Shamblin Family Gift Provides Second Computer Lab to CCHS

The UA College of Community Health Sciences has dedicated a second new computer lab, thanks to the generosity of the Shamblin family. The newest state-of-the-art facility, for use by family practice residents, is on the second floor of the Educational Tower at DCH. It was furnished by Drs. Bill and James Shamblin. Dr. Bill Shamblin donated funds for the Roscoe Shamblin Computer Lab for Medical Students, which opened last spring at DCH. The new facility for CCHS residents has six stations with four computers, fax machine, scanner, and printer. It was dedicated Friday, January 19, and named the Roscoe Shamblin Computer Lab after the scanner, and printer. It will be held April 26 – 27 at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. The conference is hosted by the UA College of Community Health Sciences' School of Medicine, and The University of Alabama's College of Human Environmental Sciences, Capstone College of Nursing, School of Social Work, and the College of Continuing Studies. The conference will bring together voices of rural communities, as well as healthcare and education professionals from a number of fields.

Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH, Administrator, Health Resource Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Public Health Service, will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Fox previously served as State Health Officer for Alabama.

The First Annual Alabama Rural Health Conference in April, 2000, at The University of Alabama's Bryant Center brought together nearly 300 people from rural communities, the health field, and education to identify Alabama's rural health issues. Concerns fell into three major categories:

• Individual health choices and decision-making
• Effectiveness of the Health Care System
• Building Stronger Communities

This year, conference participants take the next step: “Getting Focus” on issues in Rural Alabama and Health. CCHS Dean William Curry, MD, and Social Work Dean Ike Adams, PhD, who are co-chairing the conference planning, expect participation from community leaders and elected officials as well as health professionals, social workers, hospital administrators, educators, and others concerned about rural health and related economic development.

Since social welfare and economic development are closely linked to health services, said Dr. Curry, involving this wide variety of perspectives—local voices, care givers, citizens, educators, and public and private service providers—is essential to achieve broad-based understanding of rural health concerns and to begin building consensus on addressing needs.

Discussion groups will focus on such questions as "Is it up to health care professionals only? Do other disciplines have a vital role? What is the responsibility of government? and What is needed from the private sector?" Other important topics are "how educators—local schools and state universities—can help communities find solutions" and "What must Alabama communities do to ensure the health of their citizens?"

Clinical Campuses and the Future of Medical Education

Recently I visited the University of Illinois College of Medicine system in Chicago and Rockford, Illinois. Along with colleagues from Birmingham and Huntsville, I learned how that four-campus system admits and educates medical students, particularly those interested in rural primary care.

There are many small towns and rural areas in need of physicians in Illinois, just as there are here in Alabama. The medical school there has responded, as we have, with clinical branch campuses and a special track for admission of students committed to being rural physicians. The clinical campuses in both states fulfill a dual mission: the education of undifferentiated junior and senior medical students who will choose every specialty of medicine, along with a special pathway for preparing students and family medicine residents for rural practice.

Over the past twenty-five years, academic medical centers and their medical schools have become increasingly specialized, increasingly involved in complex research missions, and increasingly beset by managed care. As a result, the education and training of medical students who will choose every specialty of medicine, along with a special pathway for preparing students and primary care residents has become more difficult.

The answer of the "medical education marketplace" has been the clinical campus. Because they are an answer to the specific needs of medical students and primary care residents, clinical campuses have become an established and respected asset of the nation's system of medical education. This past fall, at the American Association of Medical Colleges annual meeting, the deans of clinical campuses gathered, under the chairmanship of my Huntsville counterpart, Fred Burg. From the large group, it was obvious that American medical education can expect to be enriched by the creativity, energy, and commitment to teaching at clinical campuses.

The College of Community Health Sciences is the home of a clinical campus of the UAB School of Medicine. What is it that makes us a strong asset of the School and the University? Four attributes come to mind:

1. We are clinically oriented. In the past twenty-five years, U.S. medical schools have seen the support derived from clinical activity increase from 12% to 50%. That has always been the pattern here, which means our faculty are grounded in the care of patients. The patient is at the center of what we do.

