Dean Curry Outlines Four Major Initiatives for CCHS

In First Joint Meeting of All Faculty and Staff

William A. Curry, MD, F.A.C.P., who became Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences on July 1, 1998, addressed an unprecedented joint meeting of faculty and staff on September 11 in the William R. Williard Auditorium to share his vision for CCHS and his 3-year goals.

Dr. Curry's 3-Year Initiatives

• New Facility to House all of CCHS
• Sustaining/Developing Clinical Program
• Faculty and Staff Development
• Technology Advancement

Reiterating the CCHS mission -- to educate and train medical students and family practice residents; to provide services to patients that enable medical education to take place; and to engage in research to support educational goals and service to rural Alabama -- Dr. Curry expressed his deep sense of the “great tradition and serious responsibility” he shares with all those present in upholding a powerful heritage of medical education.

"As I have met and worked with you, I am impressed with your dedication to the work of the college, your loyalty, your skills, and your openness to new methods and technology," said Dean Curry. "Indeed, it is your commitment, skills, and energy as a faculty and staff that will enable us to take our next steps. I am excited to be here, and I am ready to be your dean, and I am ready to join you in getting to work -- to create a future that meets the needs of our students and the citizens of Alabama."

A Vision for CCHS

In the year 2001, CCHS will be providing quality education, expanded research, leadership in rural community health, and an excellent multi-disciplinary clinical practice in a new facility, managed effectively using advanced technology. We will be respected throughout Alabama as a place to visit, to work, to study, and to support financially.

Dr. Blum to Fill Gerald Wallace Endowed Chair of Family Medicine

Professor Alan Blum, MD, one of the nation's foremost authorities on tobacco and its effects on society, renowned family medicine educator, practitioner and innovator, will join the CCHS faculty by early summer of 1999 as first chairholder of the newly created Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine.

Dr. Blum has spent the past ten years as a clinician and teacher of family medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. In 1977, he founded DOC (Doctors Ought to Care), a national non-profit organization assisting in school health education and in community health promotion through the mass media. He also created an International Tobacco Archive, one of the world's largest resources on tobacco problems. Dr. Blum is developing a Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society for instruction, research, and service. He is committed to instructional components for professional education and public education, and to an international research program that is a Collaborating Center for the World Health Organization.

Dr. Blum has received numerous awards for his work including the first "Smoke Free American Award" presented by C. Everett Koop; the first "National Public Health Award" from the American Academy of Family Physicians; the Humanitarian Award of the American Lung Association; and the Surgeon General Medallion.

Celia Wallace, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile, provided the $1 million gift to create the chair in memory of her late husband, Gerald Leon Wallace, MD. She attributed his death from lung cancer to his being a cigar smoker and said she hopes that others can learn about the dangers of smoking through Dr. Blum's work as Gerald Leon Wallace Chair of Family Medicine.

Dr. Wallace, one of Alabama's most distinguished and innovative family physicians, founded Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile. The Gerald Leon Wallace, MD, Endowed Chair in Family Medicine is one of only a few endowed chairs in family medicine in the nation. It is the first endowed chair in CCHS and is a milestone toward expanding research in medical care focusing on family medicine.

23rd Residency Class Joins Ranks of CCHS Family Physician Alums

Members of the 1998 graduating class of the Family Practice Residency program were honored at an awards dinner hosted by DCH Healthcare Authority and DCH Regional Medical Center at the University Club on June 18. This is the twenty-third graduating class to complete the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency program at CCHS. Ten 1998 graduates join 234 previous graduates of the program in practice across the state, the South, and the nation.

Graduates were joined by their families, CCHS faculty, and DCH officials as departmental honors and special awards were presented. Marc Armstrong, MD, Director of the Residency program, presided. He was the first resident in the program in the early 70's.

