

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

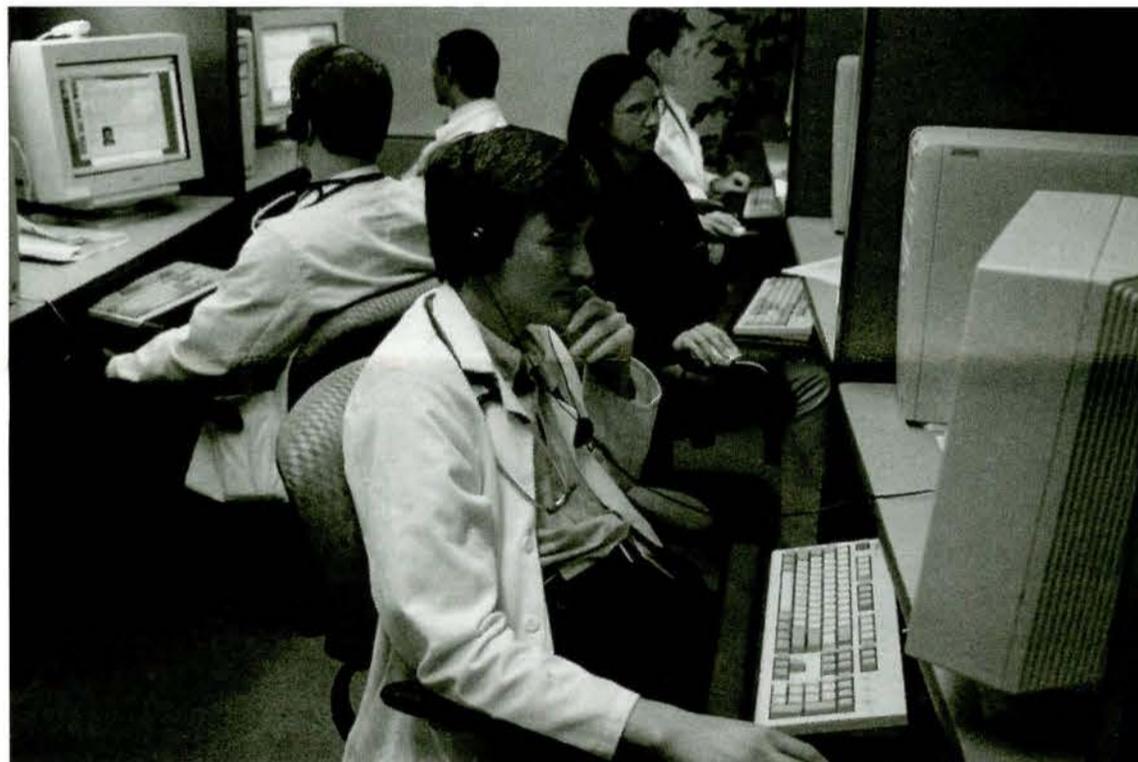
Volume 12, Number 1

30 Years of Medical Education

Winter 2002

New Technology Puts CCHS Students and Doctors at Forefront of Medical Practice Management

No more tracking down charts before going in to see the next patient. It may be in the lab or in the Red Suite at the Nurse's desk. Don't remember this patient? Take a quick look at the computer screen. The chart includes a picture of him or her. The computerized information will also list current and past drugs prescribed and when these were last refilled. If a refill is indicated, the CCHS doctor verifies the patient's choice of pharmacy, then



Clifton Garris (front), a senior medical student from Washington County, and other CCHS medical students in the Roscoe Shamblin Computer Lab. Capstone Medical Center's charts (right in Medical Records) will soon be computerized.

clicks on "refill." The refill order is electronically sent to the drug store for the patient to pick up. Besides convenience, there should be fewer errors. There is no handwriting to decipher, and instructions for dosage and use are typed in and saved for future reference.

While the doctor is in the exam room with a patient, using his or her notebook computer to review or enter chart information, check results of lab tests, or look up practice guidelines, the file remains accessible to others who may need to schedule appointments, print patient information handouts for the patient or caregiver,

or consult with the doctor from another suite. If the family physician in Blue Suite with a patient, for example, has requested information from psychiatry on psychological effects of an illness or diagnosis or what anti-depressant medication would be best for this patient, a psychiatry faculty member can look at

the patient record at the same time it is being used in the patient's exam room. The EMR (electronic medical record) can also be instantly

brought up during phone calls with patients. Access to medical records is limited to authorized personnel and password protected.

This is the new "paperless" system being implemented at the Capstone Medical Center. Suite by suite, the transformation is taking place beginning this spring. The hand held computers are the ViewSonic ViewPad 100 that will soon replace the bulky charts and the reference manuals and notes that medical students have always carried in their lab coat pockets.

"This is the medical practice of the future," said Dean William A. Curry, MD. "Doctor-patient relationships, careful listening, and thoughtful diagnoses are still the heart of medicine, but using technology is essential for today's and tomorrow's physicians."

"A big part of teaching doctors," says Michael Taylor, MD, assistant to the Dean for Medical Information and Chair of Pediatrics, "is not just showing them how to take care of patients, but how to become lifelong learners." Medical knowledge advances constantly. Since he finished medical school in 1976, he has used current publications for information, not textbooks. Books are out-of-date almost by the time they are printed, he said. The journals he reads now are on-line subscriptions, not periodicals received in the mail.

This new system, said Dr. Taylor, allows faculty and students to go immediately to the computer after making rounds (See page 3.)



Michael Taylor, MD



Third Annual Rural Health Conference

CCHS Co-Hosts statewide gathering in April

Marilyn Hughes Gaston, MD, Director, Bureau of Primary Health Care, and former Assistant Surgeon General, will keynote the Third Annual Rural Health Conference at UA in April.

This is the Third Annual Rural Health Conference and is again co-hosted by the College of Community Health Sciences along with other colleges at The University. The event brings together members of rural communities and professionals from a number of fields with an interest in rural health. More than 300 participants have attended each of the two previous conferences.

(See p. 5)



Former Deans and Charter Faculty Compiling History of College

As part of the college's 30th Anniversary Year activities, the history of CCHS is being compiled for publication. "The main challenge associated with writing a history of the College is deciding what to leave out," said Dr. **Wilmer Coggins**, CCHS Dean Emeritus, who is chairing the History Committee. (page 6)

CELEBRATING
Thirty Years
OF MEDICAL EDUCATION



Dr. Coggins (l) with CCHS alum, Sandral Hullett, MD

REFLECTIONS

by William Curry, MD, Dean

Here We Go...