2. We are here to teach. Our faculty have varied interests in medicine, community research and outreach, but their first and daily commitment is to teach students and family practice residents. That becomes obvious to students and residents who study here.

3. We fill unique needs for the School of Medicine and the State of Alabama. The most obvious of these is rural health. Through Rural Scholars programs, we are recruiting and assisting students toward careers in rural medical practice. Our new Institute of Rural Health Research combines the strengths of six colleges of the University to achieve a scientific understanding of the needs toward careers in rural medical practice. Our new Institute of Rural Health Research combines the strengths of six colleges of the University to achieve a scientific understanding of the needs toward careers in rural medical practice.

4. We are reliable. When challenges or opportunities appear, our faculty and staff respond as a team with creative, efficient solutions. Recent examples have included our new Office of Clinical Research, state maternity programs to reduce infant mortality, applications of new information technology in teaching and patient care, and the planning of a new building to house most of our College.

The forces that have made clinical campuses so important to medical education show no sign of abating. State and Federal support for undergraduate and graduate medical education are likely to continue, and these dollars are likely to remain highly competitive, and clinical practice will face increasing scrutiny for quality and cost effectiveness. At the same time, the Internet, electronic medical records, and small group learning will change the way we deliver medical education.

For some schools, this will be too much to handle. Fortunately, our faculty and staff are active and effective on all these fronts, and we are excited about where we are headed. With that kind of effort, Dean Villard’s vision of a quarter century ago will flourish a quarter century from now.
New Faculty at CCHS

Miranda Andrus, PharmD, has joined the Department of Community and Rural Medicine as Clinical Assistant Professor and Interdisciplinary Education Coordinator for the Rural Alabama AHEC (Area Health Education Center) housed at CCHS. She will develop and coordinate inter-disciplinary training in rural communities for health professional students. She is Clinical Assistant Professor at Auburn University College of Pharmacy and teaches pharmacy students as well.

Dr. Andrus, a native of Lookout Mountain, Ga., earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy, winning the Medicinal Chemistry Award from Merck Publishing, Samford’s Pharmaceutics Award, and recognition from the Perrigo Company for Excellence in Nonprescription Medication Studies. She was also Vice President of Rho Chi Scholastic Honor Society.

She completed a post-graduate Primary Care Residency at the Durham, VA Medical Center and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy in June, 2000, and was named a finalist in 2000 competition for “Best Paper by a Student, Resident, or Fellow” in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy last September.

Since coming to CCHS last August, Dr. Andrus has been working closely with the Rural Alabama AHEC, whose mission is to recruit and retain healthcare professionals in rural, west central Alabama. She is involved in speaking at area schools about health professions, implementing community outreach programs, and working with health professional students and residents. She serves as preceptor of Auburn University PharmD students completing Primary Care rotations, and her practice sites include a family medicine clinic in Pickens County and a mobile health unit in Hale County. She also has teaching responsibilities at Auburn and is preceptor for three pharmacy residents.

Dr. Andrus’ research interests include tobacco abuse and treatment, health literacy, and interdisciplinary training. She presented “Outcomes from a Pharmacist-managed Smoking Cessation Clinic” during a poster session at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Meeting in Los Angeles last fall.

She is married to Jonathan Andrus, a physical therapist at Aptor Rehab in Tuscaloosa, and sings in the choir at First Wesleyan Church. Her hobbies include hiking and scrapbooking.

Melissa Carter Kuhajda, PhD, has joined the Psychiatry faculty at Capstone Medical Center. Dr. Kuhajda (pronounced Koo-hi-da) directs the psychosocial rounds for CCHS family medicine residents and supervises first year residents during family medicine clinic, assisting residents with recognition of mental disorders, doctor-patient communication and interviewing skills, and sensitivity to gender, race age, sexual orientation, and cultural differences. She divides her time between Capstone and UAB where she is Special Projects Manager and Staff Psychologist at the Center for Health Promotion. (profile next issue)

Convocation Honors Future Rural Doctors

The fifth class of UA Rural Medical Scholars—which began last fall—were presented at a convocation on December 7 at the Bryant Center in Tuscaloosa. Now in its 5th year, the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) has matriculated 46 Rural Medical Scholars into the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM).

