

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

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Chief Resident Natasha Harder, MD, (center) displays her William F. DeShazo III Family Medicine Award as she is congratulated by Dr. Bill DeShazo (left), for whom the award is named, and Dr. Jerry McKnight, Chief of Family Medicine, who presented the award at the 2001 Residents graduation dinner on June 28. Dr. Harder also won the Pediatrics Award and the Obstetrics and Gynecology Award. (More photos, page 3)

Anderson Congratulates Residency Grads Praises Program for National Ranking

Dr. Russell Anderson, of LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, was Director of the Residency Program, Department Chair, and Associate Dean during his 19 years at CCHS. He was guest speaker for the residency graduation and had high praise for CCHS Family Practice Residency, calling it the "best model of family practice" for its "blend of specialists and family docs." With 282 graduates, the Tuscaloosa family practice program is in the top five percentile of family practice residencies in the country.



The class of 2001 Family Practice Residents took part in the 26th annual graduation ceremony on June 28, 2001, at the Sheraton Four Points. DCH Healthcare Authority and DCH Regional Medical Center hosted a banquet to honor the graduates and their families, and CCHS faculty presented awards to recognize exceptional performance. Russell Anderson, MD, a Kentucky medical graduate who came to CCHS in 1976 as one of the first faculty members in the Department of Family Medicine, returned to Tuscaloosa where he served CCHS in a variety of roles for almost twenty years. Dr. Anderson is presently Professor and Chair of Family Medicine at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans. He estimated the number of patient visits the new family doctors were likely to engage in over the next 30 years of practice (5,000/year each totaling about 1.8 million visits) and sympathized, "you think you're tired now!" He also spoke of the satisfaction he has found in family medicine and reminisced about Lampoon (a residency tradition/faculty "roast") and other events of his days at CCHS. (Continued on page 3.)

Graduates Announce Practice Plans

The 2001 graduating family physicians and their practice sites are: Ashley Burchfield, MD, Huntsville; Chief Resident Brad Gaspard, MD, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Sharon Gray, MD, HealthSouth in Birmingham; Natasha Harder, MD, Tennessee; Tara Haynes, MD, Tuscaloosa; Ben Hogan, MD, Valdosta, Georgia; Bobby Jones, DO, Mississippi; Mike Kelley, MD, Albany, Georgia; Steve Roberts, DO, Alabama Orthopaedics, Birmingham; Gerard Szyber, MD, Tuscaloosa; Jim Wallace, MD, Air Force, Columbus, Mississippi; Charlotte Williams, MD, Palliative Care, Birmingham.

University's Institute for Rural Health Research Established at CCHS

The University of Alabama Institute for Rural Health Research was established June 22, 2001, by a vote of the UA Board of Trustees. The interdisciplinary institute is housed at the College of Community Health Sciences. **John Higginbotham**, PhD, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine, is the director.

The new Institute is a collaborative endeavor involving researchers from six colleges and schools at The University of Alabama. Senior and Junior Investigators from each college/school are involved in research projects for the Institute. The investigators are:

Jeri Dunkin, PhD, RN, and **Felecia Wood**, DSN, RN
Capstone College of Nursing

Luoheng Han, PhD, and **Joseph Weber**, PhD
College of Arts and Sciences

Jordan Kosberg, PhD, and **Cassandra Simon**, PhD
School of Social Work

James Leeper, PhD; **Elizabeth Rand**, MD; **Karen Burgess**, MD
Community Health Sciences

Grant Savage, PhD, and **Juliet Davis**, PhD, MHA
Culverhouse College of Commerce & Business

Rex Culp, PhD, JD, and **Deidre Leavor-Dunn**, PhD
Human Environmental Sciences

The Institute's mission is to facilitate the highest attainable standard of health for those who live, work, or play in rural America by investigating not only disease and infirmity, but also factors associated with physical, mental, and social well-being. For more information on the Institute for Rural Health Research, visit our website at <http://irhr.ua.edu>



A reception to celebrate the new Institute for Rural Health Research was held July 12. Investigators and staff were recognized at the event held at the President's Pavilion on campus. L-R: Dr. Julia Hartman, Assistant Director (Research) of the Institute, CCHS; Senior investigators Dr. Rex Culp, Human Environmental Sciences; Dr. Luoheng Han, Arts and Sciences; Dr. Grant Savage, Commerce and Business; Dr. Jeri Duncan, Capstone College of Nursing; Dr. Jim Leeper, CCHS; Dr. John Higginbotham, Director of the Institute.

REFLECTIONS
by William A. Curry, MD, Dean



Dr. Curry

RURAL CRISIS AND THE IVORY TOWER

The news recently has brought frequent articles about a crisis in rural health clinics, those in what had been our state's largest community health center network. This situation threatens primary care services to some of Alabama's most vulnerable citizens. It has generated concern in individual patients, community leaders, governmental regulators, state and national legislators, and members of the healthcare community. It is also a reminder of the importance of our work here at CCHS, the University of Alabama School of Medicine – Tuscaloosa.

The first and most obvious connection to our mission is our mandate to educate and train physicians to work in Alabama's rural communities. Our track record here is good. While our students and residents choose a wide range of practice styles and locations, over half our graduates are today practicing in small towns. Rural scholars programs, rural medical student and resident rotations, educational linkages to rural physicians and hospitals, and the Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center all contribute to a culture that encourages and supports rural practice.

