Medical Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

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

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

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

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

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

Local Family Physician and Former UA Resident Will Be Missed

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Jimmie D. Clark-Travis

"Jimmie was one of those rare individuals who personified all of the important attributes for which we all strive in medicine. We will miss her more than words can describe." - Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean, the College of Community Health Sciences

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

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

"I will remember Dr. Clark for her smiling face and for her huge heart. She brought a tremendous amount of expertise and passion to our community and have a significant effect on the lives of the people that work with us or around us."

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

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

"Listen, especially to your patients. That’s critical to developing the kind of relationship that will ensure trust and confidence in you as a physician. Never be satisfied with where you are professionally. Never stop learning, never stop questioning, and never stop trying to be a better doctor. This is the culmination of four years of intense education. If we have done our job well, you are prepared to move to the next stage in your education. You have the knowledge to move forward."

See pages 4 & 5
An Eventful Year
A Message from the Dean

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

From an educational standpoint, this edition of OnRounds documents the outstanding achievements of our medical students in competing for residency positions. During a year in which the leadership of the residency program transitioned from Dr. Sam Gaskins, who recently retired, to Dr. Chelley Alexander, our residency "matched" with an outstanding class, and we will have at least one, and possibly two, obstetrics fellows. The College's rural medical programs, under the direction of Dr. John Wheat, continue to demonstrate their effectiveness in creating a "pipeline" to provide physicians to rural and underserved areas of Alabama. In addition, our Medical Student Education Program Committee, which includes clerkship directors for our third-year medical students under the leadership of Dr. Ashley Evans, has developed a new and innovative curriculum known as TERM, short for Tuscaloosa Exposure to Rural Medicine. We are now ready to begin implementation of a pilot program for medical students who, as part of the new curriculum, will spend the majority of their third and fourth years of medical school at a rural site. The goal of the TERM curriculum, in keeping with the College's mission, is to expose medical students on the Tuscaloosa campus to the practice of medicine in rural Alabama in an effort to increase the likelihood that graduates will select primary care residencies and establish practices in rural Alabama communities.

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

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

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

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

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

2005 Heart Walk

The 2005 Greater Tuscaloosa American Heart Association Heart Walk, held for the first time on The University of Alabama campus, drew more than 790 participants and raised approximately $125,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2005 Heart Walk

The 2005 Greater Tuscaloosa American Heart Association Heart Walk, held for the first time on The University of Alabama campus, drew more than 790 participants and raised approximately $125,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2005 Heart Walk

The 2005 Greater Tuscaloosa American Heart Association Heart Walk, held for the first time on The University of Alabama campus, drew more than 790 participants and raised approximately $125,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Eugene Marsh, Interim Dean
College of Community Health Sciences
The National Cancer Institute awarded a $6.4 million grant to the University of Alabama at Birmingham in August 2005. The award, one of only 25 nationally, will fund the disparities in minority and poor populations in Alabama and provide Web-based data collection, management and analysis.

Mississippi. The award, one of only 25 nationally, will fund the disparities in minority and poor populations in Alabama and provide Web-based data collection, management and analysis.

This is the second time the NCI has provided funding for the project targets two poor, rural regions—Alabama’s Black Belt and the Mississippi Delta—and two urban areas—Jefferson County, Ala., and the Hattiesburg/Laurel, Miss., metropolitan region. The network trains leaders in these communities to educate family and friends about the importance of prevention and early detection of cancer.

This is the second time the NCI has provided funding for the project, which received a $6.1 million, five-year grant in 2000.

The National Cancer Institute was awarded a $4.6 million grant to the University of Alabama at Birmingham to reduce cancer mortality disparities in minority and poor populations in Alabama and Mississippi. The award, one of only 25 nationally, will fund the University of Alabama's commitment to the health care careers, and responded to the agricultural community's special health concerns.

The conference was supported in part by a grant awarded to the Institute for the National Institutes of Health's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Topics at the conference included HIV/AIDS, mental health, emerging infectious diseases and agri-medicine. Conference attendees also heard from officials with the Governor's Black Belt Action Commission and the Emergency Response to the Health Care Crisis in Alabama Commission—two statewide partnerships and strategies can be developed to eliminate these disparities.

The Rural Alabama Health Alliance acknowledged its appreciation for the partnership between RAHA and the College of Community Health Sciences at the 5th Annual Rural Medical Scholars Convocation. Eric Smith, Pickens County RAHA member and President-Elect of the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association, said, “We wish to commend CCHS for its sustained and on-going efforts to improve health care in our state’s rural counties, primarily in the medical education of physicians who enter rural practice.” He said the College assisted practicing physicians in the area through consultations and referrals, collaborated with local physicians and hospitals to organize and provide programs of maternity care in rural Alabama, developed special outreach programs to involve local clinicians in all types of health care careers, and responded to the agricultural community’s special health concerns.

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

Sixth Annual Rural Health Conference Draws Hundreds of Attendees

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

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

The conference was supported in part by a grant awarded to the Institute by the National Institutes of Health's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Topics at the conference included HIV/AIDS, mental health, emerging infectious diseases and agri-medicine. Conference attendees also heard from officials with the Governor’s Black Belt Action Commission and the Emergency Response to the Health Care Crisis in Alabama Commission—two statewide initiatives with a mandate to improve the availability and accessibility of health care for all Alabamians.

