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

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

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

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

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

The new building has a state-of-the-art medical information system. The paperless system makes it easier to improve education and clinical efficiency while providing the best possible care to patients. Curry said the students and residents involved in CCHS's program will have had experience in the medical office of the future, which will be essential during their years of medical practice.

"Our country is reaching a crisis in care involving family practice, especially in rural communities," Curry added. "The paperwork, heavy workload and lower incomes associated with primary care and family medicine can make family practice less attractive for young doctors. We're doing all we can to make primary care and family practice both high-tech and high touch. That gives patients and families what they most need and demand from today's complex health care system."

The School of Medicine's Tuscaloosa branch campus plans to accomplish that vision by providing better ways of managing information, reducing costs, and linking educational resources to the doctor-patient visit. UA's program is the first in the state to take such a comprehensive approach.

The UA School of Medicine has responsibility for the clinical education of junior and senior medical students. Its family practice residency is one of the oldest, largest and most productive in the Southeast. The College has made significant strides in making health care more available and accessible across the state of Alabama. Of the medical graduates who received their third- and fourth-year clinical training at CCHS, 53 percent have chosen careers in primary care. Fifty-four percent of the Family Practice Residency graduates from CCHS are practicing in Alabama, half of these in towns of 25,000 or less. One in seven family physicians in Alabama graduated from this residency program.

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

CCHS is one of three clinical campuses of The University of Alabama School of Medicine, a nationally ranked medical center established in Birmingham in 1945.
What will I be doing? In July, I will move to the Birmingham campus of the University of Alabama School of Medicine, to assume a combination of teaching, research, and administrative duties. As a former director of the Division of Gastroenterology and General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine, and I will get to do what I love so much, clinical teaching, on the Tinsley Harrison service at years, and this time met jointly with the Alabama Public Health Association.

General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine, and I will get to do Alabama Rural Health Conference has been held every April for the past five years, and this time met jointly with the Alabama Public Health Association.

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

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

What about leadership? Dr. Eugene Marsh will take over from me as interim dean in July, and I am fully confident of his ability to keep the college on course. He will have the help of able department chairs and a committed staff.

The top recruiting priority right now is for the chair of our "anterior department," Family Medicine. A national search is underway, and I hope to see that position filled soon.

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

How can you help? Stay in touch; help us spread the word about the good work being done here in Tuscaloosa; help us find and recruit able students to the rural scholars programs, to medical school, and to our family practice residency. We will prepare them to join you in the "trenches." Keep us informed about what the needs are in your practice and in your community and how you think we might be able to help. As you can, contribute financially. Finally, advise us on the knowledge and skills you need from a physician these days. We are training the next generation of Alabama physicians here in Tuscaloosa; help us find and recruit able. As partners in the UASOM system, we and our sister program in Huntsville are acknowledged leaders in clinical medical education in Alabama and nationally. The leadership of UASOM looks to the two clinical campuses for innovation and leadership in clinical education and primary care.

Surgery

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

OB/GYN

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

What about that rural mission? Our students continue to choose primary care specialties at levels well above their UASOM and national colleagues, while doing well in competitive residencies around the country. We’re proud of students matching at Yale, Vanderbilt, Chapel Hill, and Washington U., and of strong family medicine residencies around the country, including our own. We’re proud that some of our medical school and residency graduates are leaders in academic medicine and that significant numbers of them are practicing in primary care and other underserved communities.

How does that happen? The Rural Health Scholars, Minority Rural Pipeline Scholars, and Rural Medical Scholars Programs recruit and mentor rural students from high school through college and medical school, helping them keep their eye on entering family practice careers. Five of our seven entering family practice interns this July are Rural Medical Scholars. Students and residents benefit from rural rotations. Our faculty encourage and model the value of primary care and rural practice.

The Institute for Rural Health Research, collaborating with five other U.S. colleges, UAB, and other institutions around the Southeast, is adding to our understanding of health outcomes in rural communities. Everybody knows the statistics, but BIRHR is identifying causes and solutions.

