



# Informal Rounds

The Newsletter of the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association

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## 40th Alumni Weekend Draws Hundreds

More than 500 medical alumni and friends celebrated the 40th Annual Medical Alumni Weekend on February 22 and 23 at the Birmingham Marriott. The two-day event featured the Reynolds Historical Lecture, the Scientific Program, the Awards Luncheon, and class reunion receptions and dinners.

Michael S. Saag, M.D., '85 resident, '86 fellow, director of the UAB Division of Infectious Diseases, and the Jim Straley Endowed Chair in AIDS Research, presented the Reynolds Historical Lecture, titled "Thirty Years of AIDS." A reception followed with tours of the newly renovated Volker Hall on the UAB campus. Governor Robert Bentley, a graduate of the Class of 1968, attended the reception and delighted his classmates with a surprise appearance at the Marriott.

### Spotlighting Women's Health

Women's health was the focus of the Scientific Program, planned and introduced by J. Max Austin, M.D. '67, the Margaret Cameron Spain Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology and professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. This year's speakers and topics included Robert L. Holley, M.D. '74,



professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, "Update on Mesh in Gynecologic Surgery"; Richard E. Blackwell, M.D., '79 resident and professor emeritus in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, "HRT/ERT: Past, Present and Future"; Ronald D. Alvarez, M.D., '87 resident, '88 fellow, vice chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, and the Ellen Gregg Shook Culverhouse Chair in Gynecologic Oncology, "What All Doctors Should Know about Gynecologic Cancers Today"; Edward E. Partridge, M.D. '73, director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, professor of gynecologic oncology, and the Evalina B. Spencer Chair in Oncology, "UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center and Its Commitment to Women's Health"; Warner K. Huh, M.D., professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, "What Would George Think? The Future of Cervical Cancer Prevention";



Rodney O. Tucker, M.D. '89, M.M.M., associate professor of medicine

in the UAB Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care and interim director of the UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care, "Palliative and Supportive Care: At the Heart of Patient and Family-Centered Care"; and Vera A Bittner, M.D., M.S.P.H., professor of medicine and section chief of preventive cardiology, "Coronary Heart Disease in Women—Update 2013."

### Honors and Accolades

Another focus of the weekend was the presentation of the alumni awards at the Medical Alumni Weekend luncheon. This year's winners included Betty Ruth Speir, M.D. '63, Distinguished Alumni Award; Darlene H. Traffanstedt, M.D. '01, Young



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Alumni Award; Craig J. Hoesley, M.D., '95 resident, Distinguished Service Award; Equal Access Birmingham, Hettie Butler Terry Community Service Award; and Jorge A. Alsip, M.D. '85, Garber Galbraith Medical-Political Award.

A highlight of the weekend was the 21st Annual Constance S. and James A. Pittman Lecture, presented by Deidre

Downs Gunn, M.D., Miss America 2005 and a 2010 graduate of the School of Medicine. Gunn is currently a third-year resident in obstetrics and gynecology. Her topic for the lecture was "Obesity and the Reproductive Years." Also at the luncheon, Ray Watts, M.D., UAB's new president, gave the President's Update, and Anupam Agarwal, M.D., interim dean of the School of Medicine, gave the Dean's Update.

Before the passing of the gavel from MAA president Gerhard A. W. Boehm, M.D. '71, to new president Norman McGowin, M.D. '80, FACS, Trustee Emeritus Angus R. Cooper II made a special presentation. Trustee Cooper honored Boehm with a handcrafted Venetian physician mask.

#### Class Celebrations

Alumni enjoyed several opportunities to catch up with classmates during the event. The classes of 1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993, and 1998 met for



individual class receptions and came together for a joint dinner. After a short program hosted by McGowin and an inspiring talk by first-year medical student Jeff Tapley, alumni filled the dance floor to the sounds of the band Somebody's Daddy. Class chairs who coordinated the reunions were Adrian A. Chandler, M.D.'53; Robert B. Adams, M.D.'56; Alan R. Dimick, M.D.'58; John M. Ashurst Jr., M.D.'58; James H. Alford, M.D.'63; Betty Ruth Speir, M.D.'63; Betty W. Vaughan, M.D.'63; Gillis L. Payne Jr., M.D.'68; J. Terrell Spencer, M.D.'68; Kirby I. Bland, M.D.'68; W. Andrew Keith, M.D.'68; W. Dwain Rush, M.D.'68; George Cicero Smith Jr., M.D.'83; and Janet Johnson Cash, M.D.'93.