Members of the first four classes in the program (some wearing hospital scrubs and carrying beepers because they were on call) were also introduced to the approximately 200 people attending the event—the scholars’ families and mentors, RMSP supporters, and rural health leaders from across the state.

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

The evaluation team of national experts interviewed students, faculty, and administrators and made recommendations for producing rural physicians for rural Alabama.

The panel emphasized that permanent funding for RMSP is essential in order for it to become a stable part of the institution.

Dr. Paul Hubbert, guest speaker for the convocation, applauded the program, saying it helped to fulfill the goals for which the College of Community Health Sciences was founded in 1972. John Brandon, MD, Medical Director for the Rural Scholars programs at CCHS, recognized Rural Medical Scholars who are now in medical school. Members of the first RMS class (1996) will graduate in May, 2001.

Ten qualified students from rural areas are chosen each year as Rural Medical Scholars, a highly selective pre-med and medical education program of The University of Alabama and UASOM. Students with rural backrounds interested in practicing medicine in a rural area are eligible. Admission is based on academic achievement, character, and leadership. Members of the 2000 RMS class will join previous RMS classes now in medical school after their year studying issues in primary care, community medicine, and rural health. They will return to Tuscaloosa during their 3rd and 4th years for clinical training which emphasizes primary care and rural medical practice. UA’s College of Community Health Sciences, a UASOM clinical branch campus, has a rural mission.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program and the Rural Health Scholars Program, a similar program for rural Alabama high school students, are part of a “Rural Medical Pipeline” which reaches out to rural students to encourage their choice of a career in rural practice of medicine for Alabama.

For more information or to apply, contact Irina Wallace at (205) 348-5892.
The University of Alabama, Box 870326 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326

\textbf{Dr. William Alton Curry}

\textbf{Dr. Barbara Geater}

\textbf{Mr. John Beatty Maxwell, Jr.}

\textbf{Pershing Yoakley and Associates}

\textbf{The Radiology Clinic}

\textbf{Dr. William W. Winternitz}

\textbf{American Medical Association}

\textbf{Education & Research Foundation}

\textbf{Dr. John Francis Burnum}

\textbf{Dr. Wilmer J. Coggins}

\textbf{Vicki Johnson, Director of Advancement}

\textbf{College of Community Health Sciences}

\textbf{The University of Alabama, Box 870326}

\textbf{Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326}

\textbf{Corporate ($10,000 or more)}

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\textbf{Lister Hill Society Donors, 2000}

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

-William A. Curry, MD, Dean

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

signature
date

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

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

My check is enclosed.

Bill me: Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly

Please make a payroll deduction of $____ per month from my UA salary.

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

Phone number

Return to:

Vicki Johnson, Director of Advancement

College of Community Health Sciences

The University of Alabama, Box 870326

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326

4 • OnRounds • Winter 2001
Architect’s sketch of the new building planned for CCHS and the Capstone Medical Center, view from the Southwest. University Boulevard is seen running from left to right (behind the trees) near the top of the drawing. Floor plans are being completed for the two-story building, and a construction process has been approved by The University of Alabama and the Board of Trustees. Alumni and friends of CCHS are now exploring naming opportunities associated with contributions to the building fund. A range of options is available.

For more detailed information, contact:
Dean William Curry at (205) 348-1288 or Vicki Johnson, CCHS Director of Advancement at (205) 348-0093
e-mail: vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu

Clinical Trials at CCHS Research Efficacy of New Drugs

"HEIRS, RATER, INVEST, CLEAR"... sound familiar to you? Perhaps not now, says Kay Fendley in the Dean’s office, but the terms may become more familiar as the clinical trials program at the college continues to grow. Dr. Rand directed the first clinical trial at the Capstone Medical Center in 1999. Several CCHS faculty members are presently involved in clinical trials:

Dr. William Curry is Principal Investigator and Dr. Richard Jones is a sub-investigator of a clinical trial studying the use of cerivastatin (Baycol) in outpatients with high cholesterol. The trial is sponsored by Bayer and is coordinated through MPACT (the Mayo Physician Alliance for Clinical Trials). Dr. John Wheat, who completed his residency training at the Mayo Clinic, assisted in the collaboration with the alliance. All three are members of the Internal Medicine faculty.

