

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 14, Number 1

Spring 2004

University Medical Center Opens at New CCHS Building

The University of Alabama's University Medical Center opened May 11 on the corner of Fifth Avenue East and University Boulevard. The Center, which occupies the top floor of the new CCHS building, is the only multi-specialty clinic in Tuscaloosa and is the clinical training site for third and fourth year medical students and family practice residents at CCHS. Its predecessor, the Capstone Medical Center, was the training site for more than 300 graduates of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency and more than 450 medical students over the past thirty years.

Groundbreaking for the \$13.5 million, 77,000 sq. ft. facility took place Nov. 24, 2002. William Curry, MD, dean of the College of Community Health Sciences, University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM)-Tuscaloosa, said the new facility will help consolidate CCHS faculty, students and services into one building from the four they have occupied in the past.

"Our dream has become a reality," Dr. Curry said. "We've been waiting for the time when we could house all of the College under one roof. That time has come, and we're looking forward to offering quality care and service to the community and surrounding areas."

The new facility offers medical care for all ages in its specialty clinics: family medicine; pediatrics, including an ADHD clinic and follow-up care for infants who were in neonatal intensive care after birth; internal medicine; neurology; obstetrics and gynecology; occupational medicine; and mental health services in the Betty Shirley Clinic for Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, which offers individual counseling, marriage & family counseling, psychiatric outpatient care, psychotherapy and drug therapy.

Lab tests and X-rays are completed on-site and nutrition therapy and dietary information are available for patients who need help managing diabetes, obesity, and other medical conditions. Social services and a prescription drug assistance program also are provided on site.

The new building has a state-of-the-art medical information system. The paperless system makes it easier to improve education and clinical efficiency while providing the best possible care to patients.

Curry said the students and residents involved in CCHS's program will have had experience in the medical office of the future, which will be essential during their years of medical practice.

"Our country is reaching a crisis in care involving family practice, especially in rural communities," Curry added. "The paperwork, heavy workload and lower incomes associated with primary care and family medicine can make family practice less attractive for young doctors. We're doing all we can to make primary care and family practice both high-tech and high touch. That gives patients and families what they most need and demand from today's complex health care system." The School of Medicine's Tuscaloosa branch campus plans to accomplish that vision by providing better ways of managing information, reducing costs, and linking educational resources to the doctor-patient visit. UA's program is the first in the state to take such a comprehensive approach.

The UA School of Medicine has responsibility for the clinical education of junior and senior medical students. Its family practice residency is one of the oldest, largest and most productive in the Southeast. The College has made significant strides in making health care more available and accessible across the state of Alabama. Of the medical graduates who received their third- and fourth-year clinical training at CCHS, 52 percent have chosen careers in primary care. Fifty-four percent of the Family Practice Residency graduates from CCHS are practicing in Alabama, half of these in towns of 25,000 or less. One in seven family physicians in Alabama graduated from this residency program.

CCHS addresses the unique need of training medical students and residents to practice in smaller communities in the more rural areas of Alabama. The mission of the College, established in 1972, is to provide physicians with the expertise of accessible, high quality and compassionate medical care for the citizens of Alabama through education, research and service.

CCHS is one of three clinical campuses of The University of Alabama School of Medicine, a nationally ranked medical center established in Birmingham in 1945.

Dr. Mike Taylor (r), received the Faculty Recognition Award from the graduating class for excellent teaching during the junior year. It was presented by his daughter, graduate Heather Taylor, MD, who received five awards during the 2004 CCHS Honors Convocation in May.



CCHS Senior Medical Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

(See pages 4-5)

Dean Curry Resigns, Marsh Named Interim

Dr. William A. Curry, dean of The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences since 1998, is stepping down on July 1 to accept a position at UAB. There he will serve as professor of medicine, attending physician on the Tinsley Harrison Service at University Hospital, and as the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM) associate dean for primary care and rural health.

Dr. E. Eugene Marsh III, neurologist and medical educator, has been named interim dean of The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences. He also will serve as interim associate dean of the UA School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa. The appointments were announced by UA Provost Dr. Judy Bonner and William Deal, MD, dean of the UA School of Medicine. Dr. Marsh's appointment begins July 1.

Since August 2001, Marsh has served as associate professor of internal medicine and as associate dean for academic affairs in CCHS. Marsh has maintained a private practice in Tuscaloosa since 1990 and has instructed UASOM students and residents for more than 10 years. He is also the medical director of the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation.

Marsh will head CCHS, a clinical branch campus of the UA School of Medicine, which has its central campus in Birmingham. The mission of CCHS is to improve healthcare in Alabama, emphasizing small towns and rural areas. CCHS provides the last two years of clinical training for a portion of the medical students enrolled at the UA School of Medicine, and it operates a three-year family practice residency program. The College also provides training sites and internships for students in clinical dietetics, health education, healthcare management, nursing, pharmacy, psychology and social work.



Dr. Marsh



The main entrance on the left leads to the Family Medicine Red and Blue Suites and the Business Office. The arched entrance on the right leads to the Betty Shirley Clinic, OB/GYN, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics. The lower floor of the building, which faces the main campus, houses administrative offices and the Health Sciences Library. (More photos, page 8.)

REFLECTIONS

by William A. Curry, MD, FACP, Dean



This will be my last column as dean, and I have been unsure about what to say. I've decided to follow the advice of Linda Jackson, Communications Specialist for the College and our able editor for OnRounds, who suggests that I write what I would say to a group of our alumni.

What will I be doing? In July, I will move to the Birmingham campus of The University of Alabama School of Medicine, to assume a combination of teaching, research, and administrative duties. As a member of the Division of General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine, and I will get to do what I love so much, clinical teaching, on the Tinsley Harrison* service at University Hospital. I'll also precept in resident clinics. As Associate Dean for Primary Care and Rural Health, I will continue to support the work of our faculty and staff in Tuscaloosa. I expect to build collaboration among the Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Huntsville campuses around the primary care and rural health needs of our state, which as you know are enormous.

When I left Vanderbilt 22 years ago, I stepped off an intense academic track, and I felt I had made an irrevocable career choice, that I was walking through one door after closing another. I was perfectly content with the choice, and I found rural practice enormously satisfying and a great privilege. I also got the opportunity to serve in organized medicine, first in my state specialty society and later in the Medical Association of the State of Alabama and at national levels, and that was fulfilling and educational in its own way. Ever since I came home to Alabama, I have worked with CCHS/UA School of Medicine – Tuscaloosa. Without that connection, I almost surely would have stayed in Nashville. Teaching medicine is the most professional fun I know.

