Fourteen Graduate from Family Practice Residency Program in June

Members of the 1996 graduating class of the Family Practice Residency program were honored at an awards dinner at the DCH Regional Medical Center in June. They were joined by their families, CCHS faculty, and DCH officials as departmental honors and special awards were presented. Chief Resident Angela Powell, M.D., received top departmental honors in Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, and Psychiatry. Dr. Powell was also chosen for the Resident Teaching Award by medical students.

Dan Moore, M.D., won the Pediatrics Award, and Jeffrey Mathis, M.D., was recognized for excellence in family medicine with the William F. DeShazo III Family Practice Award. Chief Residents Dan Moore and Angela Powell also received University of Alabama captain's chairs in appreciation for their leadership.

Tracy Miles, M.D., received the Dean's Award, special recognition to a first-year resident who epitomizes the goals and mission of CCHS to train physicians in the art and practice of family medicine. Dean Roland Ficken presented this award, the William R. Willard Award, named for the late William Willard, M.D., founding dean of the College. David Eaton, M.D., received the V.A. Award for outstanding work as a second-year resident at the V.A. Medical Center in Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Bill Curry of Carrollton, an adjunct faculty member and preceptor for CCHS students and residents, who practices internal medicine in Pickens County, was the speaker. Dr. Curry served as Chief Resident for his class at Vanderbilt Medical School and has been a champion of primary care and a vocal advocate for rural medicine during his tenure as president of the Medical Association of Alabama and as founder and board member of RAHA, the Rural Alabama Health Alliance. He cheered the results of the program which sends its 223rd graduate into the practice of family medicine this year. "Two-thirds of this class are returning to their hometowns to practice," added Dr. Marc Armstrong, Residency Director.

Angela Powell and Dan Moore, Chief Residents for 1995-96, show off the chairs they received at the graduation dinner last June. (More pictures on page 8.)

Robert Centor Appointed Interim Dean

Robert Centor, M.D., Associate Dean for Primary Care, University of Alabama School of Medicine, has been appointed Interim Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences.

Dr. Centor has been "on duty" in Tuscaloosa for several months already, however, assisting UA School of Medicine (UASOM) Dean Harold Fallon who had been serving as interim dean since Dean Roland Ficken retired July 1.

Dr. Centor commutes from Birmingham two days a week to conduct business at CCHS. He retains his responsibilities at UAB with Primary Care and as Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine. An internist, he spends time each week seeing patients in Birmingham.

"The faculty has been very appreciative of how smoothly Dr. Centor has furthered our mission to provide primary care physicians to serve the citizens of Alabama," said Marc Armstrong, M.D., Director of the Residency Program.

"Dr. Centor sees himself "as a vehicle for the faculty," and he enjoys working with the new UA President Andrew Sorensen and the newly appointed Provost (Dr. Nancy Barrett), who --in his words-- "are both enthusiastic and positive."

UA President Appointed to BCM Faculty

Dr. Andrew Sorensen (right), who became President of The University of Alabama last summer, has received his faculty appointment in Behavioral and Community Medicine in the College of Community Health Sciences. He will teach CHS 520, a graduate course in epidemiology, in the spring semester. Dr. Sorensen and UA Trustee Dr. Sandral Bullett (left) helped to launch a new CCHS program in September. (See story on p. 2.)
Ten Rural Medical Scholars Begin New Program with Accent on Primary Care at UA School of Medicine

The Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) of the University of Alabama School of Medicine's College of Community Health Sciences in Tuscaloosa was kicked off in September. In a special ceremony attended by the first scholars selected for the program, their families, CCHS faculty and alumni, UA faculty, and interested guests, RMSP was officially launched by Interim Dean Robert Center, M.D., and UA President Andrew Sorensen.

"The new program selects and prepares ten outstanding rural scholars each year for Family Medicine or primary care practice in Alabama. The RMSP selects Rural Medical Scholars a year early, enrolls them in preparatory courses on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa in the year prior to matriculation to medical school, and provides a track of primary care instruction supportive of rural practice," said Dr. John Wheat, CCHS Associate Professor of Behavioral and Community Medicine and Internal Medicine, who helped create the program. Each Rural Medical Scholar will complete a year of general or graduate college study at the University of Alabama, complete Clinical Clerkships (two years), and introduce them to Rural Medical Scholars will study at UAB for two years to complete Basic Medical Sciences in the University of Alabama School of Medicine. They will return to the School of Medicine branch campus in Tuscaloosa, the College of Community Health Sciences, to complete Clinical Clerkships (two years).

