

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

CLASS SCHOLARSHIPS

Class of 1937 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1937, a product of the Great Depression, remembered the adversity of its medical-school years and recognized a continuing need to assist students with the costs of a medical education. Fourteen of the original 62 members of the Class of 1937 attended their 50-year Alumni Reunion in 1987 and decided to fund the first scholarship ever presented by an alumni class to the College of Medicine. Dr. J.A. Henry, who was instrumental in establishing the annual scholarship stated: "The chief reason for establishing the scholarship was in recognition of the School of Medicine which has provided for us the opportunity to become doctors. The remembrance of the austerity which characterized and tempered our medical school days no doubt influenced this scholarship. We only hope that any future recipient of this scholarship will feel gratitude and pride in his/her medical school alma mater which has prompted the creation of the Class of 1937 Scholarship." The scholarship is awarded to an entering first-year student on the basis of outstanding academic achievement and need. This scholarship, along with the Class of 1981 Alumni Scholarship, is recognized as the genesis of the successful alumni scholarship effort spearheaded by Mrs. Janet Honeycutt, past Executive Director of the Arkansas Caduceus Club, and Dr. I. Dodd Wilson, former Dean and now UAMS Chancellor. The inaugural award was presented in 1989 to Alan Newman.

Class of 1942 Scholarship: Members of the Class of 1942 returned to Little Rock in 1992 to celebrate the golden anniversary of their graduation from medical school. During this time, they also decided to fund an endowed scholarship for the College of Medicine, and they accomplished their goal in only two years. The inaugural award was presented in 1994 to Chris Gibert. The Class of 1942 Scholarship is given annually to an upperclassman who has demonstrated superior academic achievement throughout medical school.

Class of 1945 Scholarship: The Class of 1945 determined at its 45-year reunion in 1990 to establish a scholarship by the time of its 50-year reunion. Class agents campaigned for contributions from their classmates. The class presented its endowment to the College of Medicine during its golden anniversary celebration in 1999. The scholarship is awarded each year to a medical student on the basis of financial need and academic excellence.

Class of 1946 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1946 decided in 1991 to fund a scholarship and, like the Class of 1945, present it to the College of Medicine on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their graduation. The class presented the scholarship to the College of Medicine in June 1996. The scholarship is awarded to a student on the basis of outstanding academic achievement. The Class of 1946 reserved the right to amend the selection criteria in the future. Kay Kinneman was the inaugural recipient in 1996.

Class of 1947 Alumni Scholarship: The accelerated Class of 1947 began medical school as freshmen in 1944 during World War II. Many members of the class were actively serving in the military while in medical school. The accelerated medical program was held year round so students could graduate in three years. The Class of 1947 decided at its 50-year reunion to fund an endowed scholarship for the College of Medicine. The inaugural award was presented in 2002 to Theresa Wyrick.

Class of 1949 Alumni Scholarship: The scholarship of the Class of 1949 is awarded annually to an upperclassman on the basis of superior academic achievement, both inside and outside of the classroom. Class agents, Dr. Bernard Thompson, retired professor of surgery, and his wife, Dr. Dola Thompson, retired professor and Chair of Anesthesiology, were influential in establishing this fund. The inaugural award of the Class of 1949 Alumni Scholarship was presented in 1994 to Ruth Ann Blair.

Class of 1950 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1950, the first post-war class, mostly consisted of veterans living on the GI Bill stipend. Their contributions, along with the leadership of their class president, Dr. Tom Ed Townsend, created a scholarship that was first awarded in 2000 to Tommy Moseley. The parameters of this award were left to the discretion of the College of Medicine Scholarship Committee.

Class of 1952 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1952 made plans during its 1992 reunion to endow a scholarship in recognition of the high cost of medical education and the indebtedness of many medical students. Dr. Rex Morgan, Class Agent, presented the College of Medicine with a generous scholarship endowment during the 1997 Alumni Weekend to provide encouragement and financial aid to their younger colleagues. The Scholarship Committee selects a worthy student each year to receive the award. The inaugural award was presented in 1997 to Jeri Mendelson.

Class of 1953 Alumni Scholarship: Members of the Class of 1953 established an endowed scholarship fund for the College of Medicine during its 40th anniversary celebration of their graduation from medical school. Dr. Purcell Smith, Class Agent, presented this generous endowment to the College during Alumni Weekend in 1998. The inaugural award was presented in 1998 to Michelle Rodgers.

Class of 1954 Alumni Scholarship: Dr. Harold Hyder initiated a drive among his classmates to fund a medical student scholarship in 1989. After the untimely death of Dr. Hyder, Dr. Joe Bennett, Dr. George Ackerman and other members of the Class of 1954 spearheaded efforts to continue. Today, it is the largest scholarship endowment ever presented to the College by an alumni class. A remarkable 81% of class members supported the scholarship fund. The inaugural presentation of the scholarship was made in 1994 to Shannon Turner. The award is presented annually to a freshman or sophomore.