So how are things going to be at CCHS? Excellent. In many ways it's not the place you remember. There are obvious changes: we've moved into our new 78,000 square foot building at the corner of University and Fifth Avenue, a block toward campus from the old Capstone Medical Center. Our clinics will now be called "University Medical Center," and it's the most beautiful clinical space I've ever seen. The flow for patient care looks like it will be superb too. For the first time, our nurses and other staff will have well-designed space for their work. There's good teaching space within the clinics, and a wireless internet/intranet environment for our electronic medical record.

That's just the upstairs. Downstairs is the Health Sciences Library, with its expected collection of hard copy materials plus wired and wireless access to the world of medical information. It will house the Shamblin Medical Student Computer Lab, Dean Willard's papers, and other special collections. Down the hall are Medical Student Affairs, administration, and the pharmacy program. Throughout the building, the generosity of our friends shows itself through the Betty Shirley Clinic for Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and names such as Winternitz, Rutland, Moman, Rosen, Fleming, Tosal, Chenault, Tuscaloosa Radiology, Bank of Tuscaloosa, Energen, Phifer, and many others.

How is teaching? It's why we're here, and it's strong. The Department of Ob-Gyn has been reconstituted. We've added a hospitalist service at DCH that gives senior students and residents great clinical learning opportunities. The Residency filled in the match this year with a fine class, and seven of the twelve are UASOM graduates. We continue to be a popular medical student choice because of the good experiences students have here. Our faculty receive prestigious UASOM, UA, and national awards for excellence in teaching. We're increasing research that makes us better teachers. As partners in the UASOM system, we and our sister program in Huntsville are acknowledged leaders in clinical medical education in Alabama and nationally. The leadership of UASOM looks to the two clinical campuses for innovation and leadership in clinical education and primary care.

What about that rural mission? Our students continue to choose primary care specialties at levels well above their UASOM and national colleagues, while doing well in competitive residencies around the country. We're proud of students matching at Yale, Vanderbilt, Chapel Hill, and Washington U., and at strong family medicine residencies around the country, including our own. We're proud that some of our medical school and residency graduates are leaders in academic medicine and that significant numbers of them are practicing in rural and other underserved locations in Alabama. How does that happen? The Rural Health Scholars, Minority Rural Pipeline Scholars, and Rural Medical Scholars Programs recruit and mentor rural students from high school through college and medical school, helping them keep their eye on the prize of rural primary care practice. Five of our seven entering family practice interns this July are Rural Medical Scholars. Students and residents benefit from rural rotations. Our faculty encourage and model the value of primary care and rural practice.

The Institute for Rural Health Research, collaborating with five other UA colleges, UAB, and other institutions around the Southeast, is adding to our understanding of health outcomes in rural communities. Everybody knows the statistics, but IRHR is identifying causes and solutions. Our annual Alabama Rural Health Conference has been held every April for the past five years, and this time met jointly with the Alabama Public Health Association.

What about finances? State funds keep declining and costs keep increasing. Through efficiencies and diversification, we are managing our resources well. A year ago, President Witt gave us the responsibility for managing Russell Student Health Service, and that has proven to be a win for everybody involved. By combining two medium-sized clinical programs, we have found significant efficiencies and new opportunities for resident teaching, quality improvement, and research.

In the past year we also concluded successful negotiations with our partners at DCH Regional Medical Center for a significant increase in funding for resident training, applying new provisions in the federal Medicare program. Clinical income dropped last fall, partly because of the new federal requirements for resident work hours, but we have reversed that trend and implemented a comprehensive productivity plan that will make us less vulnerable to unexpected changes in the future.

What about leadership? Dr. Eugene Marsh will take over from me as interim dean in July, and I am fully confident of his ability to keep the college on course. He will have the help of able department chairs and a committed staff. The top recruiting priority right now is for the chair of our "anchor department," Family Medicine. A national search is under way, and I hope to see that position filled soon.

The relationship with University administration and with the leadership of UASOM has never been better. Our good friend Dr. Will Deal will retire as dean of UASOM as soon as his successor is named, so there is the expected degree of uncertainty. Our role as an essential part of the medical education system is clear, and we all look forward to building on the progress here. I think this is the best time ever to be dean of CCHS, and I have no doubt we'll continue to lead the way in innovative, community-centered medical education and training, in model clinical programs, in research that supports our mission, and in rural outreach.

How can you help? Stay in touch; help us spread the word about the good work being done here in Tuscaloosa; help us find and recruit able students to the rural scholars programs, to medical school, and to our family practice residency. We'll prepare them to join you "in the trenches." Keep us informed about what the needs are in your practice and in your community and how you think we might be able to help. As you can, contribute financially. Finally, advise us about the knowledge and skills demanded of a physician these days. We're training the next generation of Alabama physicians here – your replacements. As Dr. Harrison* told us, there's no greater privilege for them or for us.

**Dr. Harrison was Professor of Medicine in Birmingham and played a major role in placing the school and medical center there "on the map." He also edited one of the principle textbooks of medicine of the past half century.*

Surgery

• Drs. **Joe Wallace** and **Tim Winkler** attended a "Laparoscopic Hand-Assisted Total Colectomy Workshop" in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania on April 23, 2004. Dr. Wallace was interviewed by Channel 7 News. about "gastroplasty surgery" (intestinal bypass surgery). It aired on the University of Alabama's WVUA Channel 7 News March 18 on the 5:00 and 10:00. news.

OB/GYN

• In January, 2004, **Dan Avery** was promoted from the editorial review board to Editor-in-Chief of the *Medicolegal OB/GYN Newsletter*, a professional peer review journal published in Buckhannon, WV, which addresses the legal aspects of Obstetric and Gynecologic practice in the United States. Dr. Avery was also selected to be the Executive Director of the American Society of Forensic Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a special interest group of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Dr. Avery, who recently joined the faculty of CCHS, excelled as a CCHS medical student. At Honors Convocation in 1982 he received the Community Medicine Award, Scholastic Achievement Award, and William R. Willard Award. Dr. Avery also maintains his private practice in Winfield.