Starting in the summer prior to enrolling at UAB, Rural Medical Scholars will be involved in special medical experiences, including rural Preceptorships, Research, and Community Health Fairs. The University of Alabama School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Programs in Birmingham, Huntsville, Selma, and Tuscaloosa will give special consideration to Rural Medical Scholars when they apply.

The goal of the RMSP is to select applicants to the University of Alabama School of Medicine who have a rural background and the desire to become a rural physician and provide them with a special educational program which will influence them to practice in a primary care specialty in an underserved (rural) area of Alabama.

1996 Rural Medical Scholars are Ann Davis, B.S. (Emory), Talladega; Kevin Ellis, a senior at The University of Alabama (UA), Albertville; Tom Holt, B.S. (Auburn University), Elba; Allison Hudson, senior (UA), Verbena; Drake Lavender, senior (UA), Eutaw; Trey Lightsy, senior (UA, transferred from the University of Montevallo), Centreville; Stephanie Morgan, B.S. (Jacksonville State University), Cedar Bluff; Elizabeth Smith, senior (UA), Monroeville; Paul Tabereaux, B.S. (UA), Muscle Shoals; and Angela Wilson, senior (UA, transfer from Auburn), Walnut Grove.

CCHS Dean Robert Center, M.D., introduced the new program, citing one of the University of Alabama School of Medicine missions: to prepare physicians to return to rural areas to practice. He reminded those present that UASOM Dean Harold Fallon, M.D., had made producing primary care physicians a priority of his administration. He also complimented the work of the Primary Care Advisory Board, which is working with UASOM to recommend strategies and policy that will increase the effectiveness of recruitment and preparation of primary care physicians. Dr. John Brandon, called the RMSP an historic moment for rural Alabama. He said that the Alabama Academy of Family Practice and the Rural Alabama Health Alliance (RAHA) have been working for decades to recruit and train doctors from rural areas to practice where they are most needed. He reviewed the history leading to establishment of CCHS in the early 1970's by Governor George Wallace, the closing of several family practice residency programs in the state due to lack of funding, and commended the dedication of Neal Christopher, M.D., and Speaker of the Alabama Jimmy Clark to the cause of medical education. He applauded the creation of the rural rotation for family practice residents and plans to make CCHS a research leader for rural health care.

Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President of The University of Alabama, was the keynote speaker for the event. Saying he preferred the term "outreach" to "service" in defining the published mission of The University ("Teaching, Research, and Service"), Dr. Sorensen stressed that all research does not have to be done in a lab, and he said, "We can't wait for them [rural communities] to knock on our door. We need to reach out to them. We should be showing other medical schools how to reach out to rural areas. I want to hear that "Tuscaloosa's campus is leading the way!"

I am very excited about the prospect of broadening the mission of the College of Community Health Sciences. In the past there has not been as much integration of both teaching and research as there could be between the CCHS faculty and faculty in other divisions of the University such as the School of Social Work, the Capstone College of Nursing, the College of Human Environmental Sciences, and the College of Education. I am hopeful that as CCHS broadens its mission and enhances the quality of its relationships with faculty and students in other parts of the University, such interaction will stimulate a substantial increase in the quality and quantity of externally supported research. I also hope that we will have more interdisciplinary teaching programs as our nation moves towards the implementation of managed health care, and also as we develop more effective outreach programs to those living in rural areas, especially in West Alabama.

Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President The University of Alabama October 4, 1996

Dr. Sorensen also gave examples of successful earlier programs related to rural outreach: Bioprep, which identified and mentored talented high school students; the BC/BS-CCHS collaborative program operated to provide access to medical care for all children in Bibb County, and the Agrimedicine program with its rural internships and clerkships which introduce students to the role of health professionals in small communities. In a separate statement (see box), Dr. Sorensen amplified his hopes that CCHS will retain and expand its leadership role in rural research.
Graduating Medical Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

Honors Convocation for graduating medical students at CCHS was held on May 18, 1996, at the Moody Music Building on the UA campus in Tuscaloosa. Departmental awards and other special presentations were announced as 19 senior medical students were recognized. Members of the class elected to the prestigious medical honorary Alpha Omega Alpha were Robert Douglas Hamiter, M.D., Stephen Joseph Langston, M.D., and Marc Thomas Warner, M.D. Dr. Warner and Heather Turner, M.D., shared the Scholastic Achievement Award for highest GPA during the clinical years.