Our second connection to the needs represented by this clinic crisis involves the field of Community Medicine. How can a community of people identify and address the health care needs of their particular community? How do their institutions and interest groups move from concern to action? How can a university or a school of medicine play a constructive role in such a process without appearing to take over? How can everyone involved respect the needs and opinions of everyone else? These may be more difficult questions than how to train rural physicians, because they spread quickly into politics in its purest form: the relationships of people in community. They also involve economics in its purest form: the relationship of people to their possessions and to one another's possessions.

CCHS has been involved centrally in the "Community Medicine Movement" in America from our founding in the early 1970's. We try to apply the principles of that discipline to our curriculum, and also to outreach opportunities with rural and underserved communities, as in the Rural Alabama Health Alliance. We are working with a national foundation to organize seminars to document the history of the movement, a process that I hope will reinvigorate our efforts to apply those principles to benefit our students and the communities of rural Alabama.

Recently, our college hosted a forum on rural healthcare led by U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions and Deputy Secretary Claude Allen of the Department of Health and Human Services. The large audience and participants included President Sorensen, University faculty and students, local government leaders, and a comparable number of people who live and work in rural West Alabama. It was the clinic crisis that was the focus of the visit by the Senator and the Deputy Secretary. The presentations and interchanges were excellent, and we had the opportunity to showcase the growing number of programs the University has developed to address healthcare needs in the Black Belt and throughout rural Alabama, such as our new interdisciplinary Institute for Rural Health Research.

That brings me to a third point of connection with problems such as the clinic crisis, and it is a new one for us. That connection involves complicated but undeniable linkages between rural health care and rural economic and community development. A study of either area quickly involves the other. If our goals include community empowerment and self-sustaining local healthcare institutions, it is clear that economic development is essential. That has been a message from the first two Alabama Annual Rural Health Conferences, and it is an area of major focus for the next conference (April 25-26, 2002 at the Bryant Conference Center).

Can CCHS/UA School of Medicine – Tuscaloosa solve the problems of rural clinics in crisis? Certainly not alone. Can we make productive contributions to a solution? I certainly hope so. Can we contribute to the kind of "preventive medicine" that makes such crises less likely in the future? We can and we will, because it is our mission. That mission involves education and training, patient care, research, and outreach that include rural medicine and rural communities. We will keep the focus on patients and communities. If we do that, academic programs and public policy can join hands for the good of the patients and communities we serve.

Note: Dean Curry chaired the 2nd Annual Rural Health Conference at The University of Alabama in April, 2001, providing opening remarks on "Key Rural Health Programs" and Summation and Closing Remarks. He presented "Pain Control in Geriatric Patients" at the Geriatric Mental Health Seminars commemorating the dedication of the Mary Starke Harper Center at Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa, May 7, 2001, and he introduced the keynote speaker, the Surgeon General of the United States, at the Mary Starke Harper Center Dedication on May 8. He addressed the Selma Chamber of Commerce, Selma, AL, on May 24, 2001: "Why Rural Health Matters to Everybody." At the American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP)-Alabama Chapter's Annual Conference, on June 11, 2001, Dean Curry addressed AAFP members on "Evaluation of Medical Students by Preceptors."

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Family Practice Residency Receives Accreditation

CCHS announced recently that the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduation Medical Education has awarded the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency "Continued Full Accreditation" for three years. Chair of Family Medicine Jerry McKnight, MD, thanked faculty and staff and cited successful efforts of Dr. Sam Gaskins, residency director, for oversight of the accreditation process. "Although many individuals over the years have helped make this program what it is today, Dr. Gaskins is largely responsible for the continued success of our residency," said Dr. McKnight.

Chief Residents, 2001-2002

Dr. Jennifer Burdette and Dr. Shane Phillips have been named as the Chief Residents of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program for the current year.

Satcher to Direct Predoctoral Education

Laura A. Satcher, MD, has joined the Family Medicine faculty as Director of Predoctoral Education. Dr. Satcher will also be in charge of the Shadow Program. "Dr. Satcher's enthusiasm for working with residents and medical students will strengthen our program," said Dr. Jerry McKnight, Chair of Family Medicine. "In addition to being a Board-certified family physician, Laura is a graduate of our Residency Program and has completed our OB Fellowship Program. Her colleagues and patients are extremely fortunate to have such an outstanding new member of our faculty."

A native of Birmingham, Satcher graduated from Banks High School and Samford University. She was a CCHS medical student before completing her residency and obstetrics fellowship at CCHS.

Her interest in becoming a physician started in sixth grade science when her class had to make a model of the cell. She said the way the body functioned amazed her. "In third grade," she says, "I had wanted to be a truckdriver so I could meet BJ and the Bear, and in fourth grade a forensic pathologist to catch the bad guys. Since sixth grade, though, my goal has been to be a physician."

"Obstetrics was a fun rotation for me in med school and my intern year, but I also wanted to see the babies I delivered--what a better combo than family medicine along with extra training in obstetrics. Although medicine has a current trend of specializing, I believe primary care physicians have much to offer patients," said Dr. Satcher.



Dr. Satcher and her husband with her OB Fellow award which she received at the Residency graduation ceremony in June.



