

# OnRounds

The University of Alabama  
College of Community Health Sciences

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Spring 2001



Carrie Knight, MD, received the William W. Winternitz Award for Internal Medicine from Dr. Winternitz at Honors Convocation on May 18. Dr. Knight also earned top scholastic honors for the entire School of Medicine, receiving The American Medical Women's Association Janet M. Glasgow Award. She won the CCHS Scholastic Achievement Award and departmental awards in Surgery and OB/GYN as well.

## CCHS Seniors Recognized at 2001 Honors Convocation

Graduates of the UA School of Medicine who completed their clinical training on the Tuscaloosa campus of UASOM were recognized on May 18, 2001, at the Annual CCHS Honors Convocations. Neil Shulman, MD, Associate Professor at Emory University School of Medicine and author of *Doc Hollywood*, was the dinner speaker for the event held at the Four Points Hotel in Tuscaloosa.

Awards were given by each department to their top students, and the Tuscaloosa senior class gave teaching awards to Dr. Eugene Marsh (junior year), Dr. Leisa DeVenny (the Patrick McCue Award for their senior year), and Dr. Brad Gaspard, (Resident Recognition Award).

Paul Tabereaux, MD, was honored by his classmates with the James H. Akers Memorial Award. This award, chosen by members the graduating senior class, is presented annually to the Tuscaloosa Senior who best personifies both the art and the science of the practice of medicine. Dr. Tabereaux also received the William R. Willard Award (Dean's Award). This singular recognition is awarded annually to a senior medical student for outstanding contributions to the goals and mission of the College of Community Health Sciences. Dr. Tabereaux, a Rural Medical Scholar, also won departmental honors for psychiatry and community medicine, and a student research award.

Carrie Knight, MD, earned the CCHS Scholastic Achievement Award. This award is presented to the senior with highest academic performance in the clinical years. Dr. Knight, who was top student for all three campuses of UASOM, also received the American Medical Women's Association Janet M. Glasgow Award, presented to a female medical student should she graduate first in her class. Dr. Knight received departmental awards in Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery. (Continued on page 2)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rural Health Conference *Alabama's Rural Health Dilemma: Getting Focus*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rural Health Conference, "Alabama's Rural Health Dilemma: Getting Focus," was held in April at UA's Bryant Conference Center. More than 300 health and community leaders including elected officials, clergy, and local health care providers attended again this year. Hosted by The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences/UA School of Medicine, College of Human Environmental Sciences, Capstone College of Nursing,



Ben Rackley, Tuskegee, and Marty Rittmann, Rockford, participated in the second Rural Health Conference.

Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, School of Social Work, and the College of Continuing Studies, the conference was co-sponsored by a wide range of professional organizations and leading public and private agencies. Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH, former State Health Officer for Alabama, who just completed his appointed term as Administrator, Health Resource Services Administration, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, delivered the keynote address.

The First Annual Alabama Rural Health Conference held in April, 2000, at the Bryant Center brought together nearly 300 people from rural communities, the health field, and education to identify Alabama's rural health issues. Concerns fell into three major categories:

- Individual health choices and decision-making
- Effectiveness of the health care system
- Building stronger communities

This year's conference continued the dialog on issues in Rural Alabama and Health. CCHS Dean William Curry, MD, and Social Work Dean Ike Adams, PhD, who co-chaired the conference planning, stressed the importance of participation from community leaders and elected officials as well as health professionals, social workers, hospital administrators, educators, and others concerned about rural health, social welfare, and related economic development.

John Higginbotham, PhD, Associate Professor of Community and Rural Medicine at CCHS and Director of the interdisciplinary UA Institute for Rural Health Research, was a presenter at the conference and will chair the planning for next year's conference. Dr. Higginbotham has summarized points made in the major presentations in "An Overview of What We Accomplished," which is being prepared for dissemination to conference participants. The associated PowerPoint slides used by speakers are available at the Conference website, he said. (See: [www.rhc.ua.edu](http://www.rhc.ua.edu))

CCHS Dean William Curry, MD, opened the conference with an overview of key rural health problems in Alabama that relate to economic distress: unemployment, closing industries and lack of value added economies; higher rates of illegal drug use; higher rates of adverse health outcomes including auto accidents and deaths due to high blood pressure. He reported GOOD NEWS as well: lower infant mortality in some rural areas, the HERO program, All Kids, Cooperative Extension Service, Strategic Planning, and Child Caring initiatives being replicated by local groups in several counties.

Dr. Higginbotham pointed out that disparities we see in health

statistics are not just differences but a DISGRACE. He followed up with data on the discrepancies between urban and rural outcomes in regard to cancer, poverty, immunizations, infant health, education, diabetes, and transportation.

**The 2001 Emergency Medical Series begins Tuesday, July 3, and continues every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during July and August. Lectures will be in the Willard Auditorium at 12:15, and lunch will be provided.**

For a schedule and information on CME credit, contact:  
Vicki Johnson, (205) 348-0093 [vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu](mailto:vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu)

(Continued on page 4.)

REFLECTIONS

by William A. Curry, MD, Dean



Dr. Curry

# Graduation 2001

In the television commercial, a group of schoolchildren tour a palatial institution that apparently is a hospital or clinic. In the background is the voice of one of the children, saying that he told his father he wanted to be a teacher. His father suggested instead that he become a doctor, explaining, "It's a noble profession, and you can become wealthy." The wise child replied to his father, "Without teachers, where would doctors come from?"