Members of the class of 1996 completing their training at CCHS also include: Chelley Kaye Alexander, M.D.; Brian Carlos Bacot, M.D.; Todd Douglas Bell, M.D.; Dearl Vonstol Birdsong, Jr., M.D.; Rachel Zippert Chatters, M.D.; Kimberly Gladney Dobbs, M.D., and Thomas Elwyn Dobbs, III, M.D.; Benjamin Lester Glover, M.D.; Cedric Leon Harris, M.D.; Charles Brantley Lehman, M.D.; Monica Popov, M.D.; Angela Kynard Smelley, M.D.; Jonathan Michael Stanfield, M.D. and Lori Livingston Stanfield, M.D.; and Kimberly Michelle Stewart, M.D.

Departmental Awards

Senior medical students were chosen by faculty in each department for outstanding work during their clinical years. Honored were:

Robert F. Gloor Award
Behavioral and Community Medicine - Thomas E. Dobbs, III

Family Medicine Award - Lori L. Stanfield

Internal Medicine Award - Marc T. Warner

Finney/Akers Memorial Award
Obstetrics and Gynecology - Monica Popov

Pediatrics Award - Kimberly Gladney Dobbs

Peter Bryce Award - Heather S. Turner

Psychiatry - Stephen J. Turner

Surgery Award - Thomas E. Dobbs, III

Research Award - Thomas E. Dobbs, III

The Scholastic Achievement Award for the highest grade point during the clinical years was shared by Marc Warner (left) and Heather Turner (right). They were congratulated at Honors Convocation by Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine, James Philp, M.D. (center).

Faculty recognition awards were given by the senior class to Dr. E. Eugene Marsh, a member of the Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology, for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during their junior year and to Dr. Angela A. Powell for her outstanding teaching as a resident. The Patrick McCue Award for outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education during the class’s senior year was presented to Dr. Michael P. Robards, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine. Dr. John Brandon, an adjunct faculty member who has a family practice in Gordo, Alabama, received the Community Medicine Preceptor Award presented annually by the Dept. of Behavioral & Community Medicine.

The William R. Willard Award, the Dean’s Award, was presented to Heather Turner. Todd Bell won the Veterans Affairs Medical Center “Student of the Year” designation, and Cedric Harris received the James H. Akers Memorial Award, given annually to the Tuscaloosa senior who best personifies both the art and the science of the practice of medicine as chosen by the graduating senior class.

Editor’s note: Richard A. Lytle, Jr., a medical student on the Birmingham campus of UASOM, was awarded the Larry Mayes Memorial Scholarship. He will use the funds provided by the Mayes family in memory of their son, a senior medical student at CCHS who died on rotation in Africa, for study and work in Nepal.
Thirteen First Year Residents Enter Family Practice Program
d by Kay Hall

New first year residents arrived at CCHS on June 24, 1996. They will be practicing at the Capstone Medical Center and DCH Regional Medical Center. The following information was gathered to introduce them to CCHS faculty and staff. Where each completed medical school is in parentheses after his/her name:

Chelley Alexander (Univ. of Alabama) - Chelley’s interest in Family Medicine was inspired by her strong interest in relationships between health and issues of poverty. Following graduation from college, she began a fellowship to study medicine in a third world country. In her spare time, Chelley enjoys writing poetry, gardening and spending time with her husband, Hugh Lee, and her daughter, Ashley.

Edwin Dennard (LSU, New Orleans) - Edwin’s interests range from team sports and literature to history and politics. He has three children to whom he tries to impart his enthusiasm in these areas. Edwin graduated from Cornell Law School in 1983. With his background in law and finance, he believes it is possible he may someday have a role in health care management or policy.

Lucius Freeman (Univ. of South Alabama) - better known as Beau. He was born and raised in Jasper, Alabama. Beau credits the influence of his family doctor on his decision to go into family medicine. On a personal level, Beau enjoys spending time with his wife, Stephanie, playing golf, swimming, and (what else)?... ALABAMA FOOTBALL!!

Robert Hankenhof (LSU, New Orleans) - Even though Robert hails from New Orleans, his goal, after residency is to practice in a small to moderate sized town, as close as he can to the style of the old “country doc.” His wife, Angelle, can find Robert hunting, fishing, and discussing politics in his spare time!