Dr. George Denny was President of UA, 1912-1936 and 1941-1942. In 1928, rumors that he was about to resign prompted students to raise funds to build Denny Chimes in honor of their beloved president.

Denny Society's Impact Benefits CCHS

The Denny Society, which currently has more than 435 members, is open to those who include the University in their estate plans through will bequests, trust arrangements, beneficiary designations in retirement plans, life insurance policies, or any other deferred gift forms. There is no age requirement or gift minimum—a simple declaration is all that is needed. "Several Denny Society members have designated CCHS as recipient of their deferred gifts, and it makes the future brighter for the College of Community Health Sciences, as well as other programs at the Capstone," says Vicki Johnson, Director of Advancement for the college. "The University of Alabama continues to take pride in the future support these thoughtful individuals represent, and we express our sincere appreciation to The Denny Society members for their thoughtful intentions."

To learn more about this prestigious group named for UA President George Denny, contact Vicki Johnson in the Dean's office, (205) 348-0093, vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu. You may specify colleges or programs in your plan.

CME Program Re-accredited

The University of Alabama School of Medicine's Division of Continuing Medical Education was recently re-accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) for a 6-year term. The University of Alabama School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa's Grand Rounds series, which is planned and coordinated by a CCHS Continuing Education Committee, constitutes a component of the UASchool of Medicine's CME program. The 6-year accreditation is the longest awarded by ACCME and is reserved for CME providers who have made notable accomplishments in their CME offerings. Fewer than 10% of all nationally accredited providers of CME achieve the 6-year status. The Tuscaloosa CME program is directed by Vicki Johnson. Conference schedules are available at: www.bama.ua.edu/~hslib/

Graduation *(continued from page 1)*

Dr. Jerry McKnight, Chair of Family Medicine, presided at the ceremony. Dean William Curry presented University of Alabama chairs to the Chief Residents, Dr. Natasha Harder and Dr. Brad Gaspard. He recalled that he learned some of his most important skills during his own days as chief resident at Vanderbilt: clearing jams in the xerox machine; changing the lightbulb in the projector; and making sure there is water on the podium for the CME speaker. He also quoted the late Dr. Tinsley Harrison, a member of the UASOM faculty, who said, "There is no greater privilege than to be someone's physician," and commented that doctors never stop learning, especially from their patients.

Dr. Ed Shackelford received the Willard Award, given annually to a first year resident who epitomizes CCHS's mission to train physicians in the art and practice of family medicine. Named for the College's founding dean William R. Willard, MD, who is known as the "Father of Family Medicine," the prestigious award is one of the highest honors bestowed by CCHS. Residency Director Sam Gaskins, MD, made the presentation.

Dr. Brad Gaspard received the Resident Teaching Award, and Charlotte Williams received the Research Award.



Jerry McKnight, MD



Dr. Ed Shackelford (r) receives the Willard Award from Residency Director Sam Gaskins, MD

Departmental Awards

Dr. Ben Hogan Internal Medicine
 Dr. Harder Family Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics
 Dr. Jim Wallace Psychiatry



Professor John Burnum, MD, (l) with Dr. Hogan, who won the Internal Medicine award.



Chief Residents Harder (l) and Gaspard with Dean Curry



Dr. Wallace receives the Psychiatry Award from Dr. Elizabeth Rand (l), Chair of the department.



Dr. Harder (r) receives the OB/GYN award from Dwight Hooper, MD, Assistant Professor of OB/GYN.



Dean Curry greets family members after graduation ceremonies. Dr. Gaspard (left with Dr. Curry and his parents) and below receiving the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Resident Teaching Award.



Seated: Charlotte Williams, MD, Chief Resident Natasha Harder, MD, Sharon Gray, MD, Tara Haynes, MD, Ashley Burchfield, MD. Standing: Chief Resident Brad Gaspard, MD, Gerard Szytber, MD, Mike Kelley, MD, Bobby Jones, DO, Jim Wallace, MD, Ben Hogan, MD, and Steve Roberts, DO.



Dr. Marc Armstrong, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs (l) presented the Resident Teaching Award to Dr. Brad Gaspard. Dr. Gaspard was also recognized by CCHS medical students for excellence in teaching when he won the McCue Award at the medical students Honors Convocation in May.



New third year medical students at CCHS at orientation. Front row: Emily Dolbare, Chrissi Castrichini, Bridget Bruner, Melissa Ojeda, Zynia Pua-Vines, Elizabeth Gober, Jessica Ammons, Emily Melton, Christi Michael, Brad Ginevan. Second row: Medinah Muhammad, Dustin Sheppard, Brian Valentine, Elizabeth Harper, Vandy Black, Jeremy Pepper, Collin King, John McDonald. Back row: Wade Martin, Brian Fuller, Lee Thompson, Jason Kennedy, Josh Smith, Jonathan Cole, Randall Quinn, Greg Reynolds.

Meet the MS III Class

Third and fourth year medical students at UA School of Medicine choose the campus at which they will obtain their clinical training. Students above will be at CCHS through their graduation in 2003.

Lucien Vandy Black, from Northport, graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Alabama in 1999 with a BS degree in Biology. In college, Vandy was a member of several honor societies, including Alpha Epsilon Delta, Tri-Beta, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, Golden Key, Alpha Lambda Delta, Gamma Beta Phi, and Phi Eta Sigma. He has also been actively involved in several organizations at UASOM, including the AMA, AMSA, FMIG, and NAP.

