who have an inherent desire for the job.

Robert Eugene Vickers graduated from M.G.Montgomery High School in Semmes, Alabama, and received his BS degree in Nursing from The University of Alabama. Robby began his undergraduate work in pre-law. However, he found his interests better suited to the medical field and changed his major to Nursing during his junior year. He was inducted into several honor societies including Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key, and Sigma Theta Tau (the national nursing honorary). He entered the Rural Medical Scholars Program in 1997.

Zanthia Evon Wiley graduated from the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, and she received her BS in Microbiology from The University of Alabama. Her honors include Alpha Epsilon Delta, Gamma Beta Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the Academic Achievement Award. Zanthia feels that being a physician will provide her with a mentally challenging occupation and give her the feeling that others are benefiting from her work and advice.

Paul Tubureaux, a Rural Medical Scholar and senior medical student, discussed “Rural Mental Health of Alabama Farmers” at the Larry Mayes Society Meeting, September 25th, at the University Club. Depression, anxiety, and suicide were issues that kept coming up, he said, in interviews he did for his community medicine rotation. He reviewed the literature to supplement his own research—particularly relevant since the drought’s severe impact on Alabama agriculture—reviewed the literature to supplement his own research—particularly relevant since the drought’s severe impact on Alabama agriculture.

OnRounds, September 25th, at the University Club, he greeted Alabama farmers and medical faculty, and presented it to fellow students, medical faculty, and guests at the dinner meeting of the society named for a fourth year medical student fell to the ground. Paul’s presentation based on from his interviews during his community medicine rotation last year under the direction of Dr. John Wetherby (right). His wife Peggy (left) was the Assistant Extension Coordinator, also attended Paul’s presentation based on from his interviews during his community medicine rotation last year under the direction of Dr. John Wetherby (right).
Family Medicine Interest Group Wins AAFP Award

Lilly Funds Research by CCHS Medical Student

Elizabeth Smith, a senior medical student at CCHS, has received a research award from Eli Lilly Research Laboratories. The pharmaceutical company will find Smith's research on a follow-up study of patients with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) who participated in a clinical trial at Capstone Medical Center. Dr. Elizabeth Rand was the Principal Investigator for the PTSD clinical trial and is serving as a mentor and advisor to Smith's research project. Other members of the research team include Dr. Nancy Rubin, a sub-investigator for the clinical trial, Kay Fendley, Study Coordinator, and Tracy Acton, a research assistant. Personnel at Lilly will assist with graphics and other costs for poster preparation after the data analysis is completed and also will assist Elizabeth in submitting her research project to appropriate scientific journals, newsletters, etc. for publication.

The University of Alabama School of Medicine's Family Medicine Interest Group was one of the five medical schools including Mayo, Yale, and Oklahoma -honored by the American Academy of Family Physicians at the AAFP conference in August. UASOM's group was recognized for stimulating interest in family practice among medical students. The Program of Excellence award is presented to groups which are exemplary in student involvement, promotion of family practice, community outreach, and patient advocacy.

UA Rural Medical Scholars and UAB medical students Beverly Jordan and Stephanie Morgan were leaders in the award-winning group. Beverly Jordan, a 1997 Rural Medical Scholar from Coffee County (Jack, Alabama) served as president of UA's Family Medicine Interest Group last year and was the delegate for the state of Alabama to the National FMIG Congress of Delegates in Kansas City, Mo. Jordan is also the student member on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians.

Lilly Funds Research by CCHS Medical Student

Faculty Notes

(from page 2)

James D. Leeper, PhD, Professor and Chair of Community and Rural Medicine, has been reappointed to the Education Board of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Leeper and CCHS graduate research assistant Lei Wang presented a paper, “Weighted Average Measure of Internal Agreement Among Multimodal Responses,” at the APA Joint Statistical Meetings in August in Indianapolis. Dr. Leeper was co-author of “Predictors of Physician Utilization Among Adolescents Receiving Preparticipation Physical Evaluations,” a paper presented to the National Athletic Trainer Association last June, and “Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in Women Undergoing Reductiohn Mammoplasty,” in Plastic Reconstruction Surgery (April, 2000).

Spring CME Series Includes Local and National Experts

The CME Grand Rounds lectures for the spring semester include both local and national medical experts, and a week on wellness is planned for May. Dr. Mantle from Tuscaloosa will address congestive heart failure, and UAB’s Anthony Sawaya, MD, will discuss osteoporosis. Dr. Thomas Meredith, UA System Chancellor, and Dr. John Burnum, Professor of Internal Medicine, will be first Friday speakers.

