41st Alumni Weekend: Continued Connections, Continuing Education

Over 400 medical alumni and friends celebrated the 41st Annual Medical Alumni Weekend on February 14 and 15 at the Birmingham Marriott. The two-day event featured the Reynolds Historical Lecture, the Scientific Program, the Awards Luncheon, and class reunion reception and dinners.

The 35th Annual Reynolds Historical Lecture was presented by Paul A. Lombardo, PhD, JD, Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law, Center for Law, Health & Society, College of Law, Georgia State University. A lawyer and historian best known for his scholarship on the American eugenics movement, Dr. Lombardo’s presentation was titled America’s Eugenic Legacy: “A Peculiar and Lasting Appeal.” A reception followed with tours of Volker Hall.

Scientific Program

After a breakfast to begin the day, sponsored by Heritage Bank of the South, Henry E. Wang, MD, MS, Professor and Vice-Chair for Research within the UAB Department of Emergency medicine presented: “Community Benefits of Participation in State-of-the-Art Resuscitation Research.”

“EMS: An Integrated Regional Systems Approach” was presented by Joe E. Acker III, MPH, EMT-P, Executive Director of the Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System.

Norman S. McSwain, Jr., MD, Professor, Department of Surgery, Tulane University presented “Hartford Consensus for Law Enforcement and Teachers.” Dr. McSwain also serves as the Trauma Director, Spirit of Charity Trauma Center, ILH, Medical Director, PreHospital Trauma Life Support, and Police Surgeon, New Orleans Police Department.

UAB Neurological Resident Joseph H. Miller, MD presented “Pediatric and Adult Neurological Injuries Resulting from the April 27th, 2011 Tornadoes in Alabama.”

“Orthopedic Surgery in the Austere Environment: Lessons from Afghanistan 2012” was presented by Mark D. Price, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Medical School and Commander, US Navy Reserves.

David Randall, Sr. Vice President, UAB Strategic Planning and Business Development presented “Health Care Reform Update – Quality and Finance,” and Brian T. Bates, Director of UAB Corporate Compliance presented “ICD 9 vs. ICD 10.”
Honors and Accolades

An annual focus of the weekend is the presentation of the alumni awards at the Medical Alumni Weekend luncheon.

This year’s winners included Ray L. Watts, M.D. ’76, Distinguished Service Award; Robert D. Lightfoot, M.D. ’81, Hettie Butler Terry Community Service Award; William M. Lightfoot, M.D. ’74, Garber Galbraith Medical-Political Award; Beverly F. Jordan, M.D., ’02, Young Alumni Award; and Jon E. Sanford, M.D. ’66, Distinguished Alumus Award.

The 22nd Annual Constance S. and James A. Pittman Lecture was again a highlight of the weekend, presented this year by Arnold G. “Gil” Diethelm, M.D. A pioneer in transplant science and founder of the Transplant Program at UAB, Dr. Diethelm presented “The History of Medical Education in Alabama – Turning Points.”

Class Celebrations


Class chairs who coordinated the reunions were Vincent Carnaggio, M.D. ’54; Robert B. Adams, M.D. ’56; Charles A. McCallum, Jr., M.D. ’57; George D. Lundberg, Jr., M.D. ’57; Alan R. Dimick, M.D. ’58; John M. Ashurst Jr., M.D. ’58; Betty Ruth Speir, M.D. ’63; James H. Alford, Jr., M.D. ’63; Betty W. Vaughan, M.D. ’63; Albert J. Tully, Jr., M.D. ’64; George Adams, M.D. ’69; Richard M. Champion, M.D. ’69; Jimmy Chambers, M.D. Jan. ’74; Kirk Hawley, M.D. Dec. ’74; W. Jefferson Terry, M.D. ’79; Amie Jackson McLain, M.D., ’84; J. Noble Anderson, Jr., M.D. ’89.

Special thanks were in order to this year’s Medical Alumni Weekend sponsors and exhibitors: ProAssurance, Bradford Health Services, Heritage Bank of the South, U.S. Army Medical Recruiters, UAB School of Medicine, BlueRidge X-Ray, The Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and UAB Medicine—Physician Services.

Lunch & Learn

On Tuesday, April 8, the Medical Alumni Association (MAA) hosted our first Lunch and Learn at our new offices in Volker Hall. The lunch’s sponsor was ProAssurance and featured a presentation on “The Legal Aspects of Practicing Medicine” given by Robin Beasley. Over 20 of our first year medical students were in attendance. The MAA is very excited about our new student programs and we look forward to hosting more of these in the future.
In its new home for more than a year now at the Church of the Reconciler in downtown Birmingham, the Equal Access Birmingham clinic, managed and operated by UAB School of Medicine student volunteers and board members, has had more than 500 individual visits with 200 patients—a testament to the clinic’s focus on primary care and continuity.