Bridget Suzanne Brunner graduated from Parrish High School and earned her BS degree in Biology from the University of Alabama. Her honors include dean's list, Phi Theta Kappa, freshman chemistry, and biology awards. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Shannon. She is looking forward to interacting with patients in the hospital while working to deserve their trust and respect. She hopes that through her work she will be able to have a positive affect on people's lives.

Chrissy Castrichini is a native of Huntsville and a 1995 graduate of Huntsville High School. She attended The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, where she majored in American Studies. While unsure about her choice of a future medical specialty, she remains open-minded and wants to practice in the South.

Jonathan Brandon Cole is originally from Mobile, AL where he graduated high school from UMS-Wright Preparatory School. He majored in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Tech where he received a BChE degree with high honors. While in college, his honors included a Presidential Scholarship, the Texaco Chemical Engineering Award, and membership in the Omega Chi Epsilon Chemical Engineering Honor Society. Even though Jonathan originally planned an engineering career, he eventually realized that he would be much better suited for a career in medicine.

Emily Dolbare, a native of Washington County, graduated from The University of Alabama in 1999 as she completed her first year as a Rural Medical Scholar. A former Rural Health Scholar, she was president and founding member of the UA Rural Health Student Association, and she was named to the top honoraries at The University of Alabama including Mortar Board, Blue Key, Omicron Delta Kappa, Cardinal Key, and Golden Key. She was a student assistant in the Department of Community and Rural Medicine and served as a counselor for the UA Rural Health Scholars program for high school students entering their senior year.

Brad McLeod Ginevan, a 1998 Rural Medical Scholar from Colbert County, became interested in medicine due to a family illness. Brad graduated from Cherokee High School, in Cherokee, Alabama, and also graduated *cum laude* from the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Biology. His honors include Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Beta Phi. He and his wife Stefanie are expecting their first child in August.

Elizabeth Hellums Gober graduated from Red Bay High School in 1995. She graduated from the University of North Alabama *summa cum laude* with a degree in professional biology and a minor in chemistry. She was a member of many honor societies including Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Kappa Phi. She was a Premed Rural Summer Scholar at UASOM Huntsville campus in 1998. During her 1st year at UASOM, she was chosen as a Peacock Fellow (Gross Anatomy Teaching Assistant) and did research in the department of Neurosurgery at UAB under Dr. Yancey Gillespie. Beth is also the Tuscaloosa Branch campus class representative and will serve as a connection between Tuscaloosa students, Birmingham students, and faculty at both campuses. Beth has been married to her husband Daryl for over two years. He is also from Red Bay, AL, and works for Averitte Logistics, INC at the Mercedes Benz location.

Elizabeth Harper is a new member of the class of 2003, having transferred this summer from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, her hometown. She attended Murphy High School, graduating with high honors. She then attended Birmingham-Southern College, where she graduated *cum laude* with a degree in Biology and was active in many activities, including Kappa Delta sorority, Mortar Board, Beta Beta Beta, the residence hall staff, and volunteer work. After college, she worked for a year as a research technician in UAB's department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and published one paper. In her first two years of medical school in Mobile, she was active in her class, serving as transcript club president and co-chair of the class social committee. She is excited to be here and hopes to become equally as involved in her new class.

Collin Kelley King, from Auburn, is a graduate of Samford University and earned his MPH with a major in epidemiology at UAB. Collin's wife is Katie, and his hobbies include wrestling, running, and soccer.

Thomas Wade Martin grew up in Pelham, Alabama, and developed an interest in medicine as a teenager after observing some physicians who attended his local church. Wade graduated from Pelham High School in 1994 and then attended the University of Alabama where he was a *summa cum laude* graduate in Health Care Management. His honors include Alpha Epsilon Delta, Golden Key, Phi Eta Sigma, Beta Gamma Sigma business honorary, and various university scholarships. Wade believes that people should be the focus of medicine and that physicians must have compassion and patience to practice medicine well. When he has spare time, Wade enjoys golf, running, reading, and watching college football (especially Alabama) with his friends."

John Thomas McDonald, Jr., graduated from Holt High School in Tuscaloosa and was a Presidential Scholar at UA. He graduated *summa cum laude* with a BS in Accounting and a Masters in Tax Accounting. John is a Certified Public Accountant, is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, and serves on the awards committee of the Alabama Society of CPAs. John enjoys jogging and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Dana, have a son, Drake.

Emily Yvette Melton graduated from Tuscaloosa's Central High School with honors. She attended Tuskegee University where she received a Distinguished Scholar Scholarship and graduated *Magna Cum Laude* in Chemical Engineering. She was inducted into Omega Chi Epsilon, Golden Key, and Pi Mu Epsilon. She worked for two years at Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago, IL before she returned to school. She volunteered at the Kenosha Hospital in Kenosha, WI, in the Pediatric Ward and the Emergency Department, and her experience there solidified her desire to pursue a career in medicine. She is the Immediate Past Executive President of the Student National Medical Association and a member AMSA. She is a member of First African Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa and a watchcare member at New Hope Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Christi Michael is a native of Auburn, AL, where she was active in Habitat for Humanity, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and various choirs. She attended Auburn University on full scholarship from the school and was also awarded scholarship money from her church and from the Barry Goldwater Foundation. She received a stipend for research from the Future Life Science Scholars Program for four years and also taught labs. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Auburn University with a B.S. in Chemistry in 1999. During medical school she worked with the AIDS education project and volunteered signing children up for medical insurance. She enjoys medicine because of the opportunity she has to positively impact people's lives and is grateful for all of the people who have chosen to help her throughout the years.

