School of Medicine alumni from around the nation enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect and share their accomplishments at the 37th annual Medical Alumni Weekend, held February 19-20 at the Birmingham Marriott.

Saturday’s Scientific Program focused on physician health and well-being. Presenters, representing professional, private, government, and UAB resources for physicians, included Greg Skipper, M.D.; Jim Alford, M.D.; Mike Wilkerson, M.D.; Steve Schenthal, M.D.; Sandra Frazier, M.D.; and Steve Furr, M.D.

For many alumni attendees, the highlight of the weekend was the presence of fellow alumna Regina Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A., ’84, the new United States surgeon general. Benjamin presented the 17th annual Constance S. and James A. Pittman Lecture, following a reflection on the life of the late Constance Pittman, M.D., by Betty Ruth Speir, M.D. Benjamin shared anecdotes and experiences from her career, stretching from the early days of her rural health clinic in coastal Alabama to her nomination as surgeon general by President Barack Obama.


Read more about Medical Alumni Weekend in the spring/summer issue of UAB Medicine magazine.
Honoring Alabama’s Best  MAA Presents Alumni Awards

The highly anticipated awards presentation spotlighted five more success stories during Medical Alumni Weekend. This year’s alumni honorees include a leader of medical professionals, a former mayor, a combat veteran and author, a legendary state health officer, and the surgeon general of the United States. Read more about the accomplished careers of these honorees in the spring/summer issue of UAB Medicine magazine:

**Distinguished Service Award**
For superior accomplishments and contributions to the School of Medicine
William J. “Jeff” Terry, M.D., ’79

**Hettie Butler Terry Community Service Award**
For outstanding commitment to community service
Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., ’64

**Garber Galbraith Medical-Political Service Award**
For outstanding service to the medical profession
Christopher J.E. Smythies, M.D., ’83

**Distinguished Alumnus Award**
In recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of medicine and demonstration of the high principles of the medical profession
Ira L. Myers, M.D., ’49

**Distinguished Alumnus Award**
In recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of medicine and demonstration of the high principles of the medical profession
U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A., ’84

Reynolds Lecture Revisits Medical Center’s Birth

Tennant McWilliams, Ph.D., UAB professor of history, helped kick off Medical Alumni Weekend by presenting the 31st annual Reynolds Historical Lecture. His talk, “Alabama’s Defining Moment: A Public Medical College Comes to Birmingham,” chronicled the School of Medicine’s 1946 move and its impact on the medical center, city, and state. The School of Medicine’s Dean’s Office sponsored a reception following the lecture.

Above left: Jarvis Ryals, M.D., ’65, and Tennant McWilliams
Left: Wayne Finley, M.D., ’60, and Gerhard Boehm, M.D., ’71
Below left: Kitty J. Robinson, Tennant McWilliams, and Charles “Scotty” McCallum Jr., D.M.D., M.D., ’57
Below right: Elizabeth Dowdy, M.D., ’55, Sara Crews Finley, M.D., ’55, and Maude Diseker Collier, M.D., ’55

Save the date for Medical Alumni Weekend 2011:
February 18-19
Birmingham
The MAA recently welcomed three new staff members to the Medical Alumni Building:

**Erica Hollins** was named executive director of the MAA in November 2009. “I’m looking forward to personally connecting with our alumni and providing ways for them to reconnect with the school in a way that is most meaningful to them,” she says.

Prior to joining the MAA, Hollins served as director of development for the Comprehensive Diabetes Initiative at UAB and the Montgomery Internal Medicine Residency Program; today she continues to direct the philanthropic activities of both programs.

A Birmingham native and UAB graduate, Hollins has worked in philanthropy and community development for more than 14 years. She began her career with the United Way of Central Alabama. She joined the School of Medicine’s development staff in 2006, where she established seven new scholarships, secured $1 million for endowed professorships in dermatology and pathology, and was instrumental in securing $1.5 million for an endowed chair in pediatric rheumatology. In addition to serving the community professionally, Hollins volunteers with the YWCA Junior Board and the Housing Fund of Central Alabama Capacity Building Advisory Committee.

**Meredith Burns** has been appointed assistant director of the MAA, where she will oversee MAA-sponsored alumni and student events. “I am excited to play a key role in building relationships between our current and future alumni,” she says.

Burns also serves as director of special projects for the School of Medicine. There she coordinates donor and student events and helps to produce *UAB Medicine* magazine.

She began working at UAB in 1996, joining the University Events office to coordinate fund-raising events hosted by UAB’s president. In 2000, Burns moved to the School of Medicine as coordinator of giving and special events, where she implemented the S. Richardson Hill Donor Society and managed the Dean’s Advisory Council.

Originally from Birmingham, Burns is a Samford University graduate. She and her husband, Matt, welcomed a baby boy, Jackson, in April.