Dr. Curry

"We're really going to do this." It was a spontaneous remark from one of our faculty members at a recent CCHS Faculty Meeting, after a briefing on the implementation schedule for the new Information System described in this issue of *OnRounds*.

I wasn't surprised to hear such a comment. For at least three years we have been talking often and at length about the need for better clinical information, of how we can use that information for improved patient care and more effective teaching, of how we can link a patient care system to the exciting resources of the electronic world and of our own CCHS Clinical Digital Library. We have surveyed, reviewed, met, consulted, voted, started over, done it all again. Now, "We're really going to do this." It was tinged with surprise and maybe a little healthy fear.

And with good reason to fear. Even a small clinical practice can experience major jolts - in workload and income - with the installation of such a new system. Our clinic involves 120 or more physicians and physicians-in-training, with over 60,000 patient visits per year. The nature of primary care-based practice is that expenses are critical.

As we move through the next nine months, one department after another will implement the state-of-the-art Electronic Medical Record component that is central to the effectiveness of such a system. Each physician must learn to generate the patient record at the time of the visit, using a computer template and a notebook computer. I've compared it to learning to write with the opposite hand, but I think that probably understates what each of us will have to be willing to do. While our clinic staff will have faster and more powerful computers than ever, they will have to learn new and different ways of doing their jobs. And "we're really going to do it."

So why are we doing it? The article on page 1 can give you a pretty good idea. The short answer is that it will make it easier to do a better job for our patients and our students. We like to say we're educating the next generation of Alabama physicians here. If we're to do that completely, those new physicians must understand how to include the best that computer technology has to offer medical practice and our own unending educations. With such a system, no medical student or family practice resident should leave here without both the knowledge and skill required to employ that technology in the service of patients.

The new Information System is only the latest example of growth and improvement at CCHS/UA School of Medicine - Tuscaloosa. The next major project is our new building. That's been a topic here for an even longer time than computer systems have been, and doubt about such an ambitious project is understandable. Our financing is adequate, and our architects are on schedule with the plans. With the support of the University and many partners, that new building is going to happen too.

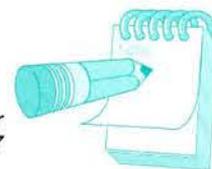
The faculty and staff of CCHS have been patient long enough. There is a lot we have to do here, and now we're at the point that we can say to anybody who may have doubts, "We're really going to do it."

Dr. William A. Curry, MD, F.A.C.P., has been a physician and medical educator for more than 20 years. He is dean of The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences, a branch campus of the UA School of Medicine, whose central campus is located in Birmingham. CCHS provides clinical training for third and fourth year medical students and operates a three-year family practice residency program for medical school graduates. As Dean of CCHS, Dr. Curry has focused on fulfilling the College's rural mission. Dr. Curry received his bachelor's degree from UA and his doctor of medicine degree from Vanderbilt University. He was Chief Resident in Internal Medicine at Vanderbilt before returning to his hometown to enter private practice. During 17 years of caring for patients in rural Pickens County, Alabama, Dr. Curry served as adjunct faculty in the CCHS Department of Internal Medicine and was a popular preceptor for medical students and family practice residents doing rural training rotations.

Dr. Curry has frequently written and edited information for colleagues in medicine and health fields. He most recently reviewed a publication by L.G. Stead, *First Aid for the Medicine Clerkship: A Student to Student Guide* (McGraw-Hill, 2002), for Doody's Review Service (on-line at <http://www.doody.com>). In March, he moderated a panel and presented information on "Application of International Public Health Expertise to Rural Health in Alabama" at the 2002 Annual Public Health Symposium at UAB. He also conducts clinical research at CCHS, serving as Principal Investigator since 1999 of the International Verapamil Sr-Trandolapril Study (INVEST), and as Principal Investigator of "A Single-Arm, Open Label Study of Cerivastatin (Baycol) in Community-based Patients with Hypercholesterolemia at risk for Cardiovascular Disease and patients with Cardiovascular Disease," (CRISP), which concluded last August.

Faculty Notes

Send faculty news items to Linda Jackson, Editor
ljackson@cchs.ua.edu 348-1302 Fax 348-9417



Leeper Chairs University Research Review Board

James Leeper, PhD, Professor of Community and Rural Medicine, has been appointed chair of the UA Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects by University of Alabama Provost Nancy Barrett. The IRB, as it is known, is currently composed of eleven UA faculty members plus one UA professional staff person and one community member. This Board, whose membership must be federally approved, is charged with reviewing all research involving humans conducted by any University employee or student. It meets monthly to assure ethical treatment and protection from harm for human research subjects. Projects may be approved for up to one year and must be reviewed for renewal if they go beyond the approved period. Special attention is given to procedures, risks, benefits, confidentiality, and informed consent. Especially vulnerable populations, such as children, pregnant women, and prisoners are afforded extra protection.

To assist the Board, CCHS formed the Clinical Trials Panel in January to advise the IRB on clinical issues. This Panel includes **Eugene Marsh**, MD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; **Cathy Gresham**, MD, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine; and **Debbie Byrd**, PharmD, Associate Professor of Family Medicine. **Elizabeth Rand**, MD, Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine; **Miranda Andrus**, PharmD, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine; and **Chris Finch**, PharmD, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, are acting as alternates.

Rubin in Marathon for Leukemia Research

Associate Professor **Nancy Rubin**, PsyD, participated in the Mercedes Marathon (a charity fund raiser) in Birmingham on Sunday, Feb 10, on behalf of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She was greeted near the end of race by Dr. **Blane Schilling**, CCHS alum and Pickens County family physician, who usually is running in races but was a "water volunteer" for this event. Dr. Schilling commented that his group had built a wall (as in "hit the wall") for runners to pass through and had cultivated the coordination and timing needed to run alongside participants while handing them cups of water.

Dr. Rubin began training for the event in August and raised over \$3500 for leukemia research from CCHS colleagues, alumni, and friends. She plans to walk for Leukemia in the Midnight Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska, in June."