I have been that father. Our daughter Laura is strongly committed to urban underprivileged children, and she is building a career as a teacher. I am intensely proud of her, not so much for what she is doing, but for who she is and for how she is making her own choices.

So it was that I found myself at the festivities of the UA School of Medicine graduation, considering the little boy from television, my own Laura, and the crowd of excited graduates with their beaming families. There is nothing quite like medical school graduation for bringing long and complex journeys into focus.

The obvious features are those of accomplishment. It has been a long and arduous academic journey, requiring intelligence and perseverance. It has been demanding physically and emotionally. Learning to work with sick and dying patients of all ages brings young, bright, healthy students face to face with mortality - their patients' and their own.

But it is the families that dominate my enjoyment of medical school graduations. Parents and grandparents, sisters and brothers, spouses and spouses-to-be, so many people representing so many strands through generations, stories and struggles that gave opportunity and vision to each of these new doctors. For some, medicine is the family tradition. For most, it is not.

And that is part of what makes this so amazing to me. It is exactly what is great about America. Whatever its failings, here is a country where today a child growing up in a small rural town with a poorly equipped school can aspire to be a doctor of medicine, regardless of her parents' education, wealth, or social station. Here is a place where families can offer such hope to their children. My own grandparents' educations were limited, and I was the first in my family to become a physician.

And thanks to our daughters' choices, I remain the only one. So is it better to be a doctor or a teacher? Or maybe a doctor who is a teacher? What matters, of course, is not which of those or hundreds of other careers we or our children choose. What matters is what kind of doctor, or teacher, or anything else, we are.

In our roles here as teachers of medicine, we can hope that we have made a difference. But we have to admit that we are but one more strand in the tapestry, partners with the students and families and generations before us that are very much with us still, on the graduation stage, but also in the clinic room, at the bedside, in the emergency rooms and operating rooms of a thousand hospitals and a thousand towns, hoping to bring it all to bear for a single patient in a single moment of time, for that is the privilege we have been given.

# Honors Convocation (Continued from page 1)

## Skelton Named Preceptor of the Year

Larry Skelton, MD, was named Community and Rural Medicine Preceptor of the Year. Dr. Jim Leeper, Chair of the Department Community and Rural Medicine, observed that it was more of a "lifetime award" since he has been a preceptor to CCHS students almost every year since 1980 when he completed the family medicine residency and entered practice in Moundville. Dr. Skelton was one of the first medical students to come to Tuscaloosa for clinical training after the program for junior and senior UASOM students was established here.



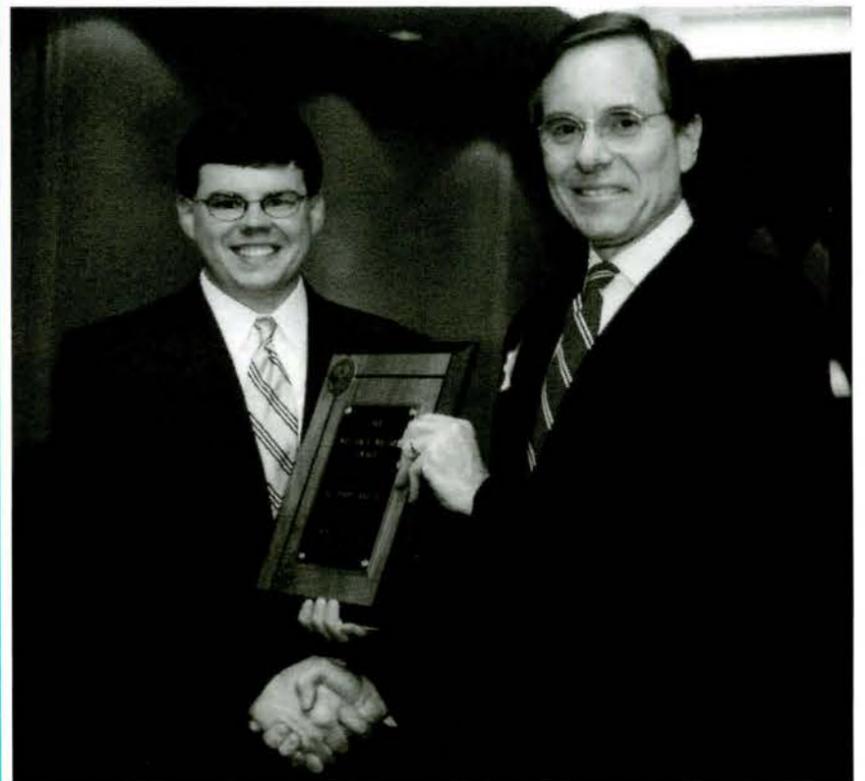
Larry Skelton, MD (left), received the Preceptor of the Year Award presented by Dr. James Leeper.

Amit Shah, MD, won The Merck Manual Award. Merck and Co. offers this award annually to outstanding students in medical education.

The Larry Mayes Memorial Award, given to a rising junior student for assistance in work in an underserved area of this country or any country, was presented by Dr. Cathy Gresham to Amy M. Bearden, a Huntsville-based medical student.

### DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Family Medicine Award	Stephanie Morgan
William W. Winternitz Award (Internal Medicine)	Carrie Knight
Pediatrics Award	Kevin Ellis & Elizabeth Smith
Peter Bryce Award (Psychiatry)	Elizabeth Smith & Paul Tabereaux
Robert F. Gloor Award (Community Medicine)	Angela Clifton & Paul Tabereaux
Surgery Award	Carrie Knight
Finney-Akers Memorial Award (Obstetrics-Gynecology)	Carrie Knight
Research Awards	Rusty Bedsole, Stephanie Morgan, Amit Shah, Paul Tabereaux



Paul Tabereaux, MD, receives the Dean William R. Willard Award from Dr. Curry. Dr. Tabereaux was also chosen by his classmates for the James H. Akers Memorial Award, the top honor selected by the Tuscaloosa medical student senior class, and he won top honors in Community Medicine, Psychiatry, and Student Research.

Dr. Tabereaux and other members of the original class of UA Rural Medical Scholars are the first of 50 Rural Medical Scholars to graduate from UASOM. They were recognized by Dr. John Wheat, and presented with certificates of achievement by Dean Curry and Dr. John Brandon at Honors Convocation. Several Rural Medical Scholars earned top departmental awards as well: Stephanie Morgan in Family Medicine; Angela Clifton and Tabereaux shared the Gloor Award in Community and Rural Medicine; Pediatrics was shared by Rural Medical Scholars Kevin Ellis and Elizabeth Smith; co-winners of the Bryce Award in psychiatry were Drs. Smith and Tabereaux; and student research Drs. Morgan and Tabereaux received research awards.



Research awards were presented by Dr. John Higginbotham (second from left) to Stephanie Morgan, MD, Amit Shah, MD, and Paul Tabereaux, MD. Rusty Bedsole, a December graduate who was not present, also received a research award.



Kevin Ellis, MD, (right) receives the Pediatrics Award, Presented by Dr. Elizabeth Cockrum.



Elizabeth Smith, MD, (right) with Dr. Elizabeth Rand, holds her award for excellence in psychiatry. Dr. Smith shared the departmental award in Pediatrics.

### RESIDENCY TRAINING - CLASS of 2001

<u>CCHS Senior</u>	<u>Residency Program</u>	<u>Specialty</u>
Russell L. Bedsole	University of Cincinnati Hospital, Cincinnati, OH	Internal Medicine
Angela L. Clifton	East Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, LA	Family Medicine
R. Greg Daniel	Pitt County Memorial Hospital, ECUSOM, Greenville, NC	Med-Peds
Anne B. Davis	University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, AL	Internal Medicine
Kelli J. Folgman	Carraway Methodist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL	Internal Medicine
T. Lanier Hagood	Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital, Baton Rouge, LA	Internal Medicine
Thomas D. Holt	Huntsville Family Medicine, Huntsville, AL	Family Medicine
John B. Jeans	Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN	Pathology
Carrie S. Knight	St. Vincent Hospital & Health Care Center, Indianapolis, IN University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, KY	Transitional Radiation Oncology
P. Drake Lavender, Jr.	Tuscaloosa Family Practice, Tuscaloosa, AL	Family Medicine
Stephanie M. Morgan	Tuscaloosa Family Practice, Tuscaloosa, AL	Family Medicine
Amit K. Shah	Mayo Graduate School of Medicine-Florida, Jacksonville, FL	Internal Medicine
Elizabeth R. Smith	University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, KY	Pediatrics
Paul B. Tabereaux	Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT	Internal Medicine
Darlene H. Traffanstedt	Baptist Health System, Birmingham, AL	Internal Medicine



Stephanie Morgan, MD, received the Family Medicine Award from Dr. Laura Satcher. Dr. Morgan also won a research award.



Angela Clifton, MD, (left) and Paul Tabereaux, MD, (right) received the Community and Rural Medicine Award at the CCHS Honors Convocation. Dr. James Leeper, CRM Chair, presented the awards.



Dr. Cathy Gresham, CCHS Director of Medical Student Affairs, presides as Dr. Shulman looks at his notes.

Dr. Neil Shulman, Convocation speaker, wrote *Doc Hollywood and Finally...I'm a Doctor*, which he autographed for the new doctors after the awards banquet.



Dr. Shulman clowns for the camera prior to speaking to the graduates. Dr. Mary Starke Harper (center), an Alabama native and pioneer for mental health causes nationally, was a special guest at the Honors Convocation awards dinner at the Four Points.

More photos on page 8.

# Rural Conference...

(Continued from p.1)

Dr. Higginbotham reminded listeners of the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty," emphasizing that nobody asked Humpty himself how to put him back together. The analogy to rural health, he said, was that rural constituencies must be involved in research to solve problems. He then announced establishment of the Institute for Rural Health Research at The University of Alabama, formed as a new collaborative approach to rural health research.

Warren McCord, PhD, State Extension Service Leader, described the elaborate and complex interrelationship of economic development, health care, and community development. Dr. McCord emphasized the economic value of health care to a community, especially in recruiting industry and in the multiplier effect of health care dollars. Health care is essential infrastructure for economic development.

Earl Fox, MD, the keynote speaker, outlined a number of ways in which we do not fully utilize the current infrastructure (i.e., federal programs and grants) and gave examples of how Alabama does not take full advantage of the opportunities for local flexibility in federal programs and how health providers do not always exploit the power of information.

Free choice topic tables at lunch and breakout discussion sessions provided opportunity for networking and recording the varying perceptions and factors which should be considered as communities make decisions about addressing rural health issues. The results of these sessions are listed under the heading "Achievements."