Dan Avery, MD



Community and Rural Medicine

Dr. **John C. Higginbotham** and Dr. **John Wheat** presented information at the Southern Extension Research Activity (SERA) meeting on Rural Health, March 3-5 in Nashville. The training session for extension faculty and researchers was sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University. Dr. Wheat described the "Agromedicine at the Grassroots" project for which he serves as principal investigator. Dr. Higginbotham, Director of the Institute for Rural Health Research, discussed his on-going Health Disparities research.

Dr. Wheat accompanied three of this year's class of Rural Medical Scholars to the 2004 National Symposium on Agricultural Health and Safety in Keystone, Colorado, June 20-24, 2004. Rural Medical Scholars **Chris Gilbert**, MPH, DeKalb County; **Kirk Miller**, MME, Clay County; and **Bethany Abrams**, St. Clair County, participated in the Agromedicine symposium and were presented as representatives of the RMS program at the North American Agromedicine Consortium. **Susan Guin**, CRNP, Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Rural Medical Scholars Program, is an Executive Committee Delegate for the North American Agromedicine Consortium (NAAC), which is co-sponsoring the conference and conducting its annual business meeting in conjunction with the event.

(Continued on page 6)

Cartoonists Take Up Smoking

Over sixty cartoons by nationally renowned and Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonists curated by Dr. Alan Blum, Director
The University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society

A collection of editorial cartoons related to smoking curated by Alan Blum, MD, Gerald Leon Wallace Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS and Director of the University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, was shown as a traveling exhibition from April 9 to May 4, 2004 at the Ann Tower Gallery in Lexington, KY. "Cartoonists Take Up Smoking" ran in conjunction with the annual convention of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists.

Pulitzer Prize winner Joel Pett, cartoonist for the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, hosted the convention and his work was shown along with that of over 60 other editorial cartoonists including nine other Pulitzer Prize recipients from across the country. The exhibition is scheduled to be shown next at the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco.

Dr. Blum has been collecting political cartoons for thirty-five years. He has amassed more than 900 political cartoons on the tobacco issue from around the world along with the original headlines that inspired the artists. This political cartoon collection is housed at the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society and includes some of the most pungent political cartoons satirizing both the advocates and the opponents of efforts to curtail tobacco use and promotion.



Draper Hill, cartoonist from Grosse Pointe, Michigan, with Dr. Blum (right) at the exhibit.

For more information about the exhibition please contact The Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society at The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences, (205)348-2162.

"HERE'S ANOTHER IDEA— WE CAN OFFER TO CONTRIBUTE A FEW BILLIONS TO SOME ORGANIZATION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE"



CCHS and Public Health Dept. Host Fifth Annual Rural Health Conference

Nearly 400 people attended the Fifth Annual Rural Health Conference held April 28-30 at the Bryant Conference Center on The University of Alabama campus. The conference also included two pre-conference workshops: Grant Writing for Community-Based Organizations; and Rural Alabama Faith-Based Initiatives: Solutions for the Health Care Crisis.

The event was hosted by the University's Institute for Rural Health Research, the College of Community Health Sciences, and the Alabama Public Health Association. The conference was supported in part by a grant to the Institute for Rural Health Research from the National Institutes of Health's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Claude A. Allen, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, gave a special keynote address at the conference about the efforts his agency is making to help health care professionals deliver quality care to rural communities. Allen noted that DHHS is the federal government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and for providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. Some 300 DHHS programs cover a wide spectrum of activities, including medical and social science research, financial assistance and services for low-income families and the elderly, the Medicare, Medicaid, and Head Start programs, and programs for improving maternal and infant health. Allen said DHHS continuously evaluates how well these programs are meeting the needs of rural communities, like those in Alabama's Black Belt region. Primary concerns, Allen said, are shortages of health care professionals in rural communities and gaining the trust of rural citizens.

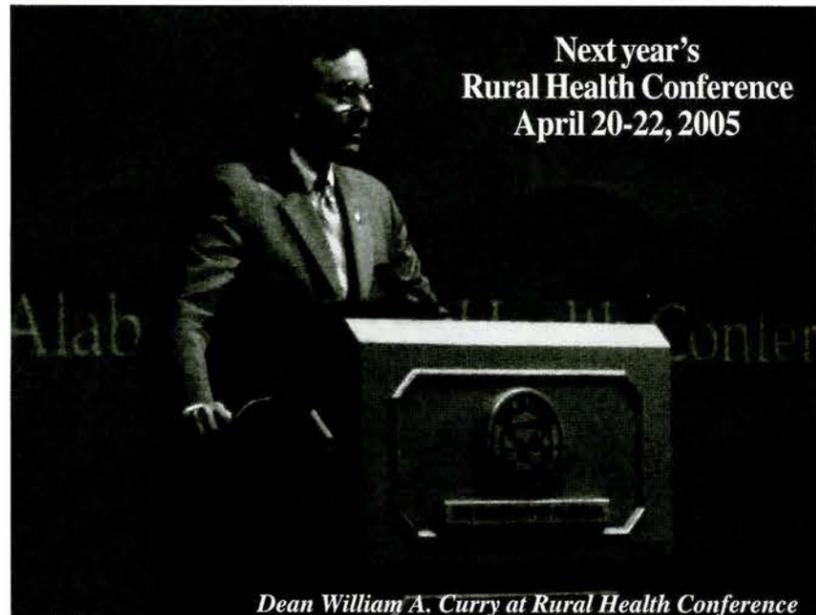


Dr. William A. Curry, Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences and Associate Dean for Tuscaloosa and Rural Programs for the University of Alabama School of Medicine, said Allen's keynote address helped establish a connection between federal officials and professionals in the field.

Other featured conference speakers were: Dr. Claudia Baquet, an associate dean at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and a leading national expert on cancer in minority and low-income populations; Dr. Donald E. Williamson, state health officer for the Alabama Department of Public Health; and Dr. Thomas J. Bacon, director of the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program and associate dean of the School of Medicine at North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Attending the conference were health care professionals, rural community leaders, government officials and policymakers, academic researchers, representatives of faith-based organizations, and others from across the state.

"This year's conference was our best yet," Dean Curry said. "We are seeing progress in bridging racial and institutional barriers through the work of these conferences."