Robert G. Lahita, MD, widely recognized in the rheumatology field, will discuss Lupus. A Professor at New York Medical College and Rheumatology Chief at St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York City, Lahita has received numerous honors and serves on many advisory boards and editorial boards. He has written extensively on topics in his medical field: 122 publications, in addition to chronic lymphocytic leukemia, autoimmune disease, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Byron Cryer, MD, a graduate of Harvard University and Baylor medical school, with subspecialty training in Gastroenterology Texas Southwest Medical School, will talk about GI bleeds.

Burnum Cited in NY Times

An article by Dr. John Burnum, Professor of Internal Medicine, was cited by columnist John O'Neill in The New York Times on August 29, 2000. O'Neill quoted from Dr. Burnum's letter published in the August Annals of Internal Medicine: “I have recently come to appreciate that the separation of hospitalized patients from their pets can make both parties ill.” O'Neill's article, which was subtitled “A Heartful Gain When Toto Calls,” was illustrated with a cartoon of a dog sitting on the bed of a hospital patient, improving his master's spirits.

Research Lunch Series

The CCHS Research Conference Series is held the first Wednesday of each month at noon in the Coin Room. Lecturers and topics this fall included William “Dee” Fowler, Graduate Research Assistant, Health Research Consulting Services, Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine—“Child Immunization Rates in Tuscaloosa County,” Dr. Jim Leeper — “Alabama Cooperative Extension Agent Survey: Environmental, Occupational, and Medical Care Access Concerns in Rural Alabama,” and Dr. John C. Higginbotham, Associate Professor of Community & Rural Medicine and Director, Health Research Consulting Services—“Barriers to STD Screening in Rural Alabama.”

Miranda Andrus Joins CRM Faculty

Miranda R. Andrus, Pharm D, joined the Department of Community and Rural Medicine in August as Clinical Assistant Professor. She is also on the clinical faculty of the Auburn University School of Pharmacy and is the Interdisciplinary Education Coordinator for the Rural Alabama AHEC (Area Health Education Center) housed in the Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine. (Profile next issue)

Stephanie Morgan, a 1996 Rural Medical Scholar from Cedar Bluff, served as the Student Member on the National FMIG Congress of Delegates, Member, and Member Services. She was also a participant in the Leadership Tract at the AAFP Congress of Delegates in 1999 and the NCFPRNCSM Leadership Tract in 1998, and was the Family Medicine Interest Group Regional Coordinator for the State of Alabama in 1999.

“We are proud of this award validating all of our efforts to promote family practice in Alabama.” said Jordan in accepting the award for UASOM. “We hope that this award will highlight the need for primary care physicians in Alabama and encourage others to become involved in family practice.”

Some of the group’s activities included the Tar Wars anti-smoking campaign, Primary Care Week, a tutoring clinic, How to Heart Food Drive, a residency panel discussion, and monthly luncheons featuring family practitioners. Beverly and Stephanie are medical students at CCHS this year completing clinical training in medicine.

Hefefeldinger and Mozee Receive Emeritus Status

David Hefefeldinger, MD, and Paul Mozee, MD, have been honored with Emeritus status by UA President Andrew Sorenson. Dr. Hefefeldinger was one of the first faculty members recruited by Dean William R. Willard to the newly founded CCHS. Dr. Mozee joined the CCHS faculty in 1984 as Professor and Chair of OB/GYN.

Dr. Hefefeldinger, formerly chair of Pediatrics, was appointed Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics effective March 1, 2000. Dr. Mozee, who retired last summer, became Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology effective October 1, 2000. Dr. Sorenson said the appointments recognize the many contributions to UA by the former professors. President Sorenson added that the appointments establish formally a continuing relationship with UA “that we hope will be long and active.”

Pieroni Receives Recertification and Recognition

Robert E. Pieroni, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine, recently passed recertification exams in Geriatric Medicine as well as Family Medicine. Dr. Pieroni also serves as adjunct faculty in the UA Department of Psychology. He has been named an item writer for Certification and Recertification exams of the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a Research Grant Peer Reviewer for the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. He also reviewed abstracts for the Clinical Medicine and Behavioral Medicine sections of the Gerontology Society of America.

