

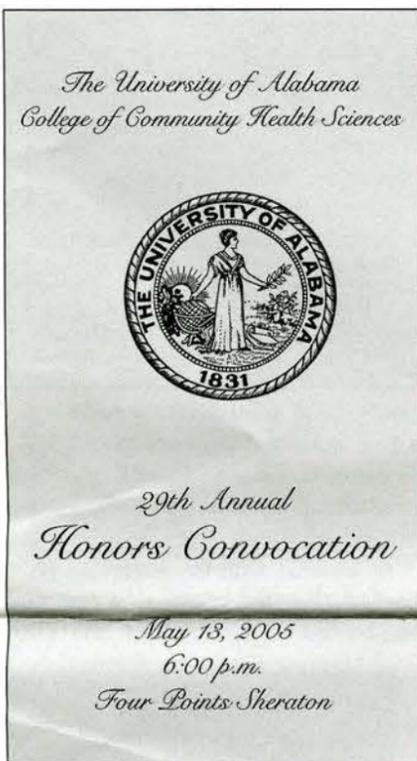
On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 15, Number 2

Summer 2005

Medical Students Recognized at Honors Convocation



Members of the 2005 Graduating Class were honored during the College of Community Health Sciences' 29th Annual Honors Convocation. The event was held May 13 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on The University of Alabama campus.

A total of 21 medical students are in the Graduating Class of 2005, and they will soon begin their residency training. They will enter the practice areas of Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Anesthesiology, and Neurology.

"Making a difference' is something we all aspire to do, and I would venture to say it's the reason most of us decide to pursue the field of medicine," said CCHS Interim Dean Eugene Marsh, M.D., who gave remarks at the convocation.

"Medicine is an area where numerous opportunities exist to make this kind of a difference - to have a significant effect on the lives of our patients and their families, to have a significant effect on the lives of others in our

community and to have a significant effect on the lives of the people that work with us or around us."

The College of Community Health Sciences provides the clinical education component for the University of Alabama's junior and senior medical students, while also addressing the need for training medical students and residents to practice in the smaller, rural communities of Alabama. The College's Family Practice Residency is one of the oldest and most productive in the Southeast.

Dr. Marsh also gave some advice to the new graduates.

"Listen, especially to your patients. That's critical to developing the kind of relationship that will ensure trust and confidence in you as a physician. Never be satisfied with where you are professionally. Never stop learning, never stop questioning, and never stop trying to

"Making a difference' is something we all aspire to do, and I would venture to say it's the reason most of us decide to pursue the field of medicine."

-Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean, the College of Community Health Sciences

be a better doctor. This is the culmination of four years of intense education. If we have done our job well, you are prepared to move to the next stage in your education. You have the knowledge to move forward."

(see pages 4 & 5)

Local Family Physician and Former UA Resident Will Be Missed

Dr. Jimmie Denise Clark-Travis, a local family practice physician who completed her residency training at the College of Community Health Sciences and who was the first African-American president of the Alabama chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, died June 16 after a yearlong battle with breast cancer. She was 39.

She is survived by her husband, Curtis L. Travis of Tuscaloosa, and children Ava Michelle Travis, 6, and Justine William Travis, 3.

Dr. Clark practiced at and was a partner in Tuscaloosa Family Practice & Obstetrics until her death. She insisted on working even as she underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

"She was intelligent, compassionate, dedicated and incredibly skilled in interpersonal relationships. I never saw her without a smile on her face. It was impossible to interact with her in any capacity without coming away feeling enriched and blessed," says Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences. "Hopefully, in our short time with Jimmie, we have learned enough to carry on her legacy."

Dr. Clark earned her medical degree from Brown University School of Medicine in May 1992, and completed her family residency training at the CCHS Tuscaloosa Family Practice



Dr. Jimmie D. Clark-Travis

"Jimmie was one of those rare individuals who personified all of the important attributes for which we all strive in medicine. We will miss her more than words can describe."

- Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean, the College of Community Health Sciences

Residency Program, graduating in June 1995. She received her Master's in Public Health degree in June 1997 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In addition to her involvement with Tuscaloosa Family Practice & Obstetrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Clark was active in numerous other organizations concerned with improving the availability and accessibility of health care for all of Alabama's citizens. She was president of the West Alabama Family Practice Association, vice chair of the Family Medicine Department at DCH Regional Medical Center, and chair-elect of the Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee. She was also a current member of the Alabama Practice Rural Health Board (appointed by then-Gov. Don Siegelman), the Emergency Response Commission on the Health Care Crisis in Alabama, the American Academy of Family Physicians' Commission on Public Health, and the Alabama Governor's Black Belt Action Commission.

"I will remember Dr. Clark for her smiling face and for her huge heart. She brought a tremendous

amount of expertise and passion to our (commission) and she will be missed," says Chad Nichols, project manager for the Black Belt Action Commission's Health Committee.

Adds Dr. John Brandon, president of the Rural Alabama Health Alliance and a family practice physician in Pickens County: "I know that all of you share with me the loss of this outstanding mother, spouse, family physician and Alabama leader. As the current president of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, her loss will be felt by many, many people across Alabama and this entire country."

Former UA medical students fondly recall Dr. Clark. They say that not only was she a highly competent physician, but she was also truly compassionate.

Dr. Tracey Miles, who practices family medicine in Fort Benning, Ga., became friends with Dr. Clark while Dr. Clark was a resident in Tuscaloosa and Dr. Miles was a medical student here.

"We had all been hoping for a miracle," Dr. Miles told the Tuscaloosa News in a June article. "I certainly realize that Jimmie herself was a miracle."