Dr. Burgess

Burgess Joins Peds Faculty

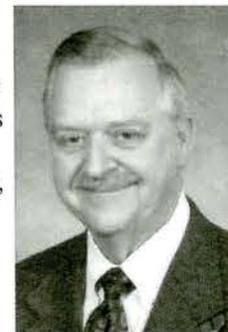
Dr. **Karen Burgess** (left) has joined the CCHS faculty as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. She received her MD degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine after completing her clinical training at CCHS. She received the Frank Fitts Scholarship Award for outstanding clinical performance in 1997. She won the Senior Veteran's Administration Medicine Award in 1998, and at the 1998 Honors Convocation for Tuscaloosa medical students, she received the William R. Willard Dean's award and departmental awards in pediatrics, psychiatry, and community medicine. She completed her pediatrics residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she served as Transport Physician, Critical Care Transport, The Children's Hospital of Alabama and University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital. Dr. Burgess graduated *cum laude* from The University of Alabama in 1994 with a B.S. in chemistry. She was an Honors Program Graduate, American Chemical Society Scholar, Wilder Award Recipient (outstanding sophomore chemistry student), a member of the Chemistry Honor Society and was in the Gamma Beta Phi and Alpha Lambda Delta honoraries.

Dr. Burgess serves on the Tuscaloosa Family Medicine Residency Program Graduate Medical Program Committee and The University of Alabama Research Committee. As a pediatrics resident at UAB, she was on the House Staff Council and a member of the Pediatrics Primary Care Committee. Last year, she was lead author of information for a poster presentation on "Evaluation of Efficacy and Appropriateness of Pediatric Emergency Room Referrals by Telephone Triage" at The 2001 Southern Society of Pediatric Research Meeting.

Owings Takes Leadership Role

Dr. **William Owings** (right) was appointed Interim Chair of Family Medicine in December by Dean Curry. Owings who joined the fulltime faculty at CCHS in 1996 after spending thirty years in private practice in Bibb County, calls himself an "aboriginee" faculty member (from the beginning, he explains). "I was a preceptor before Dr. Willard even got here!" said Dr. Owings, who was attending physician when Dr. Packard's Birmingham medical students came to DCH for ER rotations.

"In the late 60's and early 70's," he said, "there were no emergency room doctors, and every MD closed his office for a day and took turns covering the ER two at a time. Dr. Lumpkin also came from Enterprise, Dr. Rutland from Fayette, and Dr. Holt from Bessemer." After CCHS was founded, Dr. Owings continued to come to Tuscaloosa, attending and teaching minor surgery, and precepted students and residents in Centerville as well. Dr. **Jerry McKnight**, who was named chair by Dean Ficken in 1995, has resumed his role as fulltime Associate Professor in Family Medicine.



Dr. Owings

CCHS at Forefront (continued from page 1)

to search for information related to the preceding patient visit, said. Getting information quickly while seeing patients—"in real time"—instead of having to go somewhere and look it up later has been Dr. Taylor's goal since 1996.

He began working on the college's computer literacy at that time after he saw a multi-media classroom demonstrated at the faculty resource center.

Five years ago, Dr. Taylor did all his writing on his home computer. There were no computers in faculty offices or in the clinic. He gathered information and visuals for the many presentations he gave and then took them to be converted into slides. He was spending \$1800 a year making and updating slides that went out-of-date almost immediately, he added.

Dr. Taylor worked with Becky Edwards at the Capstone College of Nursing to negotiate a more cost-effective system for producing slides, but bypassing slide prep altogether was his ultimate goal. Now he develops presentations for students and other audiences on the computer using MS Power Point. He lectures all over the state on child abuse and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). A computerized format lets him change the visuals as he updates his information and add video clips or patient interviews to presentations to demonstrate what he is teaching.

The Tuscaloosa campus of UASOM now has three multi-media classrooms and portable equipment (an LCD screen and laptop computer) to take to a site that does not have the equipment for computer-generated presentations. Students and residents are also learning to do power point presentations, and computer instruction is built into their rotations. They have class time with the medical librarians at the Health Sciences Library, learn to use "MD Consult" to research topics, use CD ROM and websites for self-learning, and are graded on DXR exercises, an interactive patient care software.



Dr. Jim Shamblin (right) prepares to cut the ribbon opening the Roscoe Shamblin Computer Lab (for Residents) in January, 2001. He is joined by (l-r) Dean William Curry, MD; Jerry McKnight, MD, then Chair of Family Medicine; and Bill Shamblin, MD. The Roscoe Shamblin Computer Lab for med students opened in 2000.

"The shift to web-based information from printed sources over the past two years has required us to make changes just to stay even with medical education," said Dr. Taylor. "When we completely implement our new system, we will be in the forefront of medical technology. While we may have been behind the other two UASOM campuses in the recent past, soon we will be ahead."

Since 1997, when UA President Andrew Sorenson provided the first funds to improve technology at CCHS, the college has built a state-of-the-art computer information system for students, faculty, and staff. Two new servers support uniform e-mail system, shared files, and capacity for an up-dated website with information on each department in the college. In fact, Dr. Taylor was planning the content of the Pediatrics web page the day I interviewed him.

The cost benefits of the windows-based system, "MedInformatcs®," purchased from Davlong Business Solutions, LLC, are as positive as the information capabilities, said Dr. Taylor. "We are actually paying less for the new system than we pay for the current system which includes only billing and appointments, not medical records."

Two computer honors program undergraduates at UA, Brooke Taylor and Nebeel Memon, are now creating patient education forms that can be instantly available and easily updated. These can be produced for patients on printers that are being placed around the clinic. The Physicians Desk Reference (PDR) and Merck Manual will also be available on the computer. No longer will doctors or students have to wait until someone else is through looking something up.

Students and residents also have access to new technology (computers, printers, the internet) through the two Roscoe Shamblin computer labs, which were made possible by generous donations from the Shamblin family, particularly Bill Shamblin, former chair of Surgery at the college, in memory of their father.

New Psychiatry Clinic Will Be Named for Betty Shirley

The University of Alabama Board of Trustees in February approved the college's plan to name the psychiatry clinic at The University of Alabama School of Medicine—Tuscaloosa, the "Betty Shirley Clinic for Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine."

"Betty Shirley has been an extraordinary supporter of our psychiatry program and she has been remarkably effective in promoting mental health statewide. The University has honored her by giving our Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Clinic her name, but it is equally true that she honors us. Her involvement with our program sets a high standard," said Dean William Curry. "Generations of students, residents, and patients will benefit from this relationship."