Lisa Sward, MD, received the Internal Medicine award and the Research Award as well as the Society of Family Medicine Resident Teaching award. Chief Resident Kent Kanatani, MD, won recognition in family medicine, receiving the William F. DeShazo III award. Chief Resident Chris Sward, MD, received the Pediatrics departmental award. Dr. Chris Sward (Continued on p. 3)

Kent Kanatani, MD, (center) receives the William F. DeShazo III Family Medicine award from Family Medicine Chair Jerry Kicklight, MD, (left) and Dr. DeShazo, Professor and Chair of Family Medicine Emeritus, for whom the award is named.
Promotion

Three members of the CCHS faculty have been promoted and Elizabeth Philp, MD, has received tenure along with promotion.

Elizabeth Philp, MD
Professor, Family Medicine
Dr. Philp earned her MD from the University of Chicago. She is a native of Montana and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Montana. She has been a practicing family physician for over 25 years. She has served as President of the Montana Academy of Family Physicians and is currently serving as a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Robert Joseph, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Dr. Joseph is a native of Alabama and received his MD from UAB. He has been a pediatrician for over 30 years and has served as a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is currently serving as the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

Debbie Byrd, PharmD
PharmD, in the Dept. of Family Medicine, and Charles Taylor, PharmD, in CCHS Internal Medicine, have initiated a Primary Care Pharmacy Program (PCPP) at DRC Regional Medical Center, Department of Pharmacy.

Drs. Byrd and Taylor are working with Bobbie Adcock, MD, on a "FDA-Regulated Pharmaceutical Care Model" with the help of the Pharmacy Power RX Division, U.S. Pharmaceuticals Group, Pfizer Incorporated, and a project for pharmacy students. Pharamacotherapy Poster Presentations: A Method to Facilitate Professionalization.

Robert Ireland, MD
Director, Department of Psychiatry
Dr. Ireland is a native of Alabama and received his MD from UAB. He has been a psychiatrist for over 30 years and has served as a member of the American Academy of Psychiatry. He is currently serving as the Director of the Department of Psychiatry.

Research Projects

CCHS has a great deal of research underway or pending. Key Federal/State sponsors of Sponsored Programs in the Dean's Office, shared this information from a recent report.

Dr. Rand is preparing to renew her study on "Parental Perceptions of Role of Pain in Memory: Methods for Studying Role of Pain in Memory". She has put on hold 11 years ago.

The Effect of Being a Standardized Patient on One's Perceptions of Being a Standardized Patient on One's... (Continued on p.8)

Dean Curry on Research...

What about research? If you as faculty wanted to be Senior Investigators of the National Institutes of Health, you would be pursuing that somewhere else. We are a team. Few of us have research backgrounds. Clinical and teaching activities demand time and productivity. The state budget of CCHS is not enough to fund all that we do. Without clinical productivity, we are in the hole. So how and why should we find time and energy for research? Let us begin by you finding that there is more than one kind of research.

Level one is to improve teaching or clinical practice. It may or may not involve publication, and it may or may not be published. It is community based. It happens because we care about what we do with students, residents, and patients, and how well we do it.

Level two research is funded, usually below $50,000 per project. It involves a report which may or may not be published.

Level three research is funded, typically above the $50,000 level, and it includes publication in peer-reviewed journals. It involves state, regional, national, and possibly international recognition.

So what kind of research do we do in CCHS? Clearly, we do some of all of it. Not every one of us should expect to do all three. Given our mission, however, every one of us should at least be evaluating the work we do. It is reasonable for every faculty member to be involved at any given time in at least one project -- at level one, or two, or three.

The key element is quality. We have this heritage and this responsibility for the next generation of physicians, and we need to know how we're doing at it.

It means evaluation, discussion, dissemination, and follow-up. Call it whatever you like, but it can be called research.

UA Research Funds Available

The University of Alabama Research Advisory Committee (RAC) provides grants for up to $3,000 to full-time, permanent faculty for research projects. Funds may be requested for salary grant-in-aid (for all or part of summer), assistants, supplies, equipment, books, and travel. Some restrictions are involved.

January 29, 1999, is the deadline to apply. Applications are available in the RAC office, G-60 Rose. For more information or to request an application, call the RAC office at 348-5152.
Lisa Sward, MD, accepts the Family Medicine teaching award from Marc Armstrong, MD, Residency Director. Dr. Sward also won the Internal Medicine and Research awards.