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E. Eugene Marsh, M.D.

An Eventful Year

A Message from the Dean

This past year has had its share of ups and downs. Fortunately for our College, the "ups" seem to be occurring with increasing frequency.

From an educational standpoint, this edition of OnRounds documents the outstanding achievements of our medical students in competing for residency positions. During a year in which the leadership of the residency program transitioned from Dr. Sam Gaskins, who recently retired, to Dr. Chelley Alexander, our residency "matched" with an outstanding class, and we will have at least one, and possibly two, obstetrics fellows. The College's rural medical programs, under the direction of Dr. John Wheat, continue to demonstrate their effectiveness in creating a "pipeline" to provide physicians to rural and underserved areas of Alabama. In addition, our Medical Student Education Program Committee, which includes clerkship directors for our third-year medical students under the

leadership of Dr. Ashley Evans, has developed a new and innovative curriculum known as TERM, short for Tuscaloosa Exposure to Rural Medicine. We are now ready to begin implementation of a pilot program for medical students who, as part of the new curriculum, will spend the majority of their third and fourth years of medical school at a rural site. The goal of the TERM curriculum, in keeping with the College's mission, is to expose medical students on the Tuscaloosa campus to the practice of medicine in rural Alabama in an effort to increase the likelihood that graduates will select primary care residencies and establish practices in rural Alabama communities.

From a research standpoint, this year has seen the appointment of Dr. John C. Higginbotham, Director of the Institute for Rural Health Research and Interim Chair of the Department of Community and Rural Medicine, to Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy for the College. Dr. Higginbotham is quickly building a research infrastructure in the College through the recruitment of a number of talented individuals. These efforts will ensure continued success and growth of our College's research mission. Already, an increasing number of our faculty are becoming involved in research, and some have been recipients of prestigious national grants.

Our College is increasing its focus on service at all levels. Several of our faculty members serve on national and statewide committees and boards of directors. Our College accepted a leadership role in this year's American Heart Association Heart Walk, and I am pleased to report that we had record participation and contributions. Through these and other efforts, we are increasing our visibility locally and nationally.

Our Foundation has experienced some difficult, but necessary, changes this year that have resulted in a dramatic financial turnaround for both the Foundation and the College. A recent article in Tuscaloosa Businessink detailed the reorganization process and recognized many of the individuals and groups responsible. These efforts have resulted in significant changes in how we do our work and have been successful because of the willingness of our faculty and staff to pitch in and do what needed to be done. There have also been changes in how we are perceived by the community as we emphasize our commitment to compassionate, high-quality health care. The end result is a healthy Foundation that is now in a solid position to support our academic mission.

This truly has been an eventful year for our College. We are now poised to proceed with renewed dedication to our mission, supported by the resources necessary to make fulfillment of that mission a reality.

Dr. Eugene Marsh, Interim Dean
College of Community Health Sciences

2005 Heart Walk

The 2005 Greater Tuscaloosa American Heart Association Heart Walk, held for the first time on The University of Alabama campus, drew more than 750 participants and raised approximately \$125,000.

"I am pleased to say that this was the most successful Heart Walk ever for West Alabama, both in the number of participants and in the amount of money raised," says Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences, and chairperson of this year's walk.

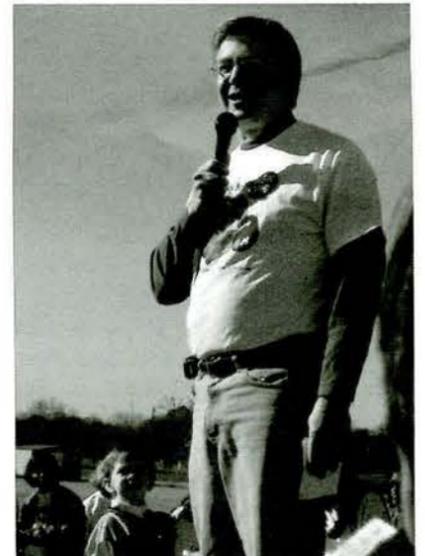
Last year's heart walk raised approximately \$100,000 and attracted 440 walkers.

The 2005 Heart Walk was held March 12 at the Field Services Complex on the Intramural Fields. Teams of employees, family members, friends and others participated in the 5K walk, which raised money to fight heart disease and stroke.

"We live in an area where the risk and severity of heart disease and stroke

are extremely high," Dr. Marsh says. "In working with the American Heart Association in various capacities for the last 17 years, I have seen first-hand how this organization has had an impact on stroke and heart disease prevention through its support of research and education."

Dean Mann, regional director of the American Heart Association, says the annual heart walk "brings together teams of walkers in an effort to raise money, through individual donations, to support community educational programs and to fund life saving research related to heart disease and stroke."



Dr. Eugene Marsh, CCHS Interim Dean, welcomes walkers to the 2005 Heart Walk.



More than 750 people took part in the 2005 Heart Walk held for the first time on The University of Alabama campus.



(From left to right) Dr. Laura Satcher, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, and Drs. Beverly Jordan and Krishna Doniparthi, third-year residents in 2004-2005, were among the walkers in the 2005 Heart Walk.



(From left to right) Dr. Margaret Garner, CCHS Assistant Professor and Director of Nutrition Education and Services, Delynne Wilcox, Coordinator of Health Education and Wellness at the Russell Student Health Center, and Linda Jackson, Communication and Public Information Specialist for the College's Department of Community and Rural Medicine, make final preparations for the 2005 Heart Walk.