Mrs. Shirley, a Tuscaloosa resident named a Presidential Point of Light by President George Bush for her exceptional volunteer work, is well known as a proponent for treatment of mental illness. "She has been a tireless advocate for mental health services at all levels, access to services for those in need, destigmatization of mental illness, and education about mental health and illness," said Dr. Elizabeth Rand, Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine.

Dr. Rand says she believes that "it is diseases of behavior that will dominate the 21st century, whether these be the depressive and anxiety disorders with which we are quite familiar, or an explosion of post-traumatic stress disorder, or life-style behavior problems such as obesity and substance abuse, or a general increase in stress and violence as the world becomes more complex. Depression alone is predicted to be the 2nd most prevalent disease world-wide by 2020."



Betty Shirley

care settings, on asthma, pain management, and suicide, on child abuse in Alabama, and on clinical trials related to depression, panic disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I am so proud to have Betty Shirley's name and commitment associated with our work," said Rand. "This will be a source of pride and inspiration for years to come for patients, students, and faculty alike, indeed for all who come to The Betty Shirley Clinic."

This naming is to honor Betty Shirley for her unflinching support in the area of mental health and to provide an opportunity for citizens of Tuscaloosa and the state to support those goals through both honoring Betty and supporting our clinical mental health program, said Vicki Johnson, Director of Advancement in the Dean's office. A steering committee is working to raise funds for building, equipping, and for the clinic.

"These problems—that psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers address clinically every day—are the topics we teach ALL our medical students, family practice residents, and psychology and social work trainees at Capstone Medical Center to recognize and treat," said Rand.

In addition to patient care and teaching, faculty are also engaged in research on various aspects of recognition and treatment of mental disorders in primary

Dr. Bahar's Memory Marked by Continuing Lecture Series

Dr. David Bahar passed away on November 12, 2001. Dr. Bahar and his wife, Natica, moved to Tuscaloosa in 1967. Dr. Bahar was born March 7, 1915 in Balikesir, Turkey. He received his BA degree from Kabatac College, Istanbul in 1934, MD, University of Istanbul, 1940. Dr. Bahar was medical director & superintendent of Hale Memorial Hospital and was well known throughout Tuscaloosa County for his work in the fight against tuberculosis.

In 1987, Dr. Bahar established The Natica Bahar Memorial Lectureship Fund with an endowment to the College of Community Health Sciences. This fund supports an annual lecture as part of the Grand Rounds series, bringing medical experts to Tuscaloosa to discuss varied topics related to medical research, education, and practice. At Dr. Bahar's death, the lecture became The Natica and David Bahar Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Bahar was a clinical professor in the CCHS Department of Internal Medicine. The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the Bahar Lectureship Fund at The University of Alabama.

Lifetime Giving Societies

Financial support provided to The University of Alabama reflects an investment not only in our programs, students, and faculty, but also in our future.

In an attempt to more effectively recognize and acknowledge the importance of private giving, we are happy to announce the creation of The University of Alabama Lifetime Giving Societies. Membership will consist of all friends and alumni of the University whose individual cumulative gifts, pledge payments, credits, and matching gifts total \$50,000 or more.

The inaugural event for induction into the Lifetime Giving Societies will take place on the University campus on April 12, 2002. At that time The University will recognize induction of more than 1,500 members, among them CCHS donors.

There are six levels of gift societies that represent gifts in the following ranges:

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Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard Society
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John H. Bankhead, Sr. Society
\$5M+

Gift societies serve to help people understand that recognition of their cumulative gifts is a part of the University's overall stewardship plan. Through activities such as the inaugural gala, they also provide an opportunity for supporters of the University to be acknowledged and thanked in a public setting on an annual basis.

For more information, contact Vicki Johnson, CCHS Advancement Officer, in the Dean's Office, 205/348-0093 or vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu.

LISTER HILL SOCIETY DONORS, 2001

"The tradition of The University of Alabama and its school of medicine, and of the College of Community Health Sciences, is a powerful heritage to uphold. It is the future of medicine itself, and the future of health care for our region, state, and nation, which are at stake. You and I share this great tradition and serious responsibility."
 -William A. Curry, MD, Dean

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I pledge \$ _____ annually in support of the Lister Hill Society at the College of Community Health Sciences. I understand that I can terminate this agreement at any time.

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date

The *Lister Hill Society* supports medical education at CCHS. 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 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 training family physicians to care for patients in rural areas.

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

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Bill me: Annually _____ Semi-Annually _____
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Please make a payroll deduction of \$ _____ per _____ from my UA salary.

_____ Please call me to discuss financial options and the tax advantages of a gift to the College of Community Health Sciences.

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Third Annual Rural Health Conference to Focus on Working Together

“The Time for Action: Building Connections to Improve Rural Economies and Health.”

A major conference goal is promoting partnerships among citizens in rural communities and the professional disciplines that work with rural concerns to develop more effective immediate and long-range strategies and practices for improving rural health services. The theme of this year's conference, on April 25-26, is “The Time for Action: Building Connections to Improve Rural Economies and Health.”

Keynot speaker Marilyn Gaston, MD, the first African-American woman to direct a Public Health Service Bureau, is internationally recognized for her leadership in the research of sickle cell disease. Her work at the National Institutes of Health produced changes in management of children with this illness which have resulted in significant decreases in morbidity and mortality in young children. “Gaston has dedicated her career to improving the health of our nation,” said Dr. **John Higginbotham**, Director of the UA Institute for Rural Health Resources, who is coordinating conference planning.

The 2002 Rural Health Conference will feature three break-out sessions: Resources for Rural Health; Barriers to Rural Health; and Notes from the Field. “Resources for Rural Health” (Thursday morning) will explore available resources for promoting health and creating strong, comprehensive health networks in rural communities. “Barriers to Rural Health” will be the focus on Thursday afternoon; and “Notes from the Field” on Friday morning will feature representatives of innovative programs addressing the health of rural Alabamians. Following the panel, all participants will have an opportunity to share questions, concerns, suggestions, and insights.