## Path of Success

As traditions go, it is not very old, but the second annual Commencement Path of Honor does not have to be old to be rich with tradition. On May 19, the members of the Class of 2013 walked toward their futures by first passing before those who have spent their lifetimes in service. Faculty and alumni lined the way as the school's newest graduates received their diplomas.

This year the Smith family celebrated three generations of alumni as grandfather George C. Smith Sr., M.D. '65, and father George C. Smith Jr., M.D. '83, participated in commencement ceremonies for granddaughter and daughter Ashley Smith Lane.

MAA member James M. Abroms, M.D. '80, father of new graduate Sarah Abroms, said, "Sunday was a great day, and I am so glad I could participate." Also representing the Abroms family was Sarah's uncle, Paul M. Nagrodzki, M.D. '81, who said he thoroughly enjoyed the event and that it was a great experience for the entire family.

Michael C. Mays, M.D. '82, and Jo Ann Mays, M.D. '81, "loved being a part of the Path of Honor for our daughter Allison Mays Krauss. It was so special to be on the floor with the graduates and to be a part of the ceremony. We look forward to participating in it again when our other daughter, Melissa, graduates in two years."

Brian A. Perry, M.D. '79, said, "Participating in both of my children's medical school graduations is something I will always cherish."

Other participating alumni honoring graduating family members and School of Medicine students were William W. Andrews, M.D. '84; Harris Barrett, M.D., resident '82; David E. Green, M.D. '80; Donna W. Kentros, M.D. '83; Jonathan G. Kentros, M.D. '83; MAA President Norman F. McGowin III, M.D. '80; Michael N. Moore, M.D. '81; Bennie N. Moore, M.D. '58; Dennis P. Owens, M.D. '72; Xuan-dao Pham, M.D. '85; Ralph Joe Teague, M.D. '75; Albert J. Tully, M.D. '64; and Felicia C. Yu, M.D. '11.

# Legacy of Leadership

## Remembering Sara Finley and Will Deal

### *Sara Finley, M.D. '55*

In a time when few women were entering the field of medicine, Sara Will Crews Finley, M.D., became a physician, a pioneer, and an inspiration for countless others. The Lineville, Alabama, native attended the University of Alabama as an undergraduate, where she met her future husband, Wayne Finley, M.D., Ph.D. Both went on to the Medical College of Alabama, where Sara graduated in 1955.

After postgraduate training, the Finleys joined the school's faculty. In 1961, Joseph Volker, D.D.S., later UAB's first president, asked the Finleys to pursue genetics training at the Institute for Medical Genetics at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. A year later, the couple returned to Birmingham and founded the first medical genetics program in the southeastern United States. They also founded a training program for the new field, establishing UAB's reputation as a national genetics leader.

Sara and Wayne Finley "were among the first physicians to recognize the importance of the new field of medical genetics, and they were among the first to implement new technologies for culturing cells and analyzing chromosomes," says Bruce Korf, M.D., Ph.D., chair of UAB's Department of Genetics and holder of the Finley Chair in Medical Genetics.



The Finleys guided the UAB Laboratory of Medical Genetics for 30 years, providing genetics services and developing specialized diagnostic laboratories for detectable genetic disorders. This testing "helped untold numbers of families by providing new approaches to the diagnosis and classification of birth defects and genetic disorders, as well as enabling genetic counseling

for families," Korf says.

Sara Finley, who passed away on February 20, was a pioneer in other ways as well. She was the first female president of both the Medical Alumni Association and the Jefferson County Medical Society, and the first female member of the Rotary Club of Birmingham.

On their joint retirement in 1996, UAB president J. Claude Bennett remarked that the Finleys "have been, and will always remain, an institutional treasure."