Lon Haskell (Univ. of Nebraska) - Lon was born in Salt Lake City and raised in American Fork, Utah. He credits his early fascination with life sciences to his father who is a biology teacher. During college he took off two years to complete a mission for his church in Zurich, Switzerland. In medical school he was very active in many organizations and formed a completely student-sponsored award for outstanding health professions educator. He and his wife, Londa, have a son, Sean, who will be two in November.

Ronald Helms (Univ. of South Alabama) - prefers to be called “Rock.” He was born in Birmingham and raised in Pell City. Rock has always been interested in Family Practice as a specialty, especially in the area of preventive medicine. His outside interests include hunting, fishing, golfing and softball. Rock and his wife, Jennifer, have two children, Trey and Meredith.

Bill McArthur (Univ. of Mississippi) - Bill doesn’t remember ever wanting to be anything other than a doctor! After completing his residency, he may want to do an obstetrics fellowship before he returns to his hometown of Cleveland, Mississippi, to practice. Bill enjoys boating, jogging, Tae Kwon Do, and motorcycling. He and his wife Christine are newlyweds.

Amy Shenkenberg (Texas Tech Univ.) - Amy is from Denver, Colorado. Her goal is to work in organized health care in the early part of her career; and, ultimately practice medicine in a rural community. Amy’s husband, Craig, is a Captain in the Air Force, who will be stationed at Columbus, Mississippi. She enjoys aerobics, running, tennis, basketball, racketball and reading.

Angela Smolley (Univ. of Alabama) - is an Alabama native. Her small-town upbringing and friendship with their local family doctor factored into her decision to become a Family Medicine doctor. Angela’s outside interests include photography, running, bench aerobics and cooking. Her husband, Tony, is the owner of NorthStar Paramedics Services.

Committee Encourages Research by Faculty and Students

The CCHS Research Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Rand, M.D., Chair of Psychiatry and Neurology, has recently completed a survey of research by CCHS faculty, residents, and students to identify and compile publications by members of the college. These are available in the Health Sciences Library. The Committee also awards research grants of up to $2500 to tenure track faculty to support current research projects. Priority is given to applications from junior faculty, and grant requests will be reviewed after the next deadline, December 15, 1996. The Research Committee also welcomes requests to reimburse provides travel expenses for medical students and residents who present research at a local or regional professional meeting. In

the spring the Research Committee accepts nominations for its annual research awards to one graduating medical student and one graduating family practice resident.

Other members of the Research Committee for 1996-97 are Dr. James Leeper and John Wheat, M.D., Behavioral and Community Medicine; Mike Taylor, M.D., Pediatrics; Elizabeth Philip, M.D., and Sam Gaskins, M.D., Family Medicine; Dr. Nancy Rubin, Psychiatry and Neurology; Lori Haskell, M.D., Resident 1; James Parker, M.S.; Helvi McCall, Health Sciences Library; and the CCHS fiscal officer from the Dean’s Office.

Note: Please request guidelines for research grants from Dr. Rand, Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology. Submit all publications to Helvi McCall for the research collection at the Health Sciences Library. Alumni are especially encouraged to share their research for this collection.

New residents at orientation last summer posed with Dr. Armstrong in front of their first practice site, Capstone Medical Center, where they treat patients in Red Suite and Blue Suite family medicine clinics. Front row: Mike Stanfield, Lori Stanfield, Chelley Alexander, Angela Smolley, Rob Hankenhof, Rock Helms. Second row: Amy Shenkenberg, Bill McArthur, Mike Watkins, Eddie Dennard, Lon Haskell, Beau Freeman. Back row: Hugo (Rowdy) Valdes and Dr. Marc Armstrong, Residency Director.

Lori Stanfield (Univ. of Alabama) - is another Alabama native, hailing from Andalusia. After her residency is completed she plans to return there to practice. Lori enjoys reading, playing the piano, board games, She and her husband, Mike (read on for more info), have a son, Avery.

Mike Stanfield (Univ. of Alabama) - the other Stanfield in the program! Mike, too, is a native Alabamian, born in Demopolis, raised in Albertville. Family is very important to Mike; and, he wants to practice and raise his own family in the same rural environment in which he was raised. He enjoys reading, golf, athletics in general, and spending time with his family (aforementioned wife, Lori, and son, Avery).