Class of 1998 Family Practice Residents Honored at Graduation  
(Continued from page 1)

and Dr. Kanatani also received University of Alabama captain’s chairs to thank them for their leadership as chief residents.

Ann Drum, MD, received the Psychiatry award presented by Elizabeth Rand, MD, Chair of Psychiatry and Neurology. Harvey Fair, MD, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, presented the OB/GYN award to Jason Fields, MD; and Paul Mozley, MD, presented Martin Harvey, MD, the OB Fellowship Award for his year of work in the field. A 1997 residency graduate, Harvey won OB/GYN and Internal Medicine awards and Resident Teaching award last year.

Rock Helms, MD, received the V.A. award to a second year resident for outstanding work from Dr. Robert Thornton of the V.A. Medical Center. Jeff Laubenthal, MD, received the Willard Award Dean’s Award, to recognize a first year resident who epitomizes the CCHS mission to train physicians in the art and practice of family medicine. This prestigious award is named for the late William R. Willard, MD, founding dean of the College, and the “Father of Family Medicine.”

“We are the house Willard built,” said Dr. William A. Curry, who was the graduation speaker. Dr. Curry urged the graduates to build relationships with patients, communities, and colleagues. He defined medicine as “a calling, not a business” and recommended compassion over “detached concern” in the ongoing transition to managed care. He shared personal experiences that had shaped his attitudes toward illness and the sick and advised grads to be aware of defining moments in their own lives which may affect their attitudes and sensitivity;
"Mrs. Wallace has a deep and abiding interest in developing medical professionalism through the education of young physicians. Out of that has come her generous and consistent support of our College," said Dr. William Curry, Dean of CCHS. "Alan Blum will be a model of that to students and residents every day - by showing them what it looks like to be a family physician who cares about patients, about families, about communities. Medical education today will be even better tomorrow and in the years to come because of her commitment."

Dr. Blum Appointed to Gerald Wallace Chair of Family Medicine
(Continued from page 1)

"We are all very pleased that Dr. Blum is joining our faculty," Jerry McKnight, MD, Chairman of Family Medicine, said. "His work as the first Wallace Chair of Family Medicine will add a new dimension to our efforts to train physicians for rural Alabama. His philosophy of patient care and commitment to health education and prevention match goals of this department, and his broad experience will give our students and residents new insights into family medicine."

Lee Wallace (left) and K.C. (for Kristin Celia) Wallace greet Dr. Blum (center), who is the first holder of the Gerald Leon Wallace Chair of Family Medicine, established in memory of their father. They joined their mother Celia Wallace at a reception in October to honor Dr. Blum.

Mrs. Wallace hosted a reception at Springhill Hospital in Mobile in October to welcome Dr. Blum. Dean Curry and President Sorensen joined Mrs. Wallace, her son Lee and daughter K.C., and several hundred guests in the Gerald Wallace Auditorium to greet Doctor Blum. He told the gathering that he remembered his father's fight against tobacco in the years when "fighting tobacco meant fighting everything from politicians to the media to organized baseball." The Dodgers were sponsored by Lucky Strike, he explained.

Dr. Blum, the son of a physician, has previously shared lessons from his father with CCHS. He was the speaker for the 1996 family practice residents graduation, and his message to the class members was the importance of listening and communicating with patients, a lesson he said he learned in his father's waiting room -- also their living room during Dr. Blum's boyhood years. He gave many examples from his own experience as a family physician as well, sharing his sketches and stories of his patients. He learned that the real worry of one of his patients, an 84-year-old man who had to give up driving, was how he was going to continue seeing his two girlfriends. He also shared the joy of talking to his patients -- one who said his seizures were the only exercise he got, and a woman with Alzheimer's whose reply to "Where are you going, doctor?" was "Right here, doctor!"