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Dr. Elizabeth Rand, Chair of Psychiatry and Neurology, is Principal Investigator for a clinical trial sponsored by Eli Lilly to assess using a combination of psychiatric drugs for treatment-resistant depression. The trial has completed the enrollment period and patients will be followed for about one year. The INVEST trial has completed enrollment and patients will be followed for a two-year period. Principal Investigators include Dr. Curry and Dr. Jerry McKnight, Dr. Marc Armstrong, and Dr. Sam Gaskins of the Family Medicine faculty.

Dr. Jerry McKnight is a sub-investigator for a contract with UAB for a National Institutes for Health grant. HEIRS is a large, multi-site study of hereditary hemochromatosis. The Office of Clinical Research help recruit patients for the screening phase of the study.

Dr. Richard Jones is enrolling patients in a project with Vanderbilt University. RATER is a registry for patients with early rheumatoid arthritis. Patients will be followed for fifteen years. Dr. Jones is also working with his UAB colleagues in recruiting patients with a rare form of rheumatic disease, Wegener’s Granulomatosis. In another collaboration with UAB, Dr. Jones will serve as a sub-investigator for a National Institutes of Health project to develop a registry and do follow-up study of African-American patients with early rheumatoid arthritis (CLEAR).

Another clinical trial for a condition commonly known as gout has been underway at CCHS for several months. The trial is examining the use of an alternative drug for patients allergic to the standard of care for gout. For information about the clinical trials, call the Office of Clinical Research, 348-0780, or contact the investigator.
Class of 2001
Meet the Seniors Who Will Graduate in May

Russell Lee (Rusty) Bedsole

Bedsole

of Elba, Alabama, graduated with a BA in Religion and a minor in Biology. While in medical school, he has been a volunteer tutor for students at Woodlawn High School, served as secretary of the Transcript Committee, and was active in intramural football. He has also participated in various research during his medical education. Rusty sees medicine as an opportunity to be part of people’s lives “at the raw” moments that have religious and philosophical aspects. Rusty graduated in December 2000.

Angela Leigh Clifton

Clifton

is from Walnut Grove, Alabama. She attended the Russell State Community College on academic scholarship, then transferred to Auburn University, majoring in microbiology. She was accepted into the UA Rural Medical Scholars Program and completed a Health Professional Option degree graduating summa cum laude from the University of Alabama in 1998, after finishing her first year of medical school. Her volunteer activities have included Big Brothers-Big Sisters and working with the Salvation Army. She was elected to Phi Theta Kappa and Golden Key honor societies. Angela has been very active in the Family Medicine Interest Group and is a member of the Academy of Family Physicians and the American Medical Student Association.

Roosevelt Gregory Daniel

Greg from Montgomery, went to Jefferson Davis High School where he played ball in the high school band, and he also played bass guitar in a local band. Greg went to Alabama State University on academic scholar ship, transferred to Hampden-Sydney, and majored in biology. His postbaccalaureate studies began at the University of Alabama in Birmingham and he subsequently matriculated into the School of Medicine. Medicine. Greg has been involved in tutoring at Alabama State University’s Learning Zone, and Birmingham Athletes’ Tutoring League. He is a member of the American Education Association, American Medical Student Association, and Student National Medical Association.

Anne Bruns Davis

Anne from Emory University with a BS degree in Biology and a BA degree in Religion. While there, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and also spent time at the Ronald McDonald House with children undergoing chemotherapy. Following graduation, she applied to the Rural Medical Scholars Program at the University of Alabama School of Medicine and was accepted. As part of this program, she enrolled in UAB’s School of Public Health and is currently receiving her MPH at the time she graduated from medical school. Anne was on the 1999 Anatomical Donor Memorial Service Committee, was a member of the Geriatric Medicine Interest Group and the Geriatric Care Team, serving as vice president of the interest group in 1999. She and Chris Picard, who is a fourth year dental student at UAB School of Dentistry, are planning their wedding for the spring of 2001. Anne plans to go into an Internal Medicine residency.