Hugo Valdes (LSU, New Orleans) - more commonly referred to as “Rowdy!” He was born and raised in New Orleans. Rowdy was attracted to Family Medicine because of the ability to establish long-term relationships with patients. He wants to practice medicine away from big city crime, traffic, smog and stress. His true passion is duck hunting; but he also enjoys fishing, watching ESPN and spending time with friends and family.

Mike Watkins (LSU, Baton Rouge) - is a native of Louisiana. He believes his true love for, and ability to get along with, people, plus the influence of his family’s doctor shaped his decision to go into Family Medicine. In his spare time, Mike enjoys playing basketball, skiing, fishing, drawing, and reading. Additionally, we know from first-hand knowledge, Mike is a great cook (he prepared Cajun Pasta for last year’s Christmas party!).

Note: Two (un)professional photo sheets - new Residents and incoming Medical Students - are available from the Office of the Residency Program and Medical Student Affairs. On July 1, 27 third year medical students from the Birmingham campus of UASOM joined us for their clinical years. For additional information about the new group of Medical Students, check with Mary Kay Hannah, Program Assistant for Medical Student Affairs.

Chief Residents are Martin Harvey, M.D. & Stuart Hendon, M.D.
Third Year Medical Students Come to CCHS for Clinical Rotations

The Class of 1998, medical students who will spend their third and fourth clinical years at CCHS, arrived at Orientation in July. They shared some information about themselves for OnRounds:

**Roderick Adams**, Montgomery, Alabama, graduated from Harvard University in 1992. He has been interested in medicine since he was a small child, and he wants to pursue a career in primary care. He is single, and when asked about hobbies and interests, he said, "You mean there are medical students somewhere who still have those?"

**Sami Ali** is from Mobile and graduated from Spring Hill College.

**Wade Alverson**, Pell City, Alabama, graduated from Auburn University in March, 1993. When he has time, he jogs and enjoys golf and tennis. Church and family are other interests. His wife's name is Beth.

**Jennifer Burdette**, Wetumpka, Alabama, graduated from The University of Alabama in 1994. She and her husband Steve have a son named Andrew. She enjoys working with people and plans to go into family practice in Alabama. She has always been interested in science and medicine.

**Karen Burgess**, Orange Beach, Alabama, said she loved science and wanted to work with people. She graduated from The U of A in 1994. She likes to spend time with family, attend football games, read, and go to the beach.

**Miranda Y. Edwards**, Albany, Georgia, a 1994 graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, is interested in health care and serving the community through primary care. Her hobbies are music, shopping, and reading.

**Jeremy Franklin**, Montgomery, Alabama, plans to become a pediatrician. He graduated from UAB in 1994 and has a special interest in military history.

**Kevin Scott Giadrosich** of Birmingham, Alabama, graduated from UA in 1989 and became interested in medicine because it combines learning and working with people in a unique and rewarding way. He is engaged to Rebecca Henderson (below), and they plan to be married on January 4, 1997. His interests are conversation, reading, tennis, running, theology, and eating.

**Dan Guralnick**, Seattle, Washington, graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1994. Both parents are involved in health care and he enjoys science which led him into medicine. He plans to go into internal medicine and hopes to do a fellowship in sports medicine. He enjoys tennis and traveling.

**Tara Haynes** is from Montgomery, Alabama, and she graduated from The University of Alabama in 1993.

**Rebecca Elizabeth Henderson** of Birmingham graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee in 1994. She is interested in pediatrics, she says, because she wants to work with children. She is engaged to classmate Kevin Giadrosich and they are interested in science and working with people. Her hobbies are music, and movies.

**Latonya James**, a 1993 graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, is from Mobile and describes herself as "a people person." She likes to read, watch movies, and listen to music (especially jazz).

**Dennis M. Jones**, Cullman, Alabama, graduated from UAB in 1994 and chose medicine so he could combine his interest in science and working with people. His wife's name is Tracie.

**Sara Kim** graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1993 and she plans to enter internal medicine. She is from Birmingham, Alabama, and enjoys tennis, museums, dancing, and eating good food.

**Patrick Lowe** of Haleville, Alabama, graduated from Samford University in Birmingham in 1993. His interests include photography, traveling, and backpacking.

**Colin Marino** from Tuscaloosa graduated from UA in 1992 and went into medicine to help people. His hobbies are competitive water skiing and karate.

**Tamelia Miles**, a 1994 UAB graduate, is from Tuscaloosa.

**Matt Palo** is from Enterprise, Alabama, and graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee. He likes scuba diving, movies, eating out, weight lifting, and soccer.

