Plans Underway for New Building
Approved by Board of Trustees

The College of Community Health Sciences and its Capstone Medical Center will move into a new building on the corner of 5th Avenue and University Boulevard in two years, according to the timeline CCHS Dean William Curry, MD, announced to college faculty and staff in September. The site is at the east entrance to The University campus.

"Since it is so visible, the building will be a visitor's first impression of The University," said Dr. Curry, "an attractive location for donors who will have naming opportunities for the new building and rooms or furnishings within it." Groundbreaking is scheduled for summer, 2001.

Financing for the project will come from University funds, private donors, and a UA bond issue, said Dr. Curry. The pending sale of the UA Educational Tower at the hospital to DCH and approval by the UA Board of Trustees of architects for the project cleared the way for detailed planning for building. Associate Dean Marc Armstrong, MD, (continued, p. 2)

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Dr. John Burnum, CCHS Professor of Internal Medicine, presents the 2000 Internal Medicine Award to graduating Chief Resident Dr. Jeff Lauberthal. More awards and photos, page 3.

Elizabeth Cockrum, MD
Recognized for Outstanding Commitment to Teaching

CCHS Pediatrician Wins UA's Top Teaching Award

by Lance M. Skelly
UA Office of Media Relations

Dr. Elizabeth L. Cockrum, associate professor of pediatrics in The University of Alabama's College of Community Health Sciences, is one of four recipients of this year's Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award (OCTA) at UA.

Established in 1976, OCTA recognizes dedication to the teaching profession and the positive impact professors have on their students. Given by UA's National Alumni Association, the award is the University's highest honor for excellence in teaching. Previous OCTA recipients from the CCHS faculty are James Leeper, PhD, Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Community & Rural Medicine; William Winternitz, MD, Professor, Internal Medicine; and former Community Medicine professor and UA Vice President, Harry Knope, PhD.

Dr. Cockrum joined the CCHS faculty in 1989. She was promoted to associate professor of clinical pediatrics in 1995. Cockrum has served as director of the pediatric clerkship for third-year medical students since 1991, and she also served as chair of the pediatric department at DCH Regional Medical Center from 1996-1998.

"Dr. Cockrum has the best knowledge base for care of pediatric patients I have ever encountered," said a colleague in a letter recommending her for the OCTA award. "This knowledge is accompanied by an extremely keen clinical acumen. Together, these qualities make her an outstanding pediatrician, enabling her to provide students with the best learning experiences possible."

Cockrum graduated from UA and went on to earn her MD from the UA School of Medicine. She did her pediatric residency at The Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham. She instructs third- and fourth-year medical students at CCHS, a branch of the University of Alabama School of Medicine, in routine well child and sick care in the pediatrics outpatient clinic at the Capstone Medical Clinic and teaches pediatric emergency, in-patient and newborn nursery care at DCH.

This year's other OCTA recipients were Pam Bucy, Professor of Law; Dr. Melondie Carter, assistant professor of Nursing; and Dr. Nick Stinnett, professor of human development and family studies.
REFLECTIONS
by William Curry, MD, Dean

Predictions for Rural Health

Recently, I was asked where I thought rural health care is headed. A short answer is that it is going to improve. The longer answer includes the painful fact that some communities will lag behind others, and in some of them things are likely to get worse before they get better. Here is part of that longer answer.

American health care in the past fifty years has been marked by improved access and rapidly expanding technology. Many of these advantages have not reached rural communities at the same time, better access to physicians and hospitals has reduced death from heart attack, stroke, and some cancers. But wide gaps remain.

These “disparate outcomes” are rural health’s major theme today. In the U.S., African-American men are 3.2 times more likely to die from prostate cancer. In rural South Alabama, men of all races have 40% more likely to die from this disease than the national average. In the same area of the state, deaths for women from cancer of the cervix are 50% higher than women nationally, and across the U.S., African-American women present with this disease at a more advanced stage. While breast cancer affects these women less often, their death rates from it are higher.

What about the future? Will these disparities improve? Yes and no.