Kevin Scott Ellis

of Albertville, Alabama, was salutatorian of his graduating class and graduated summa cum laude from UA with a BS degree in Biology. He was a recipient of an Alumni Honors Scholarship for all four years of college and was part of the Computer Based Honors Program. He was active in Calvary Baptist Church and in Lamb Chi Alpha fraternity. He was inducted into many honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Blue Key, and Omicron Delta Kappa. He is a Rural Medical Scholar. Kevin has participated in research projects and the medical student enrichment program; he has shadowed physicians in four different hospitals. He was vice president of the Family Medicine Interest Group and served as Tuscaloosa’s student representative on the Medical Education Program Committee. He is a member of American Medical Association (AMA).

Kelli Jennifer Felgner

of Florence, AL, is the president of her fourth-year class here in Tuscaloosa. She attended the University of North Alabama for two years, then transferred to the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she graduated summa cum laude with a BS degree in Biology. While in college, she was elected to membership in Alpha Epsilon Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key and Phi Sigma honor societies. She received the Outstanding Student Award in Biology, consistently made the Dean’s List, and was a member of the Circle K Service Organization. Kelli has participated in research and was one of four co-authors of an article in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. She has done volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society, and Children’s Hospital. Kelli was co-chair of the Argos Society, an organization responsible for awarding excellence in teaching recognition to UASOM faculty. She is a member of AMA, the American Medical Student Association, and the Association of Family Practice.

Thomas Lanier Haggard,

of Eufaula, was a National Merit Scholar at Eufaula High School, where he was a 4-year member of the varsity tennis team and played golf. He won a UA Presidential Scholarship and other scholarships, graduating with a BS in Biology. He was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Blue Key, President’s Student Leadership Council, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Freshman Forum, Cardinal Key, and Golden Key honor societies. He completed the apprenticeship course at DCH Northport after volunteering in the Emergency Room and the Cancer Clinic at DCH Regional Medical Center. Lanier is a member of AMA, AAAP, and American Medical Student Association. He has been active in his church, intramural sports, and Habitat for Humanity.

Thomas Daniel (Tom) Holt

of Elba, Alabama, was valedictorian of Elba High School and then became the sixth member of his immediate family to attend Auburn University, graduating in 1989 with a BS in Accounting. After graduation Tom worked as an internal auditor for First Alabama Bancshares (now Regions) in Montgomery and then for five years as a cost accountant at Dorsey Trailers in Elba. In 1994, he felt called to become a family physician and while working his accounting job he completed prerequisites for medical school. Tom spent the summer of 1996 in the Summer Pre-Medical Internship Program at the UASOM-Huntsville campus and then came to UA as part of the first class in the Rural Medical Scholars Program. During his first year in medical school, Tom worked as an emergency room nursing assistant at DCH. He served as class representative for the UASOM Class of 2001 and Roommate for pictures of the same name. Tom is an excellent house officer and is married to Carrie Smith. John received a BS degree in Educational Engineering from Auburn University, where he was an officer in his fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta. After working as an engineer for several years, Chris was an active participant in the medical school. He completed prerequisites for medical school at UAB. While in medical school, he has served as a volunteer in the UAB Emergency Dept., and is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta. John and his wife, Janice, were married in December 1999. John's son, David, is at the University of Memphis on a golf scholarship; his stepson, Brian, attends UAB.

Carrie Smith

and her husband, Andy, are from Slocomb, Alabama. Carrie attended Slocomb High School where she was active in the band and president of the Beta Club. Carrie attended Samford University where she received her BS degree in Biology, graduating summa cum laude. She was a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta national pre-med fraternity and received the Outstanding Junior Award. She was also a member of both Eta and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. At her graduation, she was a member of the UA Board of Trustees having earned the highest academic average in her graduating class. Upon entry to medical school, Carrie received a State Merit Scholarship and the Henry Hoffman Scholarship Award. Carrie was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha in her junior year and presently serves as first vice-president of the Alabama Chapter. Carrie is also a member of the Association of Pathology Chairs Honor Society, AMA, and American Family Physicians.