Dr. Blum's involvement with patients and his advice to the 1997 graduates give insight into Dr. Blum's philosophy. He cautioned them to avoid medical jargon and acronyms, which he said "dehumanize your patients." He described "no jargon" days he had instituted in his teaching with jellybean penalties for any medical jargon used during rounds.

Dr. Blum received his BS in English literature from Amherst and his MD from Emory University School of Medicine. He completed his internship at McGill University in Montreal and his residency and subsequent fellowship in family medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine. He was selected for the prestigious Morris Fishbein Fellowship in Medical Journalism by the American Medical Association. Dr. Blum joins the Department of Family Medicine, with a clinical practice and teaching schedule of hospital service and conferences for medical students and family practice residents.

Lee Wallace (left) and K.C. (for Kristin Celia) Wallace greet Dr. Blum (center), who is the first holder of the Gerald Leon Wallace Chair of Family Medicine, established in memory of their father. They joined their mother Celia Wallace at a reception in October to honor Dr. Blum.

On Rounds • 4 • Fall 1998
Class of 2000 Medical Students Begin Clinical Training at CCHS

Twenty-four UASOM third-year medical students began their clinical rotations in Tuscaloosa on July 1, 1998. Rehearsed in the Willard Auditorium during orientation, they are (with hometowns and degrees): Left-eight, first row—Stephanie Brown, Marion and Frisco City, Alabama, B.S. in Biology, The University of Alabama (UA). Gene Acupan, Decatur, B.S., Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Katisha Vance, Montgomery, B.S., Chemistry, UA. Allen Foster, Stafford, B.S., Biomedical Sciences, University of South Alabama. 


Office of Medical Student Affairs 
Cathy Gresham, MD, Director
Mary Kay Hannah, Program Assistant

---

Grand Rounds
Continuing Medical Education Lectures
12:15-1:15 p.m. Willard Auditorium

Grand Rounds speakers during the fall have included Robert Kreisberg, MD, on "Type II Diabetes," sponsored by Bristol-Myers-Squibb, and Donald Miller, MD, on "Viral Hepatitis," sponsored by Amgen.

December 4 First Friday Conference
Sponsored by CCHS
Susan C. Fieming, D.M.A. Associate Professor of Voice UA School of Music

December 11 Tenth Annual Bahar Lecture
Sponsored by the Natah Bahar Memorial Fund

Reflections and Perspectives: A Sil-War Look at Medicine
William B. Deal, MD, Dean, UA School of Medicine

December 18 "Contraption Update"
Sponsored by Wyeth (Devon)
Dr. Deal

For more information contact: Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, 205-348-0093, vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu

New Faculty Member Dr. Karl Hasik Brings Rural Practice Experience to Department of OB/GYN

Karl J. Hasik, MD, Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, joined the OB/GYN faculty October 1. He came to CCHS from Quincy, Illinois, where he was in a multi-specialty clinic of about 60 physicians. He also worked with family practice residents who were training at the hospital where he was on staff.

Dr. Hasik earned a B.A. in psychology and his MD degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He won medical school departmental honors in human ecology and behavioral science, surgery, and obstetrics and gynecology. He also received a letter of commendation in psychiatry and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honorary medical fraternity. He did residency training at East Carolina and completed his residency at St. Louis University.

Dr. Mozley, Chair of OB/GYN, who taught at East Carolina, remembers Dr. Hasik as "the #1 resident in the program." He said he was delighted to bring Dr. Hasik to Tuscaloosa to teach and practice as the obstetrical patient load at the Capstone Medical Center grows.

Dr. Hasik said he has wanted to teach but was caught up in the "charge" he gets from patient care. Originally attracted to family medicine, he found he liked obstetrics and the chance to "grow with patients from the beginning." He has spent the past fifteen years in private practice of OB/GYN, including directing four rural clinics in the Corpus Christi, Texas, area in 1993-94 and working with rural and indigent patients in Nevada. He has practiced primarily in St. Louis and surrounding small towns. He has experience in training and supervising nurse practitioners as part of his practice and spoke of extending OB/GYN care in underserved rural areas by using allied professionals. Rural practice, he says, which may not have the most advanced technology and fast turnaround of lab tests, requires a physician to focus on the patient and make diagnoses without all the tools and imaging available in urban facilities. This focus on the patient and his belief in "treating all patients with dignity, no matter what their race, religion, or ability to pay" are critical elements of his philosophy. He said he looks forward to teaching and hopes to share with students and residents the importance of "never losing sight of the patient as a person."