Medinah Muhammad is from Los Angeles, California. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Science degree in Gerontology. Medinah is a member of Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society and has received fellowships from the National Institute of Health for research in the fields of craniofacial molecular biology and infectious diseases.

Melissa Ojeda graduated from John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham and then went to the University of Notre Dame, where she double majored in French and Pre-Professional Studies. She spent the next year before medical school volunteering in a group home for the mentally disabled in France. In the future, she hopes to spend some time practicing medicine in Central or South America.

Jeremy Pepper, from Limestone County, is the son of Douglas and Terri Pepper of Athens. He came to Tuscaloosa with a Dr. Pepper license plate and medical school in mind. He was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to The University, made the Dean's List every semester, and earned his degree in Biology in May, 1999. He is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, Gamma Beta Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the National Residence Hall Honorary. He was a Residence Hall Advisor at Mary Burke dorm and was named Outstanding R.A.

Zynia Pua-Vines, daughter of two physicians, was born in the Philippines and grew up in Albertville in Marshall County. Her father, Quirino Pua, is a radiologist, and her mother, Zenaida Vasquez Pua, is a pediatrician. Zynia (who is called Rhea) graduated with honors from the University of Chicago with a psychology major in 1996. She entered the Rural Medical Scholars Program in 1998 and completed her Master of Health Studies degree the year before entering medical school. She has worked as a clinical assistant to her mother and likes interaction with patients.

Randall Quinn is a Rural Medical Scholar from Pleasant Grove in Jefferson County. He earned a BS in Chemistry in 1997 from the University of Montevallo, where he was in the Golden Key Honor Society and elected "Mr. Montevallo" by the student body. The faculty chose him for the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. He was president of the Delta Chi fraternity, and he was in Order of Omega, the Greek Leadership Honorary, and Omicron Delta Kappa honor society. He worked the summer before his senior year as phlebotomist at Bay Medical Center in Panama City, drawing blood from patients of all ages from the psychiatric ward to NICU. He earned his MA in Community Health during his first year as a Rural Medical Scholar.

Greg Reynolds graduated from T.R. Miller High School in Brewton, AL, and earned his BS with majors in Biology and Psychology in 1998 from Birmingham-Southern College, where he received a Presidential Honors Scholarship. He is a 1998 Rural Medical Scholar and received his MA in Health Studies from The University of Alabama in 1999.

John Dustin Sheppard, from Carrolton, AL, graduated from Pickens Academy. He then spent three years at Samford University pursuing a BS degree in biochemistry. While attending Samford, Dustin made Dean's List every semester, maintained over a 3.9 gradepoint, and was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Epsilon Delta honor societies. He was accepted into the Rural Medical Scholars Program in 1998 and completed his undergraduate education at the University of Alabama.

Josh Smith was born in Birmingham and graduated from Mountain Brook High School in 1993. He participated in varsity track and field at Auburn University, where he graduated in 1997. He was a phlebotomist and scrub nurse, 1997-2000.

Lee Thompson, a Rural Medical Scholar from Ozark graduated *cum laude* from Auburn in 1991 with a degree in Agriculture. He was in numerous honoraries, including Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Phi Theta Kappa. He won the Clearman Memorial Scholarship and the Phi Theta Kappa Delta Award for service. After graduation, he and his twin brother both went to law school. In 1994, Lee earned his law degree at The University of Alabama, where he won Best Class Brief in the First Year Moot Court Program, served as treasurer for the Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity, and played intramural sports. He worked as a camp counselor with diabetic youth at Camp Seale Harris, and for three years he was a patient technician in the emergency room at Dale Medical Center. He decided he wanted to work more closely with people than he could as an attorney, and he now plans to become a rural physician.

Brian Valentine was born in Toronto, Canada and grew up in Phenix City in Russell County, where his father is a family physician. He said he enjoyed the times he made rounds with his father, and he has worked at the East Alabama Medical Center. He majored in Zoology at Auburn University and planned to become a veterinarian. He worked at the small animal clinic at Auburn and volunteered at the AU horse unit, finding that he liked working with people more than with animals. He graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Auburn in 1997 after making the National Dean's List and being named to the Golden Key and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies. He was a volunteer physiology lab assistant and taught a parasitology lab at Auburn. He played on the Auburn hockey team and competed in intramural soccer and bowling. He completed his master's degree in community health at UA during his first year as a Rural Medical Scholar.

Third Rural Health Conference Set for April 24-26, 2002

The University of Alabama will once again address rural health care issues and their impact on the state of Alabama at the third annual Rural Health Conference, April 24-26, 2002, at the Bryant Conference Center.

Titled "Finding Connections Between Rural Economics and Health," the conference will bring together voices of rural communities, as well as professionals from a number of fields who have an interest in rural health. More than 300 individuals have participated in each of the past two events. Healthcare professionals, community business leaders, government officials, academic researchers, representatives of faith-based organizations, state and federal workers, and others who have an interest in rural health, have all made the conference a success in finding answers to Alabama's rural health care needs.