The answer lies in the different paths that rural communities seem to be taking. Because economic development and educational opportunities vary so much within the U.S. and rural Alabama, we will begin to see wider gaps between a healthier rural America and a sicker one. The disparities between these depressed rural communities and the rest of the nation will grow larger and even more distressing.

1. There is more to healthy communities than health care, and even more than economic development, education and transportation can bring. Already we are seeing an unraveling of the fabric of many rural communities. A Columbia University study this year showed alarmingly higher rates of drug use in rural America’s eighth graders than those of their peers in urban areas: 104% higher use of amphetamines, 50% higher for cocaine, 34% higher for marijuana, 83% higher for crack cocaine, and 29% higher for alcohol. The “entry level” drug for most youth is usually tobacco; in rural youth the rates are more than twice as high for cigarettes and nearly five times higher for smokeless tobacco. In such communities, our image of a stress-free, crime-free, idyllic rural childhood is gone.

What will be the responses to such a dual track in rural communities, some getting better and others even worse?

1. Effective health care strategies will be replicated across the country.
2. Some promising strategies will not succeed. One of these is telenmedicine. Despite the attraction of high tech access through beaming video images to remote experts, most patients need more personal care. Telenmedicine will succeed in sending radiology and pathology images, as it does already. Videography may find limited use, but most of rural America is rural, not frontier, and the successes of the military in this field are unlikely to spread anytime soon.
3. Targeted public health measures will gain support. These will involve partnerships between governmental and private sectors. Contracting and collaboration will blur the lines, especially in rural areas. Physicians, nurses, and other professionals will need to understand population-based strategies and how to work as a team.
4. Interdisciplinary approaches will catch on, as a way to share talent and scarce budgets. Here at The University, the UA Annual Conference on Rural Health will be a focal point for publicizing and better understanding rural issues, bringing together community leaders, state and federal agency leaders, health providers, health professions educators and researchers in an ongoing collaboration. Another area of expansion will be the Area Health Education Center model for linking communities and health professions schools. In Alabama, through a cooperative venture between the University of South Alabama and the University of Alabama, we have begun what I believe is becoming a statewide network within the next five years.

Working with other UA colleges, we will establish an institute for rural health research. Finally - and not a moment too soon - rural America will lead in developing better health care through a team approach, involving physicians, nurses, social workers, and managers.

In all of this CCHS has the opportunity to play a central role, in the benefit of our state, and even for the nation. We do this every day as we educate and train medical students and family practice residents, and as we reach across the campus and around the state to address Alabama’s rural health issues through research and outreach. This is an exciting place, and it’s only going to get better.

* Dean Curry was asked by The University of Alabama News Bureau for health predictions to include in its new year media release, “Educated Guesses.”

New Building Planned for CCHS (continued from page 1)

who is overseeing the college’s planning for the new facility, said he is consulting with faculty and staff in all CCHS departments and divisions to make sure the new building meets the varied needs of the college’s multi-faceted role at The University—an academic unit of UA equivalent to other colleges, a medical practice site, and a teaching center for UASOM medical students and family practice residents.

"In fact, it was the need to improve the clinical teaching facilities of our family practice center that necessitated the drive to build," said Dr. Armstrong.

"The new two-story building will be uniquely suited to the blend of private and academic medical practice, clinical teaching space, patient convenience, and faculty/staff offices that CCHS must accommodate," said Armstrong. He is working on architectural plans with Sherlock, Smith, and Adams in Montgomery and expects to get final drawings before the end of the year. This architecture firm has experience in designing clinic space for both private and academic medical practices and university building projects across the country, he added.

