Lister Hill Society Celebrates Vision for CCHS Future

The annual Lister Hill Society reception was held Thursday, November 1, at Gulf States Paper Corporate headquarters. The focus of this year’s fundraising efforts was the new building being planned for the College. Groundbreaking is expected in the late spring.

Hosts for the reception were Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wamer and Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Meredith. More than a hundred faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College attended. Guests were able to view Mr. Wamer’s world-renowned art collection, part of which is displayed in the halls, offices, and conference rooms, and “visit” with exotic talking birds which live in the large glass walled lobby area of the office complex.

“The event gives CCHS a chance to honor donors, thank supporters, and recognize the achievements of our medical education programs. It’s a great opportunity for us to gather in a social setting and celebrate our ongoing success in preparing physicians for Alabama,” said Vicki Johnson, Director of Advancement for CCHS. “It was also a good opportunity to share the latest sketches of the new building for CCHS. The final plans have been approved by the University and the architects are in the final stages of their drawings plans.”

Past Lister Hill receptions at the President’s Mansion, Mildred Wamer Home, and Chancellor’s Guesthouse drew hundreds of guests and raised thousands of dollars for medical education.

About the Lister Hill Society...

The Lister Hill Society, named in honor of the late U.S. Senator from Alabama who worked for better health care for all citizens, is the annual fund for CCHS, the College of Community Health Sciences. The focus of this branch of the University of Alabama School of Medicine is community medicine and primary care, especially in the preparation of family physicians to care for patients in rural areas.

Contributions from alumni and friends to the Lister Hill Society fund cash awards to recognize outstanding medical students and residents, special projects to enhance medical education curriculum or facilities, student travel to professional meetings, alumni publications, research, and library information.

History Committee Gathers Facts for Book about the College

CCHS was established to accomplish a unique mission, says Dean Emeritus Roland Ficken, PhD. Dr. Ficken is chairing the History Committee appointed by Dean Curry to preserve a record of the founding of CCHS. Dr. Wilmer Coggins, who served as the second Dean of CCHS and who has actively supported the college through his work with the Lister Hill Society since his retirement, is another key member of the committee.

Both agree that CCHS has a special legacy from its founding dean, William R. Willard. Dr. Willard was known as the “Father of Family Medicine” in the U.S. and was coaxed to Alabama by Governor George Wallace with the help of Bank of Moundville President Victor Poole after Willard had founded the University of Kentucky School of Medicine.

Winning the support of the local medical community and instilling in the fledgling college a sense of how important community medicine and primary care are to rural health were two of Dr. Willard’s greatest achievements, said Dr. Ficken. He and other committee members are interviewing key people from the early days who were involved in developing CCHS programs, including Dr. Richard Rutland of Fayette, who served as the first residency director (an interim position, stressed Dr. Rutland!) until Dr. Willard recruited Dr. Bill DeShazo as the first permanent residency director.

Members of the History Committee are: John Burnam, MD, Wilmer Coggins, MD, Roland Ficken, PhD, Riley Lumpkin, MD, former Health Sciences Library Director Lisa Russell, and Richard Rutland, MD.
Tuscaloosa, where we are educating the next generation of physicians. We are pleased to able to share our progress of the past four years, and I know you are familiar with much of what we are doing here, I thought you might find the story interesting too.

The core of our work is the education of junior and senior medical students and the training of family practice physicians. As a result of the new off-campus, off-campus, we maintain faculty practices that allow for clinical education in both office and hospital settings. Our medical school graduates have earned admission to prestigious residency programs across the country and practice across the spectrum of medical specialties. Our Faculty Practice Residency is one of the most productive in the country, and one in eight family physicians licensed to practice in Alabama trained here.

Our distinctive mission is a focus on rural health. More than half of our residency graduates have gone on to practice in small towns. Our Rural Scholars Program identifies and mentors rural students into and through undergraduate studies, medical school, and residency in order to prepare them for rural practice. These programs are among the most successful in the nation. For the past two years, we have hosted the Alabama Conference on Rural Health, with the conference focus on improving rural health and rural communities in Alabama. We recently established the Institute for Rural Health Research, a collaborative effort with five other CAHs, which will bring greater attention and understanding to the challenges facing Alabama’s rural communities.

Our faculty are excellent clinicians and teachers. Not only do they gather impressive teaching awards from The University and the School of Medicine, but they are recognized for their ability to teach students who value the quality of their teaching. At the 12th Annual Research Days, only recently, our faculty are emphasizing the most effective methods of information technology in teaching and patient care. From the Health Sciences Library to the clinic to the SimLab Medical Student and Resident Computer Laboratories, we are training physicians for effective 21st century medical practice. At the same time, we maintain an emphasis on the best of traditional teaching, with dedicated faculty time for classical physical diagnosis and bedside teaching.

With all of these demands of clinical teaching and patient care, our faculty have expanded their research and scholarly work. Although we are one of the University’s smaller colleges, we are the top of all colleges in per capita faculty research. Those efforts center on what we do every day, finding ways to improve medical education and patient care, along with many projects that focus on rural health issues.