News from the College of Community Health Sciences

Rural Medical Scholars Enter Medical School as New Class Enters Program

The 2004-2005 class of the University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars was honored at the 9th Annual Rural Medical Scholars Convocation held April 21 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on The University of Alabama campus.

Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences, was the convocation's guest speaker.

"My hope is that the experience you have had during this time, the camaraderie that you have built with each other, the relationships that you have developed with others in this state who are committed to rural health and what you have learned about the science and art of medicine will ensure successful completion of your career goals to practice primary care, hopefully in a rural setting," Dr. Marsh said.

The convocation also honored two individuals – Dr. Richard Rutland and the late Dr. Robert Garner – whose dedication to the Rural Medical Scholars Program has been instrumental to its success. Dr. Garner helped found and directed two of the Rural Scholars programs and worked tirelessly to help rural scholars become practicing physicians. Dr. Rutland, a family physician from Fayette, Ala., served as the College's first Residency Director and was acknowledged for his lifelong commitment to helping supply rural Alabama communities with family physicians. Dr. Rutland also founded rural health clinics in Berry, Ala., and Kennedy, Ala., and helped bring mental health care services to Fayette.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program is designed for rural students who plan to enter medical school and become primary care physicians in rural communities in Alabama. The 2004-2005 class will enter medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in August 2005.

Meanwhile, the 2005-2006 class of Rural Medical Scholars will begin its one-year program this fall. Members of the class were chosen in June after completing interviews with practicing family physicians in Alabama, rural health care providers and faculty from the College of Community Health Sciences.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program was founded in 1996 by John R. Wheat, M.D., a Professor in the College's Department of Community and Rural Medicine, to help fulfill the College's mission of providing primary care physicians for Alabama's underserved rural communities. The first class of Rural Medical Scholars entered practice in rural primary care last year.



The 2004-2005 Rural Medical Scholars: (Seated left to right) Gabe Hester, Fayette County; Josh Bell, DeKalb County; Daniel York, Jackson County; Rocky Lyons, Marengo County; Rane McLaughlin, Dale County. (Standing left to right) Chuck Dennison, Elmore County; Lance Smith, Baldwin County; Brandon Slagley, Butler County; Brett Thornton, Pickens County; and Bret Henderson, Escambia County.



Dr. Richard Rutland (right) shows his award to his son-in-law Mike McBrearty, M.D., (left) the Chief Resident of the College's Family Practice Residency in 1976.



Margaret Garner (in front of podium) and her sons, Thomas Garner (far left), Benjamin Garner (left), and Jon Garner (center), are presented an engraved piece of crystal by Cynthia Moore, Assistant Director of the Rural Scholars Programs, in memory of Dr. Robert Garner for his commitment to the Rural Scholars programs.

The Rural Alabama Health Alliance acknowledged its appreciation for the partnership between RAHA and the College of Community Health Sciences at the 9th Annual Rural Medical Scholars Convocation. Eric Smith, Pickens County RAHA member and President-Elect of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, said, "We wish to commend CCHS for its sustained and on-going efforts to improve health care in our state's rural counties, primarily in the medical education of physicians who enter rural practice." He said the College assisted practicing physicians in the area through consultations and referrals, collaborated with local physicians and hospitals to organize and provide programs of maternity care in rural Alabama, developed special outreach programs to involve local children in all types of health care careers, and responded to the agricultural community's special health concerns.

Institute for Rural Health Research Collaborates on Multi-Million Dollar Research Grants

The Institute for Rural Health Research, the research arm of the College of Community Health Sciences, is a collaborating partner in two major research projects that recently received funding.

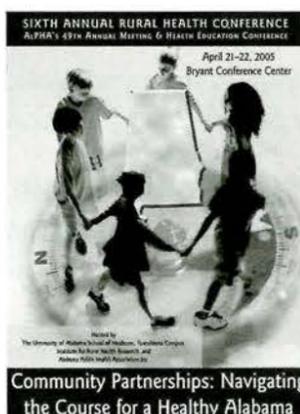
The National Cancer Institute awarded a \$6.4 million grant to the University of Alabama at Birmingham to reduce cancer mortality disparities in minority and poor populations in Alabama and Mississippi. The award, one of only 25 nationally, will fund the UAB Deep South Network for Cancer Control. John C. Higginbotham, Ph.D., M.P.H., CCHS Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy and Director of the Institute, is a Co-Investigator on the project and the Institute houses the DSNCC Data Center, where Institute affiliates provide Web-based data collection, management and analysis.

The DSNCC project targets two poor, rural regions – Alabama's Black Belt and the Mississippi Delta – and two urban areas – Jefferson County, Ala., and the Hattiesburg/Laurel, Miss., metropolitan region. The network trains leaders in these communities to educate family and friends about the importance of prevention and early detection of cancer.

This is the second time the NCI has provided funding for the project, which received a \$6.1 million, five-year grant in 2000. The Institute for Rural Health Research was also a collaborating partner in that grant.

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases awarded a \$2 million grant to UAB for a project titled, "Internet Interventions for Improving Rural Diabetes Care." Chelley Alexander, M.D., Assistant Professor in the Family Medicine Department and Residency Director for the College, is a Co-Investigator on the project, which seeks to create an Internet-based intervention program to translate evidence from diabetes research into routine practice for adult patients with Type 2 diabetes in rural Alabama.

Sixth Annual Rural Health Conference Draws Hundreds of Attendees



Nearly 400 health care professionals, researchers, community leaders, government officials and others with an interest in the health of rural Alabama attended the Sixth Annual Rural Health Conference April 20-22 at the Bryant Conference Center on The University of Alabama campus.