Class of 1955 Alumni Scholarship: Dr. Robert L. 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 in the class of 1955, he was exemplary in his care for patients. Their well being always came first. The respect he had for his profession also found expression in the fondness he felt for his medical school class. He was, therefore, pleased that through his estate he could make arrangements to add significantly to the funds available for scholarships awarded on behalf of his class. The scholarship will be awarded annually at the discretion of the College of Medicine scholarship committee. The inaugural scholarship will be awarded in 2008.

Class of 1956 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1956 established its College of Medicine endowment in 1991. The class elected to fund a scholarship initially, but reserved the right to designate the income for other specific purposes as institutional needs change. The inaugural award was presented in 1996 to Drew Finkbeiner. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement.

Class of 1957 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1957 always has an excellent turnout at its Alumni Weekends. The class presented an endowed scholarship to the College of Medicine during its 45-year reunion. They designated the scholarship to be awarded annually at the discretion of the College of Medicine Scholarship Committee. The inaugural award was presented in 2002 to Naveen Pemmaraju, sophomore class president.

Class of 1958 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1958 decided to fund an endowment for the College of Medicine during its 1998 Alumni Weekend. Dr. James Basinger guided those early efforts. The class decided during the 2003 reunion to fund a medical student scholarship from its endowment. The College of Medicine Scholarship Committee selects the annual recipient. The inaugural award was presented in 2003 to Matt Sellars.

Class of 1961 Alumni Scholarship: Dr. Asa Crow, on behalf of the Class of 1961, announced during the 1991 Alumni Weekend that his class would present an endowed scholarship within five years. The Class of 1961 kept its promise and presented its inaugural scholarship in 1996 to Jacob Kaler. The award is presented annually to an outstanding student on the basis of superior academic performance.

Class of 1963 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1963 decided to endow a scholarship for the College during the 30th anniversary of their graduation from medical school in 1993. Dr. J. Malcolm Moore, Class Agent, presented an endowment to the College of Medicine in June 1998. The class determined that the recipient must be a sophomore who is an Arkansas resident, who has financial need and whose grades fall in the mid-range of the class. The recipient is eligible for renewal of the scholarship until graduation if the financial need continues. Michael E. Barnett, M.D., a leader in establishing this scholarship was selected by his class to make the inaugural presentation in 1998 to Nat Robertson.

Class of 1964 Scholarship: Class Agent, Rex Easter, M.D., and his fellow classmates presented a scholarship to the College of Medicine during the 1999 Alumni Weekend marking the 35-year anniversary of their graduation from medical school. The scholarship recipient must be an Arkansas resident with financial need who is in the mid-range of his/her class. The scholarship is awarded to a sophomore and will be renewed until graduation providing the recipient continues to meet the criteria. The inaugural award was presented in 1999 to Mark Dyer.

Class of 1965 Scholarship: The Class of 1965 established a scholarship fund in 1995 and class members continue to make contributions to this fund. Upperclassmen who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement are given priority consideration. The Class of 1965 reserves the right to modify scholarship selection criteria. The inaugural award was presented to Lori Cheney in 1995.

Class of 1968/A.J. Thompson, M.D., Memorial Scholarship: The Class of 1968 was deeply saddened by the 1988 death of its admired classmate, Dr. A.J. Thompson, who once had been selected as Outstanding Intern and then Outstanding Resident at UAMS. Later, he became the personal physician to the United States Air Force Thunderbirds. Dr. Thompson founded the Little Rock Cardiology Clinic and is credited with bringing state-of-the-art cardiology to central Arkansas. He also helped organize several missions through his church to benefit those less privileged in other countries. Dr. Thompson was named the College of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus, one of the most prestigious honors bestowed by the College of Medicine, only one year before his valiant struggle with cancer ended his life. Dr. Jack Blackshear and Dr. Frederick E. Joyce led the effort to establish a scholarship fund in his memory. The inaugural award based on outstanding academic achievement was presented in 1993 to Torin Gray.

Class of 1969 Scholarship: The Class of 1969 began contributing to its scholarship fund in 1994. They accomplished their goal after five years. Class Agent, Dr. Jerry Kendall, presented the College of Medicine with the Class of 1969 Alumni Scholarship at its 30-year reunion during Alumni Weekend in 1999. The inaugural award was given in 1999.

Class of 1971 Scholarship: The Class of 1971 voted unanimously to establish an endowed scholarship during their 25th reunion in 1996. Rallied by class agents Dr. John C. Jones and Dr. Hugh Burnett, classmates contributed generously to the endowment fund over the next several years to build a lasting gift for future medical students. Class members were pleased to present the inaugural scholarship in 2006, marking their 35th reunion year.