We have challenges. We have been planning a new building, a project that is essential to our future. While we could construct a building housing nearly all of CCHS, we would have to wait some time to do so. Instead, we plan to begin construction on the first phase soon, so that we can begin to meet the demands of expanding services and quality space for patient care.

We needed a new information system in order to meet the demands of modern medical practice and to strengthen our ability to improve clinical care and clinical research. We are in the final stages of implementing a system which gives us exciting new ways to manage our operation and to show our students and residents the optimal use of technology in practice.

With all of these projects, we have faced the reality of decreases in state funding and limitations on major gifts because of the economic downturn. I want to thank the many people who have given their loyal support for our programs over the years.

The mission of CCHS is unique. Nowhere else in our state is this kind of work being done. I appreciate the opportunity to lead such an able faculty and to work with the college’s friends and supporters to keep the vision intact. I believe Alabama’s future can be so much more than many seem to expect. We can make a great contribution to that future through CCHS/UASOM—Tuscaloosa, where we are educating the next generation of physicians.

**News Briefs**

Institute for Rural Health Research Wins Grants

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has awarded nearly a quarter million dollars to Dr. John Higginbotham, Director of the UA Institute for Rural Health Research. The Institute, which is based in the CCHS Department of Community and Rural Medicine, will conduct a two-year study titled “Prediction of Vaccination Among Older African-Americans.”

*With several co-investigators including CCHS’s Dr. Jim Leeper, Dr. Higginbotham will seek insight into why vaccination rates for older African Americans are substantially lower than for the general population,* said Naomi Clewett, Assistant Director, Editorial Services, for the Institute. “Results from this investigation will help the identification and development of effective strategies for the introduction, acceptance, and receipt of adult vaccines.”

The Institute for Rural Health Research has been awarded a $45,000 one-year contract to assist with the Alabama Dept. of Public Health’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. IRHR will provide web-based data collection and reporting for the project, which offers outreach to educate women regarding cancer prevention.

**Grand Rounds to Bring Experts to CCHS**

The CME schedule for spring includes a lecture by Peter Pappas, MD, on “Fungal Infections,” an update on HIV/AIDS during February by Michael Kelby, MD, and information on GERD (gastro esophageal reflux disease) by Jerry Catanzarite, MD, in March.

Goldenberg, MD, Chair of OB/GYN at UAB, will address ‘Pre-term Birth’; Vera Bittner, MD, UAB Professor of Medicine, will speak on “New National Guidelines for the Treatment of Cholesterol” in April; and in May, Pat Ryce, MD, will highlight tools of Quality Improvement in medical practice.

**OSCE Held in Tuscaloosa for Senior Med Students**

The 2001 Senior Objective Structured Clinical Examination was held July 27-August 9 at the Alabama Health Network Building in Tuscaloosa. One hundred sixty-four-year medical students from all three U. A. School of Medicine campuses were examined on their clinical skills via eight different medical scenarios. Thirty-three volunteers (University students and spouses, being a standardized patient was a learning experience for them, too. We were pleased to see that the volunteers indicated they benefited from the experience and feedback from the volunteers indicated they benefited from the experience.

**Anthrax Videos Available at CCHS Library**

The Health Sciences Library has the following videos available for checkout: Anthrax: What Every Clinician Should Know, Parts I & II. They are copies of recent broadcasts by the Center for Disease Control. Faculty, staff, residents, and students can borrow the videos, and our alumni can check them out with no fee. The checkout period is for 7 days. For those who want to access this or other information without having to borrow a copy, see: http://webcasts.sph.unc.edu/about/webcasts/

The CDC will provide a single VHS tape of the 11/1/01 program free of charge to anyone who is unable to view the webcast. You order the video from the Public Health Foundation by phone 1-877-252-1200 or online: http://bookstore.phf.org/prod174.htm.

Additional copies may be purchased in packages of 5 copies for $35. There is a 15% discount on orders of 100+ videos (20 or more 5-pack).

- Neill Williams, Medical Librarian

**RAHEC Sponsors Pharmacy Week Events**

The Rural Alabama Area Health Education Center, which is housed in the Department of Community and Rural Medicine, sponsored activities associated with National Pharmacy Week, October 22-26. Students and staff presented information on pharmacy careers to a UA health class, gave presentations on poison prevention and drug abuse prevention to elementary school students, and taught residents at a retirement home to read prescription labels. They also checked blood pressure and did osteoporosis and cholesterol screenings at Northport Pharmacy.

-Miranda Andrews, PharmD
Assistant Professor, Community and Rural Medicine
Family practice residents who started at CCHS in July 2001 are: Front Row - David Hubbs, MD, Valerie Sloan (no longer in the program), Diep Nguyen, MD, Tracy Lane, DO (2nd year transfer to program), Stephanie Morgan, MD, Stacy Horsley, MD, 2nd Row - David Moore, MD, Tamara Hughes, MD - 2nd Year Drake Lavender, MD, Larry Thead, MD - 2nd Year, Tony Sloan (no longer in the program), Franklin Lo, MD. Top Row - Thomas Carter, MD, Thomas Linberg, MD - 2nd Year, Brian Wood, MD, Residency Director Samuel Gaskins, MD, and Jonathan Southworth, MD.

