

matters

Volume 3, Number 4

December 2007

Alumni Bond as They Travel Across the Globe



Juanita and Claude Fendley, M.D. '59, take in the view outside Chillon, a 9th century castle on the shore of Lake Geneva, during the first-ever COM alumni tour.

It started out as a normal day of touring the ancient Rome and Vatican City, when COM alumni on the “Rome and Florence” trip had an unexpected sighting.

As they approached the grand interior of St. Peter’s Basilica, the tour guide fell silent before telling the others, “I don’t believe this but that’s the Pope’s voice.” Pope Benedict XVI was holding an unannounced communion service to honor recently deceased cardinals and they were there to witness it.

“It happened completely by chance and seeing the Pope was just the most significant part of our trip,” said **Al Gordon, M.D. '91**.

The new Alumni Travel Program brings alumni and friends together

to visit exciting places and experience new cultures. The first-ever tour was a sold-out trip to the French and Swiss Alps and the Italian Lakes this past September. The Rome and Florence trip followed the inaugural tour in November.

Jacqueline Stewart, M.D. '87, along with her husband, Robert, joined the other travelers, who ranged from '55 to '03 grads, for the Alps and Italian Lakes tour. They departed for the nine-day excursion that sent them sampling wine in Bardolino, standing at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn, admiring the architectural details of Castle Chillon, and appreciating the company of new friends.

“We all had a really good time together and enjoyed each other’s company,” she said. The ideal locations sold them on the voyage, and while the Ridgefield, Wash., couple didn’t know any of their fellow travelers before the trip began, Dr. Stewart said she felt the tours really do connect alumni.

Dr. Gordon agreed. While he knew a few of the travelers before his trip, he said meeting new people with the same

common ground as a foundation was enticing. “That was the neat thing about the trip. I got to meet and befriend people that I know we will be in contact with, all because of this trip,” Dr. Gordon said. “Everyone just hit it off and I know great friendships will come of this.”

And who could forget the picturesque scenery? “You see paintings and photos of rolling hillsides and stunning vineyards and all of it is absolutely true,” Dr. Gordon said.

The Medical Alumni Association has put together exceptional vacation packages – active itineraries covering destinations around the world. Every detail is arranged from flights to hotels to sightseeing for COM grads and their friends.

The 2008 travel program will feature four trips to an array of destinations including Paris, March 29-April 6; a Danube cruise, April 25-May 3; Ireland, Sept. 19-27; and Tuscany and the Italian Riviera, Sept. 26-Oct. 4. *For more information, visit www.uams.edu/com/alumni*



Jason Vanderburg, M.D. '03, and his wife, Sarah, snapped the photo at left of the Grand Canal of Venice, which lines some of the city’s oldest palazzos. At right, the Vanderburgs, along with Virginia and Ellis Collins, M.D. '59, enjoy the fine dining in Verona.



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



It's hard to believe a year has passed since we launched the Dean's Society, our organization of alumni and others who have pledged to make annual contributions to the College of Medicine. We have over 65 members so far, all of whom want to "participate in the vision" of the COM, as our motto goes.

It was wonderful visiting with many of the members at the first annual Dean's Society luncheon in early November. I enjoyed the opportunity to update members on the many wonderful things happening on campus and the challenges too, such as our preparations to educate and train far greater numbers of physicians to meet Arkansas' needs in the years ahead.

The luncheon attendees were clearly interested in UAMS' growth and our ongoing clinical care quality improvement initiative. **Betty Lowe, M.D. '56**, quoted the old adage, "If you don't practice good medicine, you can't teach it." We agree wholeheartedly.

Members **Bill Dudney, M.D. '74**, and his wife, Lisa, came all the way from Tampa, Fla. "We're amazed to see how UAMS has grown," Bill told us. The Dudneys said they're happy that their son Cross, who's a freshman in the COM this year, is in a solid and nurturing academic environment.

So that's where we are as 2007 draws to a close: a time of amazing growth that brings with it considerable challenges. I encourage you to join the Dean's Society if you haven't already. Participate in our vision!

Debra H. Fiser, M.D.



Bill Dudney, M.D. '74, and his wife, Lisa of Tampa, Fla., catch up on progress in the College of Medicine with Dean Debra H. Fiser, M.D. '77, during the first annual Dean's Society luncheon.