He was invited to Kameda Hospital in Japan earlier this year to present an “Update in Coronary Heart Failure” and to investigate a potential exchange program. He was elected Chairman of the Health Sciences section of the Alabama Academy of Sciences which recently published abstracts of Alabama Academy of Sciences, 2000 presentations by Dr. Pieroni (“Prevention of Pressure Ulcers” and “Update on hepatitis C”); by Pieroni and Sherry Wedgeworth, Director of CMC lab and X-Ray Services (“Impaired Fasting Glucose in a Family Practice Center”); and these co-authored with CCHS medical students and other faculty:

• Stephanie Morgan with Pieroni: “Atopic Mycoses: The Clinical Spectrum”
• Eric Richardson, David Hefefeldinger, MD, Pieroni, and Cathy Gresham, MD: “Saddle Emboli in a Young Diabetic”
• Jane Roy, Mark Richardson, Joe Smith, and Pieroni: “Predicting Aerobic Fitness”
• Amit Shah, Pieroni: “Profound Hypokalemia Presenting as Guillain Barre Syndrome”

These activities and findings in various UAB offices and clinics, and Dr. Pieroni’s interest in family practice among medical students.

Higginbotham and Blum to Work with CCN on Internet Course

John C. Higginbotham, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor of Community and Rural Medicine and Alan Blum, MD, who holds the Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair of Family Medicine at CCHS, have received a $5,000 faculty research grant from the UA Office of Academic Affairs to work with faculty members in the UA Capstone College of Nursing to develop an on-line course, “Writing Successfully for the Health Sciences.” The proposed WebCT course will be designed to help students and health practitioners communicate in writing and learn more about how to successfully publish their articles in professional journals.

Jeri Duncan, PhD, RN, and Sharon Jacobson, PhD, RN, are collaborators on the project from the College of Nursing.
Alum Is Jeffrey Smith, MD, a former patient of Dr. Jeffrey Smith's, who is also a professor in the University of Alabama School of Medicine. His second novel, in which his main character reappears in another crime-solving situation, is a murder mystery novel within the past year. It can be previewed and purchased (in paperback or downloaded) at the website: www.1stbooks.com. Search by author's name (Jeffrey Smith) or by title (Sudden Despair is the name of his first novel, and Two Dozen, Two to Go, in which his main character reappears in another crime-solving situation, is his second).

Jeff Smith is a psychiatrist in private practice, and also a professor in the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Smith resides in Greenville, S.C., with his wife Anne and their two sons Andy and Ben.

Dr. Smith's e-mail address is BodineMD@aol.com.

Hullett Chosen for Academy of Honor

Family physician Sandra L. Hullett, MD, (CCHS Residency grad, 1979) was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in a ceremony at the state Capitol on August 28, 2000. Dr. Hullett, Executive Director of Family Health Care of Alabama and a member of the UA Board of Trustees since 1982, is one of four Alabamians elected to the Academy of Honor this year. Others were Rosa Parks, whose arrest in 1955 for sitting in the front of a segregated Montgomery bus helped spark the civil rights movement; John J. McMahon, Jr., a Birmingham businessman and civic leader who is also a UA Trustee; and William V. Muse, President of Auburn University.

The Academy is limited to 100 living Alabamians whose services have greatly benefited or reflected credit on the state. Dr. Hullett's work with the non-profit community health agency based in Eutaw—which serves 20 rural counties—and her dedication to improving health care and quality of life for thousands of Alabamians were cited in the announcement of her election to the Academy. Dr. Hullett has been active in state and national organizations to make sure that rural health and primary care are not overlooked in planning for delivery of health care services. "Her work will have an impact for generations to come," said the Academy's news release.

Rural Alabama AHEC Involves Students in Primary Care Week activities

The Rural Alabama AHEC (Area Health Education Center) coordinated a number of activities in West Alabama counties to celebrate National Primary Care Week (NPCW) October 15 – 20, 2000. Medical students and premedical student volunteers from The University of Alabama were involved in each of the activities.

As part of the AHEC health education mission, staff and medical students held a "Doctor's Show and Tell" program at an elementary school in Double Springs, Alabama, and an "Anti-smoking Campaign" was held at Maddox Middle School in Jasper. Medical student volunteers offered free blood pressure screenings to the senior citizens who walk at University Mall in Tuscaloosa before the stores open. The medical students met at the mall at 8:00 a.m., took blood pressures, and talked with more than 50 senior citizens. One blood pressure check revealed that a woman had dangerously high blood pressure, and she was referred to a doctor who helped her get the needed medication even though she could not afford to buy it.

Rural Alabama AHEC employees and student assistants promoted STD (sexually transmitted disease) prevention and AIDS awareness on campus at The University of Alabama. They manned a booth on the "Quad," distributing information to college students concerning abstinence, unplanned pregnancy, STDs, and condoms.