The clinic, open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays, offers primary care for acute and chronic illnesses, plus laboratory tests and healthy lifestyle education, at no cost to uninsured or under-insured Birmingham-area residents. Staffed weekly with around 12 volunteers, the clinic sees an average of 12-15 patients each week. Most EAB patients have chronic illnesses, like diabetes and hypertension, but they also care for minor acute illnesses like flu.

Recently, EAB began broadening and improving care to its patients by offering specialty care from obstetrics and gynecology, dermatology and physical therapy by UAB faculty volunteers. Also in June, EAB began piloting a mental health specialty clinic in partnership with the Department of Psychiatry. The hope is that this program will become part of the regular services offered by EAB.

Another partnership for EAB this summer is with the School’s Internal Medicine residents. The residents volunteer once a month and offer the medical students one-on-one attention to history and physical examination skills, oral presentation skills, and development of assessment and care plan.

EAB was created in 2005 to both improve healthcare access for underserved populations in the Birmingham area and provide UAB medical students with service learning experiences. The EAB Clinic at the Church of the Reconciler opened Nov. 11, 2012 with funds generously donated by the School’s Student Senate and that were proceeds from the annual Best Medicine Show and matched by the Dean’s Office.

EAB is a member of the Society of Student Run Free Clinics (over 100 student-run free clinics from across the country participate). Three of EAB’s student participants hold national leadership positions for 2014-2015: Jessi Lander, National Coordinator; Anna Joy Rogers, Research Chair and past EAB president Richard Cockrum as Technology Chair. The continued success of the EAB Clinic is also made possible through a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and through philanthropic contributions from alumni and friends.

On May 8, 2014, Dean Vickers spent time at the clinic at Church of the Reconciler, and expressed his full support of the efforts of the EAB and the student EAB volunteers and leaders from UAB and other professional schools at UAB and pharmacy students from Auburn and Samford. “Everyone in the Birmingham region can be proud of the good works UAB, Samford and Auburn students are performing in our community. I certainly am,” says Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., senior vice president for Medicine and dean of the UAB School of Medicine.

“With help from the community, these young professionals are serving on medicine’s front lines, delivering care where it matters most and where it is often most effective.”

EAB volunteers also staff the M-Power Ministries Clinic in Avondale on Wednesdays, a partnership the organization has maintained since 2007, and partner frequently with students from other UAB and area professional schools to provide community health screenings for underserved populations in Birmingham.

Craig Hoesley, M.D., associate dean for Undergraduate Medical Education and clinical faculty advisor for EAB, says he sees tremendous educational value students gain from the service leadership experience of treating a medically underserved population and operating the clinic successfully.

“Caring for a unique patient population is something we can talk about in a lecture hall, but actually treating the patients is a different experience,” Hoesley says.

All gifts made to EAB are presently being matched 1:1 by Dean Vickers through December 31, 2014.

To support EAB, you may mail a check made payable to UAB Equal Access Birmingham to the following address: UAB Gift Records, AB 1230, 1720 2nd Avenue South, Birmingham Alabama 35294-0112.

Or, give securely online at www.uab.edu/give/now. Please contact Director of Development for Medical Scholarships and Alumni, Jessica Brooks Lane at 205.975.4452 or jblane@uab.edu.
Huntsville Campus Celebrates 40 Years, Announces New Fundraising Initiative

The School of Medicine’s Huntsville Regional Medical Campus announced a new fundraising initiative at its 40th anniversary celebration on February 25, 2014. The William B. Deal, M.D., Huntsville Art of Medicine Endowed Scholarship will honor the former associate dean of the Huntsville campus and dean of the School of Medicine.

Robert M. Centor, M.D., F.A.C.P., dean of the Huntsville Regional Medical Campus, asked others to join him in making a gift to the scholarship initiative. A minimum of $25,000 is required by the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System to establish the endowment. The Valley Foundation, a physician practice plan organized to support the University of Alabama System campuses, is matching up to $50,000.

Once established, the scholarship will be distributed to rising fourth-year medical students attending the Huntsville Campus to help pay for tuition and other costs associated with attending medical school. Awardees must demonstrate integrity, character, professionalism and enthusiasm for medicine in the spirit established by Deal.

The anniversary celebration brought together alumni, retired faculty and staff, current faculty and staff, students, residents, members of the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees and leaders of the Huntsville Hospital and the Valley Foundation. The campus was established in 1971 as part of the University of Alabama in Huntsville and began training residents in family medicine in 1973; third-year medical students began the following year. Gayle Stephens, M.D., who passed away February 20, 2014, was the first dean of the program and served from 1973 until 1977.