Faculty Notes

Rubin Is State President

Associate Professor of Psychiatry Nancy Rubin, PsyD, becomes President of the Alabama Psychological Association (aPA) on January 1, 2001. A native of New Hampshire, she earned her doctorate in psychology at the University of Virginia and completed her clinical psychology internship at West Virginia University’s Psychological Services. Dr. Rubin has been active in the aPA since 1991 shortly after she joined the faculty of CCHS. Dr. Rubin has chaired the aPA Scientific and Academic Affiliates Committee, Awards Committee, and Convention Committee and served on the aPA Committees for Ethics, Membership, and Finance. She was secretary of the organization from 1998 through 1999 and is currently president-elect. She represented Alabama at the American Psychological Association (APA) State Leadership Conference on “Partnerships for Power” in March, 2000. The Alabama Psychological Association (aPA) was founded in 1950 for the advancement of psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting human welfare. Members of aPA work to promote research in psychology, the highest standards of quality and usefulness of applied psychology, and dissemination of psychology in the interest of human welfare. The association sponsors annual conventions, workshops, continuing education opportunities, community activities, and student research awards. Dr. Rubin will preside over the aPA annual conference June 21-24, 2001 in Fort Walton, Florida.

Psychologist Harriet Myers Retires

Dr. Harriet Myers, a Tuscaloosa psychologist who has served on the Psychology faculty in full-time or adjunct positions since 1983, retired in October. Dr. Myers will continue her private practice, but her duties at Capstone will be assumed by Dr. Melissa Kuhajda, a new part-time faculty member. Dr. Elizabeth Rand, Chair of Psychiatry, and her staff in the Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology hosted a reception to honor Dr. Myers’ service to the college on October 19 at the Capstone Medical Center.

“We are extremely fortunate to have had such outstanding psychologist to teach our students and residents over the years,” said Dr. Rand.

(continued, p. 6)
Burdette Wins Willard Award

Jennifer Burdette, MD, former CCHS medical student and UASOM graduate, received the 2000 Willard Award at the awards banquet for graduating residents in June.

Family Practice Residents Receive Awards at Graduation

- **Internal Medicine**: Jeff Laubenthal, MD
- **OB/GYN**: Woody Herring, MD
- **Pediatrics**: Robyn Germany, MD
- **Psychiatry**: Jeff Laubenthal, MD
- **Research**: Erik Richardson, MD
- **VA Medical Center**: Bobby Jones, MD
- **Society of Teachers of Family Medicine**: Chris Germany, MD
- **DeShazo Award (Family Medicine)**: Michael Elliott, MD

This class of 2000, the twenty-fifth to graduate from the CCHS family practice residency, brings the total number of family physicians trained here to 270. Laura Satcher, who is at CCHS completing additional training as an OB fellow, is included in this number. She is the eleventh recipient of the obstetrical fellowship, which was initiated at CCHS in 1988 with funding from the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board. Dr. Cindy Dedmon was the first OB Fellow.

Rural Medical Scholars Program Reviewed by National Panel

A national panel which recently evaluated the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) concluded that the RMSP has made an "excellent start" and "achieved success in a number of ways." The panel, co-chaired by Dr. Harold Fallon, Dean Emeritus, UASOM (University of Alabama School of Medicine), and Dr. Joab Thomas, President Emeritus of Penn State University and former UA president, worked in four independent subcommittees: 1) Administration/Organizational Commitment; 2) Recruitment, Selection, & Financial Aids; 3) Curriculum; and 4) Mission, Growth, & Evaluation. The subcommittees interviewed RMSP students, faculty, and UA and UASOM administrators and submitted their findings and recommendations.

The panel concurred that it is essential to secure permanent funding for the program in order for everyone to recognize it as a stable part of the institution.

The final report noted that Rural Medical Scholars are succeeding in medical school and having a positive impact on classmates at UASOM, as evidenced by their peers' choice of the Tuscaloosa campus for clinical training in the third and fourth years. The first class of Rural Medical Scholars graduates from medical school this year, and the fifth class has begun its prematuriculation year at UA.

The panel also found that RMSP has encouraged, and perhaps caused, changes in the UASOM curriculum leading to greater inclusion of clinical and basic science information relating to rural medicine. Although there was some doubt that preparing only ten rural physicians a year would be adequate to meet the need created by the retirement of current physicians, the panel recommended that the program be maintained at its current size for the present and emphasized that stable funding should be instituted.

Additional data measuring the outcomes of residency choice and some assessment of educational practice location may support an expansion of the program," concluded the report. For copies of the evaluation report, contact John Wheat, MD, MPhil, Professor of Community and Rural Medicine, founder and director of the Rural Medical Scholars Program: jwheat@cchs.ua.edu or (205) 348-1303.

