Tom Wortham, M.D. ’53, offers many reasons why fellow College of Medicine alumni should volunteer as mentors and preceptors for today’s residents and students. Those who love to teach will find it a joy, he says. Retirees who “can’t quite let go” of the world of medicine will find it a thrill.

But the No. 1 reason is in the physicians’ creed. “The Hippocratic Oath specifically calls for teaching the next generation of doctors,” says Dr. Wortham. “We truly are responsible for passing on the torch.”

Dr. Wortham has been a volunteer preceptor in the UAMS Family Medical Center (FMC) since 2000, shortly after he retired as vice president at Rebsamen Regional Medical Center in Jacksonville and 41 years in private practice. At 80, the College of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus and Hall of Fame member is taking the Family Medicine board exam in July so he can serve for up to six more years.

Dr. Wortham spends two mornings a week at the FMC as a preceptor for family medicine residents. “I really enjoy working with these bright young physicians and students,” he says. His goal is to instill a commitment to “dig” for a diagnosis by conducting thorough histories and careful examinations. “As our forefathers said, you must listen to your patients and they’ll tell you the diagnosis,” says Dr. Wortham. Ultimately, he adds, “Loving people and loving to work with them is the basic reason to continue being involved in medicine and teaching.”

Daniel Knight, M.D. ’85, an associate professor and the residency director in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, says the FMC could use more highly committed volunteers. “Dr. Wortham is outstanding,” says Dr. Knight. “He teaches residents to see the patient as a person, not just as a medical entity. He also has the wisdom of having served many years in the medical community and having seen many changes in medical knowledge and medical care.”

You Can Volunteer!

• Alumni can serve as preceptors and mentors for freshmen and sophomores in the Introduction to Clinical Medicine 1 and 2 courses. Read more on page 6.

• Judith McClain discusses alumni volunteerism on page 2.

“Dr. Wortham has been a joy to work with,” says chief resident Sherri Carter-Wyatt, M.D. ’04. “His experiences as a private physician are invaluable when training to work in primary care. He is a wonderful doctor and person, and I will miss him when I graduate this June.”
A Note from the Director, Judith McClain

One of our greatest challenges in the years ahead will be to train enough physicians to serve our growing aging population. We also must ensure that the physician workforce is as diverse as society itself and that all of tomorrow’s physicians are committed to delivering superior, compassionate and culturally competent care for everyone.

More than 25 percent of the U.S. population is African American, Hispanic or Native American. Unfortunately, only about 6 percent of today’s physicians are members of those groups. By 2050, ethnic minorities are projected to represent half of the population. Although medical schools are slowly becoming more diverse, the need to focus on diversity is more important than ever.

Ultimately, the goal is to eliminate the health disparities that persist for underrepresented minority groups and the poor. National reports note that a diverse physician work force helps improve access to care. One reason is that minority physicians are more likely to practice in underserved areas. Studies also show that patients prefer physicians of the same racial or ethnic background.

UAMS and the College of Medicine have been working to recruit and retain underrepresented minority students for many years. In April we welcomed a valuable new team member, Ms. Vivian LaVeda Flowers. As director of recruitment for diversity, she has begun working with all five colleges and the Graduate School to coordinate and strengthen campus programs that focus on recruiting and retaining underrepresented minority students. Ms. Flowers has been a member of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission for seven years and was a member of the inaugural class of the Clinton School of Public Service.

One of the challenges of recruiting underrepresented minority students is the competition we face from other schools that can offer them more lucrative scholarships. We lose some excellent Arkansas students to out of state schools. We are planning to develop full-tuition and other major scholarships to help us recruit these students. Our goal is a more diverse physician workforce for Arkansas, and we hope you will join us in supporting this effort.

A Note from the Dean, Debra H. Fiser, M.D.

Ah, summertime. The season always reminds me of family gatherings, traveling with friends and simply enjoying the company of others. It’s a great time to reconnect with those we care about.

At the Medical Alumni Association, our goal is to help you stay connected with one another and with the College of Medicine. Some of our newest programs represent opportunities to do just that.