UAB Opens Montgomery Medical Campus

Housed at the Baptist Medical Center South, students at the new UAB Montgomery Regional Medical Campus can receive training in family medicine, neurology, obstetrics, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry and surgery.

UAB’s experiences at the other two regional campuses demonstrate that physicians tend to live and practice close to the areas where their medical training took place. With this in mind, the new campus fulfills two objectives: Placing physicians in the Montgomery area, helping to alleviate the impending physician shortage in the state, and increasing the overall number of students entering the primary care field.

Six third-year medical students started in May of 2014, and 20 more will arrive next year. The Montgomery Campus now joins existing regional campuses in Tuscaloosa and Huntsville, along with the main campus in Birmingham.

In clinical rotations, students will encounter a population of patients who are extremely diverse, both in their medical problems and in the socioeconomic backgrounds they present. Wick J. Many, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P., Dean of the Montgomery Campus, says the program’s presence in Alabama’s capital city also opens up opportunities for students to explore health policy topics such as health care disparities, public health issues and outcomes-based research.

The facility boasts a 22,500-square-foot simulation center with high-tech, interactive mannequins that can simulate nearly every aspect of internal medicine, obstetrics and pediatrics. To support the Montgomery Campus and our third-and fourth year medical students training there, please consider making an online gift to the Montgomery Campus Scholarship Fund at www.uab.edu/mrmcscholarship. To learn about other Montgomery Campus giving opportunities please contact Jessica Brooks Lane, Development Director for Medical Scholarships and Alumni at 205.975.4452 or jblane@uab.edu.
Robert L. Hopkins, M.D. (1972 graduate, 1975 resident) was chosen as a Master Pediatrician by the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Charles Edward Elliott, M.D. (1979 graduate, 1983 resident) received the Bill Miller Sr. Friend of Education Award from the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators at NW 6 Annual Meeting. Currently serves as vice president and chairman of the Alabama State Board of Education.


Stephen H. Koopmeiners, M.D. (1981 graduate) retired from US Army, June 2013, received “Legion of Merit” and inducted into “Order of Military Medical Merit”.

Leon Fredrick Smith, M.D. (1986 graduate) named professor of Family Medicine, Medical College of Georgia.

Mark Daniel McCaslin, M.D. (1989 graduate) named chairman of Radiology and Imaging at Mobile Infirmary Medical Center.


MEMORIALS

John Durr Elmore, M.D. (1943 graduate), of Birmingham, February 21, 2014

Henry Elton Smoak, M.D. (1949 graduate, 1950 resident), of Clearwater, Fla., January 16, 2014

Thomas Clifford Lawson, Jr., M.D. (1953 graduate), of Mountain Brook, Ala., January 8, 2014


Patrick Henry Smith, Sr., M.D. (1956 graduate), of Florence, Ala., November 29, 2013

Wiley Howard Cooper III, M.D. (1958 graduate, 1959 resident), of Birmingham, January 7, 2014

Colonel USAF (RET) Robert Peter Turk, M.D. (1960 graduate), of Kettering, Ohio, January 16, 2014

Oliver Brian Brand, M.D. (1961 graduate), of Forestdale, Ala., February 22, 2014


Roy Theo Preston, Jr., M.D. (1963 graduate), of Mountain Brook, Ala., February 25, 2014


Larry Kenneth Green, M.D. (1971 graduate), of Hurst, Texas, February 12, 2014

Steven P. Irving, M.D. (1978 graduate, 1980 resident), of High Point, NC, March 25, 2014

Richard Cunningham Crittenden, M.D. (1983 graduate), of Birmingham, January 15, 2014

Daryl Keith Granger, M.D. (1983 graduate), of Dothan, Ala., March 15, 2014

Jeffery Dee Larson, M.D. (1983 graduate), of Murphy, NC, March 13, 2014

John “Mac” Allgood, M.D. (1985 resident), of Troy, Ala., March 12, 2014

Have you achieved a career milestone? Made headlines? On the move? We want to know! Share the news with your classmates through our next issue of Informal Rounds.

Submit your news and photos to: Meredith Burns meredith@uab.edu
New Board Members

The Medical Alumni Association is pleased to announce the addition of two new board members to the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association.

**Jorge A. Alsip, M.D. ’85**
Currently serving as the Chief Medical Information Officer for the UAB Health System, Dr. Alsip received a BS in Biology and an MBA from the University of Alabama, graduating from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1985. Following an internship in internal medicine, the Mobile native completed an emergency medicine residency at Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina.