He and his wife Kathy, a former home ec teacher, have an 8-year-old son, 7-year-old daughter, and five-year-old twins. Not surprisingly, he spends much of his leisure time in family activities, including cub scouts, brownies, and tee ball, which he hopes to coach now that they are settled in Tuscaloosa. He also enjoys golf and is training to run in a marathon within the next year. Kathy, who has sung professionally, and their daughter are already practicing to sing in the special Christmas program at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

---

Research Committee Continues Lunch Series

The CCHS Research Committee continued its Research Lunch Series with a report November 10 by Sam Gaskins, MD, on practice demographics and OB services of residency grades. This is a forum for presentation of research conducted within CCHS or projects of interest from outside the College, said Dr. Rand, Research Committee Chair.

The research series is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. in the renovated Carrel Room at Capstone Medical Center. This change allows more access to the residents and students and also makes it possible to utilize the new technology available in the Carrel Room. Call 348-1325 for more details or to reserve lunch.

December 8: John Wheat, MD

"The Rural Physician Survey"

January 12: James Leeper, PhD

"25 Year Trends in Infant Mortality in Alabama Counties"

The CCHS Research Committee is encouraging medical students and residents to become involved in research. At a dinner in September, sponsored by the Research Committee and Bristol Myers-Squibb, staff presented information on the College's resources to support research, and Dr. Elizabeth Rand, OB/GYN, shared some of their research projects. Mentors with similar research interests will be matched to residents and students who request a follow-up meeting, which will be held Nov. 24. For information, contact Dr. Rand at 348-1325 or erand@cchs.ua.edu.

-Martha Cook, Health Sciences Library

CME schedule is available on the internet at http://bama.ua.edu/~hslib/cme.php

---

---

---
"Pipeline" Working as First Rural Health Scholars Start Medical School

Katie Powell became interested in medicine when she took anatomy in high school. Salutatorian at Douglas High School in Boaz, she received a full academic scholarship and matriculated in the honors curriculum at Belmont University in Nashville, earning her Biology degree in three years. She performed with the Vanderbilt University marching band and color guard during college and worked as a nursing assistant at Vanderbilt Medical Center in neurology. She plans to be a small town family physician and said that the rural scholar programs gave her some insight into her planned career.

"I was always interested in helping the underprivileged, and I had thought of becoming a medical missionary — perhaps in Africa or somewhere in the third world," said Katie. "The Rural Health Scholars Program showed me that I need not travel to another country, but even another state, to help underserved people. Medical need exists in rural Alabama."

During her year as a Rural Medical Scholar, Katie attended class lectures, participated in community health projects and field trips, and assisted at the employee health clinic at Harrison GM plant in Tuscaloosa. She also spent one day a week with Dr. John Brandon at his family practice in Gordo.

"The Rural Medical Scholars Program provided an unbiased, practical view of rural family practice and prepared me for a variety of issues related to healthcare in rural areas," she said. Dr. Brandon's grandfather was born on the farm in Pickens County, and Dr. Brandon has been known since boyhood in this rural community where he is in practice.

"You can't hide in a small town," he says. "A family doctor holds a special place in the community, and it is a great responsibility. People want to talk to you at lunch or dinner or the drug store and will seek your opinion on many aspects of their lives. Katie cares about people, and her patients will know she is truly concerned about them."

Med Student Going Home to Frisco City

Many young people from small town Alabama go away to college and never return. Stephanie Brown ("Buffy" Chandler), a 1989 graduate of Frisco City High School in Monroeville could have been one of them. Instead, CCHS medical student Stephanie Brown won a National Merit Scholarship, graduated from UA, and is working toward returning to her hometown as a family physician. She recently completed a community medicine/rural rotation with Sage Smith, MD, in nearby Monroeville. He is an appropriate mentor since he, too, went away to become a physician and returned home to practice.