For information on an application: 205 348-8802 or via email at cchs.ua.edu
On the web at: http://alabama.ua.edu/med

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Meet the Third Year Medical Students at CCHS...

Joseph Patrick Austin graduated from Scottsboro High School, then earned a BS degree in Biology from UAB. His honors include the UAB Scholars Award, Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award, and UAB Department of Biology Honors Research. He also achieved early acceptance to the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Julia Lett Booth, a Rural Medical Scholar from Northport, has known from an early age that she wanted to be a physician. She worked as a volunteer at Northport Hospital DCH during her teen years before earning her biology degree from The University of Alabama, where she was a member of several honor societies including Alpha Lambda Delta, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Golden Key, and Phi Eta Sigma. She received her Master’s Degree in Public Health from the UAB School of Public Health.

Tracy Lynn Brookings graduated from John Carroll High School in Birmingham and Birmingham-Southern College with a BS in Biology. She was in Alpha Epsilon Delta, Beta Beta Beta, and Omicron Delta Kappa. Tracy feels that a good physician must learn not only biology, chemistry, and physics, but also understand people and human nature.

Kristopher Wayne Cummings was at CCHS in 1993 as a Rural Health Scholar from Chilton County High School (the summer after 11th grade). He earned his BS in Biology from the University of Alabama and was a founding member of the UA Rural Health Student Association. Kris was a Presidential Scholar at UA and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He served as president of the Golden Key National Honor Society and was inducted into other top honoraries including Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, and the premed honorary, Alpha Epsilon Delta. He won a Golden Key National Honor Society scholarship to study medicine (one of only ten awarded nationally each year). Kris maintained a 4.0 grade point average at UA, received the Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar Award in Arts and Sciences, and was named the outstanding graduating senior in Biological Sciences.

Jeffrey David Faggard has wanted to be a physician since he was twelve years old, and he looks forward to the role of physician as teacher and counselor. A graduate of McGill-Toolen in Mobile, he graduated cum laude from the University of Alabama with a BS in Biology. He was inducted into Gamma Beta Phi, Golden Key, and Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Societies.

Clifton Earl Garris graduated from Leroy High School in Washington County and earned a BS in Biology from UA in 1991. He also completed a BS in Nursing from the University of South Alabama in 1995, graduating cum laude, before he entered the UA Rural Medical Scholars Program. He earned his Master's in Public Health specializing in occupational health and safety at UAB in his first year as a Rural Medical Scholar. His honors include Sigma Theta Tau (the national nursing honorary) and the Excellence in Nursing Practice Award. Clifton and his wife, Melissa, are proud new parents of Evan Michael born May 31, 2000.

Joseph Aristide Gassen, III, attended the first session of the Rural Health Scholars Seminar and Field Work in 1993. During his field work, Joey gained an appreciation for physicians’ relationships with their patients. He graduated from Clements High School in Athens, and he received a BA degree from the University of Alabama with a double major in Biology and Philosophy. His honors include Alpha Lambda Delta, Blue Key, Golden Key, Cardinal Key, and Gamma Beta Phi.

Teresa Leigh Gottsmie has worked as a volunteer for the Care Giver’s Association and as an emergency room technician, where she witnessed the challenging, service-oriented aspects of medicine. Terri graduated from McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, and she received a BS in Biology from Spring Hill College in Mobile. Her honors include Who’s Who Among Students of American Colleges and Universities and Dean’s List. She is also a Rural Medical Scholar (RMS) and earned her Master of Public Health degree from UAB in her first year as an RMS.

Matthew Heath Hale grew up in a rural community in Bibb County where he was able to observe the practice of medicine by shadowing a family physician in office and hospital settings. He was also able to round with physicians at large inner-city hospitals. He graduated from Bibb County High School in Centreville and earned a BS in Biology from Sanford University. His honors include Alpha Epsilon Delta, Beta Beta Beta, Who’s Who Among American College Students, and Omicron Delta Kappa. A 1997 Rural Medical Scholar, Heath pursued a Master’s in Public Health from UAB during his first year as an RMS.