The conference is hosted annually by the Institute for Rural Health Research. This year, the event was co-hosted by the Alabama Public Health Association.

The conference was supported in part by a grant awarded to the Institute by the National Institutes of Health's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

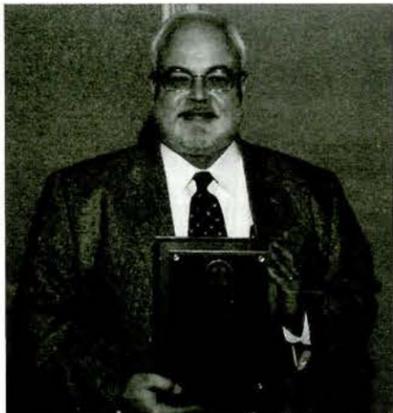
Topics at the conference included HIV/AIDS, mental health, emerging infectious diseases and agri-medicine. Conference attendees also heard from officials with the Governor's Black Belt Action Commission and the Emergency Response to the Health Care Crisis in Alabama Commission – two statewide initiatives with a mandate to improve the availability and accessibility of health care for all Alabamians.

The conference also included several pre-conference workshops: Grant Writing for Community-Based Organizations; Public Health Nursing; and Public Health Social Work.

Francisco Sy, M.D., Dr.P.H., Chief of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities' Office of Participatory Community-Based Research and Outreach, gave the keynote address. Other featured speakers included: Vanessa Northington Gamble, M.D., Ph.D., Director of The Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care; U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, who represents Alabama's 7th Congressional District, which includes portions of the state's Black Belt region; and Ed Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Director for Public Health Services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Rural Health Conferences are part of an ongoing effort to share research findings and other information about the health disparities that exist in Alabama so that partnerships and strategies can be developed to eliminate these disparities.

Awards Presented at 29th



Daniel M. Avery, M.D., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, awarded the Faculty Recognition Award/Junior Year.



A. Robert Sheppard, M.D., awarded the Patrick McCue Award/Senior Year



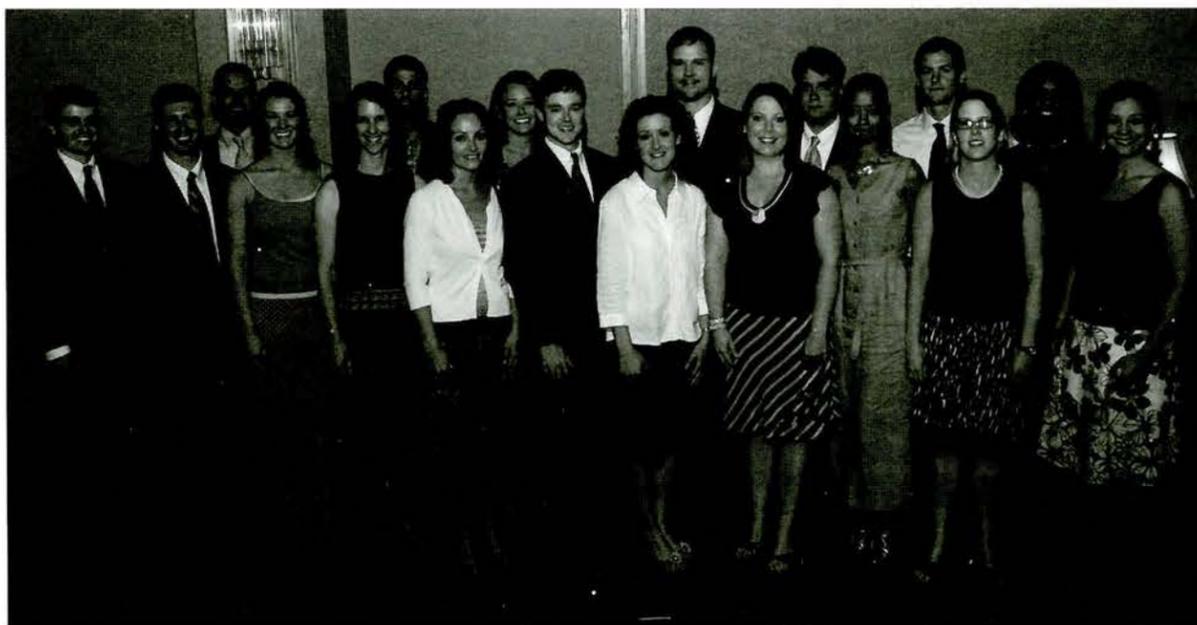
Nancy Rubin, Psy.D., Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine (left) presents the Peter Bryce Award in Psychiatry to Mandi Michelle Allen-Bell (right).



Julia Lett Boothe, M.D., Resident Physician, awarded the Resident Recognition Award.



Emily Barnes Williams (left) receives the Pediatric Student Award from Michael A. Taylor, M.D., Department of Pediatrics (right).



Members of the College of Community Health Sciences' Graduating Class of 2005.

Members of the Graduating Class of 2005

Mandi Michelle Allen-Bell	Kenisha Rochelle Martin
Michael Jesse Bindon	Meredith Laura Medley
Jeremy Ty Blackwell	Thomas Herbert Patton IV
Larry Dale Brown	Jon Ivan Roden
Amanda Davis Chavers	Jarred Lee Sartain
Kyle Stewart Chavers	Kelli Harris Tapley
Erin Eileen Coleman	Candice Mechelle Terry
Elizabeth Nelson Dawson	Erica Lynn Thomas (<i>graduated magna cum laude</i>)
Tara Rexanne Goodson	Kerri-Ann Rochelle Thompson
Kristine Renee Graettinger	Emily Barnes Williams
Daniel Wilson Jones	

STUDENT AWARDS

Faculty Recognition Award/Junior Year: Awarded to Daniel M. Avery, M.D.
Given by the Senior Class for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during the Junior Year.