Class of 1973 Hank Jordan Memorial Scholarship: Following the death of Dr. Harry J. Jordan of Jonesboro, his medical school classmates and many other northeast Arkansas physicians contributed to a scholarship fund in his memory. Members of the Class of 1973 note that they were blessed to have had the late Harry J. Jordan as a classmate: "In studying with him, we learned to admire him; in working with him, we learned to respect him; in knowing him, we loved him." This scholarship gives preference to a freshman student from Jonesboro or northeast Arkansas who, like Dr. Jordan, demonstrates integrity, character and compassion. The inaugural award of the Class of 1973 Hank Jordan Memorial Scholarship was presented in 1994 to Rodney McDonald.

Class of 1976 Scholarship: The Class of 1976 officially presented its scholarship to the Dean and the College of Medicine in 2001, in celebration of the silver anniversary of its graduation from medical school. However, the class members accumulated sufficient funds since their efforts began in 1996 to present the inaugural scholarship in 1999, two years prior to their 25-year reunion. The inaugural recipient was Morris Kelley of Pine Bluff.

Class of 1977 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1977 was noted as one of the most diverse student groups of its time. The class consisted of students from a wide range of ages and experiences, including many Vietnam veterans, a record number of women and a variety of personalities. The Class of 1977 donated its scholarship simply to help reduce the debt of their colleagues in medicine. The College of Medicine Scholarship Committee selects the recipient. The inaugural scholarship was presented in 2002 to Reta Graham of Clarksville.

Class of 1979 Alumni Scholarship: The Class of 1979 is the only alumni class to fund two endowments for the College of Medicine. The Class of 1979 Alumni Scholarship fund was established in 1994 to provide an annual scholarship based on demonstrated academic achievement and character. The class also established a fund in memory of classmate, Susan Campbell Rector, to award a scholarship to an outstanding senior woman who chooses a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The inaugural award was presented in 1994 to Paige Cash of North Little Rock.

Class of 1981 Alumni Award: The Class of 1981 voted to establish a scholarship fund as a graduation gift to the College of Medicine. Contributions and accrued interest were significant enough to begin awarding scholarships in 1992. The class goal is to earn sufficient interest on the principal in order to present a full-tuition scholarship annually. The recipient should be a rising senior. Members of the senior class vote for a classmate who is seen as a promising young physician and one who has never received a scholarship or grant during medical school. The student with the majority vote receives the award. This scholarship, along with the Class of 1937 Alumni Scholarship, is recognized as the genesis of the successful alumni class effort to endow scholarships for the College of Medicine. The inaugural award was presented to Timothy Eric Bowen in 1991.

Class of 1982/Dr. Morris Hughes Memorial Scholarship: The Class of 1982 created a scholarship in memory of classmate, Dr. Morris Hughes, who was killed in an airplane crash in 1988. Dr. Hughes had experience in many fields before coming to medical school, including electrical engineering, construction, ambulance services and volunteer fire services. Dr. Hughes' classmates often joked that he would be able to operate on his patient, repair the patient's car, and then go to the patient's home, rewire it, repair the plumbing and add a room. To memorialize his spirit of selflessness and excellence in diverse fields, this scholarship fund was established to be awarded to the Junior Medical Student who, in the eyes of his or her classmates, best exhibits the qualities of selflessness, creativity and energy in solving problems of his or her classmates. The junior class selects the recipient of this scholarship each year through a class vote during registration. The inaugural award was presented in 1992 by Dr. Lee Archer on behalf of his classmates. The inaugural award was presented in 1992 to Robert Haley Shaw.

Class of 1983 Scholarship: The Class of 1983 awards a yearly scholarship to a medical student that exhibits leadership, shows compassion, and has good academic standing. The scholarship is awarded at the discretion of the medical school scholarship committee. The inaugural award was made for the year 2009-10.

Class of 1984 Scholarship: The Class of 1984 determined during its first Alumni Weekend in 1994 to fund a scholarship in five years to be presented to the College of Medicine at its next reunion. The goal was met and the inaugural scholarship was presented by Dr. Kris Shewmake on behalf of his classmates in 1999.

Class of 1987/Dana A. Martin Memorial Scholarship: The Class of 1987 established a memorial scholarship in honor of its classmate, Dana Austin Martin, who died in 1986 in an automobile accident during his sophomore year of medical school. Donations from his classmates and the Martin family created the scholarship. Two scholarships are awarded annually to entering first-year medical students with the hope the recipients will someday realize Dana's dream of becoming a caring and compassionate physician. The inaugural awards were presented in 1989 to Karen Beard and Lawrence Dodd.