Community and Rural Medicine

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

Dr. Wheat accompanied three of this year's class of Rural Medical Scholars to the 2004 National Symposium on Agricultural Health and Safety in Keystone, Colorado, June 29, 2004. Rural Medical Scholars Charles Gilbert, MPH, DeKalb County; Kirk Miller, MME, Clay County; and Bethany Abrams, St. Clair County, participated in the Agromedicine symposium and were presented as representatives of the RMS program at the North American Agromedicine Consortium. Susan Guin, CRNP, Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Rural Medical Scholars Program, is an Executive Committee member of the Rural Scholars Consortium. On April 8-10, 2004, he was a co-sponsor of the conference and conducting its annual business meeting in conjunction with the event.
Cartoonists Take Up Smoking

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

A collection of editorial cartoons related to smoking curated by Alan Blum, MD, Gerald Leon Wallace Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS and Director of the University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, was shown as a traveling exhibition from April 9 to May 4, 2004 at the Ann Tower Gallery in Lexington, KY. “Cartoonists Take Up Smoking” ran in conjunction with the annual convention of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. Pulitzer Prize winner Joel Pett, cartoonist for the Lexington Herald-Leader, hosted the convention and his work was shown along with that of over 60 other editorial cartoonists including nine other Pulitzer Prize recipients from across the country. The exhibition is scheduled to be shown next at the Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco. Dr. Blum has been collecting political cartoons for thirty-five years. He has amassed more than 900 political cartoons on the tobacco issue from around the world along with the original headlines that inspired the artists. This political cartoon collection is housed at the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society. It includes the most recent political cartoons satirizing both the advocates and the opponents of efforts to curtail tobacco use and promotion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next year’s Rural Health Conference

April 20-22, 2005

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

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

2004 Poster Presentations
Fifth Annual Rural Health Conference

“Working Together Today for a Healthier Tomorrow”

1. Institute of Rural Nursing Case Management. Marietta P. Stanton, PhD, RN, CN, Professor of Nursing; Jeri Dinkin, PhD, RN, Professor of Nursing; Marilyn King, RN, MSN, Graduate Student; Kathleen Williams-Thomas, RN, FNP, Post Master’s Student; Carolyn S. Crow, PhD, RN, Emeritus Faculty, Post Master’s Student; JA Capstone College of Nursing

2. A Culturally Appropriate Breast Health Educational Intervention Program for African American Women. Mary Anne Kelley, DSN, RN, Assistant Professor, UA Capstone College of Nursing

3. Utilization of Behavioral Health Intervent Services by Nursing Home Residents in Rural Alabama. Ruby Shaw Morrison, DSN, RN, CMAC and Marietta Stanton, PhD, RN, CMAC, UA Capstone College of Nursing; and James E. Hough, MS, LPC, NCC and Barbara Booth, MSN, RN, Northport Medical Center, North Harbor Pavilion, Northport, Alabama.

4. Developing a Faith-Based Toolkit for Children’s Health Outreach. Tracy Carter, MS, Graduate Student, and Tracie Griffin, College of Human Environmental Sciences, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

5. Rural Mothers’ Verbal Scaffolding: Language Learning Environments for 12-month-olds. Charlotte Horton, Graduate Student and Anne M. Culp, Professor, UA College of Human Environmental Sciences.

6. The University of Alabama and DCH Medical Center: Working Together to Provide Childlife Services for West Alabama’s Children. Heather Snegle, Graduate Student, and Leslie Dulios, Staff, College of Human Environmental Sciences, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

7. Client Population of a Registered Dietitian Working in Two Primary Care Centers in the Black Belt of Alabama. Amy Eades, Graduate Student; Linda Oft, FAC, FACuty, M. Shoup, Graduate Student; and Olivia Kendrick, PhD, Associate Professor, Human Nutrition & Hospitality Management, UA College of Human Environmental Sciences.