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

The Rural Health Conferences are part of an ongoing effort to share research findings and other information about the health disparities that exist in Alabama so that partnerships and strategies can be developed to eliminate these disparities.
Awards Presented at 29th Members of the College of Community Health Sciences’ Graduating Class of 2005.

Members of the Graduating Class of 2005

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

STUDENT AWARDS

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

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER AWARDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 • OnRounds • Summer 2005
College of Community Health Sciences Faculty and Staff News

New Faculty and Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prior to joining IRHR, Warrington worked with The Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation, the state’s Quality Improvement Organization. She also worked with AQA’s Home Health Improvement Quality Improvement section.

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

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

Melanie Tucker, MA, CCRC, is a Research Associate with the College’s Institute for Rural Health Research in the Division of Clinical Investigations. She joined the Institute in March after working in clinical trials at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Prior to beginning her work in clinical research, Tucker was a Marriage and Family therapist in Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Tucker received her Bachelor’s Degree in Personalized Psychology from Athens University and her Master’s Degree in Counselor Education from The University of Alabama. She has completed her course work for her Ph.D. in Health Education and Health Promotion and is currently writing her dissertation. She and her husband, George Brown, Director of University Recreation, have a blended family of six children, ages three to 16.

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

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

Retirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deaths

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

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

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

Among his many honors, Dr. Hefelfinger received the American Academy of Pediatrics Award for Outstanding Service as Federal Access Legislative Coordinator in 1992, as well as the Child Advocate Award for Outstanding Service in 2002.
College of Community Health Sciences Physician Seeks to Increase Training for Child Abuse Screenings

Michael A. Taylor, M.D., Associate Professor and Chair of the College of Community Health Sciences’ Department of Pediatrics, is committed to serving West Alabama children who are suspected of being victims of physical or sexual abuse. Dr. Taylor, who also practices at University Medical Center, runs a Child Abuse Clinic most Tuesday mornings at the medical center. The purpose of the Child Abuse Clinic is to provide a screening examination for every child suspected of being sexually or physically abused. These screenings are performed by medical personnel skilled in recognizing normal and abnormal findings. “This is a very complex and difficult area of medicine that requires experience and ongoing training,” Dr. Taylor says. Medically proficient and appropriate examinations can reinforce to a child that the abuse was not the child’s fault, and that the child’s body is healing and valued, Dr. Taylor says. Children from the age of 9 months to 17 years are served in the clinic. The service area includes 11 mostly rural counties: Bibb, Choctaw, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Tuscaloosa and Walker. The clinic serves approximately 200 children per year.

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

The Alabama Child Abuse Provider Network is hoping to increase the number of medical professionals trained in conducting child abuse evaluations. ALCAP currently consists of a network of physicians across the state who are qualified to perform child abuse evaluations. The organization also operates a pediatric abuse clinic in Anniston, Ala., that is staffed by nurse practitioners who, in addition to performing such evaluations, can also train physicians to do so.

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

For the past three years, ALCAP has been funded with a grant awarded by the Department of Human Resources. On September 30, that funding will end. “Without grants and funding, there will be no supplies to work with. We will have nothing,” Barksdale says. A lack of funding not only eliminates needed supplies but also increases the barriers that limit the ability and willingness of medical providers to perform child abuse evaluations, Barksdale says. Many physicians receive inadequate compensation for time spent testifying for families in court. This decrease in compensation, partnered with increased regulatory paperwork, has added tremendously to the reluctance by many physicians to take on such complex work, says Barksdale.

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

Grants and donations to University Medical Center’s Child Abuse Clinic, one of the ALCAP network locations, can be received through personal, corporate or foundation grants. To receive more information about the Child Abuse Clinic, ALCAP, or to make a donation, please contact Allison Leitner, Director of Advancement for the College of Community Health Sciences, at (205)348-5701, or via e-mail at aleitner@cchs.ua.edu.

Alumni Notes

The College of Community Health Sciences Says “Thank you” to ...

Dr. Angela Powell, 1996 residency graduate, for participating in the production of the College of Community Health Sciences’ new brochure. Dr. Powell is pictured with the Ratcliff family. Dr. Powell began caring for the Ratcliff family during her residency. Teresa Ratcliff has provided a wonderful testimonial about the care her entire family receives from Dr. Powell. Dr. Powell practices in Monroeville along with University Medical Center Pediatrics Department.

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

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

In the Spotlight

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

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

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

2005-2006 Alumni Events

Alabama vs. LSU
Pre-Game Breakfast
Saturday, November 12th
College of Community Health Sciences • Activities for children available

Residency Reunion
April 28-29, 2006
NorthRiver Yacht Club
Continuing Medical Education available

Detailed information will be mailed next month.

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

7 • OnRounds • Summer 2005
The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences

Grand Rounds Schedule

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

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

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

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

---

**Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 16 Tuscaloosa, AL**

---

**The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences**
**Box 870326**
**Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0326**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

**OnRounds** The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences

The College of Community Health Sciences is a clinical branch campus of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Established in 1972, CCHS emphasizes family practice and other primary care disciplines and provides a sound basic medical education for all medical students assigned to this campus. CCHS also trains family doctors through a three-year family practice residency program to meet the urgent need for family physicians. A primary focus of the CCHS mission is seeking solutions for rural health care problems in Alabama.

OnRounds is published quarterly by CCHS. Send information to The Editor, Box 870326 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326 Tel: 205-348-3079 tzanjan@cchhs.ua.edu

Eugene Marsh, M.D., Interim Dean

---

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HEALTH SCIENCES**