Next year's
Rural Health Conference
April 20-22, 2005

Dean William A. Curry at Rural Health Conference

2004 Poster Presentations

Fifth Annual Rural Health Conference

ALPHA's 48th Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference
"Working Together Today for a Healthier Tomorrow"

- Institute of Rural Nursing Case Management.** Marietta P. Stanton, PhD, RN, Cm, Professor of Nursing; Jeri Dunkin, PhD, RN, Professor of Nursing; Marilyn Knight, RN, MSN, Graduate Student; Kathleen Williams-Thomas, RN, FNP, Post Master's Student; Carolyn S. Crow, PhD, RN, Emeritus Faculty, Post Master's Student; UA Capstone College of Nursing
- A Culturally Appropriate Breast Health Educational Intervention Program for African American Women.** Mary Ann Kelley, DSN, RN, Assistant Professor, UA Capstone College of Nursing
- Utilization of Behavioral Health Inpatient Services by Nursing Home Residents in Rural Alabama.** Ruby Shaw Morrison, DSN, RN, CMAC and Marietta Stanton, PhD, RN, CMAC, UA Capstone College of Nursing; and James E. Hough, MS, LPC, NCC and Barbara Booth, MSN, RN, Northport Medical Center, North Harbor Pavilion, Northport, Alabama.
- Developing a Faith-Based Toolkit for Children's Health Outreach.** Tracy Carter, MS, Graduate Student, and Tracie Griffin, College of Human Environmental Sciences, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.
- Rural Mothers' Verbal Scaffolding: Language Learning Environments for 12-month-olds.** Charlotte Horton, Graduate Student and Anne M. Culp, Professor, UA College of Human Environmental Sciences.
- The University of Alabama and DCH Medical Center: Working Together to Provide Childlife Services for West Alabama's Children.** Heather Seagle, Graduate Student, and Leslie Dollar, Staff, College of Human Environmental Sciences, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.
- Client Population of a Registered Dietitian Working in Two Primary Care Centers in the Black Belt of Alabama.** Amy Eades, Graduate Student; Linda Knoll, Faculty; M. Shoup, Graduate Student; and Olivia Kendrick, PhD, Associate Professor, Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management; UA College of Human Environmental Sciences.
- Goal Attainment of Diabetes Quality Indicators in Patients Enrolled in Medication Assistance Programs.** Miranda R. Andrus, Pharm.D., Assistant Clinical Professor, UA College of Community Health Sciences, and Deidre Clark, Pharm.D., Primary Care Resident; Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy and DCH Regional Medical Center, Tuscaloosa, AL; Pfizer Inc., Birmingham, AL.
- Occupational Lung Disease.** Michael Koger, Sr. M.D. Graduate Student, College of Human Environmental Sciences, The University of Alabama.
- Infant Mortality in Alabama, 2002.** Albert Woolbright, PhD. Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Regional Disparities in Mortality.** Kathryn Chapman, MA. Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Experiences During Pregnancy, Alabama PRAMS.** Rhonda Stephens, MPH. Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Trends in Life Expectancy in Alabama.** Al Stone. AL Dept of Public Health.
- Statistical Methodology for Spatial-temporal Trends in Infant Mortality: An Ecological Approach.** James D. Leeper, PhD, Professor, and Jing Yu, M.S., Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Community and Rural Medicine; UA College of Community Health Sciences.
- Prediction of Vaccination Among Older African Americans versus Older White Americans in Rural versus Urban Settings.** Melissa C. Kuhajda, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; John C. Higginbotham, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor and Interim Chair; James D. Leeper, Ph.D., Professor; and Lasonja B. Kennedy, MA, Research Assistant; Department of Community and Rural Medicine, College of Community Health Sciences, The University of Alabama; Karen Wooten, M.A., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA; Richard M. Shewchuk, PhD and H. Russell Foushee, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham.



The Akers award was presented to Dr. Dawn Bryant (l) presented by class president, Dr. Bethany Campbell. This award, chosen by the graduating class, recognizes to the Tuscaloosa Senior who best personifies the art and the science of the practice of medicine.



The graduating class also honors excellence in teaching, choosing those who have contributed the most to their medical education during the clinical years at CCHS. Dr. Julia Boothe (l) received the Resident Recognition award from graduate Andy White, MD.



Dr. Robert Sheppard receives the class's Patrick McCue award for contributions to medical education during their senior year from Kim Ray, MD. Dr. Mike Taylor, pictured on the cover, was presented with the junior year award by his daughter, Heather.



Katherine Hensleigh, MD, a family physician in Butler, Alabama, was named "Preceptor of the Year," by the Dept. of Community & Rural Medicine for her dedication and service as preceptor of Community Medicine and Family Medicine to medical students in clinical training at CCHS. Presenting the award is Dr. John C. Higginbotham, interim chair of Community & Rural Medicine. Preceptors are critical in training rural primary care physicians.



Dr. Heather Taylor received the Scholastic Achievement award for the highest academic average during the clinical years at CCHS. Dean William A. Curry, MD, presents the plaque recognizing her accomplishments. Dr. Taylor was also inducted as a member of the prestigious international medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha. AOA is an honor which receives lifelong recognition.



Heather Taylor, MD, Marwa El-Menshawi, MD, and Marina Thompson, MD, with Dr. Cathy Gresham (r), who presented them with the American Medical Women's Association Janet M. Glasgow Award. This award is given to women who place in the top 10% of their graduating class. All three are also members of Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), the medical honor society which recognizes the top academic achievers during their medical school years. Marwa and Heather also won the Merck Manual Award.



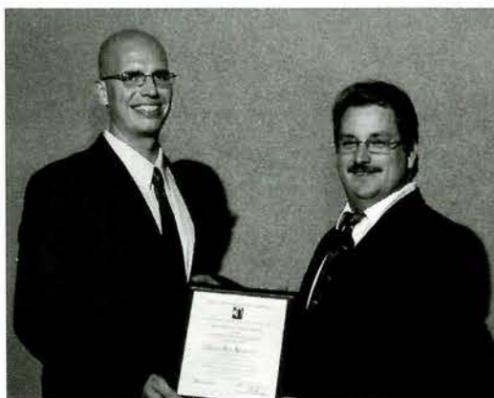
Pickens County physicians with two newest members of medical community: Robert Sheppard, MD, Internist from Carrolton and CCHS hospitalist on the Internal Medicine faculty; his son Dusty Sheppard, MD, a 1998 Rural Medical Scholar and a 2003 graduate now in residency in Louisiana; Kara Carpenter, MD, a 1999 Rural Medical Scholar and native of Pickens County graduating this year; Dean Bill Curry, MD, who had a private practice of internal medicine in his hometown of Carrolton for 17 years before joining the fulltime faculty at CCHS; and John Brandon, MD, Gordo family physician and Medical Director of the UA Rural Scholars Programs at CCHS.

NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCH PROGRAM – 2004 University of Alabama School of Medicine - Tuscaloosa

NAME	PROGRAM	SPECIALTY
Armistead, D. Lee	Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Tuscaloosa, AL	Family Medicine
Bates, John B.	Duke University Medical Center Durham, North Carolina	Pediatrics
Bright S. Dustin	Baptist Health System Birmingham, AL	Radiology
Bryant, Dawn W.	Baptist Health System Birmingham, AL	Internal Medicine
Campbell, Bethany M.	Deferred	
Carpenter, Kara	Univ. of Florida Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola, FL	Pediatrics
Collins, Carletta M.	Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nashville, TN	Internal Medicine
El-Menshaw, Marwa E.	Orlando Regional Hospital Orlando, FL	Family Medicine
Freeman, Matthew G.	Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Tuscaloosa, AL	Family Medicine
Hooper, Archie D.	Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency, Tuscaloosa, AL	Family Medicine
Marker, Bradley T.	Univ. of TX Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, TX	Surgery
Patel, Bina M.	Evanston Hospital, Evanston, IL	Internal Medicine
Pettus, Sonja D.	Carraway Methodist Medical Center Birmingham, AL	Internal Medicine
Pybass, John A.	Deferred	
Ray, Kimberly L.	UAB Medical Center Birmingham, AL	OB/GYN
Sides, Frannie H.	Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Tuscaloosa, AL	Family Medicine
Simonson, James R.	Univ. of TN-Chattanooga Chattanooga, TN	Prelim. Surgery
Taylor, Heather M.	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Cincinnati, OH	Pediatrics
Thompson, Marina L.	Univ. of Florida Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola, FL	Pediatrics
White, Andrew O.	Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Tuscaloosa, AL	Family Medicine
White, Jennifer C.	Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency	Family Medicine

-CCHS Office of Medical Student Affairs

The Larry Mayes Memorial Scholarship, given to a rising junior student for assistance in an underserved area of this country or another country, was presented by Cathy Gresham, MD, Director of Medical Student Affairs at CCHS, to Tuscaloosa medical student Erin Coleman (l). The award is given by the Mayes family in memory of medical student Larry Mayes, who died in 1986 after contracting encephalitis during a rotation in Africa.



Community & Rural Medicine (Gloor award); Archie Hooper, MD, with Associate Professor Dr. John C. Higginbotham, presenter.

Departmental Awards



Family Medicine: Archie Hooper, MD, with Dr. Sam Gaskins (r), Professor of Family Medicine.



Psychiatry (Peter Bryce Award): Senior John Pybass with Dr. Melissa Kuhajda, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, who presented award.



OB/GYN (Finney Akers Memorial): Kim Ray, MD; Dr. Dan Avery (l), assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology.



William R. Shamblin Surgery Award: Kim Ray, MD, presented by Surgery Chief Dr. Joseph Wallace (r).



Neurology: Marina Thompson, MD, with neurologist and preceptor Dr. Daniel Potts (r), who presented the award.



Rural Medical Scholars in the fourth RMS class gathered for a group photo after Honors Convocation: Kara Carpenter*; Bethany Campbell; Chad McElroy; Andy White*; Lee Armistead*; Dustin Bright; Matthew Freeman*; and Frannie Sides*. Not pictured are Brad Marker and Carletta Collins. Asterisks indicate those who are Tuscaloosa Family Practice residents starting in July.



Heather Taylor, MD, (center), who won the Pediatrics award and the William W. Winternitz Award in Internal Medicine with Dr. Ashley Evans, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Dr. Winternitz, Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine.



CMV Study

Ashley Evans, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Principal Investigator of the CMV Vaccine Study, reports that the inpatient hospital screening of postpartum women, which began in May 2002 at DCH Regional Medical Center and was expanded to the Women's Center at Northport Medical Center in June 2003, has enrolled 40 women into the vaccine portion of the study at this Tuscaloosa site.

More than 1900 women have been screened for CMV antibodies since this study began. Our present rate of seronegativity averages 37%, which indicates that women in our area are more vulnerable to exposure of CMV during their childbearing years. In comparison, the rate of seronegativity for the UAB and Cooper Green hospital populations averages only 20%.

Screening and enrollment of seronegative volunteers (now numbering 40) will continue through December 2004 with a goal of 50 women. Because of our higher rate of seronegativity, we anticipate exceeding our enrollment goal. Three of our five pregnant study participants have delivered their babies and we have provided CMV culture testing of those newborns according to the study's protocol. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (205)348-1304 or **Liz Davis**, study coordinator, at (205)348-0780.

Argus Awards

• The 2004 **Argus Society Awards** for Instructional Excellence were announced in April. The Argus Society at UASOM was formed by the student body in 1996 to honor the faculty and departments that have exhibited excellence in medical education. Medical students on all three campuses participate in the selection of award winners. **Lee Carter**, a UA Rural Medical Scholar and third year medical student at CCHS this year was a member of the Argus Committee and served as master of ceremonies for the Argus Awards ceremony held April 29 at the McWane Center in Birmingham.

The "Best Resident/Intern" award on the Tuscaloosa campus was shared by Drs. **Julia Boothe**, **Tony Sloan**, **Suzanne McLeod**, and **Drake Lavender**. Dr. **Ashley Evans** and Dr. **E. Eugene Marsh** were chosen as "Best Attending." Surgery was named "Best Clerkship," and Pediatrics was cited as "Best Department."

Birmingham students chose CCHS alums doing residency training at UAB as "Best Resident/Intern" in Pediatrics (Dr. **Kevin Ellis**) and in Obstetrics and Gynecology (Dr. **Beth Gober**).

Rural Medical Scholars Draw National Attention as First Grads Enter Rural Practice

• The first class of University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars, who began the program in 1996 with their premed year, have completed residency training. Five of the eight graduates are entering private practice in primary care fields in rural Alabama, one in an urban area close to her home county, and two will serve as chief residents next year. **John Wheat**, MD, MPH, founder and director of the Rural Medical Scholars Program reports on the plans of this first class and will discuss the program's strategies to recruit and train rural students in primary care fields so they can return to practice in their home counties or other underserved rural areas of the state at a national conference for state elected officials in July.