8. Goal Attainment of Diabetes Quality Indicators in Patients Enrolled in Medication Assistance Programs. Miranda R. Andrus, Pharm.D., Assistant Clinical Professor, UA College of Community Health Sciences, and Deidre Clark, Pharm.D., Primary Care Resident; Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy and DCH Regional Medical Center, Tuscaloosa, AL; Pfizer Inc., Birmingham, AL.


15. Prediction of Frican American Women From Rural Versus Urban Settings. Dr. Michelle K. Buhaha, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; John C. Higginbotham, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor and Interim Chair; James D. Leeper, Ph.D., Professor; and LaPosta J. Kennedy, MA, Research Assistant; Department of Community and Rural Medicine, College of Community Health Sciences, The University of Alabama; Karen Wooten, M.A., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA; Richard M. Shechuk, PhD and H. Russell Foushee, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
The Akers award was presented to Dr. Dawn Bryant by class president, Dr. Bethany Campbell. This award, chosen by the graduating class, recognizes the Tuscaloosa Senior who best personifies the art and the science of the practice of medicine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pickens County physicians with two newest members of medical community: Robert Sheppard, MD, Internist from Carrollton and CCHS hospitalist on the Internal Medicine faculty; his son Dusty Sheppard, MD, a 1996 Rural Medical Scholar and a 2000 graduate now in residency in Louisiana, Kara Carpenter, MD, a 1994 Rural Medical Scholar and native of Pickens County graduating this year; Dean Bill Curry, MD, who had a private practice of internal medicine in his hometown of Cartersville for 17 years before joining the full-time faculty at CCHS; and John Brandon, MD, Gordo family physician and Medical Director of the UA Rural Scholars Program at CCHS.
Carrington, Kara 
Collins, Carleton M. 
El-Menshawi, Marwa E. 
Freeman, Matthew G. 
Carpenter, Kara 
Pettus, Sonja D. 
Bay, Kimberly L. 
Sides, Erinnie H. 
Simmon, James R. 
Taylor, Heather M. 
Thompson, Marina L. 
White, Andrew O. 
White, Jennifer C. 

Deferred 

Univ. of Florida Sacred Heart Hospital 
Pensacola, FL 
Vanderbilt University Medical Center 
Nashville, TN 
Orlando Regional Hospital 
Orlando, FL 
Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency 
Tuscaloosa, AL 
Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency, 
Tuscaloosa, AL 
Cincinnati Children's Hospital 
Cincinnati, OH 
Univ. of Florida Sacred Heart Hospital 
Pensacola, FL 
Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency 
Tuscaloosa, AL 
Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency 
Tuscaloosa, AL 

OB/GYN 
Pediatrics 
Pediatrics 
Family Medicine 
Family Medicine 
Family Medicine 
Family Medicine 

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

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

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

Rural Medical Scholars in the fourth RMS class gathered for a group photo after Honors Convocation. Kara Carpenter", "Barthany Campbell, Chad McGinley, Andy Wills", "Lee Amniadel", "Dustin Wright, Matthew Freeman", and Frances Sidra. Not pictured are Brad Marker and Carletta Collins. Asterisks indicate those who are Tuscaloosa Family Practice residents starting in July.
Rural Medical Educators

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

Links to research findings, data analyses, and information on recruiting and training rural physicians from every state and rural doctors themselves are available in recent list serve postings at http://www. ruralmedicaleducation.org. Access the site by entering "rural medical education" into google or msn search.

It is usually the last thing, so Dr. Bowman.

Argus Awards

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

The "Best Resident/Intern" award on the Tuscaloosa campus was shared by Drs. Julie Botche, Troy Sloan, Suzanne McLeod, and Drake Lavender. Dr. Ashley Evans and Dr. Eugene Marsh were chosen as "Best Attending." Surgery was named "Best Clerkship," and Pediatrics was awarded the "Best Department." Birmingham students chose CCHS alums doing residency training at UAB as "Best Resident/Intern" in Pediatrics (Dr. Kevin Ellis) and in Obstetrics and Gynecology (Dr. Beth Gober).