A Note from the Director, Judith McClain



Did you know that while our tuition is one of the lowest in the country, our graduates leave UAMS with an average of over \$118,000 in debt? Medical schools nationwide are deeply concerned that rising medical education costs and student indebtedness will make it harder to attract the most promising students to medicine – and to meet the need for more doctors in the future.

Unfortunately for us, many schools with deeper pockets are enticing the best students to their campuses with substantial scholarships. In the long run, scholarships don't just impact where students choose to attend medical school; they can influence where they eventually practice. Our limited number of substantive scholarships hampers our ability to attract top students.

The Medical Alumni Association stewards 33 memorial scholarships with a total of \$2.1 million in the endowments. This earns about \$90,000 annually for an average scholarship of \$2,800. There are 27 class scholarships with endowments large enough

to award an annual scholarship. But some earn as little as \$700, while others can award a \$4,000 scholarship. None of these approaches the \$10,000 it takes to recruit a top student. Twenty other class funds are too small to award anything at all or are undecided about how to allocate their earnings.

Arkansas also needs many more underrepresented minority (URM) physicians, who are more likely to practice in underserved areas. But many outstanding URM students are being recruited to schools with large scholarships in neighboring states. We have good news on this front. Former College of Medicine Dean **Tom Bruce, M.D. '55**, has issued a challenge of \$100,000 and is joining with a steering committee and me to launch a campaign to endow a scholarship fund for URM students in honor of the beloved late physician and civic leader **Raymond P. Miller, M.D. '63**.

What an exciting way to start 2008! In the coming months you'll hear more about our new campaign to strengthen the COM's scholarship endowments. The bottom line is that scholarships matter. We hope you'll join us in the effort to recruit the best students – for Arkansas.

Judith McClain



Julea Garner, M.D. '89, is serving as president of the Arkansas chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Garner has practiced in Hardy since 2000. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Family Medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. The state AAFP chapter serves nearly 800 active members, 150 residents and 90 medical students at UAMS.

We're pleased (though not surprised) to report that **Tom Wortham, M.D. '53**, has been recertified by the American Board of Family Medicine through December 2014. As many of you read in our June 2007 issue, Dr. Wortham has maintained certification so he can continue to volunteer as a preceptor in the UAMS Family Medicine Clinic.

James Y. Suen, M.D. '66, received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery this fall. Dr. Suen is a distinguished professor and chairman of the College of Medicine's Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Sara Tariq, M.D. '98, and **Robbie Pesek, M.D. '04**, have been elected honorary members of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society. Dr. Tariq is an assistant professor of medicine and director of the COM's Introduction to Clinical Medicine II course. Dr. Pesek is a resident in the Department of Pediatrics.

Class Rosters are now available online!
Visit www.uams.edu/com/alumni.

Help!

We're missing addresses for some of your classmates. We'll run names in this and upcoming issues of Alumni Matters as space allows. If you know how to reach someone on the list, please let us know. (See the contact information for Class Notes on this page.)

William O. Anderson, M.D. '38
William H. Bennett, M.D. '38
Rose H. McClanahan, M.D. '43
James S. Ross, M.D. '43
Willis O. Colyar, M.D. '58
Charles W. Roberts, M.D. '63
Hubert C. Peterson, M.D. '68
James J. Snipes, M.D. '68
Linda M. Boczar, M.D. '78
David A. Morton, M.D. '78
Laird D. Caruthers, M.D. '83
Wrenda B. Gallien, M.D. '83
David C. Hall, M.D. '83

Sangeeta Awasthi, M.D. '88
N P. Garrett, M.D. '88
Lonnie E. Harrison, M.D. '88
Donald W. Huffman, M.D. '88
Jay E. Petty, M.D. '88
Robin G. Smith, M.D. '88
Scott D. Fedosky, M.D. '93
Clay W. Ferguson, M.D. '93
Grace A. Holzman, M.D. '93
Jonathon C. Robertson, M.D. '98
Bryan R. Spencer, M.D. '98

*Warmest
Wishes*
for a holiday season
filled with good friends
and good cheer!

alumni to: Fizer, M.D.

*Ginny Rice
Janette
Candice Adams
Renee Polis*

*Your friends in the College of Medicine
And the Medical Alumni Association*

Share Your News in Class Notes

E-mail your news to riceginny@uams.edu, or mail it to:

UAMS Medical Alumni Association
4301 W Markham ST, #642
Little Rock, AR 72205

Please include your name, address,
e-mail, phone number and class year.