Our cover story in this issue on Dr. Tom Wortham and our story on page 6 about a volunteer preceptor program in our clinical medicine courses for freshmen and sophomores both highlight a great way to stay connected. Volunteer! Our alumni survey late last year revealed that many of you are interested in volunteering and in having more involvement with students. This is your chance.

Students benefit tremendously from the wisdom and expertise that you can provide. We hear from students and residents all the time about the value of having teachers, preceptors and mentors from the community. What’s in it for you? As the many alumni who already volunteer will attest, you’ll experience the joy of teaching and the sense of fulfillment that comes from “giving back.”

Another opportunity to stay connected is our new travel program. Alumni are headed for the French Alps and Italian Lakes Sept. 21-29, and for Rome and Florence Nov. 2-10. If you’re a member of the class of ’59, ’72 or ’73, you have classmates headed for the Alps. It’s not too late for you to join them. For more information, visit uams.edu/com/alumni.

You also can “catch up” on your classmates without catching a plane – through the Class Notes section of Alumni Matters. We’re keeping our eyes open for news to pass along, and we’re hearing from some of you as well. Send us a few sentences about what’s new in your practice and your life – your latest scuba diving adventure, perhaps, or winning a ballroom dance competition! Of course, you also can share more traditional news about your practice, latest publication or recent awards. Your classmates will enjoy hearing about what you’re up to.

Stay in touch!
Brenda Powell, M.D. ’80, had no idea she would become a physician and leader in Arkansas medicine when she left Harrison for college in 1965.

The future obstetrician and gynecologist studied accounting for three years at what is now Arkansas Tech in Russellville. After moving with her husband to Fayetteville, she began studying nutrition at the University of Arkansas (UA). She was unable to continue in that major when the couple moved again. In 1976, she graduated cum laude from UA Monticello with a degree in biology and applied to medical school.

“It seemed that every roadblock I encountered led me to a better choice,” says Dr. Powell, who has practiced at the Physicians for Women Center in Hot Springs since 1984. In May, Dr. Powell became president of the Arkansas Medical Society (AMS), where she has been active for more than 20 years.

AMS President Brenda Powell, M.D. ’80

“‘The Arkansas Medical Society is our only effective, unified political voice at the state level, and I consider belonging and working in the society a matter of professional survival,’” Dr. Powell says. “Of course, medicine is about taking care of patients. But if physicians are not politically active, the future of medical care may be jeopardized.”

She notes many pressing medical needs for Arkansas that she hopes to work on while serving as AMS president. “We need a statewide trauma system, and we must address the growing number of uninsured,” says Dr. Powell. She also points to the rise of obesity and administrative issues such as declining reimbursement rates, which threatens access to care.

While Dr. Powell is the first female president of the AMS, colleagues stress that her personal strengths and commitment are far more relevant.

“The people who need to lead this organization are those who carry the freight,” says outgoing AMS President Joseph Beck, M.D. ‘81. He adds that Dr. Powell has always been active, despite having to drive from Hot Springs to attend meetings in Little Rock. “She just shows up and gets the work done.”

Volney Steele, M.D. ’45, of Bozeman, Mont., recently wrapped up the seventh annual Medical History of the West Conference at Montana State University. The event is cosponsored by the Volney Steele Endowment for the Study of Medical History. Dr. Steele’s passion for history has had him writing about subjects as diverse as battlefield surgery during the crusades and his own years at medical school in Arkansas.

Alma Houston, M.D. ’69, of Canton, Ohio, enjoys playing international folk music, and her band recently was in a “Docs Who Rock” United Way talent show in Akron. Dr. Houston is a psychiatrist at Child Guidance and Family Solutions in Akron. She’s looking forward to retiring in a few years to devote more time to art and music.