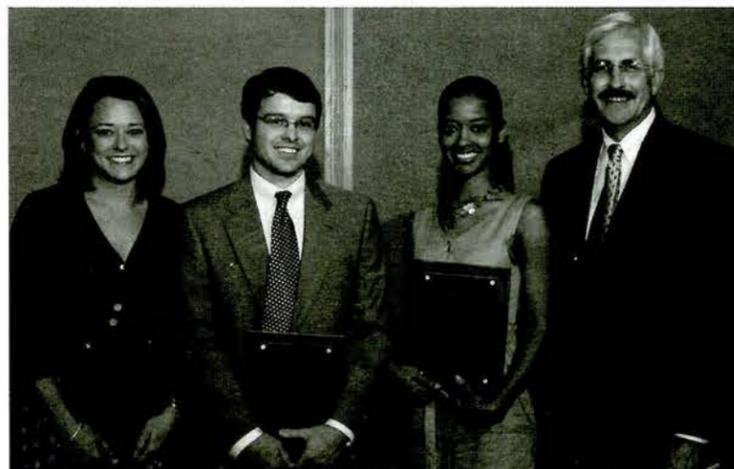
Patrick McCue Award/Senior Year: Awarded to A. Robert Sheppard, M.D.
Given by the Senior Class for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during the Senior Year.

Resident Recognition Award: Awarded to Julia Lett Boothe, M.D.
Given by the Senior Class for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education.

James H. Akers Memorial Award: Awarded to Emily Barnes Williams
Presented annually by the Graduating Senior Class to the Tuscaloosa Senior student who best personifies both the art and the science of the practice of medicine.



Erica Lynn Thomas (left) receives the Scholastic Achievement Award from CCHS Interim Dean Eugene Marsh, M.D. (right).



Joseph C. Wallace, M.D., Department of Surgery (far right) presents the William R. Shamblin Surgery Award to Amanda Davis Chavers (far left), Thomas Herbert Patton IV (left) and Erica Lynn Thomas (right).

Annual Honors Convocation

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Family Medicine Award: Awarded to Emily Barnes Williams
Presented to the student who demonstrates excellence in Family Medicine.

William W. Winternitz Award in Internal Medicine: Awarded to Jarred Lee Sartain
Given for excellent performance by a student in Internal Medicine.

Pediatrics Recognition Award: Awarded to Erica Lynn Thomas
Given to a student for excellent performance in Pediatrics.

Pediatric Student Award/4th Year: Awarded to Emily Barnes Williams
Presented to a fourth-year medical student who demonstrates outstanding interest, skills and knowledge of the care of children.

Peter Bryce Award in Psychiatry: Awarded to Mandi Michelle Allen-Bell
Presented to a Senior student who demonstrated the highest performance in Psychiatry.

Robert F. Gloor Award in Community Medicine: Awarded to Emily Barnes Williams and Elizabeth Nelson Dawson
Presented for excellent performance in Community and Rural Medicine.

Family/Rural Medicine Preceptor's Award: Awarded to Sumpter Blackmon of Camden, Alabama

William R. Shamblin, M.D., Surgery Award: Awarded to Amanda Davis Chavers, Thomas Herbert Patton IV and Erica Lynn Thomas
Presented to a Senior student(s) for excellent performance in Surgery.

Finney/Akers Memorial Award in Obstetrics-Gynecology: Awarded to Kristine Renee Graettinger
Presented to a student who exhibited outstanding ability in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Neurology Award: Awarded to Thomas Herbert Patton IV
Presented to a student for outstanding performance during the Neurology Clerkship.

Student Research Award: Awarded to Jeremy Ty Blackwell
Presented to a student for recognition of the pursuit of one or more research projects leading to presentation or publication during the clinical years of medical training.

Scholastic Achievement Award: Awarded to Erica Lynn Thomas
Given to the Senior student with the highest academic performance in the clinical years.

William R. Willard Award (Dean's Award): Awarded to Jarred Lee Sartain
This singular recognition is awarded annually to a Senior medical student for outstanding contributions to the goals and missions of the College of Community Health Sciences.

OTHER AWARDS

Larry Mayes Memorial Scholarship: Awarded to Eric L. Wallace
Presented to a Junior student to recognize his or her work in an underserved area.

The American Medical Women's Association Janet M. Glasgow Award: Awarded to Erica Lynn Thomas
Presented to female students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class.

The Merck Manual Award: Awarded to Erica Lynn Thomas
Presented to outstanding students in medical education.



Thomas Herbert Patton IV (left) receives the Neurology Award from CCHS Interim Dean Eugene Marsh, M.D. (right).



Laura Satcher, M.D., Department of Family Medicine (right), presents the Family Medicine Award to Emily Barnes Williams (left).