**Elizabeth (Libby) Sanders** is married and graduated from Auburn in 1993.

**David A. Smith** is an Alabama football fan from Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He graduated from UA in 1994. He plans to go into pediatrics because he likes working with children. His hobbies are golf and tennis.

**Sid Smith** is from Texarkana, Texas, and became interested in medicine because his father is an internist. He thinks he will enter a surgical residency after graduation. He has a degree from Samford University, and his interests include hunting, fishing, golf, tennis, travel, and church.

**Denise Stripling** of Vernon, Alabama, graduated from UA in 1991. She is married and enjoys music, sports, and reading.

**Stewart Tankersley**, an Auburn graduate, is from Montgomery. He plans to go into surgery or obstetrics and calls medicine "the noblest of professions" ("if motives are true," he adds). He likes Auburn Football (with a capital F), basketball, tennis, and politics.

**Jason Thurman** from Nashville is a 1994 Vanderbilt University graduate.

**Brian K. Wade** is from Meridian Mississippi. He graduated from Birmingham-Southern College in 1994. He enjoys softball, golf, football, and most outside activities.

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**Note:** Colin Marino is the Third Year Class Representative. The new Fourth Year Medical Student Class President is Stephen Barnes.

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**OnRounds + 5 • Fall 1996**

**Dr. Koopman Will Give Annual Bahar Lecture in December**

William J. Koopman, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Medicine at UAB, will present the annual Annual Medical Lecture on December 13 at 12:15 p.m. His topic is "New Possibilities for Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis."

For more information or a schedule of future medical education lectures, contact Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, (205) 348-0093.

**CME Special Emphasis Weeks Planned**

Osteoporosis and Psychiatry

Continuing Medical Education (CME) has scheduled two special emphasis weeks during the spring semester. Osteoporosis will be the topic of lectures January 20-24, 1997. During the week May 5-9, Psychiatry will be the focus.

"First Friday" Lectures Announced

The First Friday Arts and Letters series will present three special programs during spring semester, 1997.

February 7: "The Mars Rocks" Gene Byrd, PhD Professor, Astronomy

March 7: "Women's Rights" Martha Morgan, J.D. Professor, Law School

May 7: Performance Cornellus Carter, MFA Assistant Professor Theatre and Dance
OSCE Uses Standardized Patients to Test Clinical Skills

Pat Norton, standing with clipboard, watches as observers monitor on closed circuit televisions the standardized patient encounters with medical students during their clinical examination.

Right: CCHS senior medical student April Butsch completes an interstation exercise outside the patient room during her OSCE exam. Dr. James Philp looks on.

Below: Dr. Elizabeth Philp, left, and Pat Norton review the rotation of medical students through the exam stations during one of the ten-minute interstation periods. Eighteen standardized patients (nine on each hall) portrayed nine case histories during OSCE testing session. A large TV monitor faced each hall, so students could gauge their time during interstation exercises. UASOM students from the Birmingham, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa campuses came to the OSCE testing site at the V.A. Medical Center in Tuscaloosa.

The 1996 Senior Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) was held in September at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tuscaloosa. All fourth year medical students from the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM) participated in this evaluation of their clinical skills. They were graded on their interpersonal skills and ability to communicate with patients, take histories, and examine patients.

Elizabeth Philp, M.D., who developed the OSCE method of examination for UASOM, also collaborated with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to pilot using standardized patients in the licensure testing process.

Students progressed through nine 15-minute “stations” during a four-hour testing session. Each station, located in a patient room on a new and presently unoccupied hall at the V.A. hospital, presented a standardized patient (SP) simulating an illness or medical problem. Standardized patients were trained extensively before the OSCE to answer questions about their history and portray the physical or lifestyle ailments of the various cases being presented as part of the testing. All SP stations were videotaped and evaluators watching on individual monitors in a separate screening room graded the student’s performance, using a checklist of essential items developed for each case.

During the ten-minute interval between patient encounters while SP’s were completing checklists, the students read X-rays, charts, or EKG’s and wrote prescriptions as part of their exam.

Pat Norton, M.L.S., Medical Education Project Coordinator in the CCHS Department of Family Medicine, worked with Dr. Elizabeth Philp, Associate Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS and UASOM Director of the OSCE, to recruit and train the standardized patients. Four of the stations were being pilot tested for the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). At these stations, medical students and standardized patients evaluated the process.