Conference participants can choose among five groups being held concurrently during each session. The topics of discussion are:

1. **Basic Needs** (food, clothing, shelter, etc.)
2. **Secondary Needs** (including education, transportation, and recreation)
3. **Health Disparities** (addressing both uneven distribution of disease, medical care among rural citizens, and health care professionals practicing in rural areas and the uneven distribution of health problems and disease among different populations within rural communities)
4. **Economic Development** (interplay between economics and community health)
5. **Recruiting and Retaining Health Care Professionals** in rural communities

J. Barry Mason, Ph.D., Dean, Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration at UA, will speak at the Thursday afternoon session. As Dean and Russell Professor of Business Administration, Mason has led the business school to national recognition.

Malcolm Portera, Ph.D., Chancellor, The University of Alabama System, will keynote the Friday session. Dr. Portera is Chair of the Council of Presidents of the Southeastern Universities Research Association and serves on several corporate boards and economic development agencies.

The University of Alabama's Institute for Rural Health Research will offer pre-conference workshops on Wednesday, April 24:

- Community Development
- Grant Writing Basics
- Community Coalition Building

For more details on the conference or pre-conference workshops, contact:

Kathryn Johnston at 205/348-0025
johnston@cchs.ua.edu or
 visit our web site at <http://rhc.ua.edu>

Who Should Attend

Allied health professionals, state and community leaders, business owners, clergy, concerned citizens, district board members, government officials, health educators, hospital/health administrators, mental health professionals, law enforcement officials, nurses, nutritionists, physicians, school administrators, social workers, teachers, and social workers will benefit from attending and contribute to the conference.

Continuing Education Credit

Continuing Education Unit certificates are available for participants. Check the web site <http://rhc.ua.edu> for a list of the professional organizations who have approved the conference for professional development hours.

Registration

The registration fee for the Rural Health Conference is \$75 per person. The fee includes handout materials, refreshment breaks, two continental breakfasts, a luncheon and evening refreshments. Registration does not include lodging, which is the responsibility of the participant. A group discount of 10 percent is available for organizations sending three or more people. Group registrations must be received simultaneously for this discounted fee to apply. Registration will be processed on a first-come first served basis. **Register on-line or phone in registration: 205/348-3000.**

The University of Alabama is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please request assistance, if needed, when registering for the conference.

More Information

Contact: Ms. **Geri Stone** at 205/348-6625 or gstone@cchs.ua.edu for more information on the conference or see <http://rhc.ua.edu/>

Location and Lodging

The conference will be held at the Bryant Conference Center, located on The University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa. Suggested lodging sites: Four Points Hotel (adjacent to the Bryant Center) 205/752-3200, and Hampton Inn (one mile from the conference site) 205/553-9800. Identify yourself as a program participant when making your reservations.



Conference Highlights

Sharing and listening to the concerns of peers.

Exhibits and a book sale (encompassing the entire scope of the program) so conferees can meet suppliers of programs, products, services, books and other resources.

Visit and learn about the latest research in rural health, via poster sessions featuring work by faculty and students nationwide.

Discuss problems, solutions, opportunities with others concerned about rural health. Bring plenty of business cards to exchange.

Attend in casual business attire.

Feedback

Participants in the 2001 conference applauded the atmosphere that encouraged mutual sharing and problem identification. **Candice Frazer** from Selma Baptist Hospital said, “The Rural Health Conference was an excellent opportunity for networking and for defining needs and obstacles that are common to the majority of rural Alabama.”

“The brochure gave me only a glimpse of the value of this conference. The conference was far more wonderful than I could have imagined,” said **Starr Hudson** of the AL Dept. of Rehabilitation.

Valeria D. Rudolph-Rivers, MSN, Case Manager for Rural Populations at Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center, said she thought the panel of speakers was excellent and commented that “It was wonderful to be a part of a collaborative effort to identify and formulate solutions to improve the health of Alabama's rural population.”



Networking, as shown above at the 2001 Rural Health Conference, will be a key aspect of this year's conference in April.

Grand Rounds Covers Variety of Medical Topics

In January, the CCHS Grand Rounds Continuing Medical Education conferences presented **Peter G. Pappas**, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, UAB, who spoke on "Fungal Infections." Other January speakers were **Deborah A. Maisel**, MD, of Cunningham Pathology in Tuscaloosa, and **Harvey Fair**, MD, Assistant Professor and Interim Chair of the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology at CCHS, who gave an update on "Screening for Cancer in the Female," and **Annalisé Sorrentino**, MD, a UAB Fellow in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, on "Pediatric Advanced Life Support Update." CCHS Digital Library resources are available on these and other Grand Rounds topics. See the Health Sciences Library web site:

www.bama.ua.edu/~hslib/

J. Michael Kilby, MD, UAB Assistant Professor of Medicine, presented an "HIV-AIDS Update" to begin the February schedule. Other speakers in February were **Jeffrey D. Linder**, MD, UAB Fellow in GI and Hepatology, who spoke on "The COX-ic Effect of NSAIDs on the GI Tract," and **Patrick E. Ryce**, MD, Senior Vice-President and Medical Director, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, and **Fred Robertson**, MD, Medical Director, Part B-Medicare, who addressed "Resources of Blue Cross and Medicare Available to Physicians (including methods of documentation to help avoid common problems)."

Robert L. Goldenberg, MD, Professor of OB/GYN at UAB, will discuss "Pre-term Birth" on March 15, and **John W. Gnann, Jr.**, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at UAB will present information on "Viral Encephalitis" at the March 22 conference. "New National Guidelines for Treatment of Cholesterol" is the topic for UAB Associate Professor of Medicine, **Vera A. Bittner**, MD, on April 19.



Dr. Pappas



Dr. Goldenberg



Dr. Gnann

The "First Friday" conference series on Arts and Letters this semester began with a presentation by **Bryan K. Fair**, JD, UA Professor of Law, who discussed religion and government. Other First Friday speakers are Dr. **Jacqueline Morgan** of the McNair Scholars Program at The University of Alabama, "Enhancing Undergraduate Education Through Research" (March 1); **Robin K. Behn**, Associate Professor and Director of the Creative Writing Program, UA English Department, "Horizon Note," a reading and discussion of a book of poems about Alzheimer's disease (April 5); and **Daniel Goldmark**, Assistant Professor of Musicology at UA, who presents "Swing Wedding: The Sight and Sound of Jazz in Hollywood Cartoon" on May 3.