**Thomas Carter** – Tom was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi. He received his M.D. in May 2001 from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. Tom’s hobbies and interests include hunting, fishing, woodworking and auto racing. His wife, Sharon is a neonatal nurse at DCH.

**Stacy Horsley** – Stacy is an Alabama native and received her M.D. in May from the University of South Alabama. For relaxation, she and her husband, Rick, enjoy the outdoors, especially hiking and gardening.

**Tamara Hughes** – Tamara was born in Orlando, FL. She received her M.D. from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1997. Tamara began a psychiatry residency; but realized that family practice was much more suitable for her. She is a second year resident.

**David Hubbs** – David is from Canada. He received his M.D. degree in June 2001 from Saint George’s University. David enjoys scuba diving, golf, reading novels, and travel.

**Tracy Lane** – Tracy was born in Newport News, Virginia. She is a second year resident in the program. Tracy received her D.O. from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2000. Tracy is married to Robert Lane. She enjoys traveling, cooking, and gardening.

**Drake Lavender** – Drake was one of our medical students at CCHS. He was born and raised in Eutaw, Alabama. Drake received his M.D. from UASSOM in June. He was recently married to JoAnn and they have two children, Lane and Ashley Pearson.

**Tom Linberg** – Tom joins us in his second year of residency. He was born in Cumberland, Maryland. He is a 2000 graduate of Ross University School of Medicine. He and his wife, Diane, have a 13-year-old daughter, Renu.

**Franklin Lo** – Frank was born in Hong Kong, but has called California home since he was five years old. He received his M.D. from Ross University in 2001. Frank enjoys reading and tennis.

**David Moore** – David was an officer and an infantryman in the US Army Reserve. He also is a Registered Nurse. He graduated from the American University of the Caribbean. David and his wife, Pam, have one son.

**Stephanie Morgan** – Stephanie is also a former CCHS medical student. Her husband, Todd Morgan, is a Tuscaloosa police officer. Stephanie served as Family Medicine Interest Group President last year. In her spare time, she enjoys mountain biking, reading, traveling and spending time with her family.

**Richard Nance** – Rick, a Mississippi native, joined us in October. He received his D.O. from the Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Rick enjoys tennis, golfing, hunting and fishing. He has two children.

**Diep Nguyen** – Diep was born in Vietnam but came to the United States in 1980. She is a graduate of Emory University School of Medicine. Her hobbies include cooking and spending time with family and friends.

**Jonathan Southworth** – Jonathan is a native of Alabama. He graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Jonathan is married to Jolinda and they have a daughter, Jessica. In his spare time, he enjoys playing tennis, golf and basketball.

**Larry Thead** – Larry completed his medical school training at the University of South Alabama. He spent one year in a general surgery residency. He then began a practice in Daphne, Alabama. Larry is married and has two children.

**Brian Wood** – Brian is a second year resident who came to us from the University of South Alabama. His wife, Jina, is a law student at the University of Alabama. They have one daughter. Brian interests include camping, hiking, traveling and exercise.

CCHS has Certified Grant Experts

Julia Hartman, PhD, Assistant Director for Research, Institute for Rural Health Research, and Naomi Clewitt, Assistant Director for Editorial Services, recently became Certified Grants Specialists. They completed a five-day intensive day-long courses in developing government, foundation and corporate grants; creating budgets, desktop publishing, and writing styles.
Dr. Robert Pieroni lectured on lipids and diabetes at Kameda Medical Center, Kameda, Japan, and made rounds with residents and Dr. James Philp, Professor of Internal Medicine, who retired from Family Medicine at CCHS in 1999, have been restoring a family home in Scotland.

RMSFP Faculty and Scholars Attend Pickens County Farm-City Event in Carrollton

Dr. John Wheat, Professor of Community and Rural Medicine and Internal Medicine and Director of the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSFP), Dr. John Brandon, RMSFP Medical Director, recent Family Medicine residency graduate Dr. Tara Haynes, and four Rural Medical Scholars attended the Farm-City luncheon in Carrollton on November 14. Rural Medical Scholars who attended were Clay Campbell, Lindsay Evans, Terry James, and Laura Sutherland.

They were guests of Pickens County Extension Agent Sam Wiggins. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was Charles Bishop, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industry; and local winners of essay, poster, and computer presentation competitions were recognized. The luncheon was sponsored by local businesses, Pickens County Schools, the Extension office, and farming-related associations.

LISTER HILL SOCIETY

Membership Categories:

- Corporate $10,000 & more
- Benefactor $1,000
- Life $5,000
- Sustaining $100
- Patron $250
- Active $50

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My check is enclosed.

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