Alumni who live and work far from UAMS are always tickled to run across good news about their classmates. Robert Reese, M.D. ’72, of Tucson, Ariz., noticed an item about Daniel Anderson, M.D. ’72, in the Southern California Permanente Medical Group newsletter, Physicians Quarterly. Dr. Anderson, a gastroenterologist in San Diego, recently received a Physicians’ Exceptional Contribution Award for leadership in the company and other organizations.

Frank Padberg, Jr., M.D. ’73, of Berkeley Heights, N.J., remains active in practice and teaching vascular surgery. He recently served as president of the American Venous Forum (AVF) and the AVF Foundation. Dr. Padberg is contributing to practice guidelines to be published in the Journal of Vascular Surgery and the Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology. He also is serving as secretary of the American College of Surgeons New Jersey Chapter.
Graduation 2007 Joyous for Alumni Parents

Of all the proud parents at convocation and graduation in May, perhaps none were more pleased than the College of Medicine (COM) alumni with children graduating from their alma mater.

“This is a high point of our lives,” says Andrew Jansen, M.D. ’76, of Pocahontas, whose third son, Philip Jansen, M.D. ’07, graduated. Preceding Philip were Stephen Jansen, M.D. ’03, and Brian Jansen, M.D. ’04. “My wife, Becky, and I are so proud of them.”

“I guess you could say it was ‘in my blood’ to go into medicine, although I was never pushed into it,” says Philip, who is going into family medicine like his father. He credits his dad, brothers and mother, a newly retired school principal, for drawing him into medicine by exemplifying leadership, a service attitude and excellent work ethics.

Like Carol Chappell, M.D. ’74, of Little Rock, Michael Chappell, M.D. ’07, plans to specialize in ophthalmology. “I enjoy my medical career so much and I am very pleased that Michael is following this pathway as well,” says the 1974 alumna.

The 2007 graduate was drawn to ophthalmology for the same reasons as his mom. “Ophthalmologists are able to treat and help patients of all ages,” he says, also noting the opportunity to provide continuity of care and have surgical and clinical responsibilities.

The younger Dr. Chappell originally considered majoring in music in college, but he had a strong interest in science and saw how it could be used to help others. Being exposed to a number of doctors in the family, including his paternal grandfather, Ewin Chappell, M.D. ’38, and his maternal grandfather, had an effect. “I was able to interact with family members and others in medicine and began to understand what most types of doctors did,” he says.

Congratulations to all of our 2007 graduates. And to all of our alumni with children graduating this year, we say, “Well done!”

Alumni Parents & 2007 Graduates*:

Carol Chappell, M.D. ’74, Michael Chappell, M.D. ’07
Greg Krulin, M.D. ’74
Kim Krulin, M.D. ’07
Ron Hardin, M.D. ’74
Daniel Hardin, M.D. ’07, & Mark Hardin, M.D. ’07
Andrew Jansen, M.D. ’76
Philip Jansen, M.D. ’07
John Kendrick, M.D. ’77
Brian Kendrick, M.D. ’07
Joe Hester, M.D. ’78
Christian Hester, M.D. ’07
Kenneth Martin, M.D. ’78
Anna Martin, M.D. ’07
Larry Price, M.D. ’78
Alice Price Alexander, M.D. ’07
Roger Tilley, M.D. ’78
Rachel Tilley, M.D. ’07
Ron Blachly, M.D. ’79
James Blachly, M.D. ’07
Joe Ross, M.D. ’79
Chris Ross, M.D. ’07
Keith Bell, M.D. ’82
Matt Bell, M.D. ’07

* We’ve tried to identify all alumni with children graduating from the COM this year. Let us know if we missed you!

Congratulations Graduates!
**Mays-Broughton**

Stephen Broughton, M.D. ’90, has always looked up to his physician uncles, Edward Mays, M.D. ’59, and James Mays, M.D. ’65, whom he affectionately calls the “military doc” and the “Hollywood doc.”

Dr. Edward Mays retired from medicine after serving 21 years as a top pulmonologist in the U.S. Army, chairing the Department of Internal Medicine at Meharry Medical College, and working in private practice in Oakland, Calif. He continues to teach at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. “He is extremely professional and has the keenest wit,” says Dr. Broughton, a psychiatrist in Pine Bluff and the son of Edward and James Mays’ sister, Delores Mays Broughton. “My uncle Edward is exactly the type of doctor you’d want to emulate.”