Daniel J. Klass, M.D., Director of the NBME Standardized Patient Project, complimented the work of Dr. Philp and her SP team in a letter to Dr. Philp. As the NBME plans for implementation of a performance-based test for patient-centered clinical skills, he said, “we are encouraged to discover that high quality SP programs exist in sites such as yours... We very much look forward, therefore, to continuing to work with your program, and to enhancing our ability to implement a high quality test that uses standardized patients for national licensure.”

Students may soon be required to pass the OSCE as part of their medical education. The UASOM Medical Education Committee has set up a remediation policy for students who did not pass the OSCE. “The remediation will be designed to address the student’s specific weaknesses based on the OSCE and their third-year clerkship evaluations,” said Dr. Philp.

Editor’s Note: The Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) is an annual project of the OSCE Committee of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Volunteers from the community and The University are recruited and trained as standardized patients. For more information, contact Dr. Elizabeth Philp or Pat Norton in Family Medicine, (205) 349-2880.

OnRounds • 6 • Fall 1996

Dr. Fair Joins Obstetrics and Gynecology Faculty

Paul D. Mozley, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, announces the appointment of R.H. Fair, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., as Assistant Professor of OB/GYN at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa Program. Dr. Fair has been in private practice in Mission Viejo, California, since 1972. He has served five terms as Chief of OB Services at Mission Hospital Medical Center and been a member of the Board of Directors of the hospital and Chief of Medical Staff. Dr. Fair earned his B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of Nebraska. He completed his internship at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, and his OB/GYN residency at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. He was a research fellow in the Department of Anatomy during medical school and a research fellow during his residency as well. He has postgraduate continuing education in treatment of sexual dysfunction, microsurgery for restoration of fertility, cervical dysplasia, and laparoscopic surgical techniques.

R.H. Fair, M.D., Assistant Professor Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Fair and Sharon, his wife of 36 years, have two grown children living in California. Their daughter works in the movie industry in Hollywood, and their son works in a custom surfboard business. Mrs. Fair, an interior designer, is commuting to and from her business in Laguna Beach, California. They have bought an 1830 house in an historic district near the UA campus and plan to restore it. Dr. Fair’s hobby is marlin fishing, and he often goes with friends to Key West or Mexico. His dream, he says, is to live in a grass shack on a Mexico beach.

Dr. Fair said he looks forward to teaching in a primary care program — “students make it worthwhile” — and he thinks there is great potential for research on maternal and child health in rural areas. He is particularly interested in interdisciplinary networking, delivery of medical care, educating community health care providers, and educating citizens in prevention. He cited the theme of a meeting of OB/GYN professors as one that coincides with his ideas of medical education: “To learn, to care, to change.”
Dr. Barrett and Dr. Andrew Sorenson, the new president of The University of Alabama, have both expressed their desire "to position the College as a leading center for research in the practice of rural medicine and the training of physicians for rural practice." Dr. Sorenson was appointed as president of the College on this basis.

The mission statement has been presented by Dean Centor to UA President Andrew Sorenson and Provost Nancy Barrett and UASOM Dean Harold Fallon.

Dr. Barrett brings two particular strengths to his role: he is a primary care physician and he grew up in a small town. He feels that his boyhood years in Marion, Virginia (a town of 8,000) gave him a feeling for rural communities and the culture of the South. He has also spent much of his career advocating for primary care education and he still sees patients as a primary care physician.

Dr. Byrd is a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in 1975, later serving as a family physician for over twenty years. Dr. Byrd is a lifelong resident of Centreville, closed his practice of general surgery and family medicine on October 1 to join CCHS as Clinical Professor of Family Medicine.

Dr. Owings graduated from the University of Alabama and Tulane Medical School by the time he was 22, then trained in a surgical residency at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, Kansas, and served two years as a surgeon in the U.S. Army. Dr. Owings returned to Centreville to open his practice of general surgery and family medicine in 1965. He also served as a family physician for over thirty years. Dr. Owings is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He is on the editorial board of the Family Medicine Journal and has taught military medicine at the University of Health Sciences in Bethesda. Dr. Owings is a native of Cleveland, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in 1975, later serving as a family physician for over twenty years. Dr. Byrd is a lifelong resident of Centreville, closed his practice of general surgery and family medicine on October 1 to join CCHS as Clinical Professor of Family Medicine.

The search for a dean has been suspended until the mission statement is in place. Dr. Centor said he does not expect the mission statement to be more explicit. When finalized, the mission statement will be presented to Dean Fallon and President Sorenson. The search for a dean has been suspended pending the mission statement.