1996 RMS (Home County) Residency training, Practice Location in '04

Anne Davis (Talladega) Internal Medicine, Talladega, Talladega County
Kevin Ellis (Marshall) Pediatrics--Chief Resident, Huntsville, Madison Co. in '05
Tom Holt (Coffee) Family Medicine, Jasper, Walker County
Drake Lavender (Greene) Family Medicine, Carrollton, Pickens County
Stephanie Morgan (Cherokee) Family Medicine, Centre, Cherokee County
Elizabeth Smith (Monroe) Pediatrics, Mobile, Mobile County
Paul Tabereaux (Colbert) Int. Med--Chief Res., cardiology fellowship UAB '05
Angela Clifton Wilson (Etowah) Family Medicine, Boaz, Marshall County

Of 38 students in the first four classes of Rural Medical Scholars to graduate from medical school, 17 (45%) have chosen Family Medicine and 27 (71%) have chosen a primary care specialty (Family Medicine, Pediatrics, or Internal Medicine), rates that exceed national and state averages in choices made by medical students.

Dr. Wheat has been invited to speak on the UA Rural Scholars programs at the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 19. He is a participant in the session on "Federal and State Strategies for Rural Recruitment and Retention" [of the Rural Health Care Workforce], which will be moderated and attended by state legislators from across the country.

Rural Medical Educators

Dr. **John Wheat** is serving as co-chair of the Executive Committee of the Rural Medical Educators Group of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). **Randall Longnecker, MD**, Assistant Dean for Rural Medicine at Ohio State Univ. College of Medicine, and **Byron Crouse, MD**, Professor of Family Medicine and Associate Dean for Rural and Community Health, Univ. of Wisconsin Medical School, are other members of the Executive Committee. The group held its annual meeting on February 22, 2004, preceding the NRHA Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington, DC. Communication for group members takes place primarily through an e-mail Rural list-serve managed by **Robert C. Bowman, MD** (rbowman@unmc.edu) Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center, who noted in a recent message that "Statistics note a sad trend across the nation. All medical schools have experienced a decrease of rural background admissions from 27% to 16%..."

Links to research findings, data analyses, and information on recruiting and training rural physicians from medical educators and rural doctors themselves are available in recent list serve postings at http://www.unmc.edu/Community/ruralmeded/member/rme_recent_list_serve_postings.htm.

Another valuable site, which has 2500 files and 10,000 hyperlinks as well as a search function, is <http://www.ruralmedicaleducation.org>. Access the site by entering "rural medical education" into google or msn search. It is usually the top listing, according to Dr. Bowman.

Teaching Remains Priority as CCHS Opens New University Medical Center

How to maintain and improve medical education efforts in the face of increasing clinical demands is a priority for CCHS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, **E. Eugene Marsh, MD**. Dr. Marsh, who will become interim CCHS Dean on July 1, has kept the focus on teaching and the medical education mission of CCHS as the College moves into a new facility which will improve patient care in a new and modern setting.

"Much of our CCHS Strategic Planning meeting in February was devoted to faculty discussion of how to ensure continued excellence in teaching as we expand our efforts in the area of clinical efficiency and productivity," said Marsh. "Our faculty are committed to providing students and residents with the best possible learning experiences, and we need to preserve and support that essential aspect of our program in the face of the critical need to increase clinical revenue."

A new building to house all of the College under one roof has been a CCHS dream for years, but the need for a new facility to meet accreditation requirements was the deciding factor in undertaking the project at this point in the college's history. And the campaign has resulted in what former CCHS medical student and present OB/GYN faculty member **Dan Avery, MD**, calls a "Taj Mahal" medical center to work in.

Dr. Marsh cited the Department of Pediatrics as a model for blending teaching into the clinical practice of faculty. "Pediatrics has always been one of our best teaching departments," said Marsh, "nominated by students for best clerkship rotation and best faculty repeatedly over the years." Peds is an example of how busy

clinical work and teaching are not "mutually exclusive," he added.

This campus of the School of Medicine has unique strengths that enable great teaching to take place," says Marsh. The faculty identified these strengths during the strategic planning session: our college being small yet still functional as a multi-discipline clinical training site; students know the faculty and vice versa, developing mentoring relationships and allowing faculty to be role models and influence the kind of clinicians we graduate throughout their two years here, not just during the rotation they teach; CCHS does an excellent job with the Rural Rotation, though certainly differently than UAB campus; students get to do more "hands on" learning because they are not competing with such a large group of other students and house staff.



These assets are especially advantageous as medical education trends in primary care shift to emphasize ambulatory care in the office setting and preventive health techniques over the historical hospital-based training. The new building provides a "hub" for teaching and out-patient clinical care in one place, said Marsh. "As many medical schools across the country are trying to find ways to improve ambulatory care training, our college is well-positioned to offer our students and residents excellent training in patient care in the clinical/office setting as well as a hospital-based setting."

Dr. Marsh says CCHS is also planning for a more regular and inclusive evaluation process in which students and faculty can provide their perspectives on what works best and what can be improved in educational methods. Our college's evaluation efforts have been on-going, but the main campus of UASOM has also expressed interest in a three-campus evaluation system for graduates of the school of medicine.

An important aspect of medical education at CCHS, says Dr. Marsh, is our responsibility for continuing medical education for physicians in practice. Since he is assuming the role of interim dean, responsibility for directing CME has been transferred to **Vijaya Sundar, MD** "who has a passion for it," he says, referring to



Dr. Marsh



Dr. Avery in one of the OB/GYN exam rooms at the University Medical Center

Dr. Sundar's enthusiasm and her dedication to providing on-going medical education. **Carol Boshell**, who has assisted Marsh with CME, will continue in that role with Dr. Sundar, who is also serving as

interim chair of internal medicine. A critical component of medical education is on-going research which helps to guide curriculum planning. Dr. **John C. Higginbotham**, Director of the UA Institute for Rural Health Research as well as associate professor and interim chair of Community & Rural Medicine, will be directing the CCHS Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staffing flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Plans have been developed for a research wing to house IRHR and the college's Office of Clinical Research, said Marsh. This is in addition to the already approved new student health center which will adjoin the new medical center building and allow student health and University

Medical Center to share lab and pharmacy services. Construction of the student health center will begin this summer.

Dr. **Ashley Evans**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, and **Jon Roden**, a 3rd year medical student from Albertville, look at an electronic medical record (EMR) that Jon has accessed on his ViewSonic. He enters information on the screen using a stylus.



Notes from Alums

I saw on the AAFP web site that you all are offering a OB/GYN fellowship. I think that is wonderful! I am seriously considering doing my time and returning to the program. I'm not seeing any kids or pregnant women right now, but hopefully I'll get to be at a regular clinic in 2005. Well, I just wanted to keep in touch. Tell everyone I said hello and pass on my e-mail address: wigginsj@enterprise.navy.mil.