Dr. James Mays is a cardiologist, author and community leader in Los Angeles who has been active in many social and other issues. He received the Community Service Award from the University of Arkansas Alumni Association in 1993. “My uncle James taught me that as physicians, we must do more than fulfill the service of medicine called for in the Hippocratic Oath,” says Dr. Broughton. “Because we have higher profiles in society, we have a responsibility to be community leaders as well.”

**Tate Family**

Less than a decade after the Civil War, when there still were no roads in that part of Arkansas, James Francis Marion Tate, M.D., moved from Illinois to practice medicine in Appleton (Pope County). His brother, Parker Martin Tate, M.D., joined him eight years later, in 1881. James’ son, Alva Barton Tate, M.D. ’10, practiced in Appleton and Atkins for many years and later was a public health physician for Yell County until his death in 1963. Alva’s son, James Brooks Tate, M.D. ’41, settled in Texarkana, where he was in family practice until his death in 1954.

James Brooks Tate’s son, William Barton Tate, M.D. ’67, carried on the family legacy, practicing obstetrics and gynecology in Fort Smith for many years before returning to active duty in the U.S. Air Force. Since retiring as a colonel in 2005, Dr. Tate has continued in voluntary practice at the Northwest Arkansas Free Health Center in Fayetteville.

“I knew by the age of 10 that I wanted to be a doctor,” says Dr. Tate. “What else could I dream of doing when I spent so many hours playing with medical instruments in my grandfather’s black bag, and after spending countless hours at my dad’s office and going on house calls with him when I was young?”

To share your multi-generational medical family story, please e-mail jmwelsh@uams.edu, or mail it to: UAMS Medical Alumni Association, 4301 W. Markham St., #642, Little Rock, AR 72205.
Philanthropy and Service

Volunteers Wanted! Help Teach Students Clinical Skills

You can help College of Medicine students get their clinical education off to a great start.

The Introduction to Clinical Medicine 1 (ICM 1) course for freshmen and the Introduction to Clinical Medicine 2 (ICM 2) course for sophomores use preceptors to teach students history and physical exam (H&P) skills. Alumni can volunteer for the programs, which run throughout the academic year.

In the ICM 1 preceptor program, alumni volunteers would team-teach with faculty or senior medical students, along with standardized “patients.” They would meet with groups of 10 to 12 freshmen for 1½-hour sessions twice a month, August through April. Preceptors evaluate students’ write-ups of the H&P sessions. They also serve as mentors, discussing issues in clinical medicine.

ICM 2 introduces sophomores to real-world H&P skills and actual inpatients and outpatients. Volunteer preceptors must commit to three sessions during each semester. A session typically takes a few hours, during which a student sees one or two of the preceptor’s patients and orally presents the case to the physician. Students write formal H&P reports for evaluation. Preceptors in internal medicine, family medicine or geriatrics are preferred.

“We’re looking for volunteers with a passion to teach and a positive outlook,” Sara Tariq, M.D. ’98

“We’re looking for volunteers with a passion to teach and a positive outlook,” says ICM 2 Director Sara Tariq, M.D. ’98. “We need great role models who will teach students how to do thorough exams and who will give objective feedback.”

ICM 1 Director James Graham, M.D. ’85, says the preceptor programs are an opportunity for alumni to have a significant impact on the next generation of physicians. “If we can really impress on students the value of the doctor-patient relationship and the critical importance of excellent communication, then the impact will be tremendous,” he says.

To volunteer in 2007-2008, please contact the course directors by July 15. Dr. Graham can be reached about the ICM 1 program at (501) 364-1050, or by e-mail: grahamjames@uams.edu. For the ICM 2 program, contact Dr. Tariq or her assistant, Jennifer Vanecko, at (501) 686-5800.