In closing remarks Dr. Curry said the 'take home' message was "There is more to health care than doctors and more to healthy communities than health care." Dean Curry hopes that involving local leaders as well as health providers will lead to more productive discussions and begin to have an impact on public policy and private sector contributions.

This year's Rural Health Conference is the second in an annual series of collaborative interdisciplinary discussions of rural health. "The conferences are an example of democracy at work," says Robert McKenzie, PhD, of the Kettering Foundation.

Kettering helped to sponsor the annual conferences and related community roundtables; and Dr. McKenzie helped to design the discussion group format to allow issues to be "named and framed."

"An effort of this sort needs a multi-year strategy, not a one-event emphasis," said McKenzie. "The nature of the annual conference emphasizes learning together, building from one year to the next, not simply sharing current *best practices*." He also commended the interdisciplinary efforts at UA which seek to "develop health-related projects in local communities with citizens, not for them or to them."

The Second Annual Rural Health Conference, held at UA in April, continued the dialog about health needs and solutions in rural Alabama. Participating in discussion groups (like the one pictured), rural residents, community leaders, county extension agents, clergy, doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, researchers, educators, and representatives of state agencies, professional associations, and health organizations shared their perspectives on health priorities. The problems and related issues were listed by each group in the process to jointly "name and frame" the issues. The compilation of all groups ideas will form the basis for next year's conference agenda.



## Rural Health Conference Mission Statement

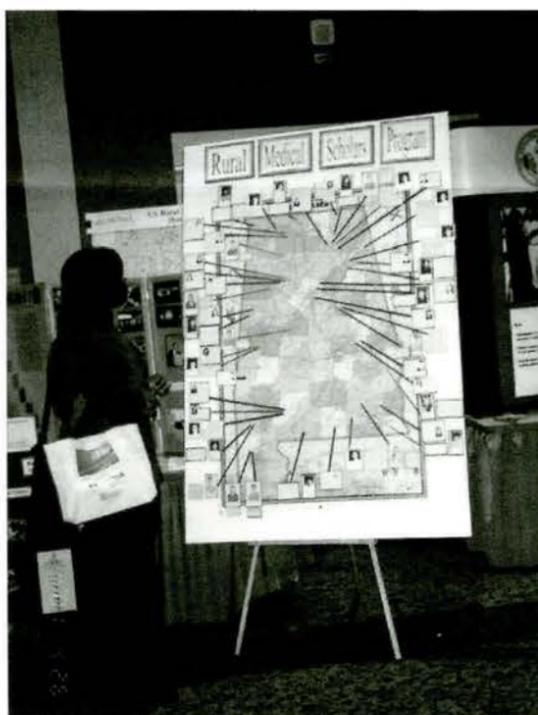
Using the combined strength of individual commitment, community support, scientific knowledge, professional skill, and informed public policy this conference seeks to facilitate collaboration that leads to the highest attainable standard of health (physical, mental, and social well-being) for those who live, work, or play in rural Alabama.

## Third Annual Rural Health Conference April 25 & 26, 2002

If you would like to be a part of the Third Annual Rural Health Conference, we welcome your assistance.

- Mark your calendar for April 25 & 26, 2002.
- Tell others about the conference.
- Tell us about people who should be getting Conference announcements.
- Join one of several committees charged with different tasks necessary for planning the conference.

Contact: Dr. John Higginbotham  
irhr@cchs.ua.edu (205) 348-0025  
Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326



Exhibits and computer technology enhanced information-sharing at the conference. Above: Graduate student Sonya Wilder at the Rural Medical Scholar display. Right: Dr. Julia Hartman and Bettina Schmidt from the Institute for Rural Health Research provided computer presentations to assist speakers and displayed digital pictures taken during the conference.

**Achievements**  
(The results of breakout sessions)

Each discussion group chose one of the three issue categories from last year's conference and listed factors that need to be addressed.

**Problem Possibility One:** Rural health is a matter of personal choice; therefore, individuals need to make better decision about lifestyle choices. Selected by two breakout groups, who listed these challenges to overcome:

- Programs do not have the governmental support needed to be effective.
- The delivery system needs to be expanded through use of individual mentors and community networks, such as faith-based organizations.
- Service providers must achieve greater understanding of how individuals in rural communities make lifestyle choices.

**Problem Possibility Two:** Rural health is a matter of providing quality health care; therefore, health care providers (individuals and institutions) need to exercise leadership in developing a health care system that better serves individuals, families, and communities. Selected by six breakout groups, which suggested essentially three approaches:

- Increase the number of providers. The existing system will do the job if it has enough resources.
- Develop inclusive approaches. The existing system does not emphasize the proper points. Health care for rural areas must be consumer-centered, prevention-focused, and interdisciplinary.
- Redefine health and healthcare.

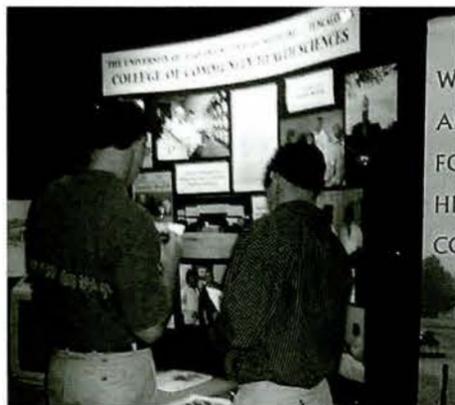
**Problem Possibility Three:** Rural health is a matter of how effectively a community functions; therefore, communities need to build stronger infrastructure to foster healthy conditions. Selected by seven breakout groups who saw basically three priorities:

- Money. We need smart leaders who can identify needs, establish priorities, and secure funds.
- Lack of motivation. We need more people who will become active in advancing the community.
- Lack of trust. People do not trust one another to overcome obstacles that keep efforts divided and ineffectual.