Matthew Heath Hale works with children at a health fair staffed by Rural Medical Scholars in 1997.

Christopher Niles Hillman looks forward as a physician to having an impact on other peoples’ lives. He feels that even though there will be times when despair is greater than good news, providing hope and healing to a patient makes this profession worthwhile. Chris is from Rankin County, Mississippi, and earned a BA in music from the University of Alabama. He was in Mortar Board, Student Health Advisory Council, Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Honors Program Student Association.

Robert Drummond Thornton graduated from Edgewood Academy in Elmore, Alabama, and he received his BS degree in Biomedical Science from Auburn University. Rob’s dream has been to become a doctor, and he feels that great reward is found in helping people and then seeing firsthand the effects of that help.

Joseph Allen Tubbs graduated from Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and earned his BS in Nursing at UA. As a Registered Nurse, he has worked at UAB’s Heart Transplant ICU. Joe feels that medicine is a highly stimulating, fulfilling, and demanding profession that calls to people who have an internal desire for the job.

Robert Eugene Vickers graduated from M.G. Montgomery High School in Semmes, Alabama, and he received his BS degree in Nursing from The University of Alabama. Robby began his undergraduate work in pre-law. However, he found his interests better suited to the medical field and changed his major to Nursing during his junior year. He was inducted into several honor societies including Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key, and Sigma Theta Tau (the national nursing honorary). He entered the Rural Medical Scholars Program in 1997.

Mark Burnette Wall graduated from high school at the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, and he received his BS degree in Biology from the United States Air Force Academy. Mark believes that the practice of medicine is an art that has the ability to inspire, encourage, and personally touch the life of someone else.

Wendy Deirdre Wadens graduated from Prattville High School and earned her BS in Biochemistry at David Lipscomb University in Nashville. Her honors include Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities, Red Cross Award of Excellence, and Resident Assistant of the Year.

Robert Dennis Watson is a graduate of McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile and earned a BS in Chemistry from Loyola University New Orleans where he was a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Sigma Nu national honor societies. Rob is eager to build upon and apply the knowledge he has gained in the past two years to help patients he cares for in the hospital and clinic.

Rodr Daniel Whittaker, a 1997 Rural Medical Scholar from Arley, enjoys working with people, especially children. Danny graduated from Walker High School in Jasper and received his BS in Biomedical Science at Auburn University. His honors include Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key, and Beta Beta Beta. He and his wife Ashley, who is in law school at UA, have a two-year-old daughter, Caroline.

Zanthia Evon Wiley graduated from the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, and she received her BS in Microbiology from The University of Alabama. Her honors include Alpha Epsilon Delta, Gamma Beta Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the American Medical Student Association Achievement Award. Zanthia feels that being a physician will provide her with a mentally challenging occupation and give her a feeling that others are benefiting from her work and advice.

compiled by Nancy Bohannon
Office of Medical Student Affairs
Family Medicine Interest Group Wins AAFP Award

Rural Medical Scholars Play Lead Roles

Stephanie Morgan, a 1996 Rural Medical Scholar from Cedar Bluff, served as the Student Member on the National Board of the AAFP, and represented Membership and Member Services. She was also a participant in the Leadership Track at the AAFP Congress of Delegates in 1999 and the NCFPRNCSM Leadership Track in 1998, and was the Family Medicine Interest Group Regional Coordinator for the Sun Coast Region in 1999.

“...We are proud to accept this award validating all of our efforts to promote family practice in Alabama,” said Jordan in accepting the award for UASOM. “We hope that this award will highlight the need for primary care physicians in Alabama and encourage others to become involved in family practice.”

Some of the group’s activities included the Tar Wars anti-smoking campaign, Primary Care Week, a tutoring clinic, How a Heart Food Drive, a residency panel discussion, and monthly luncheons featuring family practitioners. Beverly and Stephanie are medical students at UASOM this year completing clinical training in medicine.