ACH Honors Dr. Roger Bost: Richard Jacobs, M.D. ’77, interim chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, and Roger B. Bost, M.D. ’45, admire a Barry Thomas print that was presented to Dr. Bost by Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) at a banquet in April. Dr. Bost received the 2007 Betty A. Lowe, M.D., Award in recognition of his many contributions to the health and wellbeing of Arkansas children. His distinguished career included serving as interim chair of Pediatrics and in other leadership positions at UAMS and ACH. He also was a leader in expanding the state’s Medicaid program.

Day With a Doctor: The Medical Alumni Association’s Day with a Doctor Program brings textbook information to life for College of Medicine freshmen. Obstetrician-gynecologist Cindy Hubach, M.D. ’92, (left) mentored J. Leslie Knod on April 21. Leslie also shadowed pediatrician Johnny Ledbetter, M.D. ’95, and ophthalmologist Tracy Baltz, M.D. ’97, this spring. “I gained exposure to three quite diverse fields of medicine and hands-on experience with patients as well as a glimpse into the structure of private practice,” says Leslie. “All of these experiences were exceptional, and I’m grateful to the physicians who graciously donate their time and wisdom for this program.”
New Founders Society Members

Members of the Founders Society have pledged or given at least $10,000 to various College of Medicine endowments. Following are members who’ve joined since our last newsletter.

- Mrs. Bonnie Axelson
- Larry E. Farris, M.D.
- Mr. & Mrs. James F. Gadberry
- Mr. & Mrs. BarnettGrace
- Mr. & Mrs. Madison Murphy
- Schmieding Foundation, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Shoptaw
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry F. Trotter
- Jeanne Wei, M.D.
- Henry Wilson, M.D.

New Dean’s Society Members

Members of the Dean’s Society have pledged to make annual unrestricted gifts to the College of Medicine. Following are members who’ve joined since our last newsletter.

- Couples ($1,500)
  - Drs. Steven & Sally Harms
  - Dr. Andrew & Donna Kellum
  - Drs. Joanna & Robert Seibert
  - Drs. Warren & Phyllis Skaug

- Young Couples (graduates in past 10 years; $750)
  - No new young couples this quarter

- Recent Graduates (past 10 years; $500)
  - Brian T. Bean, M.D.
  - Todd M. Clements, M.D.

Our lists include new members as of May 25, 2007.

Alumni Board to Serve as Liaison with Dean

College of Medicine Dean Debra H. Fiser, M.D., has appointed a 16-member Alumni Advisory Board. The board will meet twice a year with Dr. Fiser and Judith McClain, executive director of the Medical Alumni Association. It convened for the first time on April 28.

“The board includes relatively recent graduates, prime of life alumni and alumni who have retired from practice,” says Dr. Fiser. “We also have alumni who are on the UAMS faculty and house staff. I am looking forward to hearing their diverse insights into programming and other issues that affect our current and future alumni.”

The board members are:

- R. Lee Archer, M.D. ’82
- H. Marks Attwood, M.D. ’81
- Hannah Beene, M.D. ’84
- David W. Bevans, M.D. ’66
- Sally S. Harms, M.D. ’81
- Tina W. Hatley-Merritt, M.D. ’96
- James E. Hunt, M.D. ’03
- Allison M. Johnson, M.D. ’03
- Stacie M. Jones, M.D. ’96
- Betty A. Lowe, M.D. ’56
- Toni Middleton, M.D. ’97
- James J. Pappas, M.D. ’56
- Chad T. Rodgers, M.D. ’98
- E. Brian Russell, M.D. ’99
- Gerard S. San Pedro, M.D. ’84
- Dola S. Thompson, M.D. ’49

New Scholarships

Annie Schoppach, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Endowment. In 1901, Annie Schoppach, M.D., became the first woman to graduate from the Medical Department of the University of Arkansas. Born in Ontario, Canada, she made her way to Little Rock in 1897. She practiced obstetrics and gynecology for 48 years in Little Rock, where she died in 1949. Her great-granddaughter, Bonnie Axelson, has honored Dr. Schoppach by endowing a scholarship in her name. Preference will be given to a rising female sophomore with financial need who has exhibited outstanding character and scholarship.