Behn

In May, **Kathy Monroe**, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatric Emergency Medicine UAB, will discuss "Bites and Stings"; **Jerrold S. Canakis**, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology and Hepatology) at UAB will present information on Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease, "GERD" to begin the month. **John J. Ferrara**, MD, from Tulane University School of Medicine Department of Surgery, will speak on May 24; and **Conway C. Huang**, MD, Director of Dermatologic and Cutaneous Laser Surgery at UAB, concludes the semester's CME conferences with an update on non-melanoma skin cancer on May 31.

The Grand Rounds CME conferences are presented on Fridays in the Willard Auditorium at DCH Regional Medical Center, 12:15 – 1:15. The University of Alabama School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical Education to physicians. For more information, contact Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, (205) 348-0093, vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu.

The CME Conference Schedule is on the Health Sciences Library web site:

www.bama.ua.edu/~hslib/

CCHS History Compiled for College's 30th Anniversary Year

As part of the college's 30th Anniversary Year activities, the history of CCHS is being compiled for publication. "The main challenge associated with writing a history of the College is deciding what to leave out," said Dr. **Wilmer Coggins**, MD, CCHS Dean Emeritus, who is chairing the History Committee. "We have compiled an enormous amount of material to date, some of it contributed by long-serving faculty and staff."



Dr. Coggins



Dr. Burnum

John Burnum, MD, **Roland Ficken**, PhD, **Riley Lumpkin**, MD, former Health Sciences Library Director **Lisa Russell**, and **Richard Rutland**, MD, are serving on the committee with Dr. Coggins. Members of the committee have conducted 28 interviews to gather information and plan more.

"We welcome input from all who read this," said Dr. Coggins. "Please send information to me at CCHS, Box 870326, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326 or call Carol Boshell (205/ 348-0093) to set up an interview."

"Our original interview list continues to grow," said Dr. Coggins. "These interviews--with both faculty and staff--have been, for me, an enriching experience, and I have thought at times that we should just publish the interviews with the faculty, staff, students, and others who make up this institution. But programs, physical facilities, and especially outcomes deserve much attention."

Early planning for a medical education program on the Tuscaloosa campus goes as far back as 1968. "We have been fortunate to have the perspective of Dr. **John Burnum**, who led a series of study committees, first during the presidency of Frank Rose, then David Mathews, and then Richard Thigpen," said Dr. Coggins. "It would be easy to start our history with the appointment of **William R. Willard**, MD, as dean of the yet unnamed college in late 1972. Dr. Willard, author of a Congressional report which articulated the importance of family medicine, was recognized as the "Father of Family Medicine." **Victor Poole** of Moundville had helped to recruit Dr. Willard to Alabama from Kentucky where Willard had founded the UK medical school.

"But to begin our history with the appointment of Dean Willard would be to ignore the efforts of Dr. **Richard Rutland** of Fayette in insisting on the making a family practice residency, or residencies, a priority as the

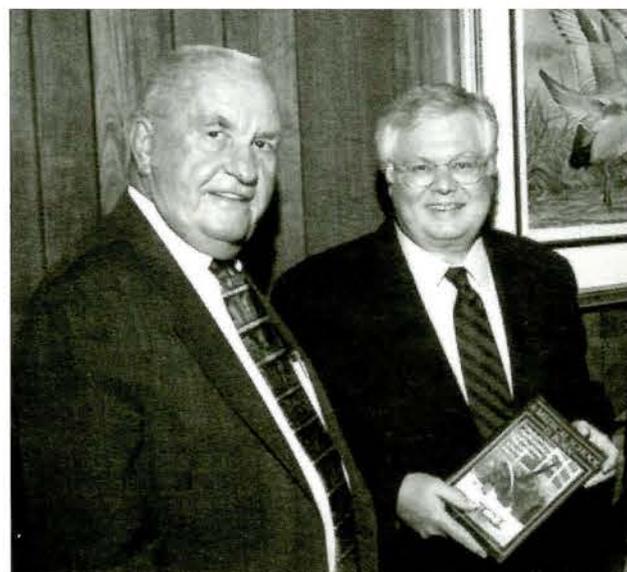
best way to meet the great need for primary care doctors in the state, not just in small towns and rural areas, but throughout Alabama," said Dr. Coggins.

"Although he had the backing of the recently organized Alabama Academy of Family Practice," added Coggins, "Dr. Rutland was the point man who repeatedly called on the leadership of this university and UAB to see that Family Practice would be a major part of the new programs in Tuscaloosa, Huntsville, and elsewhere in the state. Members of the History Committee have identified key individuals inside and outside of the universities who have contributed to the work of the college, and shared the work of interviewing these people. **Lisa Raines Russell**, who was librarian at the CCHS Health Sciences Library for more than 16 years prior to her retirement in 1999, continues to assist in major ways."

"We are fortunate to have found **Patricia West**, who is writing the history, and hence will be blamed for all shortcomings of the book!" said Dr. Coggins.

A Massachusetts native, West is a local freelance business writer with 16 years of writing and public relations experience. Recent clients include: Georgia Tech, Encyclopedia Britannica, Alabama Dept. of Economic and Community Development, the University of Georgia, and the Institute for Paper Studies and Technology in Atlanta.

"Our goal is to have a completed manuscript by August 2002, with publication to follow later," said Dr. Coggins.