**Brenda Joseph** is the MAA administrative associate, and she says her focus will be updating the extensive database, processing gift records and membership dues, and assisting with special projects and events for both the MAA and the School of Medicine.

After attending the University of Alabama, Joseph, a Birmingham native, began her career at UAB in 1978 in the Institute of Dental Research.

Working with a world-class group of research scientists, she provided administrative support along with graphic illustrations that have been published in many scientific journals and other publications. She left UAB in 1992 to stay home with her children and work part-time with her church as a preschool teacher. In 2007, Joseph joined the School of Medicine as administrative associate to the executive director of development and assistant to the director of special projects.
More than 160 students attended the Medical Alumni Association’s annual luncheon for second-years, held on March 25 at Volker Hall. A highlight of the event was the distribution of stethoscope nametags to the second-year students. Thank you for your support that allows the MAA to serve students.

Celebrating Second-Year Students

Welcome to the new members of the Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors, who took office during Medical Alumni Weekend in February.

First District—L. Katrina Skinner, M.D., class of 2006

Third District—R. Bob Mullins Jr., M.D., class of 1968

Fifth District—Kinney Copeland, M.D., class of 1982

Sixth District—Darlene Traffanstedt, M.D., class of 2001

At Large—Phillip Dean, M.D., class of 2009

At Large—Pink L. Folmar Jr., M.D., class of 1972

At Large—Leon McVay III, M.D., class of 1983

New Board Members Elected

The Medical Alumni Association hosted the third student diversity lecture and luncheon at Volker Hall on February 25, featuring Brian Sims, M.D., ‘00, as guest lecturer. A UAB assistant professor of pediatrics and cell biology, Sims recently received the President’s Diversity Faculty Award for his efforts to promote diversity in the School of Medicine and increase the number of minority postdoctoral candidates at UAB. More than 65 students attended his lecture, which focused on African Americans in medicine.

Sims Speaks at Diversity Luncheon
Argus Awards Spotlight Excellence

On March 8, the Medical Alumni Association and the class of 2013 joined forces to showcase the School of Medicine’s best and brightest at the 15th annual Argus Society Awards, held at the Virginia Samford Theater. The school’s student body founded the Argus Society in 1996 to honor faculty and departments that exhibit excellence in medical education. Congratulations to this year’s recipients:

**Class of 2012**

*Best Lecturer*
- Pulmonary: James E. Johnson
- GI: Brendan McGuire
- Renal: Mark Bevensee
- MS/S: Carrie Elzie
- Neuro: Anthony Nicholas
- Hem/Onc: Kimberly Whelan
- EAB Community Service Award: Jeni O’Malley

*Student Awards*
- More Than a White Coat and Stethoscope: Forest Huls
- Walking on Sunshine: Lynn Greene
- Most Likely to Dress Up as a Gorilla for Halloween: Matt Gentry

*Overall*
- Best MS1 Organ Module Director: Barry Rayburn and Silvio Litovsky
- Best MS1 Organ Module: Cardio

**Class of 2013**

*Best Lecturer*
- PDS: Michael Saag
- Fun I: Dale Benos
- Fun II: Ken Waites
- ICM I: Richard Sims

*Student Awards*
- EAB Community Service Award: Adam Scott
- I’m at Volker So Much, They Should Add Rent to My Tuition: Anand Bosmia
- Most Likely to Share the Wealth: Brian Perrin
- Most Likely to Make a Love Connection in Med School: Kevin Greer

*Overall*
- Best Intro Module Director: Laura Cotlin and Nathaniel Robin
- Best Intro Module: Fundamentals I

**Class of 2011**

*Birmingham Campus*
- Internal Medicine
  - Best Attending: Jason Morris
  - Best Resident/Intern: Christopher Douglas
- Family Medicine
  - Best Attending: Earl Salser
- Neurology
  - Best Attending: Gwen Claussen
  - Best Resident/Intern: Michael Lyerly
- OBGYN
  - Best Attending: Brian Gleason
  - Best Resident/Intern: David Ellington
- Pediatrics
  - Best Attending: Hussein Abdullatif
  - Best Resident/Intern: Daniel Carter
- Psychiatry
  - Best Attending: Andree Stoves
  - Best Resident/Intern: Rachel Pope
- Surgery
  - Best Attending: Donald Reiff
  - Best Resident/Intern: Matthew Purcell

*Overall*
- Best Clerkship: Medicine

*Tuscaloosa Campus*
- Best Intern: Elizabeth Western
- Best Resident: Sarah Fulghum
- Best Attending: Lee Thomas (Surgery)
- Best Clerkship: Surgery

*Huntsville Campus*
- Best Intern: Jonathan Dean
- Best Resident: Brian James
- Best Attending: Rony Najjar (Surgery)
- Best Clerkship: Surgery