Above: Will Denton, Administrator, Region II Public Health office, in a discussion group. Top right: Rev. Joseph Davis (r) talks with a visitor to the Black Church exhibit. Bottom right: Jan Roberts-Jolly, Director of Southwest Alabama AHEC, and Jane Knight, Rural Constituency coordinator for Alabama Hospital Association, at "Doctors Ought to Care" (DOC) display sponsored by the UA Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society.



UA students were also involved in the conference. Above: Future rural doctors at CCHS display. Right: Social Work students with Cynthia Tyler (right), UA Assistant Professor. Below: Auburn University Extension Service Leader, Dr. Warren McCord.



## Students Hold "Brown Bag" Event in Greensboro

Two Auburn University PharmD students, **Jaime Anderson** and **Amber Meadors**, spent a portion of their training rotation in Primary Care in Hale County, Alabama, with their preceptor, **Miranda Andrus**, PharmD in the CCHS Department of Community and Rural Medicine. (Dr. Andrus has a joint faculty appointment at Auburn and CCHS.)

As part of an interdisciplinary activity, the students addressed hypertension and diabetes health concerns in the county through a community project. Hyperlipidemia and poor nutrition were also problems, said Dr. Andrus, who serves as Interdisciplinary Education Coordinator for the Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center (AHEC), which is housed in Community and Rural Medicine.

Many patients treated at a mobile health clinic set up by HERO (Hale Empowerment and Revitalization Organization) did not know what medications they were taking or why they were taking them. The students decided to address these major issues in a Medication Brown Bag Day involving students from different disciplines.

Greensboro Baptist Church hosted the Medication Brown Bag Day on February 26, 2001, attended by approximately 25 members of the senior YES Group (Young Energetic Seniors). Pharmacy, medical, and nutrition students and two pharmacists set up booths in the fellowship hall for to check blood pressure, blood glucose, and medications and offer nutrition counseling. Auburn pharmacy students **Jamie Anderson**, **Cynthia Bean**, **Patrick Markum**, **Amber Meadows**, and **Jamie Reid**; UA graduate nutrition students **Stephanie Gayle** and **Jessica Mack**; UASOM Tuscaloosa medical student **Joseph Tubbs**; along with pharmacists **Amy Donaldson** and Dr. Andrus staffed the health promotion event.

Patients were asked to bring their medicines so that a pharmacy student could look over them and answer any questions. The students also documented the medications using the "Vials of Life" form for easier access by other health care professionals.

Nutrition graduate students talked with patients about managing hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and maintaining a healthy diet.

Seniors attending also had their blood pressure levels and glucose readings recorded for their future reference when they see their doctors. Most participants screened had no abnormal findings, but students identified three participants with blood pressure readings that required immediate medical attention. Several participants had questions concerning their medications.

Pfizer Pharmaceuticals provided lunch for the event--baked chicken marinated in fat free Italian dressing, green beans flavored with onion and bouillon, salad, a roll, and fresh fruit--and a nutrition student talked about why the meal was healthy and how to make healthy choices without sacrificing taste. Attendees received pamphlets on hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and diet and a "goody bag" with a cup, pen, pencil, 911 magnet, and candy.

"The patients enjoyed the event and appreciated the information," said AHEC Program Coordinator, **Melissa Cox**. "The students enjoyed interacting with the patients and with students from other disciplines."

Dr. Andrus said the students "did a wonderful job coordinating the event and the collaborative efforts of several disciplines."

"The Rural Alabama AHEC will continue to coordinate and expand similar activities to promote interdisciplinary education," said Cox. "The community benefits from the expertise of healthcare professional student volunteers and students get interdisciplinary experience in the community setting."



Holley Midgeley, AAFP, Alabama chapter; Will Coggins, MD, and Gordo family physician John Brandon chat at a break.

**For more information, see these websites:**

Rural Health Conference	<a href="http://www.rhc.ua.edu">www.rhc.ua.edu</a>
Institute for Rural Health Research	<a href="http://www.ihrr.ua.edu">www.ihrr.ua.edu</a>
HRSA (per Dr. Fox)	<a href="http://www.hrsa.gov">www.hrsa.gov</a>
another suggestion by Dr. Fox	<a href="http://www.firstgov.gov">www.firstgov.gov</a>
Community Health Status Indicators Project	<a href="http://www.communityhealth.hrsa.gov">www.communityhealth.hrsa.gov</a>
Online Journal of Rural Nursing & Health Care	<a href="http://www.mo.org">www.mo.org</a>



Topic tables at the lunch hour provided a chance for information-sharing and networking. The infant mortality table (above) and others offered a wide variety of subjects and drew people together to talk about shared interests or new ideas.