The Conference is sponsored at UA by the College of Community Health Sciences, College of Human Environmental Sciences, Capstone College of Nursing, School of Social Work, College of Continuing Studies, and the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration.

Updated conference information on speakers and symposium topics will be posted on the conference Web site at www.rhc.ua.edu. You can also call (205)348-0025, or 877/363-2247 (toll free) for more details.

Al Fox, Executive Director of the Alabama Primary Health Care Association, makes remarks at a previous conference.



Rural Medical Scholars met with Alabama Congressman Terry Everett in Washington, D.C., while attending a national health policy forum in January. L-R: Lee Carter, Autauga County; Tara Goodson, Covington County; Mr. Everett, Daniel Jones, Dale County. Leadership in health issues that affect rural communities is one of the goals of the Rural Medical Scholars Program. (See article, page 6.) Rural Medical Scholars return to CCHS for clinical training after completing their first two years of medical school in Birmingham.

UA Rural Scholars Programs Add Students to "Pipeline"

Rural Health Scholars Program

Statistics show that rural students are more likely to live and practice in rural areas. The concept of a **Rural Medical Pipeline** was developed as part of a strategy to recruit rural students into medical school. The Rural Health Scholars Program was founded at CCHS in 1993 to encourage high school students to consider careers in medicine and health professions and experience college first-hand. In 1996, the Rural Medical Scholars Program was initiated, and in 2001 the Minority Rural Health Pipeline Program was established.

In this 5-week summer program, directed by **Cynthia Moore**, rising seniors from rural counties live on the UA campus, take college courses, and learn about health careers. Since 1993, 249 Rural Health Scholars from 54 rural Alabama counties have attended. RHSP is . Rural health scholars have gained an on-site look at what it takes to provide health services in rural communities and talked to rural health care providers about how critical health services are to the economy and well-being of small towns.

A number of Rural Health Scholars have gone on to prepare for health and medical careers—some through the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) and some by way of the newly established Minority Rural Health Pipeline Program, now underway.



Tara Haynes, MD, of Lamar County graduated from the Family Practice Residency in June. Tara was a counselor for the first RHSP class in 1993. She is congratulated by CCHS Residency Director Sam Gaskins, MD.

Dale Brown, Jon Roden, and Kelli Harris-Tapley practice CPR skills as part of their community clinical process class last spring. The three are members of the fifth class of Rural Medical Scholars, which entered medical school this summer in Birmingham. During their prematriculation year at CCHS, Rural Medical Scholars shadow practicing rural doctors, present cases, do community health assessments based on their interviews with local residents and professionals, study health service delivery systems, and staff health fairs for churches, senior citizens, and elementary school students. The RMS VI class selected June 21 includes three '97 Rural Health Scholars, who entered the "Rural Medical Pipeline" in the summer after their eleventh grade year.



Rural Medical Scholars Program

Ten students (graduate students or incoming college seniors) are chosen each year to enter the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP), a highly selective pre-med and medical education program of The University of Alabama and the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM). Students with rural backgrounds interested in practicing medicine in a rural area are eligible for RMSP, and admission is based on high academic achievement, character, and leadership qualities. Each RMSP class enters UASOM after a prematriculation year at UA's College of Community Health Sciences studying primary care, community medicine, and rural health. Rural Medical Scholars return to Tuscaloosa for clinical training during their third and fourth years of medical school and focus on skills necessary for rural practice.

In May, members of the first class in the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine via the UASOM Tuscaloosa Program. These graduates are the first of more than 50 RMSP medical students who have begun and will complete their medical education at UA's College of Community Health Sciences, a clinical branch campus of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. In August, the sixth class of Rural Medical Scholars enters the program.



Minority Rural Health Pipeline 2001 students on the steps of Nott Hall at The University of Alabama. Front row: **La'Rea Kelly**, Walker County (Oakman High School); Second row: **Dana Todd**, Hale County (Greensboro West High School); **Shamekia Dixon**, Dallas County, Selma High School; **Glenda Morrisette**, Dallas County, Selma High School; **Jackie Greene**, Autauga County, Billingsley High School. Third row: **Rick Parker**, Dale County, Carroll High School; **Jamie Bass**, Choctaw County, Alabama School of Math & Science (in Mobile); **Clarissa Parker**, Pike County, Charles Henderson High School. Top row: **Travis Goldwire**, Lee County, Smiths Station High School; and **Charlene Terry**, Hale County, Akron High School.

UA Minority Rural Health Pipeline

The Minority Rural Health Pipeline Program (MRHPP) is a summer program at the UA College of MRHPP is to increase to number of rural minority students who qualify for admission to medical school through the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP).

RMSP administrators and advisors recognized that the Rural Medical Scholars Program would be strengthened by inclusion of more minority students. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board agreed, helping to fund this program to identify and prepare outstanding rural minority students to enter RMSP. Minority Pipeline students participate in classes, tutorials, seminars, and other activities designed to enhance their knowledge and test taking skills so that they can achieve competitive scores on MCAT (Medical College Admission Test).

Students may earn up to 6 hours of college credit during the ten weeks of the program.

Tuition, room and board, and a stipend are provided to each student in MRHPP.