Paul Drake Lavender

of Eutaw, AL, graduated from Warrior Academy number one in his class and from UAB summa cum laude with honors and a BS in microbiology. He was part of the Computer Based Honors Program and had a two-year fellowship in that program. He also received a Robert C. Byrd Scholarship and Capstone Summer Scholars Scholarship for four years. Drake was inducted into Alpha Epsilon Delta national pre-med honor society and served as Sculpin reporter.
**Notes from Alums**

**Sage Smith**

MD, former CCHS medical student and resident (’84 grad), now practices family medicine in Monroeville, AL, as did his father, Dr. Rayford Smith, Jr., and his grandfather, Dr. Rayford Smith, Sr., who was described in *The Monroe Journal* as an “old country doctor” who made housecalls in a horse and buggy in the early 1900s in Monroe County. Dr. Sage uses a truck, and his patients know where to find him because wherever he sees it parked, he told me once when I visited his office to write about a student on family medicine rotation that he was prepping. Someone at the college recently shared the newspaper article about Dr. Smith’s grandfather with me.

A photo of Sage Smith was made when he was a CCHS medical student has been displayed at by the college for many years to illustrate its rural mission. It seems appropriate to me that his family tradition and his return to his rural roots as a primary care physician both reinforce what his photo has represented for over two decades: that CCHS is focusing on the needs in rural Alabama.

**Stephanie Michele Morgan**

from Cedar Bluff, AL, was valedictorian at Cedar Bluff High School. She was president of Beta Club, Math Club president, newspaper co-editor, and representative to the Hugh O’Brian Youth Foundation’s national leadership conference. Stephanie earned a BS degree in Biology from Jacksonville State University. In 1995, she received the Gamma Phi Award for Excellence in Natural Sciences and was inducted into the American Society for Microbiology. In her final year at Jacksonville State, she won the Undergraduate Research Symposium Award in biology. She was in the first class of the UA Rural Medical Scholars Program, a highly competitive pre-med and medical education program of UA and UASM. Her professional affiliations include American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Medical Student Association, and the Family Medicine Interest Group. She participated in the Leadership Track at the AAFP Congress of Delegates in 1999 and NCPR/NCMS Leadership Track in 1998. She was the Family Medicine Interest Group Regional Coordinator for the Sun Coast Region in 1998. Stephanie has been married for eight years. Her husband Todd recently left active duty in the Marines and is employed by the Tuscaloosa Police Dept. He is also in Alabama’s National Guard.

**Elizabeth Randall Smith**

originally from Monroeville, graduated from the Alabama School of Math and Science, where she was active in the student government association and on the yearbook staff. She was also a member of Beta Club and the National Honor Society. As a member of the Honors Program at The University of Alabama, she graduated with a double-major in biology and art history. She received a Presidential Scholarship and was active in Delta Zeta sorority (serving as scholarship chairman) and on the Panhellenic Council, serving on the Self Assessment Board. She was in several honor societies including Omicron Delta Kappa, AED premed honorary, and Phi Beta Kappa. Elizabeth is in the Rural Medical Scholars Program and has participated in student organizations and research during med school.

**Paul Byron Taberueca**

Sheffield, attended Sheffield High School where he was senior class Vice President and President of the National Honor Society. He earned a BS in Biology at The University of Alabama. He was Outstanding Initiate for Alpha Epsilon Delta pre-med honorary and member of ODK, Blue Key, and Golden Key national honor societies. His wife, Christina, is in her final year of law school at The University of Alabama.