Jibri M. Wiggins, MD
LT, MC, USNR
General Medical Officer
U.S.S. Enterprise

Sarah Lynn Bisch, MD, med student grad 1997, is not currently working but writes that she is now board certified in adult and child psychiatry and got married last year. She graduated from her psychiatry residency at UNC Chapel Hill in 2001 and completed a fellowship in child psychiatry at Johns Hopkins in 2003. She married Navy psychiatrist James Reeves in May of 2003, and they moved to California last summer. Sarah is from Huntsville, Alabama, and was at CCHS 1995-1997, when she graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Her addresses are:



Dr. Bisch

Sarah Lynn Bisch, M.D.
7532 Jerez Ct., #9
Carlsbad, CA 92009

or

jamessarahreeves@adelphia.net

Claiborne Stanford, Jr, MD, a CCHS medical student who graduated from UASOM in 2000, sends this update: I enjoy receiving the bulletins, and I thought I'd update you on my address and practice location. I am a pediatrician with Children's Medical Group of Hattiesburg. We currently have three pediatricians. I finished a residency in Pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in June 2003. My wife Caroline and I have a son, Jackson, who was born in August 2003.

Address: 66 Summer Place, Hattiesburg, MS 39402
(601) 296-3050 email: cstanford@hotmail.com

Barbara Geater (Residency, 1996) completed her third Ironman triathlon last June at Coure D'Alene, Idaho. Her note came in December, 2003 and I haven't heard from her since, so I guess she is still resting up for her next one. Or maybe not, since she also said she is working a lot. Her practice is in Memphis, Tennessee, and her e-mail address is:

bgeatermd@rentropandgeater.com

Send alumni news to Linda Jackson
Editor, *OnRounds*
ljackson@cchs.ua.edu

CCHS alumni after the graduating classes of 2004 will no longer have memories of working at Capstone Medical Center (right) like you have. The banner across the front announces the closing of CMC.

Plan to visit the new CCHS building and medical clinics the next time you can come to Tuscaloosa. A Community Open House is planned for Sunday, August 22, but we will conduct a tour for alums any time. Just let us know when you're coming!

ljackson@cchs.ua.edu (205) 348-1302

Montana passion
Parents move away, but young player remains in Great Falls to play soccer, live with friend / 4S

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE
A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

Elegant and easy
Kitchen Klutz tells you how to prepare pork tenderloins, plus the Beatles, Double Take and more / 1L

www.greatfallstribune.com No. 147 — 119th Year WEDNESDAY October 8, 2003 Great Falls, Montana — 50 cents

Malmstrom crew rescues stranded hikers

By Tribune Staff
A Malmstrom Air Force Base helicopter crew has rescued two stranded hikers and their dog in the Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana.

A Malmstrom press release described the drama of what Capt. William Sosnowski the

“The hikers were in the shadows, tucked away in a crevasse wearing clothing that matched the terrain.”

— Tech Sgt. Scott Miskell

Montana from the German Air Force base where he is assigned, was hiking Saturday with his friend, Ron

Wiley, aircraft commander; Tech Sgt. Scott Miskell, flight engineer; Master Sgt. Kur Shadrack, flight medical technician and Capt. Ronald Roan, flight doctor. “It was very difficult to find the survivors,” Miskell said. “The hikers were in the shadows, tucked away in a crevasse wearing clothing that matched the ter-

care. Because of the severe terrain, they lowered Roan about 40 feet below the hikers to an 18-inch ledge. The hikers tossed him a rope and Roan climbed up to the hikers on a slope as steep as 80-degrees. “I was pretty scared because there wasn't much to hold onto,” Roan said. “All I had was the rope.”

Captain **Ronald Roan, MD**, wrote from Great Falls, Montana last winter in response to the “Alumni Upate” request in *On Rounds* (yes, some of my doctors do respond!) and enclosed a large front page story from the local paper about a helicopter rescue he and his crew were involved in last October:



I was a CCHS medical student in 98-00 and am currently a flight surgeon serving as a Chief of Flight Medicine in the USAF at Malmstrom AFB in Montana. Some other side jobs I have are EMS Medical Director and Helicopter Search and Rescue Medical Director. I have been here about 2 years and that is after 2 years at Keesler AFB, MS. I am attaching a file that talks about a rescue I did a couple of months ago that was pretty hairy.

I will be returning to Birmingham in May in order to begin an anesthesia residency at UAB.

Thanks, Ronnie

ronnieroan@bresnan.net

The October 8, 2003, newspaper story describes the rescue of two stranded hikers and their dog from rough terrain in the Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana after a fall injured one of the hikers. After they called for help with a cell phone, a rescue helicopter was dispatched from the Air Force Base with Capt. Ronald Roan, flight doctor, aboard. The crew lowered Roan over 200 feet to an 18-inch ledge about 40 feet below the crevasse where the hikers and dog were waiting. Roan had to climb up to the hikers on an 80-degree slope holding on to a rope they had thrown down to him. He said it was pretty scary since there was nothing else on the rock face to hold on to. Roan helped to stabilize the injured hiker so the crew could hoist him up and fly him to the hospital.

After refueling, the helicopter returned to lift out the uninjured hiker and Roan, who was holding the 60-pound dog. It was the helicopter rescue unit's first animal rescue, said the *Great Falls Tribune*.

Ed. Note: I guess Birmingham seems pretty tame after that, but we know who to call for airlift rescues.

Children aided from 'Bear Hugs'

Larry Skelton, 1980 residency grad, practices in Moundville, Alabama. I wanted to share this public thank you note for the special gift he and his wife Marta gave in memory of their daughter Christina.

Alyene Reese, M.D.
Sevierville, Tenn.
March 10, 2004

Dear Editor: The staff of Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic of Sevierville, Tenn., wants to sincerely thank those who helped this past Christmas with Christina's Bear Hugs. Since I know and love the Skeltons and was Christina's pediatrician until my retirement, my clinic received almost 1,000 bears to be given to poor children.

The bears were given to every child who came into the Clinic during December. They also were given through the Smokey Mountain Rescue Ministry, several churches and schools in low-income areas and through several other organizations that help the poor. To say the bears were a success would be an understatement.