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

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

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

Amie Davis (Talladega) Internal Medicine, Talladega, Talladega County Kevin Ellis (Marshall) Pediatrics—Chief Resident, Huntsville, Madison Co. in '05
Tom Holt (Coffee) Family Medicine, Jasper, Walker County Drake Lavender (Greene) Family Medicine, Carroll Co., Carroll Co. in '05
Stephanie Morgan (Cherokee) Family Medicine, Centre, Cherokee County Elizabeth Smith (Monroe) Pediatrics, Mobile, Mobile County Paul Taboureau (Cobert) Int. Med.—Chief Res., cardiology fellowship UAB '05
Angela Pickens (Jefferson) Family Medicine, Rietta, Jefferson County Of 83 students in the first four classes of Rural Medical Scholars to graduate from medical school, 17 (45%) have chosen Family Medicine and 77 (71%) have chosen a primary care specialty (Family Medicine, Pediatrics, or Internal Medicine), rates that exceed national and state averages in choices made by medical students.

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

Teaching Remains Priority as CCHS Opens New University Medical Center

These assets are especially advantageous in the face of current education trends in primary care shift to emphasize ambulatory office setting and preventive health techniques over the historical hospital-based model. Clinical faculty members are trying to find ways to improve ambulatory care training, our college is well-positioned to provide our students and residents excellent training in patient care in the clinical/office setting as well as a hospital-based setting.

Dr. Marsh says CCHS is also planning for a more regular and inclusive evaluation process in which students and faculty can provide their perspectives on what works best and what can be improved in each of these methods. Our college's evaluation efforts have been on-going, but the main thrust of our efforts, expressed interest in a three-campus evaluation system for graduates of the University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars Program.

An important aspect of medical education at CCHS, says Dr. Marsh, is our responsibility for continuing medical education for physicians in practice. Since he is assuming the role of interim dean, responsibility for directing CME has been transferred to Vijaya Sundar, MD "who has a passion for it," says referring to Dr. Sundar's enthusiasm and her dedication to providing on-going continuing education for physicians in rural medicine.

Critical component of medical education is on-going research which Dr. Sundar "serves as a model for". These other university medical providers can provide their help to guide curriculum planning. "Our education is on-going research which helps to guide curriculum planning. Research as well as associate professor and interim chair of Community & Rural Medicine, will be directing the CCHS Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Plans have been developed for a research wing to house IRHR and the college's Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Dr. Marsh says CCHS is also planning for a more regular and inclusive evaluation process in which students and faculty can provide their perspectives on what works best and what can be improved in each of these methods. Our college's evaluation efforts have been on-going, but the main thrust of our efforts, expressed interest in a three-campus evaluation system for graduates of the University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars Program.

An important aspect of medical education at CCHS, says Dr. Marsh, is our responsibility for continuing medical education for physicians in practice. Since he is assuming the role of interim dean, responsibility for directing CME has been transferred to Vijaya Sundar, MD "who has a passion for it," says referring to Dr. Sundar's enthusiasm and her dedication to providing on-going continuing education for physicians in rural medicine.

Critical component of medical education is on-going research which Dr. Sundar "serves as a model for". These other university medical providers can provide their help to guide curriculum planning. "Our education is on-going research which helps to guide curriculum planning. Research as well as associate professor and interim chair of Community & Rural Medicine, will be directing the CCHS Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Plans have been developed for a research wing to house IRHR and the college's Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Dr. Marsh says CCHS is also planning for a more regular and inclusive evaluation process in which students and faculty can provide their perspectives on what works best and what can be improved in each of these methods. Our college's evaluation efforts have been on-going, but the main thrust of our efforts, expressed interest in a three-campus evaluation system for graduates of the University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars Program.

An important aspect of medical education at CCHS, says Dr. Marsh, is our responsibility for continuing medical education for physicians in practice. Since he is assuming the role of interim dean, responsibility for directing CME has been transferred to Vijaya Sundar, MD "who has a passion for it," says referring to Dr. Sundar's enthusiasm and her dedication to providing on-going continuing education for physicians in rural medicine.