Alumni from Classes Spanning 55 Years Enjoy Alumni Weekend 2007

Whether it was for reminiscing with old classmates or revisiting old haunts, a record number of College of Medicine graduates, young and old alike, gathered for Alumni Weekend 2007. The graduates spanned six decades – 1942 through 1997 – and traveled from 17 states to stay connected to their alma mater.

Jill Fussell, M.D. '97, said the two dozen classmates in attendance brought back the sense of community they had established during medical school. "We had a terrific turnout from our class. Of course, we were a close-knit bunch during those four years," she said.

William Scarborough, M.D. '42, enjoyed commemorating the reunion and catching up with his friend and former classmate, **Art Martin, M.D. '42**.

"Art and I got together and reminded each other about all the good times we had at school," Dr. Scarborough said. "I also enjoyed meeting members of other classes and sharing stories."

The reunion for alumni classes ending in "2" and "7" kicked off Sept. 7 with the Golden Graduate Reception to honor the 50-year Class of 1957 graduates, 55-year Class of 1952 graduates and the 60-year Class of 1947 graduates. The host of other activities during the weekend included an Arkansas Queen Riverboat luncheon cruise and a Clinton Library tour.

Tours of the ever-changing campus and the Center for Clinical Skills Education

with demonstrations of the Laerdal Sim-Man patient simulator were new additions to this year's itinerary.

While the '42 grads weren't able to make the tours, they were amazed at the rapidly changing campus. "I've seen pictures and I think the changes are just fantastic," Dr. Martin said. "Of course when I was in school, it was at MacArthur Park so that's totally changed. I really enjoyed coming back."



Twenty-four members of the class of '97 gathered for the weekend. The group enjoyed the planned activities in Little Rock and socializing at their class reunion.

Alumni Awards & Hall of Fame

Alumni Weekend 2007 also was a chance for graduates to honor their colleagues' achievements.

Lee Archer, M.D. '82, an associate professor of neurology and the Major and Ruth Nodini Chair in Neurology, was the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Archer devotes most of his practice to treating patients with multiple sclerosis. He has won numerous awards for education and humanism in medicine.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to **Lee Dockery, M.D. '57**, a professor emeritus at the University of Florida College of Medicine. Dr. Dockery was the executive vice president of the American Board of Medical Specialties for seven years and has served on numerous other national organizations.

John Pauly, Ph.D., Arthur Haut, M.D., and **James Doherty, M.D. '46**, were

inducted into the College of Medicine Hall of Fame. Dr. Pauly served as chairman of the Department of Anatomy from 1967-1983 and then as UAMS vice chancellor for academic affairs and sponsored research. He taught gross anatomy to medical students throughout his career.

Dr. Haut served UAMS for more than 40 years. He was the first hematologist recruited to the medical school and the first chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology. He continues to volunteer and mentor fellows.

Dr. Doherty trained generations of Arkansas cardiologists while on the faculty for 47 years. He

served as the director of cardiology and was a staff physician and chief of cardiology at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare Administration hospital.



COM Dean Debra H. Fiser, M.D., (fourth from left) with honorees (L-R) Lee Archer, M.D.; John Pauly, Ph.D.; Elise Doherty, daughter of James Doherty, M.D.; Arthur Haut, M.D.; and J. Lee Dockery, M.D., at the reunion dinner and awards presentation.



Lori Cheney, M.D. '97, shared a moment with her father and golden grad **Max Cheney, M.D. '57**, at the alumni celebration. The two graduated from the COM 40 years apart.



Edith Irby Jones, M.D. '52, and her daughter, **Myra Jones Romaine**, step off the bus to see the progress made on campus. In 1948, Jones was the first African-American student to attend UAMS and graduate.



Art Martin, M.D. '42, of Fort Smith and **William Scarborough, M.D. '42**, of Clarksville visit with COM Dean **Debra H. Fiser, M.D. '77**, while enjoying commemoration activities.

Mark the Date!

Alumni Weekend 2008 will be held Aug. 22-23. Festivities will be planned for classes ending in 3s and 8s!



It Was Like Good Medicine ...

J. Lee Dockery, M.D. '57, says his four years in medical school were the best years of his life because of the friendships he made. He made a special trip with his two "buddies" and former classmates, **Howard Kurzner, M.D.**, and **Keith Eardley, M.D.**, to attend Alumni Weekend 2007.