At one church, the children were so excited they couldn't practice for the Christmas play after the bears were distributed. At the Rescue Ministry site, one teenager looked longingly at a bear dressed in top hat and tails. When he was asked if he wanted it, he smiled, hesitated for a moment, then said, “I can give it to my little sister.”

Those of us who knew Christina will never forget her. This is the kind of thing she would have enjoyed. And now, children and their families in Sevier County, Tenn., always will remember her too. Thank God for Larry and Marta, and for Christina, for sharing with us —reprint, *The Tuscaloosa News*

Brandon Named Gordo Citizen of the Year

John E. Brandon (Residency, 1981), who has practiced in Gordo since 1981, was named Citizen of the Year at the Gordo Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet in March. The award was presented by the Gordo High School football coach, chosen because as team physician, Dr. Brandon has not missed a Green Wave football game in 23 years. Dr. Brandon was invited to the banquet on the pretext of presenting another award so that he could be surprised with the honor, but family, friends, and colleagues had been notified in advance and were present to congratulate him.



Last spring, I published this mystery picture from our photo files and asked for the identity of the doctor with Dr. Hefelfinger, who was then Chair of Pediatrics.

He is **Dr. Raymond N. Brignac** (Residency, 1980), I learned from Dr. Owings. I got an e-mail from Dr. Brignac, who now practices in a large group clinic with five board certified Family Physicians in Selma: Selma Medical Associates, 901 Medical Center Pkwy, Selma, AL 36701. Phone 334-875-2640. rbmd@bellsouth.net



Continuing Medical Education
College of Community Health Sciences
 University of Alabama School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa
Emergency Medicine Series

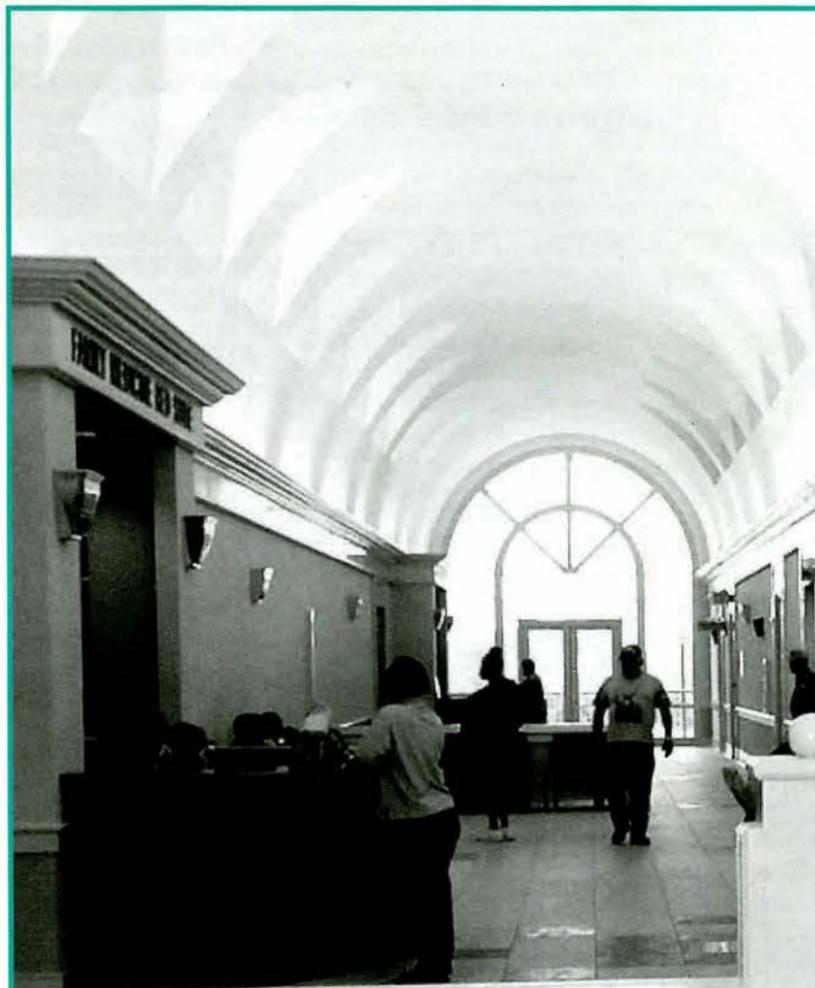
July, 2004

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 John Mantle, MD | "Treatment of AMI" |
| 8 Donnie Smith, MD | "Upper GI Bleeding" |
| 9 Steve Helm, MD | "Allergy Emergencies" |
| 13 Ford Simpson, MD | "Trauma to the Chest" |
| 15 Keith DeBell, MD | "DKA and Related Emergencies" |
| 16 TBA | |
| 20 Angela Woodard, MD | "Airway Management" |
| 22 Stephen Ikard, MD | "Orthopedic Emergencies" |
| 23 David Rice, MD | "Respiratory Emergencies" |
| 27 Ashley Evans, MD | "Pediatric Seizures" |
| 29 Kenneth Aldridge, MD | "Urological Emergencies" |
| 30 Albert White, MD | "Infectious Disease Emergencies" |

August, 2004

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 Carlos Berry, MD | "Major Psychiatric Emergencies" |
| 5 TBA | |
| 6 E. Eugene Marsh, III, MD | "Stroke & other Neurological Emergencies" |
| 10 Samuel Kantor, MD | "Acute Renal Failure" |
| 12 Carl Stephenson, MD
David Rosenstiel, MD | "ENT Emergencies" |
| 13 Paul Roberts, MD | "Trauma with Multiple Injuries" |
| 17 Karen Burgess, MD | "Pediatric Shock" |
| 19 George Kudirka, MD | "Eye Emergencies" |
| 20 S. B. Sundar, MD | "Lower GI Bleeding" |
| 24 Skip Pridgen, MD | "Acute Abdomen" |
| 26 Ross Vaughn, MD | "Congestive Heart Failure" |
| 27 William Curry, MD | "Hypertension Emergencies" |
| 31 Karl Hasik, MD | "OB/GYN Emergencies" |

This schedule was tentative at the time it was submitted. To confirm the speaker and topic, contact Carol Boshell, cboshell@cchs.ua.edu. CCHS Conference Schedules are available on the Health Sciences Library web site: www.bama.ua.edu/~hslib/



Waiting area outside the Family Medicine Clinics

*Below: Red Suite Reception; Internal Med Reception
 Pediatrics Nurses Desk; OB/GYN Desk*



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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The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences
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