High school graduates from rural areas of Alabama who plan to enter college in the next academic year are eligible. Applicants must be accepted at The University of Alabama to enter the Minority Rural Health Pipeline Program but do not have to attend UA in the academic year.

Dr. Robert Garner, UA Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, is director and co-principal investigator--with **Dr. John Wheat**--of MRHPP. Wheat is director of the UA Rural Scholars programs and Professor of Community and Rural Medicine and Internal Medicine, UA College of Community Health Sciences and the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

For information on any of the UA Rural Scholars programs, call (205) 348-5892 or e-mail Irene Wallace at iwallace@cchs.ua.edu.

RMS VI*

Jessica Baggett	Baldwin County (97 RHS)
Clay Campbell	Marshall County
Lee Carter	Autauga County
Lindsey Evans	Marshall County
Melissa Gray	Tuscaloosa County
Terry James	Winston County
Shakira Thomas	Conecuh County (97 RHS)
Laura Voss	Calhoun County
Joseph Walker	Marion County (97 RHS)
Neil Yeager	Cullman County

* Conducting interviews with prospective Rural Medical Scholars in June and assisting in the selection process were: two of the first Rural Medical Scholars to graduate from medical school--Dr. Drake Lavender and Dr. Stephanie Morgan (both are now family practice residents); Dr. Brian Perry, Centre, AL; Dr. Samuel Gaskins, Director of the CCHS Family Practice Residency, Tuscaloosa, AL; Dr. Carol Johnson, Alabaster, AL; Dr. James Leeper, Professor and Chair, CCHS Community & Rural Medicine; Dr. Garry Magouirk, Fayette, AL; Dr. John Meigs, Brent, AL; Dr. Michael Taylor, Chair of Pediatrics at CCHS; Dr. Michael Harrington, Chair of Family Medicine at UAB; Dr. John Brandon, Gordo family physician and president, Rural Alabama Health Alliance; Dr. Jimmie Clark, Tuscaloosa; Dr. Melissa Behringer, faculty member, UASOM-Huntsville; Debbie Yerby, pharmacist and Chairman of KIDS Net in Fayette County; Dr. Mark Holbrook, Anniston; John Hagen, Director of the Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center; Dr. John Higginbotham, Associate Professor, Community and Rural Medicine and Director of the UA Institute for Rural Health Research; and CCHS Dean William Curry, founding member of the Rural Alabama Health Alliance, who practiced in Carrollton for 17 years before joining the UASOM-Tuscaloosa faculty fulltime. Dr. Cathy Gresham, CCHS Director of Medical Student Affairs, and Dr. George Hand, Director of Admissions for the UA School of Medicine, assisted with the review process.



Notes from Alums

CCHS was well-represented at the Alabama AAFP annual meeting in June. Below: Familiar faces included Family Practice Residency (FPR) grads l-r **Melissa Behringer** ('94), now at UASOM-Huntsville on the Family Medicine faculty; **Tracy Miles** ('98), who is on staff at Maude Whatley Clinic in Tuscaloosa; and **Blane Schilling** ('93), now in practice in Pickens County, with Residency Director **Sam Gaskins** (right).

Right: **Fred Yerby** ('92 FPR grad) with his youngest. Father of three, he is in practice in Fayette.

Bottom left: Dr. **Richard Rutland** (l), one of the CCHS founders and its first residency director, chats with AAFP director **Holley Midgeley**.



Send personal or professional news for "Notes" to Linda Jackson, editor, *OnRounds*, Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. Use form below or e-mail:

ljackson@cchs.ua.edu

Include your graduation date (MS or FPR) and e-mail or phone so we can contact you with questions.



Garry Magouirk (FPR '83), his wife Jan (center), visit with 1997 Rural Medical Scholar **Beverly Jordan** (r), a senior medical student at CCHS and Kelly Anthony (l), wife of CCHS third year resident Drew Anthony.

CCHS Alumni Update

Return to: CCHS Dean's Office, Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326

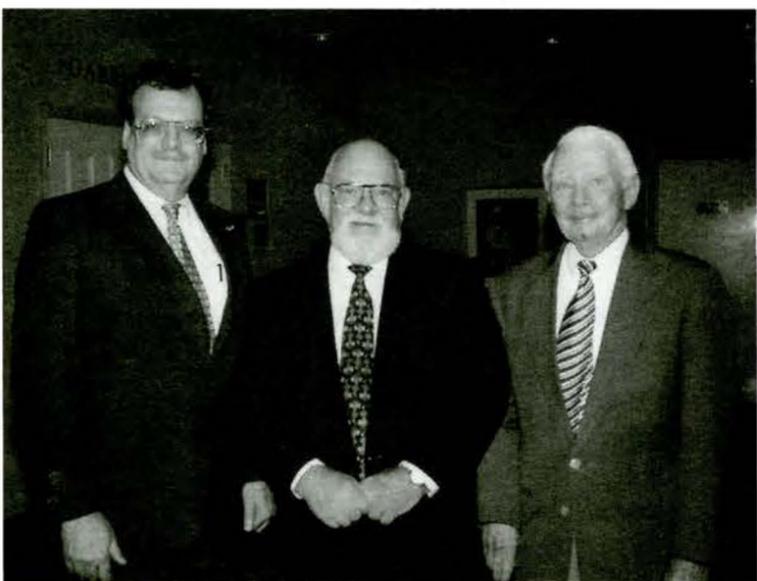
Or FAX to: Linda Jackson, Editor, (205)348-9417. (Phone: 205/ 348-1302)

ljackson@cchs.ua.edu

University of Alabama School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa UA College of Community Health Sciences

CCHS Medical Student
 Family Practice Resident
Please check the one(s) that apply

If you worked with one of these three residency directors, we want to hear from you!