Practicing emergency medicine for 19 years in Mobile, and serving dually there as Springhill Medical Center’s emergency department’s medical director and as medical director for the Mobile Fire Department, Dr. Alsip is a past President of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama and a former chairman of the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners. He currently represents Alabama physicians as a delegate to the American Medical Association’s House of Delegates.

In 2005, Dr. Alsip joined Cerner Corporation as an informatics consultant and was the company’s Medical Director of US Consulting upon leaving to accept the position as UAB Health System’s CMIO in October 2011.

In addition to his responsibilities as CMIO, he also teaches the Clinical Informatics elective he co-developed for the School of Medicine.

Dr. Alsip and his wife Kathi met while both were working summers at Thomas Hospital, marrying in 1985. Their oldest daughter, Dr. Mary Katherine Shreves, is a researcher at the University of Alabama, and their youngest daughter, Abby, is an accounting major in the Honors College at Alabama.

**Rebecca Byrd, M.D. FACP ’95**
Dr. Byrd is an internal medicine practitioner in Birmingham. The Anniston native received her bachelor’s degree in accounting from Jacksonville State University and was a Certified Public Accountant with Ernst & Whinney for four years before being named an Assistant Vice President of Regions Bank. She received her medical degree in 1995 from the University of Alabama School of Medicine and completed her residency at Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham. In 1998, she joined the Medicine Montclair practice located on the Trinity Medical Center campus in Birmingham.

Over the years she has served as Vice President of Medical Affairs, Chair of the Department of Medicine and on numerous hospital committees. Currently she is Secretary-Treasurer of the Medical Staff. Dr. Byrd has been accepted into the Harvard School of Public Health. In July 2014, she will begin working on a Master’s in Public Health focused on Health Care Management at Harvard while continuing her medical practice.

Dr. Byrd is married to James D. Byrd, Jr., PhD., who is a member of the accounting faculty at UAB. Their oldest son, Will, an Auburn graduate, is employed by St. Vincent’s Hospital and is currently enrolled in the MBA program at UAB. Their youngest son, Matthew, is a freshman at the University of Alabama in the Honors College.
What an honor it was to connect, and reconnect, with the esteemed members of the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association. This year’s Medical Alumni Weekend allowed for the opportunity to do just that, as past classes spanning some sixty years gathered for two days in Birmingham. It is truly humbling to consider the amount of medical experience, expertise and knowledge gathered in one place—people who have touched countless lives through their dedication to medicine through the years.

My personal congratulations go to this year’s award winners, for their hard work and dedication to their profession that continues to impact those within their span of influence. A complete list of this year’s winners, as well as the myriad of Scientific Programs and presenters, is found on page two of this newsletter.

How equally exciting is the 40th anniversary of our Huntsville Campus, coupled with the birth of a new campus located in Montgomery. These regional satellites for the School of Medicine provide much needed medical support in these areas, with the likelihood that the medical students benefitting from these locations will ultimately remain and practice near these areas.

Again, greeting and meeting so many who make these campuses work at these regional receptions was a highlight.

And Match Day...getting to watch medical careers begin to form with news of where residencies will take place is an emotional, exciting time as well. Most encouraging was the number of students who will perform their residency right here in Alabama, where physician shortages have created a minor problem. Roughly a third will remain within our state, with over seventy-five percent staying in the South.

Watching the overflow of emotion at Match Day is what it’s all about. The culmination of years of tireless study and training for our medical students now girded by the hope of new opportunities on the horizon.

Finally, might I close with a plea for your help. Your Medical Alumni Association annual dues are needed to make many of the opportunities mentioned here happen. At just $100, these dues may be easy to forget, lost in the day-to-day of all that requires your attention. But if you haven’t already taken care of this, please do so soon. To continue the good work of the MAA, we need the financial support that your annual dues provide. Thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

Sincerely,
Norman F. McGowin III, M.D. ‘80, FACS
President

Q: How does the Medical Alumni Association exist without your support?
A: We can’t.

It may be hard to believe, but your $100 annual dues to the MAA create a world of opportunity for past, present and future medical students through the programs that you support. If you haven’t already done so, please pay your dues soon. And if you have... thank you!

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.

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 alabamacme.uab.edu.
Complete and return by mail or fax to the address/number listed at the top of this page. You may also contribute online at www.AlabamaMedicalAlumni.org.

2014 dues $________
Contribution to the Medical Alumni Association/Dean of Medicine Scholarship Fund (will be matched through 2014) $________
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Contribution to the Medical Student Assistance Fund $________
Contribution to the Medical Alumni Association Perpetuity Fund $________

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