### *Will Deal, M.D.*

Under the leadership of Will Deal, M.D., dean from 1997 to 2004, the School of Medicine at UAB grew its reputation in medical education, research, and patient care, and increased its focus on improving the quality of health care in Alabama's many underserved rural areas. Research funding from the National Institutes of Health topped \$200 million for the first time, and

researchers gained top-notch new laboratory space with the opening of genetics and biomedical research buildings.

Just as important, Deal, who passed away on March 15, recruited many key faculty leaders. "Dr. Deal recruited me, and many other physicians, to UAB based on a vision of growth and

prosperity, and he led the school through a period of significant achievements," says UAB president Ray L. Watts, M.D. "Academic medicine has suffered a great loss with the passing of Dr. Will Deal. We will miss him greatly."

Deal, a North Carolina native, earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of North Carolina. He then served on the faculty of the University of Florida faculty for 25 years, where he became dean of the medical school. After a stint at the Maine Medical Center, Deal joined UAB in 1991; he became the School of Medicine's interim dean in 1997 before taking on the role permanently later that year.

Deal, who continued to see patients several days each week as dean, "contributed significantly to the development of the medical center," says Kirby Bland, M.D., chair of the Department of Surgery and another Deal recruit. "He was strongly supportive of his faculty and had a major passion for patient care."



## Our *Big* Move



*School of Medicine students will get some new neighbors in Volker Hall later this year—the Medical Alumni Association. We plan to complete our move into the second floor of the school’s main classroom building by the end of the summer.*

After careful consideration and discussion, the MAA board members present at the May 18 board meeting voted unanimously to sell the MAA Building and move to Volker Hall.

“We look forward to being much more accessible to current students,” says Norman F. McGowin III, M.D., FACS, president of the MAA. McGowin hopes that students will stop by the new MAA headquarters to learn about the services the MAA offers, including scholarships, an assistance fund, and the Student Alumni Association. “We encourage students and alumni to interact with one another and build strong relationships,” he says.

The newly renovated space includes a large board room along with offices for MAA staff. Ray L. Watts, M.D., UAB’s president, offered the space to the organization earlier this year following an assessment of the 20th Street facility.

An MAA Archives and Furnishings Committee was established and will be responsible for working with Lister Hill Library in preserving our historical treasures. They will also be responsible for the assessment and disposition of furniture and other items remaining in the building after the move to Volker Hall.

Once the renovations and move are complete, we will invite alumni and students to an open house to view the new space.

“We encourage students and alumni to interact with one another and build strong relationships.”

Norman F. McGowin III, M.D.,  
FACS, MAA President

# Class Notes

**Richard Rutland Jr. (1950 resident)** was inducted into the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame in 2012 for his long career of practicing medicine in Fayette, Ala., until his retirement at age 82.

**J.E. Keeton, M.D. (1955 graduate)**, received recognition for 50 years of service from the Alabama Psychiatric Society.

**Braxton Franklin Smith, M.D. (1958 graduate)**, has retired from general and family medical practice after 50 years and three months in Arab, Alabama.

**Dudley Wayne Bickham, M.D. (1960 graduate)**, retired in 2011 after 40 years with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health as a psychiatrist. He also retired as a colonel in the United States Air Force after 22 years of service, including six years on active duty and 16 years in the South Carolina Air National Guard.

**Beatrice Lampkin, M.D. (1960 graduate)**, received the *Cincinnati Business Courier's* 2013 Health Care Heroes' Lifetime Achievement award.

**Robert Peter Turk, M.D. (1960 graduate)**, was appointed clinical professor emeritus and associate clerkship director for surgery at Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, in 2011.

**Billy R. Mosley, M.D. (1962 graduate)**, received an award from the Alabama state medical association for his 50 years in practice.

**Robert L. Baldwin, M.D. (1968 graduate)**, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Birmingham-Southern College in 2012.

**Richard David Glasgow, M.D. (1968 graduate)**, received the 2012 Master Pediatrician Award from the Alabama chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**William H. Coleman, M.D., Ph.D. (1974 graduate, 1977 resident)**, a School of

Medicine faculty member at the Huntsville regional medical campus, was inducted into the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame in 2012 for his work in promoting rural health issues.