Dr. Centor describes academics as a three-legged stool: teaching, research, and service. Our service in medical education is clinical, he says, but each leg of the stool must be equally strong. He sees CCHS as "uniﬁcely situated to study the issues in rural medicine and training of primary care physicians."

"What’s special is our location in the middle of rural counties with physicians all ready to help, but there might be people who don’t have service to them, so we need to make our service more efﬁcient and build on the great strength in education that is here," said Dr. Centor. He sees his role as helping CCHS move in the right direction so that a new dean can come in to a medical school strong in all three areas.

"Centor brings crucial skills and experience to our college," says Dr. Armstrong. Dr. Owings' Practice Experience

CCHS Mission Statement Approved by Faculty

The revised draft of the CCHS mission statement was voted on by faculty and approved as follows:

Dr. Barrett and Dr. Andrew Sorenson, the new president of The University of Alabama, have both expressed their desire "to position the College as a leading center for research in the practice of rural medicine and the training of physicians for rural practice." Dr. Sorenson was appointed as president of the College on this basis.

The mission statement has been presented by Dean Centor to UA President Andrew Sorenson and Provost Nancy Barrett and UASOM Dean Harold Fallon.

three years as director of internal medicine education at St. Mary’s Hospital in Richmond. Dr. Centor is author of numerous publications, and he is on the editorial board of the Journal of General Internal Medicine. He has been recognized for excellence in teaching at Virginia and UAB. He earned his B.A. at the University of Virginia in 1975, later serving there as chief medical resident. He completed postdoctoral training in Preventive Medicine at Stanford and a renal research fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Centor is an "addicted golfer." He and his wife have a daughter at Emory University and a 15-year-old son at home.

Dr. Byrd and Dr. Owings Join Family Medicine Faculty

Debbie C. Byrd, Pharm. D., has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at CCHS. She is concurrently Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Practice for Auburn University School of Pharmacy in a special arrangement between the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa School of Medicine and the Auburn University School of Pharmacy. The shared pharmacy faculty member position continues Byrd’s research interests on rotation staffs for over twenty years.

Dr. Byrd is also helping to evaluate the use of vitamin K in outpatient management of anticoagulation. Her other research in progress includes study of psoriatic arthritis, automated therapeutic drug monitoring, and portable probite monitoring in a cardiology clinic.

While she was in the Washington D.C. area, she was an adjunct assistant professor of pharmacy at Howard University School of Pharmacy and taught Nursing Pharmacology in the Nurse Practitioner De­partment at Uniformed Services University where she was coach of the 1988-89 women’s track team.

Dr. Owings is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He teaches courses in the management of trauma and casualties to military and civilian doctors. "Bill Owings brings crucial skills and experience to our college at a time when our primary care mission is being re-emphasized in medi­cal education. He has been a successful primary care physician for thirty years, and he can share his commitment and expertise with young doctors who are needed in these communities," said Jerry Mc Knight, M.D., Chair of Family Medicine.

"I am especially impressed with the quality of physicians and patients here," says Dr. Armstrong. Dr. Owings was always interested in health care, and she was at­tracted to clinical work in which she "teaches" patients and physicians about pharmaceutical disciplines. She worked with the quality of physicians at CCHS," she said. "They show a warmth toward their patients, and the faculty put a lot of energy into teaching the students and residents that their practice is an important part of their own education."

This coincides with her own philosophy and personal goal: "I am very interested in patient education and would eventually like to set up a special clinic just for patients with compliance problems, those taking multiple medications, or those who need close monitoring due to drug interactions or frequent dosage changes.” She also enjoys speaking to patient groups and the lay public about drug therapy.
Dr. Marc Armstrong (right), Family Practice Residency Director, talks with 1996 Graduation speaker William Curry, M.D., of Carrollton. Dr. Curry, an advocate for primary care, serves as preceptor and adjunct faculty member.

OnRounds is published with the assistance of the Lister Hill Society. The Lister Hill Society, named in honor of the late U.S. Senator from Alabama who worked for better health care for all citizens, is the voluntary support group 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 the preparation of family physicians to care for patients in rural areas.

Contributions from alumni and friends to the Lister Hill Society fund cash awards to outstanding medical students and residents, special projects, student travel to medical meetings, alumni publications, research expenses, and library information.

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Address Correction Requested