Faculty Notes (from page 2)

James D. Leeper, PhD, Professor and Chair of Community and Rural Medicine, has been reappointed to the Education Board of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Leeper and CCHS graduate research assistant Lei Wang presented a paper, “Weighted Average Measure of Interstate Agricultural Agreements,” at the APA Joint Session Meetings in August in Indianapolis. Dr. Leeper was co-author of “Predictors of Physician Utilization Among Adolescents Receiving Preparticipation Physical Evaluations,” a paper presented to the National Athletic Trainer Association last June, and “Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in Women Undergoing Reduction Mammaplasty,” in Plastic Reconstruction Surgery (April, 2000).

Spring CME Series Includes Local and National Experts

The CME Grand Rounds lectures for the spring semester include both local and national medical experts, and a week on wellness is planned for May. Dr. John Mantle from Tuscaloosa will address congestive heart failure, and UAB’s Anthony Sawaya, MD will address nutrition.

Robert G. Lahita, MD, nationally recognized for his work in rheumatology and lupus, will present at a CME Grand Rounds lecture on lupus, autoimmune disease, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Byron Crer, MD, a graduate of Harvard University and Baylor medical school, will sub-specialty training in gastroenterology from Texas Southwest Medical School, will give a talk about GI bleeds.

Burnum Cited in NY Times

An article by Dr. John Burnum, Professor of Internal Medicine, was cited by columnist John O’Neill in The New York Times on August 29, 2000. O’Neill quoted from Dr. Burnum’s letter published in the August Annals of Internal Medicine: “I have recently come to appreciate that the separation of hospitalized patients from their pets can make both parties ill.” O’Neill’s article, which was subtitled “A Heartful Gain When Toto Calls,” was illustrated with a cartoon of a dog sitting on the bed of a hospital patient, improving his master’s spirits.

Research Lecture Series

The CCRSH Research Conference Series is held the first Wednesday of each month at noon in the Cram Room. Lecturers and topics this fall included William “Dee” Fowler, Graduate Research Assistant, Health Research Consulting Services, Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine—“Child Immunization Rates in Tuscaloosa County,” Dr. Jim Leeper—“Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Survey: Environmental, Occupational, and Medical Care Access Concerns in Rural Alabama,” and Dr. John C. Higginbotham, Associate Professor of Community & Rural Medicine and Director, Health Research Consulting Services—“Barriers to STD Screening in Rural Alabama.”

Miranda Andrus Joins CRM Faculty

Miranda R. Andrus, PharmD, joined the Department of Community and Rural Medicine in August as Clinical Assistant Professor. She is also on the clinical faculty of the Auburn University School of Pharmacy and is the Interdisciplinary Education Coordinator for the Rural Alabama AHEC (Area Health Education Center) housed in the Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine. (Profile next issue)

Lilly Funds Research by CCHS Medical Student

Elizabeth Smith, a senior medical student at CCHS, has received a research award from Eli Lilly Research Laboratories. The pharmaceutical company will fund Smith’s research on a follow-up study of patients with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Smith participated in a clinical trial at Capstone Medical Center. Dr. Elizabeth Rand was the Principal Investigator for the PTSD study, and Tracy Acton, a research assistant.

The Program of Excellence award is presented to groups which are exemplary in student involvement, promotion of family practice, community outreach, and patient advocacy.

UA Rural Medical Scholars and UASOM medical students Beverly Jordan and Stephanie Morgan were leaders in the award-winning group.

Beverly Jordan, a 1997 Rural Medical Scholar from Jack County (Ala.,) was named president of UASOM’s Family Medicine Interest Group last year and was the delegate for the state of Alabama to the National FMG Congress of Delegates in Kansas City. Mo. Jordan is also the student member on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians.

Helfefinger and Mozley Receive Emeritus Status

David Helfefinger, MD, and Paul Mozley, MD, have been honored with Emeritus status by UA President Andrew Sorensen. Dr. Helfefinger was one of the first faculty members recruited by Dean William R. Willard to the newly founded CCHS. Dr. Mozley joined the CCHS faculty in 1984 as Professor and Chair of OB/GYN.