The Class of 1955 Scholarship Endowment. Class of ’55 alumnus Bob Chester’s love of the outdoors was equaled only by his affection for the University of Arkansas and his love of medicine. As an anesthesiologist, he was exemplary in his care for patients. Their wellbeing always came first. His respect for his profession also found expression in the fondness he felt for his medical school class. He was pleased that through his estate he could make arrangements to add significantly to the funds available for scholarships awarded on behalf of his class. Dr. Chester died Feb. 6, 2007.
In Memoriam

1940s

John Ben Stewart, M.D. ’40, of Greenwood, died March 16, 2007. He was 90. Dr. Stewart was president of his medical school class. He served as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Army before settling in the Fort Smith area, where he practiced for many years.

1950s

Thomas E. Cochran, M.D. ’53, of Springfield, Mo., died May 1, 2007. He was 79. As the first fellowship-trained cardiologist in southwestern Missouri, Dr. Cochran helped shape the practice of cardiology in the region for 40 years until his retirement in 1997.

Eugene L. Tate, M.D. ’54, of Huntsville, Ala., died April 2, 2007. He was 82. Dr. Tate was an ear, nose and throat specialist in Huntsville for 46 years. He led medical mission trips to Belize for two decades.

Thomas H. Johnson, M.D. ’57, of Oklahoma City, died April 3, 2007. He was 73. Dr. Johnson was a professor of radiological sciences at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center for more than 30 years before retiring in 2005. He previously taught at the University of Tennessee and the University of Pittsburg.

Frederick John Svendsen, M.D. ’57, of Greenbriar, died April 6, 2007. He was 74. Dr. Svendsen practiced family medicine in Yellville and later practiced emergency medicine in several communities. He was instrumental in introducing hyperbaric medicine in Arkansas.

1980s

Matthew Lee Evans, M.D. ’85, of Lonoke, died March 30, 2007. He practiced family medicine in Magnolia, where he served as chief of staff of Magnolia Hospital, and at the Anderson Clinic in Lonoke.

Robert G. Daniel, Jr., M.D. ’87, of Mabelvale, died May 22, 2007. He was 53. Dr. Daniel practiced internal medicine in Glenwood and later in North Little Rock.

Get Alumni Matters Via E-mail!

Just send an e-mail request to jmwelsh@uams.edu and ask that your name be added to our e-mail broadcast list.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Scholarship Banquet & Freshman Family Day – Aug. 24-25


Alumni & Friends Receptions:
American College of Surgeons, New Orleans – Oct. 7-11

Pack Your Bags:
It’s time to sign up NOW for our European travel program this fall. Visit uams.edu/com/alumni for information. Two tours are scheduled: the French Alps/Italian Lakes Sept. 21-29, and Rome/Florence Nov. 2-10.

COM Dean Debra H. Fiser, M.D. ’77, visits with classmate Richard D. Justiss, M.D. ’77, at a March 21 alumni reception in Pine Bluff. David Jacks, M.D. ’76, is in the background. The reception was co-hosted by the UAMS Arkansas Health Education Center (AHEC) in Pine Bluff along with Dr. Jacks and Simmie Armstrong, M.D.

James Chambliss, M.D. ’05, (left) chief resident at AHEC South Arkansas, talks with Robert Nunnally, M.D. ’58, and his wife, Virginia, at a May 9 luncheon reception for alumni and AHEC supporters in El Dorado. Dr. Chambliss thanked the Camden couple for the Dr. Robert H. Nunnally Endowed Scholarship, which he received in medical school.

Want More News and Resources?

Visit our new and expanding Web site. We are continually adding new information and links to provide information to our alumni. Help us stay up to date and connected with you by visiting the COM Alumni Web site at www.uams.edu/com/alumni and completing the online change of address form as needed or by e-mailing Janie Welsh at jmwelsh@uams.edu.