UA medical students Chris Hillman and Beverly Jordan spoke to Clanton Elementary School students about the importance of wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle, and the Rural Alabama AHEC concluded the week by taking college students from seven different disciplines (Health Care Management, Medical Transcription, Medicine, Molecular Genetics, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work) to Sulligent High School to speak to high school students about their chosen fields. Each volunteer discussed the field they were going into, classes needed in high school and college to prepare for the career, finding employment after graduation, and prospective salary ranges.

Academic Activities Program Coordinator
Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center

Mellissa Cox

Alabama’s Rural Health Dilemma: Getting Focus

Is it up to health professionals only? What is the responsibility of Government? What is needed from the private sector? What can the non-profit community do to ensure the health of their citizens?

Come and help continue the discussion!

SECOND ANNUAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE
APRIL 26-27, 2001

The opinions of the people who live and work in rural Alabama are essential as decisions are made which affect our rural counties. The results of this conference will be valuable to the Legislature and state officials in planning for the future.

Representative Allen Jewson
The Alabama legislature
 Pickens County
Key and McElrath Join NIEHS Team in Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine at CCHS

Timothy Key, MD, and Jeff McElrath have joined the CCHS Department of Community and Rural Medicine to assist with agronomy-related projects, particularly implementation of the Rural Environmental and Occupational Health curriculum project funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Services. John Wheat, MD, Professor of Community and Rural Medicine and Internal Medicine, is Principal Investigator of the NIEHS study which is compiling information on rural health and medical priorities from people who live and work in rural Alabama and physicians practicing in these areas and incorporating their findings into materials for training physicians to meet the unique medical needs of rural populations.

"We are very pleased to have a senior colleague of Dr. Key's caliber with us to bring OEM to our teaching programs as Co-Investigator on the NIEHS grant and in agronomy projects," said Dr. Key. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburg. He directed the NIOSH residency at UAB for over ten years and has directed the Occupational Medicine Component at the University of Pittsburg.

Dr. Key also assists the state Department of Public Health with Exposure Investigations for Toxic Substances and has worked with the Occupational Medical Review Program, U.S. Department of Energy, in Oak Ridge, TN, since 1992. Dr. Key is a Site Investigator for Education Resource Development Branch of NIOSH and serves on the American Board of Preventive Medicine's Committee on Question Writing for Occupational Medicine. He consulted on question writing for the National Board of Medical Examiners in 1990 and has served as peer reviewer for professional journals including Southern Medical Journal and American Industrial Hygiene Assoc. Journal.

Dr. Key was a member of the state Health Department's Committee which developed Objectives for Alabama Healthy People 2000, and he served on the MASA (state Medical Association) Committee on Workers' Compensation. In 1992, he was elected to the Delta Omega National Honor Society in Public Health.

Jeff McElrath, a graduate of Auburn University who earned his master's degree in medical anthropology, will coordinate the activities of the NIEHS grant project, working with faculty and staff to incorporate environmental concerns into the medical school curriculum through problem-based learning strategies. He will be assisting in the development of case-study materials, which are garnered primarily from incidents occurring in rural Alabama. Prior to accepting the role of Program Coordinator, he was a Research Assistant in environmental health under the advisement of Dr. Tim Key. His research focused on organophosphate pesticide exposures. "My research interests with the grant are from the view of environmental and medical anthropology," said McElrath.

The third annual Lister Hill fundraiser was hosted by UA President and Mrs. Mike Taylor (left) on Oct. 26. The event, held this year at the Warner Guest House of the Chancellor's Residence, was the most successful ever both in terms of attendance and money raised, said Vicki Johnson, CCHS Director of Advancement.

In previous years, the Lister Hill fundraiser has been hosted by UA President and Mrs. Andrew Sorenson at the President's Mansion, and by Jack and Elizabeth Warner at the Mildred Warner House, a historic structure where the Warners have restored and furnished with antiques and part of their extensive art collection. Dean William Curry, a long-time supporter of the event and Chair of Corporate Relations, coordinated the activities of the annual event. "We feel that we are raising awareness in the community of the value of our program. As a result, support is increasing every year," said Dr. Curry.

Eleanor Hill Hubbard, a great granddaughter of Senator Lister Hill and a student at UA, with her husband Dr. Mike Taylor (right) on Oct. 26.

The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences

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

OnRounds is published quarterly by CCHS. Address service requested:

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

Vicki Johnson, Director of Advancement
CCHS Dean's Office
Box 870326
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326
(205) 348-0093 • vjohnson@ccha.ua.edu

Linda Jackson, Editor

8 • OnRounds • Fall 2000

UA Chancellor Tom Meredith welcomes the Lister Hill Society.

UA President and Mrs. Mike Taylor (left) in the courtyard of the Chancellor's Residence.