**Larry E. Johnson, M.D. (1976 graduate)**, was selected as the 2012 North Dakota Family Physician of the Year. He also serves as chair of the North Dakota Board of Medical Examiners for 2011-2013.

**William W. Hurd, M.D., M.Sc., M.P.H. (1979 graduate)**, has been named associate editor (gynecology) for *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, the official journal of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is professor of reproductive biology and epidemiology and biostatistics and chief of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Thomas Harvey McCulloch, M.D. (1979 graduate)**, is serving as president of the Baldwin County Medical Society.

**Clement P. Cotter Jr., M.D. (1982 graduate)**, completed Auburn University's Physicians Executive M.B.A. program in 2012.

**David Hinkle Lamb, M.D. (1983 graduate)**, was named secretary of the medical staff at Lexington Medical Center in Lexington, S.C.

**Brian Jay Larson, M.D. (1983 graduate)**, received the 2011 Lifesaver Award from the American Cancer Society.

**Gregory Burdick Smith, M.D. (1983 graduate)**, is serving as chief of staff at Cobb Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Steven Furr, M.D. (1984 resident)**, was inducted into the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame in 2012 for his work to provide health care in Clarke County.

**Emily Ann Boohaker, M.D. (1987 graduate)**, is chief quality and patient safety officer for the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation. In 2012, she also was promoted to professor of medicine at the School of Medicine at UAB.

**James Timothy Walsh, M.D. (1987 graduate)**, was listed among America's Top Cardiologists from 2009 to 2012. He also has achieved the designation of certified cardiac device specialist (CCDS) for 2012-2016.

**Laurie Ann Harris-Ford, M.D. (1989 graduate)**, was named chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Gateway Medical Center in Clarksville, Tenn. In 2012, she joined the board of the Premier Medical Group, also in Clarksville.

**Paul Michael Schelkun, M.D. (1990 graduate)**, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Dentists in 2012.

**Erik Christian Summers, M.D. (1997 graduate)**, serves as section chair in hospital medicine at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

**Layla Smith Wren, M.D. (2009 graduate)**, has joined Gadsden Family Practice in Gadsden, Ala.

## MEMORIALS

**Walter Clayton McCoy, M.D. (1938 graduate; former medical staff)**, of Birmingham, March 21, 2013

**James Austin Davis Jr., M.D. (1943 graduate, 1950 resident)**, of Birmingham, July 20, 2012

**Maxwell Moody Jr., M.D. (1943 graduate)**, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., July 11, 2012

**Peter Alba Trice Jr., M.D. (1943 graduate)**, of Mobile, Ala., December 19, 2011

**Samuel F. Crabtree, M.D. (1950 graduate)**, of Anniston, Ala., November 9, 2012

**Horace Cunningham Clayton, M.D. (1953 graduate)**, of Pell City, Ala., July 17, 2012

**James A. Whiteside, M.D. (1953 graduate)**, of Pensacola, Fla., January 12, 2013

**Marion Lothrop Hanahan III, M.D. (1954 graduate)**, of Dothan, Ala., March 19, 2013

**Hope Willard Brooks, M.D. (1958 graduate)**, of Sandwich, Mass., February 21, 2013

**Lynn P. Hodges, M.D. (1958 resident)**, of Baytown, Texas, August 25, 2012

**James Conlee Pickens, M.D. (1962 graduate)**, of Pensacola, Fla., February 16, 2013

**Gaines Franklin Jones, M.D. (1963 graduate)**, of Ashville, Ala., January 2, 2013

**Nicholas Robert Stallworth, M.D. (1969 resident)**, of Roswell, Ga., January 8, 2013

**Frank G. McArthur, M.D. (1970 graduate)**, of Birmingham, February 4, 2013

**Charles Dudley Cross II, M.D. (1977 graduate)**, of Jasper, Ala., December 14, 2012

**Bernard Pearson, M.D. (1982 graduate)**, of Birmingham, February 15, 2013

**James S. Craig, M.D. (1993 graduate)**, of Homewood, Ala., August 29, 2012

Have you achieved a career milestone? Hit the headlines? Made a move?