# Faculty Notes

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

## Blum Speaks at Tulane



Blum

Dr. Alan Blum, who holds the Gerald Wallace Endowed Chair of Family Medicine at CCHS, gave the commencement address at Tulane University School of Medicine on May 19. He was invited to speak in recognition of his work in establishing the health promotion organization DOC (Doctors Ought to Care) at Tulane and many other medical schools and family medicine residency programs. Through DOC, thousands of students, residents, and practicing physicians have become active health educators in the clinic, classroom, and community. He is also graduation speaker for UAB family medicine residency ceremonies June 22 in Birmingham.

Dr. Blum was guest lecturer in the course entitled "The Patient, Physician, and Society" for the first-year students at Baylor College of Medicine, where he served on the faculty in the Department of Family Medicine for 12 years before coming to CCHS. He helped design a CME special emphasis week at CCHS in May with the theme, "Every physician as a health promotion specialist." As part of that series, he presented "Myths and Realities of Smoking Cessation." He also presented two 3-hour workshops, entitled "A Consumerist Approach to Smoking Cessation: Fighting Smoke with Fire," in May in San Antonio at the 131st Annual Session of the Texas Dental Association, the largest scientific meeting in the state. He was keynote speaker at the first national summit on "Tobacco Use Among College and University Students" in April at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Dr. Blum is scheduled to speak in several cities in Alaska in June on tobacco and health promotion issues, including medical audiences in Kenai and Anchorage and the annual meeting of the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians in Seward. He will present "When Editorial Cartoonists Took up Smoking..." at the American Association of Editorial Cartoons annual convention in Toronto, Canada, June 29.

## Leeper Chairs Teaching Section

James D. Leeper, PhD, Chair and Professor, Community and Rural Medicine Department, was recently elected as section chair of the American Statistical Association. His term as chair-elect, Section on Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences will begin January 1, 2002.



Leeper

## Higginbotham Presents Research

Dr. John Higginbotham, Associate Professor of Community & Rural Medicine, presented his research on prostate cancer disparities in the South at the International Congress of Epidemiology in Toronto in June. The conference was attended by more than 1700 epidemiologists from 80 countries. He is also issue editor for



Higginbotham

the July 2001 edition of *Family and Community Health*, a health promotion professional journal. The publication was devoted to "Issues in Rural Health" and included articles by Leeper on the Rural Alabama Health Professional Training Consortium and by Dr. Higginbotham on Rural v. Urban Aspects of Cancer.

## Byrd Promoted

Dr. Debbie Byrd has been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with tenure at Auburn University. She is based in Tuscaloosa and is also a member of the CCHS Family Medicine faculty. Her location and responsibilities won't change. She is on maternity leave until October.

## Taylor Named Pediatrics Chair

Michael A. Taylor, MD, FAAP, Associate Professor, has been named Chair of Pediatrics at CCHS. In addition, he is the Assistant to the Dean for Information Technology and Medical Director of The University of Alabama's ADHD Clinic (multi-specialty clinic for evaluation and management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder). He is an adjunct associate professor psychology.



Taylor

Dr. Taylor is Medical Director of the West Alabama Child Medical Evaluation Center (for child abuse evaluation). He has performed medical-legal evaluations of potentially abused children since 1982, the first several years in North Carolina and Kentucky before joining the CCHS pediatric faculty in 1991. He was appointed by the Alabama Health Department in 1997 to the Alabama State Death Review Team, as the health professional with expertise in child abuse & neglect, and he serves on the Tuscaloosa County Death Review Team. He has been a member of Tuscaloosa County Multidisciplinary Team Review (for review of child abuse cases) since 1991. He is founding president and current treasurer of the Alabama Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (ALPSAC) and he serves on the Board of Directors for the Tuscaloosa Children's Center (a child advocacy center).

Dr. Taylor graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine (1976) and finished his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Alabama in 1979. Board Certified in Pediatrics, his special interests, research, and publications are in child abuse medical evaluations and ADHD management. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Lister Hill Society, the annual fund for the college. Dr. Taylor serves as a member of the Committee on Social Issues of the Executive Committee, Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## Peds Gets Awards, New Faces

The Department of Pediatrics won the Argus Society Award from UASOM medical students for Best Tuscaloosa Clinical Rotation for MS3 students. Ashley Evans, MD, won the Argus Society Award from UASOM medical students for Best Clinical Instructor, Tuscaloosa Campus (for the third year in a row). Michael A. Taylor, MD, won the 2001 Golden Stethoscope Award for Excellence in Teaching from CCHS residents.

Karen Burgess, a former CCHS medical student, receives the 1998 Pediatrics Award from Dr. David Hefelfinger at Honors Convocation. She is returning to CCHS this summer to join the faculty.



Karen Burgess, MD, will join the faculty in July as Assistant Professor, Pediatrics. She earned her BS in Chemistry at UA and her MD from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. She spent her clinical years on the Tuscaloosa campus, where she received the Willard Award and won top honors in two departments (peds and psychiatry). She will complete her Pediatric residency in June at UAB's Children's Hospital.

Elizabeth M. "Beth" Smith, CRNP, joined the Department of Pediatrics in January. She has 17 years experience as a family nurse practitioner. She has an academic appointment as a Clinical Instructor of Nursing. She is seeing patients of all ages, with emphasis on EPSDT screens, asthma patients, and later our diabetic patients.

## Jones Shares Rheumatology Info

Richard Jones, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, is going to China as part of a rheumatology informational exchange program. He is also working with Psychiatry faculty members, the Clinical Psychology program on campus, and the Biologic Therapy Service to start a pain clinic.