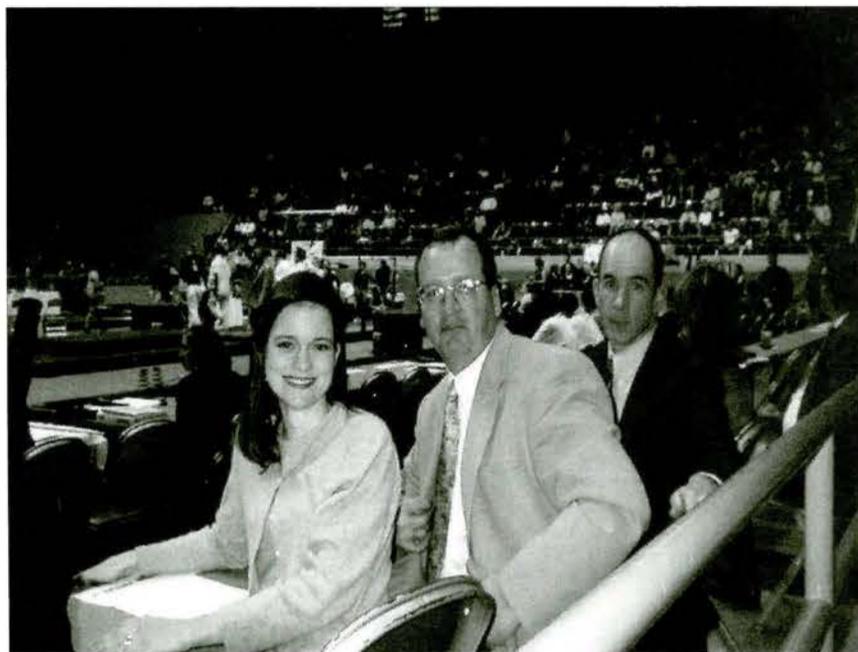


Roland Ficken (r), shows Victor Poole a history of the founding of the medical school at Kentucky. The History Committee is preparing a similar book for publication. Poole, a retired banker and state school board member from Moundville, helped The University of Alabama to recruit Dr. William Willard to Alabama. Dr. Willard bought land near the Pooles in Hale County and retired there to be a catfish farmer.

Notes from Alums

Notes
from
Alums

CELEBRATING
Thirty Years
OF MEDICAL EDUCATION



Team Doctors: CCHS Alums, Jeff Laubenthal, MD, (right) and Jimmy Robinson, MD (center), and their partner Craig Buettner, another CCHS grad, are often seen on the sidelines at UA athletic events. They are University of Alabama team physicians and preceptors to senior medical student Beverly Jordan, a Rural Medical Scholar from Coffee County (left). They were on duty at a UA gymnastics meet in Coleman Coliseum in January.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the college. Please send your alumni update information and share with me your favorite memories of your time here at CCHS for us to include in publications and special events celebrating thirty years of medical education.

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

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

Rural Scholar Applications Due

Information and applications at Rural Health Projects website: <http://bama.ua.edu/~ruralmed>

Rural Health Scholars Program The University of Alabama June 2 -- July 5, 2002

RHSP is open to rural students completing 11th grade in May. Selections for the 2002 Rural Health Scholars class will be made by May 1, 2002. For an application, contact school counselors or Cynthia Moore, Director, cemoore@cchs.ua.edu. Applicants should send a high school transcript; ACT, SAT, or PSAT scores; two letters of recommendation; and a statement about why he or she wants to attend. Applications due by **April 3, 2002**.

Minority Rural Health Pipeline Program The University of Alabama June 3, 2002 -- July 19, 2002

Students will learn academic skills for college work next year and life style adjustments that to aid incoming college students in managing the responsibilities of a college student. Most importantly, students will start to develop test taking abilities designed to enhance their prospects for becoming a competitive applicant to medical school. Each MRHPP class member will receive a \$1400 stipend for the summer. In addition, all tuition, room and meals for participants will be paid by the program. Participants will be responsible only for their transportation to the University of Alabama and living expenses over and above room and meals.

To be eligible for the program you must be an Alabama resident and live in a rural area. You must also be a relatively recent high school graduate with a B average or better, and be planning to attend a college or university in the 2001-2002 academic year. Minority participants will be selected on the basis of their expressed interest in health sciences, their motivation and aptitude for pursuing a health profession, and their record of academic performance, including college entrance test scores.

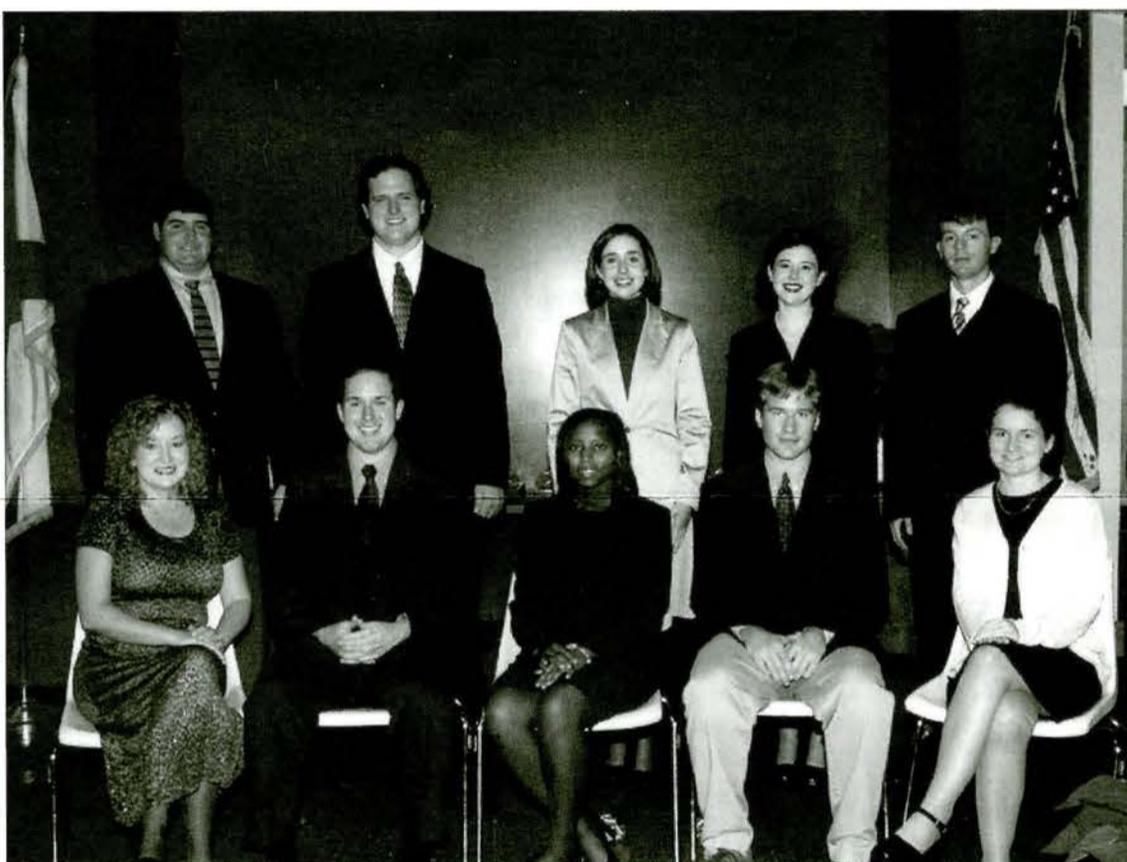
Applications due by **March 18, 2002**.