Share the news with your classmates.

Send us your class notes for the next issue of *Informal Rounds*.

Submit your news and photos to Meredith Burns at [meredith@uab.edu](mailto:meredith@uab.edu).

# Gratitude and Goals: *A Letter from the Past President*

*It has been one of the great honors of my life to serve as president of the Medical Alumni Association. I would like to thank you, our members, for the opportunity to serve this great organization. As I leave this office, I wanted to share a few observations on my tenure as president.*

First, I would like to share my pride in the MAA's partnership with the dean of the School of Medicine. This partnership, begun by President Ray Watts during his tenure as dean and continued by Interim Dean Anupam Agarwal, has established the MAA/Dean's Scholarship Fund. Donations made by our alumni to the fund are matched dollar for dollar by the dean, and this match will continue through the 2013 calendar year.

Second, I wanted to provide information on our discussions concerning our historic MAA Building. I approached a donor about the possibility of a substantial gift to renovate and update our building. In gathering information on the potential costs, the issues with the envelope of the building and the possible structural problems were brought to our attention.

The road we intended to travel was not to sell the building but to renovate, update, and keep it as our MAA home. Once it was determined that a renovation would cost approximately \$1.5 million, it caused us to reevaluate our mission and reconsider how our resources are being spent.

Our mission continues to be service to our alumni, residents, fellows, and medical students. At one time, the building served our mission by allowing us a place to gather for events. As class sizes have increased, we have outgrown our beautiful, historic building to the point that we can no longer hold class events for students there.

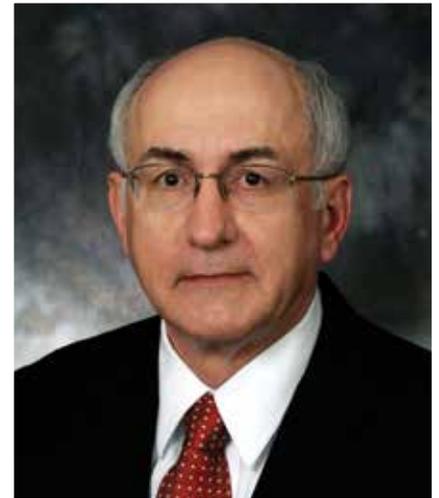
President Watts has graciously offered the MAA space in a to-be-renovated portion of Volker Hall free of charge.

Many of our board members and past presidents were able to view the proposed space on February 22 after the Reynolds Historical Lecture. In addition to the space, President Watts has offered to replace our boardroom chairs and pay for the move. The Volker Hall renovations and the move are an investment of approximately \$50,000 for the School of Medicine. President Watts told us at our February board meeting that this is an expression of good faith in the Medical Alumni Association.

It is my great hope that as we go forward, all of us will thank President Watts for his generosity and work together so that we can better accomplish our mission of service to our profession and support for those who follow in our footsteps.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to many people. I would like to thank President Watts for his personal time traveling around the country for our MAA/dean's regional receptions. I believe these receptions have provided tremendous dividends for this association. In addition, his dollar-for-dollar match has raised more than \$100,000 for medical student scholarships. His time with us in board meetings and his active involvement in the affairs of the MAA have made us a stronger organization.

I would also like to thank Dr. Theodis Buggs. Due to his great leadership as president, he resolved many issues that made my tenure more enjoyable. And thank you to Dr. Walter Gay Pittman, who graciously accepted the chairmanship of the Building Committee. He has



given countless hours of his time, and his advice and help have been very much appreciated. In addition, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for the support they have provided individually and as a group.

Last, I would like to thank the staff. Meredith Burns has been a most enjoyable person to work with on MAA projects. Every event has been handled with sensitivity, diplomacy, and dispatch, and everything is taken care of in a most efficient manner. This organization is blessed to have such a talented and gifted person in the directorship. Brenda Joseph's knowledge of the construction business has been invaluable during all of our building problems, and Laurie Dean's writing skills are important in our efforts.