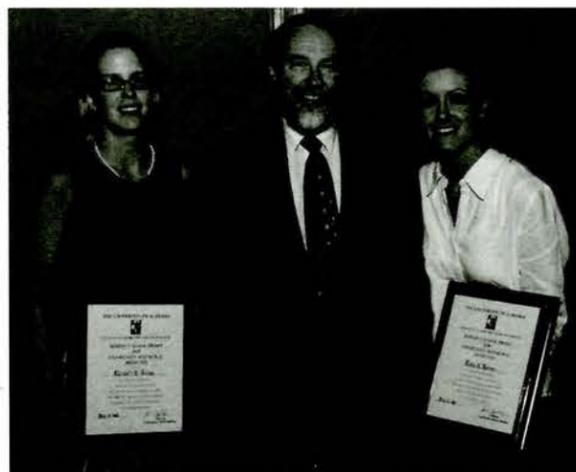
Erica Lynn Thomas (left) receives the Pediatrics Recognition Award from Michael A. Taylor, M.D., Department of Pediatrics (right).



Nancy Rubin, Psy.D., Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine (left) presents the Student Research Award to Jeremy Ty Blackwell (right).



Jarred Lee Sartain (left) receives the William R. Willard Award (Dean's Award) from CCHS Interim Dean Eugene Marsh, M.D. (right).



James D. Leeper, Ph.D., Department of Community and Rural Medicine (center) presents the Robert F. Gloor Award to Elizabeth Nelson Dawson (left) and Emily Barnes Williams (right).



Dwight Hooper, M.D. (left) and Daniel M. Avery, M.D. (right), Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, present the Finney/Akers Memorial Award in Obstetrics-Gynecology Award to Kristine Renee Graettinger (center).

College of Community Health Sciences Faculty and Staff News

New Faculty and Staff



Lloyda Williamson

Lloyda Williamson, M.D., has joined the College of Community Health Sciences as an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine. She will also practice in the University Medical Center's Betty Shirley Clinic. Dr. Williamson is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in both Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry.

"As a psychiatrist, I count it a privilege and a blessing to work with individuals, including children and their families," she says.

Dr. Williamson graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., in 1990. She completed her Psychiatry Residency and Child Psychiatry Fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta in 1993 and 1995, respectively. She served as Chief Resident in Child Psychology from 1994 to 1995.

She later joined the faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta as an instructor, and held the position of Medical Director of the South Central Fulton Community Mental Health Center from 1995 to 1996. For the next four years, Dr. Williamson was in private practice in Peachtree City, Ga., and Newnan, Ga., and served as an Associate Medical Director for Laurel Heights Hospital, an intensive residential center in Atlanta.

Dr. Williamson moved to Tuscaloosa in 2000 and was in private practice until this year, specializing in the areas of Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry.

Dr. Williamson is married to Dennis Williamson, a practicing attorney and graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law. They have a 5-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter. In her spare time, Dr. Williamson enjoys singing, playing the piano and coordinating children's activities at her church.



Brenda Warbington

Brenda Warbington, MSN, RN, joined the College's Institute for Rural Health Research as a Research Associate in March. Her primary responsibilities include finding grant and other funding sources for research projects, as well as conducting research related to funded projects.

As a registered nurse for 14 years, Warbington's experience includes clinical, community and rural nursing practice. She received her Associate Degree in 1991 from the University of West Alabama. She graduated from the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing with her Master's Degree in Nursing in 2003.

Prior to joining IRHR, Warbington worked with The Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation, the state's Quality Improvement Organization. She also worked with AQAF's Home Health Quality Improvement section.

Warbington currently serves as a consultant to the Emergency Response Commission to the Health Care Crisis in Alabama. She is also a member of the Alabama State Nurses Association.

Warbington is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in Health Promotion and Health Education from The University of Alabama beginning in the fall 2005. She and her husband, Daren, have two children, Andrew and Mary Ashley.



Melanie Tucker

Melanie Tucker, MA, CCRC, is a Research Associate with the College's Institute for Rural Health Research in the Division of Clinical Investigations. She joined the Institute in March after working in clinical trials at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Prior to beginning her work in clinical research, Tucker was a Marriage and Family therapist in Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Tucker received her Bachelor's Degree in Personnel Psychology from Athens University and her Master's Degree in Counselor Education from The University of Alabama. She has completed her course work for her Ph.D. in

Health Education and Health Promotion and is currently writing her dissertation. She and her husband, George Brown, Director of University Recreation, have a blended family of six children, ages three to 16.



Lori Upton

Lori Upton, has joined the College's Department of Community and Rural Medicine as an administrative secretary. Upton will also serve the College's Institute for Rural Health Research as an administrative secretary for the Division of Clinical Investigations.

Prior to joining the Institute, Upton was an administrative secretary with the College's Department of Family Medicine, where she provided staff support to Dr. Alan Blum, the Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, as well as to Diedre Clark, PharmD, Robert Ireland Jr., M.D., and Jerry T. McKnight, M.D.

Retirements

Theresa Bowden, longtime executive secretary in the College's Department of Community and Rural Medicine, retired in June after 26 years with the department.

She says the friendships she developed with faculty and staff in the department, and viewing firsthand the advancement of students as they came and went, are what she will miss the most.

Bowden and her husband, who was born and raised in Gordo, Alabama, moved to Tuscaloosa from Chicago in 1979.

Bowden immediately began applying for jobs around town and soon interviewed for her position in the Department of Community and Rural Medicine. She was hired and during her years there was a dedicated worker and devoted friend to both students and faculty.

"Theresa was not just the glue that held the department together; she understood and exemplified the tenets of community medicine," says John C. Higginbotham, Ph.D., M.P.H., the College's Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy and Interim Chair of the Department of Community and Rural Medicine.

Bowden has been an active volunteer in the Tuscaloosa area, and says retirement gives her more time to devote to organizations such as Turning Points, a center for women and children who are victims of domestic violence, and the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She also continues to volunteer for REACH 2010, a national initiative to eliminate breast and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality among African-American and white women in Alabama.