"There is a lot to tell students that they don't learn in major medical teaching centers," says Dr. Smith, when asked why he serves as preceptor. "It's important to model for them the role of the physician in the community and the responsibility they too will have.

"I live with these people," says Dr. Smith. "I see them at church and in the grocery store. They teach my children. We go to ball practice together. They want to know what I think about their problems. There is no anonymity for a small town doctor. They know my truck. They know my dog's name is Deke. They know my voice on the telephone. I am a care giver and service person at all times."

Billy McCrory—local pharmacist, former Frisco City mayor, and founder of its medical board—employed Stephanie in his drug store when she was a high school co-op student. Filling prescriptions for local residents at the only pharmacy in town, he knew how far people were traveling to get medical care, not just across the county to Monroeville, but to Mobile and Pensacola as well. He wanted to get medical care in Frisco City, he said, and he started working with local leaders and the hospital in Monroeville to start a clinic in Frisco City. He also encouraged Stephanie to attend medical school.

"I knew Buffy could do it," he said, using her teenage nickname. And he hopes to see Dr. Stephanie Brown in practice at home in years to come. Stephanie received scholarhip help from her hometown and the state health department through the "Rural Family Practice Act" to help finance medical school. On the home front, her mother has moved in with her in Centreville while she is in medical school to help care for her two children, 7-year-old Alex and 2-year-old Jessica, during the week while Stephanie's husband, Larry Brown, Jr., lives and works in the Frisco City area. They are together at home in Frisco City on weekends.

"We have a real Sunday mentality," she said, talking about the weekly leave-taking on Sunday afternoons. "But sometimes, it all comes together. It was great to be home for this rotation, not only to work with Dr. Smith...I got to watch Alex play in his T-ball all star games!" She plans to return to Monroeville for her family medicine rotation, and Dr. Smith thinks it's important for her to get obstetrical experience as she trains for family practice.

OnRounds • 6 • Fall 1998
McBrearty Becomes Hospital's First Medical Director

Michael McBrearty, MD, a 1976 graduate and first Chief Resident of the CCHS Family Practice Residency, was recently named first medical director of Thomas Hospital in Fairhope. He, graduate and first Chief Resident of the medical College of Alabama, was praised for his role as team physician for the Tuscaloosa News basketball team. McBrearty was quoted extensively in the article, and his comments about community involvement and support for growing medical and health care services were used to conclude the article.

"Medicine is about people," said Dr. McBrearty. "The new buildings and facilities are wonderful, but the patients need to know that all of this is for their good...If you put the patients' needs first, then everything else falls into place."

John Brandon Featured on Sports Page

John Brandon, MD, a 1981 Residency graduate now practicing in Gordo, was the subject of a front page feature article in the Tuscaloosa News sports section. He has been a family physician and part-time sportswriter, attending 210 varsity games in a row for the past 18 years. Present and former coaches expressed their appreciation for Dr. Brandon's volunteer service. (All he receives for his work is a team hat and shirt.)

Dr. Brandon trained under CCHS family medicine professor and UA team physician Bill DeShazo, MD. He said that "the college environment is tremendous," but he has "more fun" at the high school level. He likes being part of the community, and "football is a big part of community life."

'T98 Gradrs Enter Practice

Our newest alumni--1998 residency graduates (See p.3)--have chosen the following practice sites:

Ann Drum, MD, private practice, Rainville, AL.
Mike Dupre, MD, private practice, Opelousas, LA.
Jayson Fields, MD, U.S. Navy at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C.
Paul Guilbaut, MD, practice with Ed Martin MD, Oschner Clinic, Mandeville, LA.
Martin Harvey, MD, '97-98 OB Fellow, Family Medical Associates, Collins, MS.
Kent Kantanian, MD, group practice, Calaha Family Medicine, Pelham, AL.
Tracey Miles, MD, Maude Whatley Health Center, Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Stephenie Dillard with her husband, James Geyer, MD, and their daughter Sydney at home in Tuscaloosa.