Dr. Helfefinger, formerly chair of Pediatrics, was appointed Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics effective March 1, 2000. Dr. Mozley, who retired last summer, became Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology effective October 1, 2000. Dr. Sorensen said the appointments recognize the many contributions to UA by the former professors.

Some of the professor’s achievements included the Tar Wars anti-smoking campaign, Primary Care Week, a tutoring clinic, How a Heart Food Drive, a residency panel discussion, and monthly luncheons featuring family practitioners. Beverly and Stephanie are medical students at CCHS this year completing clinical training in medicine.
Alum Is Psychiatrist and Mystery Writer

Jeffrey Smith, MD, a former CCHS medical student from Enterprise, Alabama, and 1986 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Medicine, has published two murder mystery novels within the past year. They can be previewed and purchased (in paperback or downloaded) at the website: www1stbooks.com Search by author's name (Jeffrey Smith) or by title (Sudden Despair is the name of his first novel, and Two Down, Two to Go, in which his main character reappears in another crime-solving situation, is his second).

Jeff Smith is a psychiatrist in private practice, and also a professor in the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Smith resides in Greenville, S.C., with his wife Anne and their two sons Andy and Ben.

Dr. Smith's e-mail address is BodineMD@aol.com.

Hullet Chosen for Academy of Honor

Family physician Sandral Hullett, MD, (CCHS Residency grad, 1979) was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in a ceremony at the state Capitol on August 28, 2000. Dr. Hullett, Executive Director of Family Health Care of Alabama and a member of the UA Board of Trustees since 1982, is one of four Alabamians elected to the Academy of Honor this year. Others were Rosa Parks, whose arrest in 1955 for sitting in the front of a segregated Montgomery bus helped spark the civil rights movement; John J. McMahon, Jr., a Birmingham businessman and civic leader who is also a UA Trustee; and William V. Muse, President of Auburn University.

The Academy is limited to 100 living Alabamians whose service has greatly benefited the state. Dr. Hullett's work with the non-profit community health agency based in Eutaw—which serves 20 rural counties—and her dedication to improving health care and quality of life for thousands of Alabamians were cited in the announcement of her election to the Academy. Dr. Hullett has been active in state and national organizations to make sure that rural health and primary care are not overlooked in planning for delivery of health care services. "Her work will have an impact for generations to come," said the Academy's news release.

Rural Alabama AHEC Involves Students in Primary Care Week activities

The Rural Alabama AHEC (Area Health Education Center) coordinated a number of activities in West Alabama counties to celebrate National Primary Care Week (NPCW) October 15 - 20, 2000. Medical students and premedical student volunteers from the University of Alabama were involved in each of the activities.

As part of the AHEC health education mission, staff and medical students held a "Doctor's Show and Tell" program at an elementary school in Double Springs, Alabama, and an "Anti-smoking Campaign" was held at Maddox Middle School in Jasper. Medical student volunteers offered free blood pressure screenings to the senior citizens who walk at University Mall in Tuscaloosa before the stores open. The medical students met at the mall at 8:00 a.m., took blood pressures, and talked with more than 50 senior citizens. One blood pressure check revealed that a woman had dangerously high blood pressure, and she was referred to a doctor who helped her get the needed medication even though she could not afford to buy it.

Rural Alabama AHEC employees and student assistants promoted STD (sexually transmitted disease) prevention and AIDS awareness on campus at The University of Alabama. They manned a booth on the "Quad," distributing information to college students concerning abstinence, unplanned pregnancy, STDs, and condoms.

UA medical students Chris Hillman and Beverly Jordan spoke to Clanton Elementary School students about the importance of wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle, and the Rural Alabama AHEC concluded the week by taking college students from seven different disciplines (Health Care Management, Medical Transcription, Medicine, Molecular Genetics, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work) to Sulligent High School to speak to high school students about their chosen fields. Each volunteer discussed the field they were going into, finding employment after graduation, and prospective salary ranges.

OnRounds
Please send alumni news to OnRounds.
Include your graduation date from med school or residency and your current address and phone. Send to address on back cover or e-mail to jackson@cchs.ua.edu.