**Frances Harrison Traffanstedt**

a native of Florence, Alabama, earned her BS in biology from the University of Alabama. She was elected to membership in Gamma Beta Phi and Beta Beta Beta honor societies. Since entering medical school, Darlene has held several leadership positions, including being chair of activities for both Primary Care Day and the White Coat Ceremony. She has served as a Hospice team member, Pediatric Cancer Care Team member, and has worked as a tutor for high school athletes in Birmingham. She belongs to AAFP, American College of Physicians, and American Medical Association. She and her husband, Vance, a systems consultant, have a son Drew, who was born during Darlene’s third year of medical school.

**CCHS Faculty Help in Tornado Aftermath**

Several CCHS faculty members were able to assist after a tornado struck Tuscaloosa County on December 16, demolishing neighborhoods and destroying a mobile home park. Dr. Harriet Myers, who recently retired from CCHS (Psychiatry Dept.), and her husband Dr. David Myers volunteered as ham radio operators for the communications company after the tornado. They responded to the day of the tornado, and that night, when Harriet staffed the Red Cross shelter at Shelton State, she learned that mental health people would be needed early the next day to be with families as they viewed photographs to identify victims who had died.

At 7:30 Sunday morning, Dr. Elizabeth Rand, Dr. Nancy Rubin, Dr. Roger Lacy, and Dr. Melissa Kuhadja from the Psychiatry faculty; and Bettina Schmidt (a doctoral student in psychology and research assistant in the Dept. of Community and Rural Medicine, arrived to help along with others from UA, including Bernie Kuhadja (Psychology), Dr. Bev Thora (Psychology), and Dr. Susan Cochran (Student Health).

The dead had already been identified, so the volunteers went to emergency locations including the shelters, the Red Cross headquarters, and into the devastated areas to identify and help traumatized victims and workers. Dr. Rand also went out to the destroyed areas and shelters on Monday, to give immediate assistance and to offer referrals to Capstone Psychiatry if needed later in the week, free of charge, as a service to the community.

"Shortly after arriving, Dr. Thom and I spoke with a man who was himself a volunteer," said Dr. Kuhajda. "He had sitios the tornado and watched as it destroyed everything in its path, including human life. Dr. Thom and I spent some time encouraging him to tell his story and discussing the importance of continuing to talk about what happened with family members and friends. Our objective, of course, was to be preventive in nature. Talking about traumatic incidences at the time of the occurrence or shortly thereafter has been shown to prevent some of the debilitating symptoms of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) that can sometimes occur many months after a traumatic event."

(Continued, p. 8)
Grand Rounds Brings Experts to Tuscaloosa CME

This semester's Grand Rounds CME series held Fridays at noon brought noted medical experts Anthony Saway, MD, St. Vincent's (Birmingham), to discuss Osteoporosis in January, and in February presented national expert Robert Lahita, MD, Professor, New York Medical College and Chief of Rheumatology. Dr. Lahita is widely recognized as an authority in rheumatology and has numerous publications on lupus, autoimmune disease, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Byron Cryer, MD, a graduate of Harvard University and Baylor (MD and internal medicine residency), will talk on GI bleeds on April 13. Dr. Cryer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. Tuscaloosa cardiologist John Mantle, MD, discussed Congestive Heart Failure, and Dr. John Burnum will present "Medical Dialect" as part of the First Friday Arts and Letters Series. A special emphasis week in May will be devoted to wellness. The schedule is posted on the Health Sciences Library web site: www.bama.ua.edu/hslib/

Contact: Vicki Johnson, CME Director, 205/348-0093 • vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu

Tornado (continued from p. 7)

"Psychiatry and Social Work, in conjunction with Hospice, are planning to offer trauma/grief groups to tornado victims if enough calls come in," said Dr. Rubin. "This will also be free of charge as a service to the community. Hospice has been getting some calls, so that is how we know of the need and is how the collaboration came about."

Mike Taylor, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, who was called in to DCH shortly after the tornado struck, said, "I saw about eight children in all, four seriously injured. After stabilizing those four, I arranged for transportation to Children's Hospital in Birmingham of the 6-month old twin boys, and sisters who were three and five years old." (One of these was the girl being carried from the rubble in a picture widely used in newspapers and on the internet.)

"Later we had to attend to an 11-year-old victim of rape that occurred just before the storm hit," Dr. Taylor added.

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