Critical component of medical education is on-going research which Dr. Sundar "serves as a model for". These other university medical providers can provide their help to guide curriculum planning. "Our education is on-going research which helps to guide curriculum planning. Research as well as associate professor and interim chair of Community & Rural Medicine, will be directing the CCHS Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Plans have been developed for a research wing to house IRHR and the college's Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Dr. Marsh says CCHS is also planning for a more regular and inclusive evaluation process in which students and faculty can provide their perspectives on what works best and what can be improved in each of these methods. Our college's evaluation efforts have been on-going, but the main thrust of our efforts, expressed interest in a three-campus evaluation system for graduates of the University of Alabama Rural Medical Scholars Program.

An important aspect of medical education at CCHS, says Dr. Marsh, is our responsibility for continuing medical education for physicians in practice. Since he is assuming the role of interim dean, responsibility for directing CME has been transferred to Vijaya Sundar, MD "who has a passion for it," says referring to Dr. Sundar's enthusiasm and her dedication to providing on-going continuing education for physicians in rural medicine.

Critical component of medical education is on-going research which Dr. Sundar "serves as a model for". These other university medical providers can provide their help to guide curriculum planning. "Our education is on-going research which helps to guide curriculum planning. Research as well as associate professor and interim chair of Community & Rural Medicine, will be directing the CCHS Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.

Plans have been developed for a research wing to house IRHR and the college's Office of Clinical Research in addition to IRHR. This will allow us to expand our resources and staff flexibility as needed to implement research projects and prepare grant applications, said Marsh.
I saw on the AAFP web site that you all are offering a OB/GYN fellowship. I think that is wonderful! I am seriously considering doing my time and returning to the program. I'm not seeing any kids or pregnant women right now, but hopefully I'll get to be at a regular clinic in 2005. Well, I just wanted to keep in touch. Tell everyone I said hello and pass on my e-mail address: wigging@enterprise.navy.mil.

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

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

Sarah Lynn Bisch, M.D. 7552 Jerez Ct., #9 Carlsbad, CA 92009 or jammessarahreeves@adelphia.net

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

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

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

Send alumni news to Linda Jackson ljackson@cchs.ua.edu

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

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

CCHS alumni (yes, of my doctors do respond) and enclosed a large front page story from the local paper about a helicopter rescue he and his crew were involved in last October:

I was a CCHS medical student in 1988-90 and am currently a flight surgeon serving as a Chief of Flight Medicine in the USAF at Malmstrom AFB in Montana. Some other side jobs I have are EMS Medical Director and Helicopter Search and Rescue Medical Director. I have been here about 2 years and that is after 2 years at Keesler AFB, MS. I am attaching a file that talks about a rescue I did a couple of months ago that was pretty scary.

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

Thanks, Romie rommicragan@bresnan.net

Children aided from 'Bear Hugs'

Larry Sheltom, 1980 residency grad, practices in Moundville, Alabama. He wanted to share this public thank you note for the special gift he and his wife Marta gave in memory of their daughter Christina. Some physicians in Selma: Selma Medical Associates, 901 Pkwy, Selma, AL 36701 Phone 334-875-2646. csheldom@bellsouth.net

Brandon Named Gordo Citizen of the Year

John E. Brandon (Residency, 1981), who has practiced in Gordo since 1981, was named Citizen of the Year at the Gordo Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet in March. The award was presented by the Gordo High School Football Coach, chosen because as team physician, Dr. Brandon has been a mainstay of the football program. Dr. Brandon was invited to the banquet on the pretext of presenting another award so that he could be surprised with the honor, but family, friends, and colleagues had been notified in advance and were present to congratulate him.

Last spring, I published this mystery picture from our photo files and asked for the identity of the doctor with Sgt. Scott Miskell, the helicopter search and rescue team's medical technician and flight engineer.

"I was pretty scared because there was nothing else on the rock face to hold on to," Roan helped to stabilize the injured hiker so the crew could hoist him up and fly him to the hospital.

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

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

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

July, 2004

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

August, 2004

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

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