"These outstanding physicians served their country in World War II, served their communities by bringing medical care to the towns and communities across the South, and have rendered tremendous service to the medical profession as teachers and mentors," says Synopsis, the newsletter of the UAB Health System.

The School of Medicine was moved to Birmingham in 1945. CCHS, the branch of the UA School of Medicine in Tuscaloosa, was founded in 1972. A plaque engraved with the honorees' names will hang in the Medical Alumni Building. (See Synopsis, Sept. 28, 1998, p. 3)

'The Liester Hill Society held a reception at the President's Mansion on the UA campus in September, raising $10,000 to benefit medical education. Board members attending included (l-r): Willmer Coop, MD, Dean Emeritus and president of the Liester Hill Society; Bill Shammich, MD; Victor Johnson, CCHS Director of Advancement; Roger Lackey, MD; Anne Moforb, who was co-chairman for planning the event; Tommy Hester; Alice Maxwell, event co-chair; and William Winterritt, MD.

Mike McBrearty, MD, (left) with Dean Willard in 1976 and (above) more recently outside his office in Fairhope.

Medical Graduates Return to Tuscaloosa Area

Stephenie Dillard, MD, a native of Coker, and a CCHS medical student who graduated at the top of the 1993 UASOM class, has returned to Tuscaloosa to live. Dr. Dillard won the Internal Medicine Award and Scholastic Achievement award at CCHS. She completed residency at UAB and a fellowship in pathology in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is working with CytoPath in Birmingham. Her husband, James Geyer, MD, a neurologist at Neurology Consultants of Tuscaloosa, has recently accepted a CCHS clinical faculty appointment. They have a 2-year-old daughter, Sydney, and expect a baby in May.

Dr. Winterritt is happy to report that former CCHS medical student Curtis Tucker, MD, is a radiation/ oncology specialist at the DCH Cancer Center.

Dr. Schilling's Mission Trip Becomes African Adventure

Blane Schilling, MD, a 1993 residency grad, returned to his Pickens County family (and OB) practice from Zimbabwe on September 2 after a 3-week mission trip. He took care of the sick and delivered babies at the Baptist hospital in Sanyati. He said the medical care was similar to what he provides at home, but his experiences with local wildlife while running near Victoria Falls were not. He encountered a water buffalo, the meanest African game animal, who looked ready to charge. Dr. Schilling decided to reroute behind bushes until he could get out of sight. Then he met two huge wart-hogs who were four feet high at the shoulder and decided to finish his run early. Once he was home, he organized a fund-raiser run to help restore the "face in the window" of the Pickens County Courthouse. Participants didn't have to worry about meeting water buffalo or war-thogs. And there was a nice trophy... he designed it himself!
Pharmacotherapy and Academic Medicine.

David Hefelfinger, MD, is lead author of an article comparing post-graduate pediatric knowledge of pharmacotherapy," at the 1998 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in July 1998. Dr. Hefelfinger and Dr. Byrd are preparing an article for the Journal of the American Board of Pediatrics. They are also collaborating in preparation of a two year reassessment of obstetrical practice and the other primary care family practice curriculum, published quarterly in the Journal of the American Board of Family Practice, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0326.

Bobbi Adcock, MD, and Debbie Byrd, PharmD, made a poster presentation, "An evaluation of primary care residents knowledge of pharmacotherapy," at the 1998 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in July 1998. Dr. Adcock and Dr. Byrd are preparing an article on the same topic for submission to Pharmacotherapy and Academic Medicine. Dr. Adcock has submitted "Facial Numbness: a Manifestation of Sarcoidosis" to the Journal of the American Board of Family Practice, and she is working with lead author Sam Gaskins, MD, on "Twenty-year re-assessment of obstetrical practice patterns among family practice graduates."