He continues his work with arthritis patients and their doctors. Outreach clinics have been held in Eutaw, Demopolis, and PineApple. Plans for a Fayette clinic are ongoing. Lisa Ryan and Bernadette Ross have joined Dr. Jones' staff at Capstone Medical Center. Ryan is a nurse practitioner and Ross is Outreach Coordinator helping to manage the arthritis clinics, local community education, and CME. "Ms. Ross will also train as a study coordinator for work in our clinical trials," said Dr. Jones.

For information, referrals, or consultation on arthritis or rheumatology-related illness, call: (205) 348-1755 or (toll-free) 1-877-635-2762.

## Pieroni Heads Medical Care Unit

Dr. Robert Pieroni, Professor of Internal Medicine, is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. As Chief of Medicine of the 75th Combat Support hospital, Dr. Pieroni set up facilities and gave medical care to soldiers and marines during Operation Roving Sands at Oro Grande, New Mexico, May 26-June 8. He made



Pieroni

presentations to medical personnel on "Heat Injuries," "Emergency IV Medication Use," and "Evaluation of Abnormal Lab Results."

He has also presented information on elder abuse evaluation and intervention to state DHR Social Workers in Tuscaloosa, and has several publications related to the 2001 Alabama Academy of Science in press. Topics include "Gulf War Illness Revisited"; "Preventing Drug Interactions"; "An Unusual Case of Severe Jaundice" (lead author Teri Gottstine); "The Clinical Spectrum of Lead Toxicity" (lead author Kris Cummings); "Knowledge and Attitudes about the Elderly" (co-authors Julia Hartman and Dr. John Higginbotham); and "Appropriate Anticoagulation Therapy."

Dwight E. Hooper, MD, a clinical assistant professor at Morehouse Medical College in Atlanta since 1993, has become assistant professor of OB/GYN. Dr. Hooper, a Maryland native, has been in practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology



Hooper

at Columbus Regional Healthcare in Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, since 1994 and worked in private practice in Atlanta in 1993. Prior to his move to Georgia, he was an officer in the US Air Force (major) and chief of OB/GYN, 5th Medical Group, at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. He was also clinical instructor for the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in Minot.

Dr. Hooper graduated from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County and the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He earned his MD in 1985 and completed internships in general surgery and internal medicine before entering an OB/GYN residency at Harbor Hospital Center in Baltimore. He is a Diplomate, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and a Fellow, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Dr. Hooper and wife, Connie, have a son and daughter, 15-year-old twins, and sons age 18 and 23.

## Adcock Article in FP Journal

Dr. Bobbi Adcock, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, is author of an article published in *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pages 148-151. The title is "Dermographism: An Adverse Effect of Atorvastatin."



## Notes from Alums

David Parrish, MS, MD, FAAFP, member of the University of Alabama School of Medicine Class of 1981 at CCHS, was recently promoted to Clinical Associate Professor, University of South Florida College of Medicine. Dr. Parrish is Associate Director of the Bayfront Family Practice Residency and Chief of Medical Staff at Bayfront Medical Center. He completed his Residency in 1984 at Naval Hospital Pensacola and is the US Navy Surgeon General's Specialty Leader for Family Practice. He holds the rank of Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserves and is presently Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve Hospital Jacksonville. He was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal in September, 1999 for work as Director of Health Services Readiness Command Region Eight, Jacksonville, Florida. He is also Board Certified in Sports Medicine.

Dr. Parrish has been elected to the Board of Directors of Florida Academy of Family Physicians and serves on the Board of Governors of the Pinellas County Medical Society. He will speak on Osteoporosis in Atlanta this year at the Annual AAFP Convention. He is lead author of "Exercise Testing in Special Situations" in *Primary Care* 28:199-208, 2001.

Dr. Parrish can be reached by e-mail at: [David.Parrish@bayfront.org](mailto:David.Parrish@bayfront.org)



Captain David Parrish, MD  
Commanding Officer  
Naval Reserve Hospital, Jacksonville

Please send personal or professional news for "Notes from Alums." to Linda Jackson, editor, *OnRounds*. Use form (p. 8) or e-mail: [ljackson@cchs.ua.edu](mailto:ljackson@cchs.ua.edu)

Include your graduation date (med school & residency) and e-mail or phone number so we can contact you with questions.

### CCHS Receives NEH Funds

## Expert Panel Gives Advice for Initiating New UA Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society



The National Endowment for the Humanities provided a Consultant Grant to The University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society. Consulting experts have met twice to advise Dr. Alan Blum and his assistant Bethany Galbraith as they plan for setting up the Center, which includes the largest collection of tobacco-related materials in the world. Shown here in November of last year, the planning group included: (L-R) Eric Solberg, Special Consultant to the Tobacco Archive; Judy Hamilton, Museum Collection Registrar, Alabama Museum of Natural History, UA; Alan Blum, M.D. (front) Director, The University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society at CCHS; Suzanne Wolfe, (on the top step), Editor-in-Chief *Alabama Heritage Magazine*, UA; Toby Graham, (above Dr. Blum in white shirt and tie), Head of Special Collections, McCain Library & Archive, University of Southern Mississippi; Steven Turner, Gunn Educational Resources Center, University of Southern Mississippi; Bethany Galbraith (top row), Coordinator, UA Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society; Steven MacCall, PhD, School of Library & Information Sciences at UA and web-based information expert; Keith Jacobi, (tall man in back) Curator of Human Osteology, Alabama Museum of Natural History; Benjamin Rapaport (very front, right), Owner, Antiquarian Tobacciana; and Eugene Umberger (upper right, with his hand on the rail), Interim Director of the Neville Public Museum, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Initial planning meetings were successful, and Center officials are in the next step of the NEH grant process--submitting a planning grant to NEH.