**Class of 2010**

*Birmingham Campus*
- Best Clinical Department: Medicine
- Best Clinical Instructor: Hussein Abdullatif (Peds)

*Tuscaloosa Campus*
- Best Clinical Department: Pediatrics
- Best Clinical Instructor: Robert Sheppard (Medicine)

*Huntsville Campus*
- Best Clinical Department: Medicine
- Best Clinical Instructor: Farrah Ibrahim (Medicine)
On March 18, the class of 2010 finally got the answers they were waiting for when they opened their envelopes at a festive Match Day event. It was good news all around, because 98 percent of the 162 students matched to a program of their choice on the first round, topping the national average of 95 percent. All students had successfully matched by the end of the proceedings.

**Match Day 2010 by the Numbers:**
- 52 percent of the students matched in one of the primary-care fields
- 18 percent matched in a surgical field, 7 percent in obstetrics and gynecology, 6 percent in anesthesiology, and 5 percent in radiology
- Students will do residencies at 69 hospitals in 29 states
- 40 percent will remain in Alabama; 76 percent will stay in the Southeast

**Changes for CME**

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners recently increased the continuing medical education requirement for physicians and physician assistants licensed in Alabama to 25 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™ or equivalent annually. The UAB Division of CME can help you fulfill your professional development needs with educational activities that fit your budget and schedule. Learn more by visiting the division’s Alabama Practice-Based CME Network Web site at www.alabamacme.uab.edu.
Our 37th annual Medical Alumni Weekend was a huge success, with more than 300 alumni and friends coming together to reminisce and celebrate our legacy of supporting medical education. We were honored to have U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, M.D., our fellow School of Medicine alumna, present the Constance S. and James A. Pittman Lecture and receive the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The lecture was a fitting memorial to Constance S. Pittman, M.D., whose passing in February has left a void in our hearts. While we mourn the loss of our friend, we should reflect on her lifetime of teaching, clinical care, research, and advocacy, which has touched the lives of countless people around the world—and will forever continue to do so. The Pittmans have been active members and strong supporters of our alumni association, and this lecture series serves as a tribute to their dedication.

We can all be very proud of the Medical Alumni Association’s progress. Our new staff is doing an extraordinary job. We continue to support student programs, provide opportunities for alumni and students to connect, and honor alumni who have made great contributions to the medical profession. Through a strong partnership with the School of Medicine, we are working to increase CME and networking opportunities and expand our relationship with students.

With every passing year, I appreciate my medical school experiences even more, and in that spirit, I ask for your continued support. Our spring membership drive is quickly approaching. Now is the time to re-engage with the MAA. Your energy, time, and contributions are vital to our mission to advance the art and science of medicine. If you did not renew your active membership status in the fall, please do it now and encourage your friends and colleagues to become active this year.

As always, the board, staff, and I welcome your input and ideas. Let us hear from you!

Sincerely,
Theodis Buggs Jr., M.D., ’80
President

**From the President**

**Class Notes**

**Jack Kushner, M.D. (1964 graduate)**, recently published the book *When Universities Are Destroyed: How Tulane University and the University of Alabama Rebuilt After Disaster*.

The Christus Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital Foundation established the Dr. Richard S. Wayne Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Cardiology to honor Richard Wayne, M.D. (1967 graduate), who served as the hospital’s CEO from 1996 to 2008.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine has appointed Stancel M. Riley Jr., M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A. (1972 graduate), as the agency’s executive director.

MAA President Theodis Buggs Jr., M.D. (1980 graduate), received a key to the city of Birmingham on February 23, 2010, for his many years of diligent service to the community.

Elizabeth Ennis, M.D. (1992 resident), has been named chief medical officer of Baptist Health System in addition to her role as director of medical education and research.

Merritt Seshul, M.D. (1994 graduate), was recently installed as president of the North Carolina Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery.

MEMORIALS

Udaya Nath Dash, M.D. (1954 resident), of Naples, Fla., October 19, 2009

John Munford Jackson, M.D. (1958 graduate), of Eufala, Ala., March 18, 2010

Constance S. Pittman, M.D. (1960 resident), School of Medicine professor emerita and wife of Dean Emeritus James A. Pittman, M.D., January 15, 2010

Lennox Wilson Larrimore, M.D. (1967 graduate), of Thomasville, Ala., March 16, 2010


Herbert Evan Zeiger Jr., M.D. (1974 graduate), of Birmingham, Ala., March 6, 2010

**View additional class notes and memorials at**

[www.alabamamedicalalumni.org](http://www.alabamamedicalalumni.org)
Complete and return by mail or fax to the address/number listed at the bottom of this page. You may also contribute online at www.AlabamaMedicalAlumni.org.

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