Also I am looking forward to the presidency of Dr. Norman McGowin III. His energy and enthusiasm will serve this organization well in the years to come.

Allow me to close by again expressing my heartfelt thanks to you for allowing me to serve as your president.

Sincerely,

**Gerhard A. W. Boehm, M.D. '71**  
*Immediate Past President*

# From the President

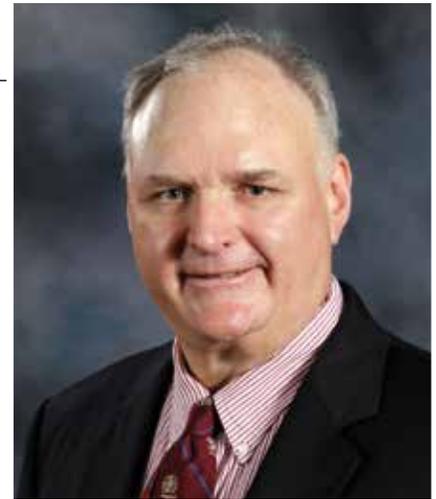
NORMAN F. MCGOWIN III, M.D. '80, FACS

First of all, I would very much like to thank Dr. Gerhard Boehm and the rest of the Board of Directors of the Medical Alumni Association for giving me the opportunity to serve as president. This is a great honor for me, and I look forward to working with our alumni for the benefit of this organization. I also appreciate the work that my predecessors, Dr. Albert Tully, Dr. Betty Ruth Speir, Dr. Theodis Buggs, and Dr. Gerhard Boehm, have done in leading the organization through some difficult times and in dealing with a number of challenging issues. I am glad to say that, in my opinion, the organization seems to be moving in a very positive direction. I feel very good about the relationship of the MAA with the School of Medicine and to the university as a whole, in no small part due to the great leadership of the former dean of the medical school and current president of the university, Dr. Ray Watts. I also look forward to working with our new interim dean, Dr. Anupam Agarwal. Finally, I would be remiss if I did

not mention the excellent and untiring job being done by our staff, Meredith Burns, Brenda Joseph, and Laurie Dean.

My immediate goal as president is to work with the Building Committee to move forward with the sale of our building and to work with the staff and the School of Medicine to move our offices to the Volker Hall space so graciously offered by President Watts.

Other things that I would like to see happen during my term would be to grow our membership significantly. I believe that we have an excellent opportunity to do this, and also to promote both the association and the School of Medicine. One area that we have struggled with in the past is recruiting younger members, and I plan to explore a number of ways to reverse this trend. I am currently looking into the possibility of offering quality silk ties or scarves bearing our association's logo or other items that might interest our members for purchase through our website, with a portion of the proceeds going to support our mission. Along the



lines of growing our membership, another goal I have is to find additional ways to support and benefit our members, and we are certainly open to suggestions.

Again, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for the honor of serving as president of the association, and I very much look forward to working with our membership and meeting as many of the members as I can. Please do not hesitate to call me with any suggestions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Norman F. McGowin III, M.D.  
'80, FACS

*President*

**Your CME Contact** The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners has 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 education activities that fit your budget and schedule. To learn more, visit the division's Alabama Practice-Based CME Network Web site at [www.alabamacme.uab.edu](http://www.alabamacme.uab.edu).

## Be Our Friend

Type in "**UASOM Medical Alumni Association**" on Facebook, and you'll discover 700 friends representing different classes throughout the years. You can also post photos, join discussions, and get updates and information from the MAA.



**ALABAMAMEDICALALUMNI.ORG**

Visit the MAA's official Web site to access an online alumni directory, pay dues, learn about upcoming events, make award nominations, and sign up for the electronic version of *Informal Rounds*.



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## 2013 Membership

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: \$100**  
**(Current Residents and Fellows: \$25)**  
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**GOLD MEMBERSHIP: \$500**  
**PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP: \$1,000**

*Contributions are tax-deductible. Your total contribution, added to current dues, determines your membership level. For information on membership levels, visit [www.AlabamaMedicalAlumni.org](http://www.AlabamaMedicalAlumni.org).*



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