Dr. Sandral Hullett (left) with UA President Andrew Sariumen at the first Rural Medical Scholars Convocation at CCHS in 1996. Dr. Hullett is on the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board, which helps fund the RMS program.

CCHS medical student Curt Eddy (above and left) showed children in Double Springs what a doctor does during an examination. The "Show & Tell" was part of the Rural Alabama AHEC's observance of National Primary Care Week.

OnRounds • Fall 2000
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Alabama's Rural Health Dilemma: Getting Focus

Is it up to health professionals only? What is the responsibility of Government? What is needed from the private sector? What can Alabama communities do to ensure the health of their citizens?

Come and help continue the discussion!
Key and McElrath Join NIEHS Team in Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine at CCHS

Timothy Key, MD, and Jeff McElrath have joined the CCHS Department of Community and Rural Medicine to assist with agromedicine-related projects, particularly implementation of the Rural Environmental and Occupational Health curriculum project funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Services. John Wheat, MD, Professor of Community and Rural Medicine and Internal Medicine, is Principal Investigator of the NIEHS study which is collecting information on rural health and medical priorities from people who live and work in rural Alabama and physicians practicing in these areas and incorporating their findings into materials for training physicians to meet the unique medical needs of rural populations.

"We are very pleased to have a senior colleague of Dr. Key's caliber with us to bring OEM to our teaching programs as Co-Investigator on the NIEHS grant and in agromedicine projects," said Dr. Wheat. Key is a graduate of the UASOM and trained in the specialty of OEM at the University of Pittsburg. He directed the OEM residency at UAB for over ten years and has directed the Occupational Medicine Component at the Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Education & Research Center since 1990.

Dr. Key also assists the state Department of Public Health with Exposure Investigations for Toxics Substances and has worked with the Occupational Medical Review Program, U.S. Department of Energy, in Oak Ridge, TN, since 1992. Dr. Key is a Site Investigator for Education Resource Development Branch of NIOSH and serves on the American Board of Preventive Medicine's Committee on Question Writing for Occupational Medicine. He consulted on question writing for the National Board of Medical Examiners in 1990 and has served as peer reviewer for professional journals including Southern Medical Journal and American Industrial Hygiene Assoc. Journal.

Dr. Key was a member of the state Health Department's Committee which developed Objectives for Alabama Healthful People 2000, and he served on the MASA (state Medical Association) Committee on Workers' Compensation. In 1992, he was elected to the Delta Omega National Honor Society in Public Health.

Jeff McElrath, a graduate of Auburn University who earned his master's degree in medical anthropology at UA, will coordinate the activities of the NIEHS grant project, working with faculty and staff to incorporate environmental concerns into the medical school curriculum through problem-based learning strategies. He will be assisting in the development of case-study materials, which are garnished primarily from incidents occurring in rural Alabama. Prior to accepting the role of Program Coordinator, he worked as a Research Assistant in environmental health under the advisement of Dr. Tim Key. His research focused on organophosphorous pesticide exposures. "My research interests with the grant are from the view of environmental and medical anthropology," said McElrath.

Walters and Merediths Host Lister Hill Society Fundraiser

The third annual Lister Hill fundraiser was hosted by UA Chancellor Tom Meredith and his wife Susan and local businessman Jack Warner and his wife Elizabeth at the Chancellor's Residence on October 26. It was the most successful ever both in terms of attendance and money raised, said Vicki Johnson, CCHS Director of Advancement.

In previous years, the Lister Hill fundraiser has been hosted by UA President and Mrs. Andrew Sorenson at the President's Mansion, and by Jack and Elizabeth Warner at the Mildred Warner House, a historic structure which the Warners have restored and furnished with antiques and part of their extensive art collection. Dean William Curry attributed the success of the annual event to Tommy Hester, Lister Hill Board Chairman, and Board members for their dedication to medical education and commitment to greater community support for the medical students and family practice residents in training at CCHS.

"We feel that we are raising awareness in the community of the value of our program. As a result, support is increasing every year," said Dr. Curry. The Tuscaloosa Radiology Clinic and Persing, Yoakley, and Associates were corporate sponsors for the event.

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