Rural Medical Scholars The University of Alabama academic year 2002-2003

(beginning August, 2002)

Eligible applicants will be invited to interviews with the RMSP Admissions Committee (practicing rural physicians and Tuscaloosa and Birmingham medical school faculty members) on June 20 and will be notified that night if they are accepted into the program. Forms are at <http://bama.ua.edu/~ruralmed> or call Irene Wallace at (205) 348-5892.

Applications for fall, 2002, due by **May 20, 2002**.



2001 Rural Medical Scholars: (seated) Melissa Gray, Tuscaloosa County; Clay Campbell, Marshall County; Shakira Thomas, Conecuh County; Joseph Walker, Marion County; Laura Voss, Calhoun County. (standing) Lee Carter, Autauga County; Terry James, Winston County; Jessica Baggett, Baldwin County; Lindsey Evans, Marshall County; and Neil Yeager, Cullman County.

Sixth Class of Rural Medical Scholars Honored

The sixth class of UA Rural Medical Scholars—which began last fall—was presented at a convocation on December 6 at the Bryant Center in Tuscaloosa. Members of the first class of Rural Medical Scholars graduated from medical school in 2001, and all eight are in residency training in primary care specialties. The 1997 Rural Medical Scholars (the second class) are now seniors in clinical training at CCHS.

"Rural Medical Scholars are succeeding in medical school and having a positive impact on classmates at UASOM," reported a national blue-ribbon panel in its formal three-year evaluation of the program. The motivation and commitment of the Rural Scholars was repeatedly cited in the panel's findings published in December, 2000. In addition to field experiences and the special training that are part of the curriculum, a valuable aspect of the program is the peer network being formed between students and with practicing rural doctors. Peer support for rural practice validates the choices of these students whose medical training is closely associated with urban hospitals and specialty care-giving.

Dr. Bob Sheppard, a Carrollton internist and administrator of the Pickens County Medical Center, was guest speaker for the convocation, and **John Brandon**, MD, Medical Director for the Rural Scholars

programs at CCHS, and **Susan Guin**, CRNP, Associate Director, recognized Rural Scholars.

Ten qualified students from rural areas are chosen each year as Rural Medical Scholars, a highly selective pre-med and medical education program of The University of Alabama and UASOM. Students with rural backgrounds interested in practicing medicine in a rural area are eligible. Admission is based on academic achievement, character, and leadership. Members of the 2001 RMS class will join previous RMS classes already in medical school this summer after a year studying issues in primary care, community medicine, and rural health is completed in May. They return to Tuscaloosa in their 3rd and 4th years for clinical training which emphasizes primary care and rural medical practice. UA's College of Community Health Sciences, a UASOM branch campus.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program and similar programs for rural Alabama high school students and for minority high school graduates (See article in left column.) are part of a "Rural Medical Pipeline" which reaches out to rural students to encourage their choice of a career in rural practice of medicine and offers instruction and activities specific to rural health during their medical training. All three programs are accepting applications for 2002 sessions.

DCH and CCHS Provide Health Information to Community

Imagine you've just been diagnosed with a heart condition. Is there one place you can go to find as much information about your condition?

There is now. The DCH Health System and the University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS) have created the Consumer Resource Center. The Consumer Resource Center is located in the CCHS Health Sciences Library on the main floor of DCH Regional Medical Center.

The Regional Medical Center medical staff also provided financial support for the Consumer Resource Center.

According to Nell Williams, librarian for the Health Sciences Library, the center provides information on a variety of health topics, including diabetes, heart conditions and pediatric health. A selection of books, journals and newsletters are available for the consumer. The center also has a computer that people can use to access a number of consumer health databases.

"We also have Internet access, so our computer can be used to access consumer health databases, such as Medline Plus," Ms. Williams said. "These databases contain information geared to the health consumer."

Many of the books and videos in the Consumer Resource Center were donated by different departments throughout the Regional Medical Center. Ms. Williams said that if any other department would like to donate health information material for the Consumer Resource Center it would be appreciated.

"The books can be checked out, however we charge a one-time fee of \$10," Ms. Williams said. "We also have videos available for check out, or they can watch them here on our TV/VCR."

The library staff is on hand to help find any information available in the center. Before the Consumer Resource Center was created, the public could access health information from the Health Sciences Library, but the information wasn't easy to use.

"We have always had people in the community come to the library to access health information, but we didn't have materials geared to the public until now."

The Consumer Resource Center is open Sunday from 2 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. The center is closed on Saturday. For more information about the Consumer Resource Center, call the CCHS Health Sciences Library at 348-1360.

- courtesy of DCH Regional Medical Center
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Clip and return

Notes
from
Alums

Please send alumni news to OnRounds. Be sure to include your graduation date from med school or residency and your current address and phone. Pictures are appreciated. Color or B&W prints in sharp focus usually print well.

NAME: _____
name used at CCHS, if different

Medical School (name and graduation date): _____

Residency (where and when?): _____

Other training _____

Describe your current practice: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Evening #: _____

e-mail: _____

Please attach information about awards or recognition, elected positions, your research, community activities, or other professional and personal news:

Clipping or article attached? _____ Photo? _____
Include who and what (occasion/date) pictured.

Return to: Linda Jackson, CCHS • Box 870326 • Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326
(205) 348-1302 • ljackson@cchs.ua.edu



CCHS Dean William Curry, MD, and Associate Dean Eugene Marsh, MD, were hosts to visitors from Taiwan in January. L-R:

Dr. Han Chang,
Dr. Yung-Tsung Hsu,
Dr. Kang-Jey Ho,
Dr. Kwo-Chang Ueng,
Dr. Chien-Ning Huang,
Dr. Meng-Chih Lee,
Dr. Marsh,
Dean Curry,
Dr. Jang-Ming Su,
Dr. Chio-Chou Huang

Faculty from Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan visited at the University of Alabama School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa during their weeklong tour of UAB. The group, which included two surgeons, two internists, and a pathologist, came to learn more about the correlative pathology curriculum and were hosted by Kang-Jey Ho, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology at UAB.

OnRounds
The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

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

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

William A. Curry, Dean
Linda Jackson, Editor

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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College of Community Health Sciences
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