"Many people are committed to their jobs. Theresa was committed not only to her job, but to making a difference wherever she could," Dr. Higginbotham says. "The department, the College, our faculty and the University are better off because she chose to make her career here."

In her spare time, Bowden plans to take a cruise and travel to Chicago to visit her family.



Theresa Bowden

Deaths

David Charles Hefelfinger, M.D., former professor and chair of the College's Department of Pediatrics, died July 19 at his home in Tuscaloosa. He retired in 2000 after 27 years with the College.

Born in Asbury Park, N.J., Dr. Hefelfinger received his baccalaureate and medical degrees at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He completed his residency training in pediatrics at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he was chief resident. After serving several years in the military, he entered private practice in Pensacola, Fla., in 1971.

Dr. Hefelfinger joined the College in early 1974 as a faculty member and was soon appointed head of pediatrics. He also served as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. He was a Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Among his many honors, Dr. Hefelfinger received the American Academy of Pediatrics Award for Outstanding Service as Federal Access Legislative Coordinator in 1992, as well as the Child Advocate Award for Outstanding Service in 2002.

College of Community Health Sciences Physician Seeks to Increase Training for Child Abuse Screenings

Michael A. Taylor, M.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the College of Community Health Sciences' Department of Pediatrics, is committed to serving West Alabama children who are suspected of being victims of physical or sexual abuse. Dr. Taylor, who also practices at University Medical Center, runs a Child Abuse Clinic most Tuesday mornings at the medical center. The purpose of the Child Abuse Clinic is to provide a screening examination for every child suspected of being sexually or physically abused. These screenings are performed by medical personnel skilled in recognizing normal and abnormal findings. "This is a very complex and difficult area of medicine that requires experience and ongoing training," Dr. Taylor says.



Michael A. Taylor, M.D.
Department of Pediatrics

Medically proficient and appropriate examinations can reinforce to a child that the abuse was not the child's fault, and that the child's body is healing and valued, Dr. Taylor says. Children from the age of 9 months to 17 years are served in the clinic. The service area includes 11 mostly rural counties: Bibb, Choctaw, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Tuscaloosa and Walker. The clinic serves approximately 200 children per year.

Obtaining medical expertise on child abuse and neglect cases continues to be a challenge in Alabama because of a shortage of medical experts trained in this area, according to Molly Barksdale, a nurse practitioner in the University Medical Center Pediatrics Department. The complex nature of child abuse evaluations requires medical professionals who are extensively trained in recognizing and documenting signs of child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse, Barksdale says. Because of a shortage of medical expertise in this area, child abuse evaluations, even when attained, often come weeks after the abuse occurred, resulting in a loss of evidence associated with recent abuse.

The Alabama Child Abuse Provider Network is hoping to increase the number of medical professionals trained in conducting child abuse

evaluations. ALCAP currently consists of a network of physicians across the state who are qualified to perform child abuse evaluations. The organization also operates a pediatric abuse clinic in Anniston, Ala., that is staffed by nurse practitioners who, in addition to performing such evaluations, can also train physicians to do so.

In partnership with the Alabama Department of Human Resources, law enforcement agencies and local district attorneys, ALCAP is working to open similar clinics for children across the state of Alabama and to increase the number of physicians who are willing and qualified to diagnose child physical and sexual abuse. Currently, when the physicians in the network, like Dr. Taylor, are contacted about a suspected case of child abuse, they conduct the examinations wherever their clinic setting might be.

For the past three years, ALCAP has been funded with a grant awarded by the Department of Human Resources. On September 30, that funding will end.

"Without grants and funding, there will be no supplies to work with. We will have nothing," Barksdale says.

A lack of funding not only eliminates needed supplies but also increases the barriers that limit the ability and willingness of medical providers to perform child abuse evaluations, Barksdale says. Many physicians receive inadequate reimbursement for time spent testifying for families in court. This decrease in compensation, partnered with increased regulatory paperwork, has added tremendously to the reluctance by many physicians to take on such complex work, says Barksdale.

"The most important thing is to reach out to medical professionals to help children receive quality, comprehensive evaluations. ALCAP is working to form a statewide network of providers so these children have a place to go," Barksdale says.

Grants and donations to University Medical Center's Child Abuse Clinic, one of the ALCAP network locations, can be received through personal, corporate or foundation grants.

To receive more information about the Child Abuse Clinic, ALCAP, or to make a donation, please contact Allison Leitner, Director of Advancement for the College of Community Health Sciences, at (205)348-5701, or via e-mail at aleitner@cchs.ua.edu.

Alumni Notes

The College of Community Health Sciences Says "Thank you" to ...

Dr. Angela Powell, 1996 residency graduate, for participating in the production of the College of Community Health Sciences' new brochure. Dr. Powell is pictured with the Ratcliff family. Dr. Powell began caring for the Ratcliff family during her residency. Teresa Ratcliff has provided a wonderful testimonial about the care her entire family receives from Dr. Powell. Dr. Powell practices in Monroeville along with Sage Smith, who finished both his medical school and residency at CCHS in 1981 and 1984, respectively.



Dr. Powell and Ratcliff Family

Dr. Paul Guilbault, 1998 residency graduate, for training our medical students, residents and faculty on CPT coding. Dr. Guilbault spent two days in April at University Medical Center, which is operated by the College, meeting one-on-one with available residents and faculty.

Dr. Mark Woods, who completed medical school and his residency at CCHS in 1985 and 1988, respectively, for speaking at Grand Rounds in May on the new Medicare D laws. Dr. Woods is Medical Director of Partlow Developmental Center and a partner at First Care in Tuscaloosa.