### Kuhajda Joins Faculty

Melissa Carter Kuhajda, PhD, has joined the Psychiatry faculty at Capstone Medical Center. Dr. Kuhajda (pronounced Koo-hi-da) directs the psychosocial rounds for CCHS family medicine residents and supervises first year residents during family medicine clinics. She divides her time between Capstone and UAB where she is Special Projects Manager and Staff Psychologist at the Center for Health Promotion in the School of Public Health, with additional responsibilities in the Behavioral Medicine Unit, Division of Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine. She coordinates aspects of three active research projects focusing on health promotion and disease prevention: "Peer Support Intervention for CVD Risk Among African-American Women," "Adaptation and Evaluation of a Community Health Advisor Program to Prevent Racial Disparities through Secondary Prevention," and "Peer Support Intervention to Reduce Risk for Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease in African American Families." She provides psychotherapy to patients with heart disease and depression.

A licensed psychologist in the State of Alabama, Dr. Kuhajda earned her M.A. and PhD in clinical psychology from The University of Alabama. The focus of her graduate research has been the relationship between pain and memory, and she earned the 2000 Most Outstanding Dissertation Award from the UA Psychology Department. In 1997, Dr. Kuhajda received the Distinguished Clinical Service Award from The University of Alabama Psychology Department and the Dr. C. J. Rosecrans, Jr. Research Award from the Alabama Psychological Association as well as the Most Outstanding Poster Presentation at the Alabama Psychological Association annual meeting.

She graduated *magna cum laude* from Illinois State University in 1983 with a degree in Special Education and earned a master's degree in Religious Studies at Loyola University in Chicago. She has ten years experience teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adults in public and private school systems. She worked with state-wide parent-infant-preschool special education programs, taught hearing impaired high school students, and was a sign language instructor for classes in adult education programs at Illinois State University and at The University of Alabama.

Last year, as Postdoctoral Fellow at the UA School of Medicine in Birmingham, she was psychotherapist for a multi-site research study, ENRICHED, Enhancing Recovery in patients with Coronary Heart Disease, and received specialized training and super-vision from Beck Institute in Philadelphia. She was involved in training community health advisors in Alabama Black Belt counties and revised Heart Disease & Stroke module, Women's Wellness Sourcebook.

Her psychology internship at Memphis V.A. Medical Center included training in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder group therapy, individual PTSD psychotherapy, and chronic pain management (biofeedback, hypnosis, group therapy). She also trained with CCHS Associate Professor Nancy Rubin, PsyD. Dr. Kuhajda has specialized clinical training in cognitive therapy; EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing); hypnotherapy; cultural diversity, family therapy, domestic violence and the battered woman syndrome, and disaster MH interventions.

She has taught Psychology of Gender and Introduction to Psychology and done research on coping strategies of women experiencing infertility, pregnancy, and medical gynecological problems requiring repeated treatments. She was a co-presenter at the 2000 Community Prevention Research in Women's Health Conference, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD., on Peer Support for Cardiovascular Risk Among African-American Women, Aged 40 and Older.



Dr. Kuhajda

## Doc Hollywood Author is Convocation Speaker

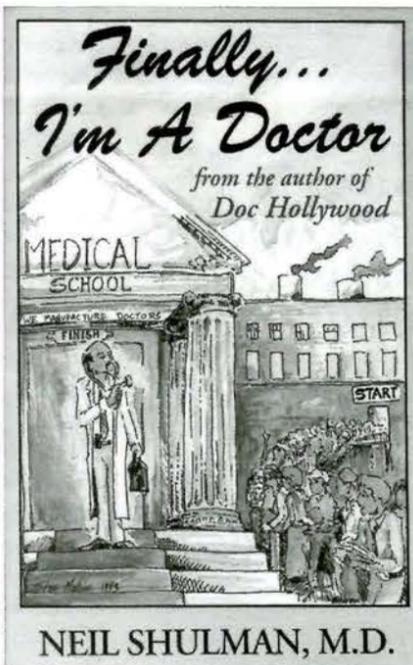
Neil Shulman, MD, author of *Doc Hollywood*, which was made into a movie starring Michael J. Fox, imparted his own brand of wisdom and humor to a full house at Honors Convocation.

Below: He called former Dean Wilmer Coggins, Lister Hill Society Board President Tommy Hester, and UASOM Admissions Director George Hand to the podium for an impromptu funny face contest and awarded each a book he had written as a consolation prize. Then he called on Dean Curry to help him with a skit on Otis the Otoscope.

Below right: Dean Curry greets Dr. Shulman as Senior Class President Kelli Folgman looks on. Dr. Folgman, who arranged Dr. Shulman's visit, introduced him. Dr. Shulman spent the afternoon before the Honors Convocation dinner entertaining children in the hospital at DCH.



Dr. George Hand, who won a copy of Dr. Shulman's *What's in a Doctor's Bag* for his performance in the make-a-face competition (above), waits to get it autographed.



Far right: Dr. Shulman autographs his semi-autobiographical book, *Finally...I'm a Doctor*, for new MD, Angela Clifton.



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

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