Dr. Sam Gaskins, Dr. Russ Anderson, Dr. Bill DeShazo at the 2001 Residency graduation.

Name _____
first middle/maiden last

Address _____ Home phone: _____

_____ Office phone: _____

MD degree awarded: _____
name of institution date

Residency Completed: _____
name of institution date

Additional training: _____
what kind and where date

Name & location of your practice: _____
office, hospital, clinic, etc. town or city, state

Please attach news of professional, family, and civic activities, awards, etc. Include recent photo or one from CCHS days, if possible.

Grand Rounds

Continuing Medical Education Fall Schedule, 2001

First Friday Arts and Letters Series

- September 7** **Matt Bunker**, PhD, Associate Professor, Journalism
*"New Threats to Free Speech:
 First Amendment Freedoms Meet Private Property Claims"*
- October 5** **Brent Davis**, Producer, Alabama Public Television
"A Bird in the Hand," an APT Documentary
- December 7** **Maarten Ultee**, PhD, Professor, UA Dept. of History
"The Terrible History of Breast Cancer Surgery"

Grand Rounds

September

- 14** **James E. Shotts, Jr.**, MD, Tuscaloosa, Ear, Nose, & Throat Center
- 21** **Henry A. Nasrallah**, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology & IM
 University of Mississippi School of Medicine
"Recognizing and Treating Depression in Primary Care Settings"
- 28** **James Cross**, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Director UAB Burn Center
 University of Alabama School of Medicine
"Ventilator Assisted Pneumonia in the Trauma Patient"

October

- 12** **Greg Skipper**, MD, Alabama Physician Health Program
"Sex, Drugs, Power, and the Practice of Medicine"
- 19** **Frank V. deGruy, III**, MD, MSFM, Chairman, Dept. of Family Medicine
 University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
"Making Teams Work in Primary Care"
- 26** **Katharine Wenstrom**, MD, Professor OB/GYN,
 University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Folic Acid: The Answer to Everything"

November

- 9** **Kenneth Warner**, MD, Medical Director
 Tuscaloosa Treatment Center
"Using a Medical Replacement Model to Treat Addictions"
- 16** **Selwyn Vickers**, MD, Chief, GI Surgery
 University of Alabama at Birmingham
"New Therapies for Pancreatic Cancer"
- 30** **Leonard Jones, III**, MD, Tuscaloosa Internal Medicine
"Death & Dying-A Physician's Perspective"

December

- 14 (Natica Bahar Memorial Lecture)** **Robert Kreisbeg**, MD, Dean & Vice President
 for Medical Affairs, University of South Alabama
"Lessons Learned about CHD from Randomized, Controlled Lipid-Lowering Trials"

Willard Auditorium, US Ed Tower, DCH
 12:15-1:15p.m. Lunch is served at noon.
 Contact: Vicki Johnson CME Director
 (205) 348-0093 or vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu

The University of Alabama School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education to physicians. UASOM designates this educational activity for up to one (1) hour of Category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

AHEC Active in Communities

The Rural Alabama AHEC hosted a Men's Health Fair in Pickens County on August 25 at the Health Plex in Carrollton. The event addressed men's health issues such as: prostate cancer, boating/hunting safety, hair loss, sexual dysfunction, hypertension, AIDS awareness, strength training, back safety, fatherhood issues, and much more. AHEC staff and student volunteers (Rural Medical Scholars, medical and health professions students) provided on-site screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, and health risk assessments.

The Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center (AHEC) was created in 1998 by the Rural Alabama Health Alliance and the UA College of Community Health Sciences to recruit and retain healthcare professionals in rural, west central Alabama. The Rural Alabama AHEC is addressing its mission through:

- collaborative programming (with preceptors, community training sites, rural hospitals, education institutions, rural health clinics, and others)
- community rotations for resident physicians, medical students, and health professions students
- interdisciplinary team education
- continuing education for providers
- learning resource workshops
- information dissemination and educational activities for K-12 students

The Rural Alabama AHEC has worked with three community hospitals to develop Learning Resource Centers at the local hospitals providing educational resources for students of all disciplines. These sites have presentation and Internet capabilities. Phase 2 of project will provide training. RAHEC is also involved in these projects:

- Health Occupations Career Manual, compiled by RAHEC for the state's secondary and junior high students, their counselors and parents, describes various health fields, potential income, and necessary preparation.
- Clinical Digital Libraries, a joint University of Alabama/University of North Texas project providing health information on the Internet.
- Interdisciplinary Education committee with medicine, nursing, social work, pharmacy, and others working on rural primary care teams.
- Collaborative relationships with communities, schools, academic departments, Rural Scholar programs, Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board, RWJ Foundation Southern Rural Access Program, AHEC programs in Tuskegee and elsewhere in the state.
- Minority student outreach

For more information, contact:

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 (205)348-1345 jhagen@cchs.ua.edu



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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William A. Curry, Dean

Linda Jackson, Editor

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