In the Spotlight

CCHS Interim Dean Eugene Marsh, M.D., participated in the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Leaders in Healthcare Education at Harvard Medical School June 12-17. The program is geared toward leaders with major responsibilities for health care education across various disciplines and is designed to assist them in developing strategies for leading change within a rapidly evolving health care delivery system.

John C. Higginbotham, Ph.D., M.P.H., CCHS Associate Dean for Research and Health Policy and Director of the Institute for Rural Health Research, served as Alabama Congressman Artur Davis' representative at the National Minority Health Month Foundation's Annual Leadership Summit on Health Disparities May 25-28 in Washington D.C. The summit provides industry leaders, clinicians, policymakers and community experts a forum in which to gain new insights into identifying, measuring and treating chronic disease disparities.

Dr. Higginbotham has also been named to a prestigious standing review committee for the National Center for Research Review. Since his appointment to the Review Panel for Research Centers in Minority Institutions Clinical Research Infrastructure, Dr. Higginbotham has conducted site reviews at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta and the University of Puerto Rico.

2005-2006 Alumni Events

Alabama vs. LSU
Pre-Game Breakfast
Saturday, November 12th

College of Community Health Sciences • Activities for children available

Residency Reunion
April 28-29, 2006
NorthRiver Yacht Club

Continuing Medical Education available

Detailed information will be mailed next month.

If you have recommendations for either event, please call or email Allison Leitner at (205) 348-5701 or aleitner@cchs.ua.edu

SAVE THE DATES!

The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences

Grand Rounds Schedule

All events held at Willard Auditorium at DCH Regional Medical Center from 12:15-1:15 p.m.

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
September 2 FIRST FRIDAY	Hank Lazer, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Programs & Services, Office of Academic Affairs, The University of Alabama	"Poetry As Medicine: The Uses of Poetry"
September 9	Marc Feldman, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham James C. Hamilton, M.D., Asst. Professor of Psychology, The University of Alabama	"Understanding Factitious Disorder and Malingering"
September 16	John C. Wellons, III, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham	"Think First Alabama - A National Brain & Spine Injury Prevention Program Coming Soon to a School Near You"
September 19 GI WEEK	Michele Bishop, M.D., Division of GI & Hepatology, Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville	"Genetic Advances in Diseases of the Pancreas"
September 20 GI WEEK	Jorge Herrera, M.D., Division of Gastroenterology, College of Medicine, University of South Alabama	"Hepatitis C"
September 21 GI WEEK	Jack DiPalma, M.D., Division of Gastroenterology, College of Medicine, University of South Alabama	"Colon Cancer Screening"
September 22 GI WEEK	Brendan McGuire, M.D., Associate Professor-Medicine Gastroenterology University of Alabama at Birmingham	"Outpatient Management of Chronic Liver Disease"
September 23 GI WEEK	Anil Minocha, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Division of Digestive Disease, University of Mississippi Medical Center	"GERD, I NERDS, Ulcers, Drugs and Bugs"
September 30	Alan M. Blum, M.D., Professor, Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine, The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences	"The Physician's Role in Ending the Tobacco Pandemic: A Waning Commitment?"
October 7 FIRST FRIDAY	Jerry Oldshue, Ph.D., University Archivist Emeritus, University Libraries, The University of Alabama	"Wars and Tuscaloosa"
October 14	Robert Goldenberg, M.D., Professor of OB/GYN, University of Alabama at Birmingham	TBA
October 21	Peyton Shirley, M.D., Pediatric ENT Associates, Children's Hospital of Alabama Birmingham, AL	"Pediatric Airway Anomalies"
October 28	TBA	TBA
November 7 NEUROLOGY WEEK	James Geyer, M.D., Neurology Consultants of Tuscaloosa PC, Tuscaloosa, AL	"Seizures/Epilepsy"
November 8 NEUROLOGY WEEK	Gwen Claussen, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, University of Alabama at Birmingham	"Peripheral Neuropathy"
November 9 NEUROLOGY WEEK	David Charles, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, Director, The Movement Disorders Division, Vanderbilt University	"Treatment of Parkinson's Disease"
November 10 NEUROLOGY WEEK	Richard Zweifler, M.D., USA Neurology Stroke Center, Mobile, AL	"Acute Stroke"
November 11 NEUROLOGY WEEK	Philip Gorelick, M.D., Professor and Head, Department of Neurology, University of Illinois	"Impact of Risk Factor Management for Stroke Prevention"
November 18 Alice McLean Stewart Endowed Lecture	Peter S. Lane, D.O., Assistant Professor, UAB Center for Psychiatric Medicine	"Alcohol Addiction"
December 2 FIRST FRIDAY	Jane Stanfield, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for International & Global Affairs The University of Alabama	TBA
December 9	Jayne Ness, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham	TBA
December 16 Bahar Memorial Lecture	James K. Kirklin, M.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham	TBA

The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences/School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide Continuing Medical Education to physicians. The University of Alabama School of Medicine designates this educational activity for up to one (1) hour of Category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each participant should claim only those hours of credit he or she actually spent in educational activity. College of Community Health Sciences conference schedules are available at <http://cchs.ua.edu/departments/continuing/index.html>.

For additional information, call (205) 348-0093 or e-mail: dawn@cchs.ua.edu



The College of Community Health Sciences is a clinical branch campus of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Established in 1972, CCHS emphasizes family practice and 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) 348-3079 lzganjar@cchs.ua.edu
Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean

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