"Health care perceptions: do they change for the standardized patient?" by Dr. Nancy Rubin, Elizabeth Philp, MD, and Julia Hartman will be in Medical Education and Assessment, Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Elizabeth Philp's article, "Persistent Cough," has been accepted by the American Family Physician. Dr. Philp, with Dr. Nancy Rubin and James Philp, MD, wrote "Problem based learning in a family medicine residency program," an article for Family Medicine. She was also lead author of "Asthma: Education in a residency program using the OSCE format" with former faculty member Colleen Beall for Family Medicine.

Cathy Gresham, MD, has written "Physician's attitudes toward children with AIDS: Issues of group care" with co-authors Chris Nagy and Peggy Jessee of the UA College of Human Environmental Sciences.

Roger Lacy, MD, co-wrote an article published in the March, 1998 Southern Medical Journal entitled "Illicit alcohol (moonshine) consumption in West Alabama revisited."

James Philp, MD, was lead author of "Ten year observation of problem based learning: A guide to future evaluations" and "Fast, reliable essay examinations for a problem-based curriculum" in Advances in Medical Education. Sixteenth Ottawa International Conference on Medical Education and Assessment, 1997, pp. 571-74.

He was co-author with former CCHS faculty member Tracy Johns, PharmD, of "A problem-based approach to nonsurgical resident education," in the same book. Dr. Philp's articles, "Self-directed library research by family practice residents in problem based learning" and "Five-year position of postive and negative student evaluations of clinical problem based learning," have been accepted for publication.

Nancy Rubin, PsyD, has an article in press for Medical Education on "Health care perceptions of the standardized patient," with Elizabeth Philp as co-author.


Robert Pieroni, MD, is co-author with CCHS medical students or recent graduates of several abstracts in Journal of Alabama Academy of Science, Vol. 69, 1998:

"Diagnosis and treatment of myelodysplasia" (with Jennifer Burdette), "Antiphospholipid disease" with faculty from the Department of Medicine, UA College of Community Health Sciences. He also collaborated on "Hyperlipidemic Pancreatitis" (with Miranda Romazicon in Combined Benzodiazepine and Alcohol Toxicity" with Greg Bradford, PharmD, of DCH, Internal Medicine faculty member Charles Taylor, PharmD, and medical student Les Lenning. He also collaborated on "The relationship between bone metabolism and premature vascular disease" with faculty from the VA Dept. of Human Performance. These topics were presented at the society's annual meeting. He has made several presentations on chronic fatigue syndrome, and published "Physical activity assessment in the elderly: A review." In August, Dr. Pieroni was selected Vice Chairman for Health Sciences of the Alabama Academy of Science. Pieroni, listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Medicine and Health, received an honor closer to home when he was named "Physician of the Year" by the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on Sept. 27.

Lisa Russell, Chief Medical Librarian, Health Sciences Library, and Martha Cook, Technical Services/Systems Librarian, presented the poster, "Using Digital Collections to Provide Web-Based Information Services" at the Medical Library Association meeting held in Lexington, KY, in May. Russell is co-author on the Clinical Digital Library project developed by Steven MacCull of UA, which can be used on personal computers in remote preceptor clinics in rural sites. For more information or individual instruction in using clinical digital collections, contact Lisa Russell at (205) 348-1362 or lrussell@cchs.ua.edu.

Lisa Russell, Chief Medical Librarian, Health Sciences Library, and Martha Cook, Technical Services/Systems Librarian, presented the poster, "Using Digital Collections to Provide Web-Based Information Services" at the Medical Library Association meeting held in Lexington, KY, in May. Russell is co-author on the Clinical Digital Library project developed by Steven MacCull of UA, which can be used on personal computers in remote preceptor clinics in rural sites. For more information or individual instruction in using clinical digital collections, contact Lisa Russell at (205) 348-1362 or lrussell@cchs.ua.edu. For more information or individual instruction in using clinical digital collections, contact Lisa Russell at (205) 348-1362 or lrussell@cchs.ua.edu. For more information or individual instruction in using clinical digital collections, contact Lisa Russell at (205) 348-1362 or lrussell@cchs.ua.edu.