Since it was the fellow Floridians' 50-year celebration, it was a particularly celebratory weekend for them to try to attend. But Dr. Kurzner had surgery two months earlier and wasn't able to travel alone. Knowing the reunion would be a bit of good medicine, Dr. Dockery flew to Miami from Gainesville, Fla., to fly with him. Dr. Eardley met them in Atlanta airport before they all departed for Little Rock.

"It was our 50th and it was a chance to revisit with classmates I hadn't seen in awhile," Dr. Dockery said. *(Read more about Dr. Dockery, who also was named this year's Distinguished Alumnus, in our awards story.)*

"We were so glad to make our 50th reunion and see how everyone has changed," Dr. Kurzner said.



Witches and cats...err...make that the COM Medical Alumni Association's Rena Pakis, Ginny Rice and Candice Adams (left to right) were in full costume on Halloween waiting for sophomores to arrive at their 9 a.m. genetics course. Ginny Rice (right) hands out a treat bag filled with pretzels, granola bars, and candy to sophomore Lynn Wink. The event was part of their "Snack Attack" plan to give goodies to freshmen and sophomore medical students.

We're Growing!

If you haven't been on campus in a while you almost wouldn't recognize the small city that UAMS has become. This panoramic view (taken from the VA hospital) shows the sea of glass being installed on the new hospital towers.

Opening in early 2009, the new hospital will feature state-of-the-art operating rooms and other facilities and a new emergency department. There will be more adult and neonatal beds and larger, all-private patient rooms. The entire facility has been carefully designed to facilitate care and teaching.

The building at the far left (west) is the new Psychiatric Research Institute, one of only 10 of its kind in the nation. It will provide inpatient and outpatient care and house research and educational programs all under one roof.



Philanthropy and Service

Dean's Society

Members of the Dean's Society have pledged to make annual unrestricted gifts to the College of Medicine. The following members have joined recently.

■ Couples (\$1,500)

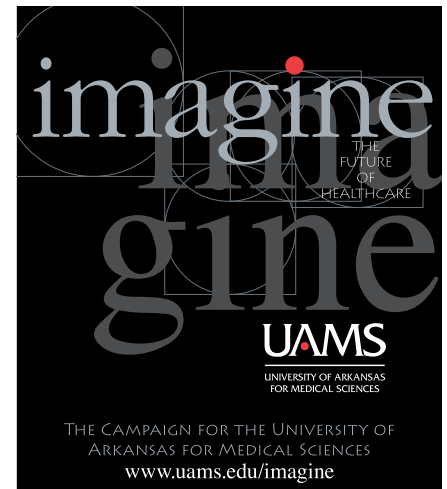
Dr. William and Lisa Dudney
Drs. Michael and Pamela Schonefeld

■ Individuals (\$1,000)

Hannah Beene, M.D.
Robin Q. Goodman, M.D.
Robert E. McGehee Jr., Ph.D.

Thank You!

Our list includes new members as of Nov. 15, 2007.



Founders Society Funds Simulators



Freshmen Shane Lyerly and Shannon Nicks learn skills on SimMan simulator with Physiology Course Director James Pasley, Ph.D.

College of Medicine freshmen will learn skills on four new full-size patient simulators soon thanks to the College of Medicine (COM) Founders Society. Members approved a nearly \$49,000 contribution for the simulators at the organization's annual dinner Nov. 16.

"The new interactive training manikins will help us teach new medical students to detect and evaluate vital signs such as heart rate/EKG monitoring, blood pressure and lung sounds," said Physiology Course Director James Pasley, Ph.D. "The Founders Society is literally helping put our students on the path of learning important aspects of clinical medicine during the first year of medical school."

Last year the society funded a lifelike, computerized simulator, the Laerdal SimMan, as part of its contributions. The four new simulators, while less sophisticated, are important components in the COM's effort to develop a comprehensive Clinical Simulation Center, which will be required for continued medical school accreditation by 2010.

Endowment to Help Ensure Healthy Deliveries

Seven former patients of maternal fetal medicine specialist Paul Wendel, M.D., have joined forces with UAMS development officers to create an endowment that will help future patients with high-risk pregnancies.

The grass-roots effort by the determined and grateful group of mothers has raised more than \$150,000 in its initial months. The endowment is an opportunity for College of Medicine (COM) alumni and friends to literally invest in the future of Arkansas.

Dr. Wendel and other specialists in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Maternal Fetal Medicine Division manage the most complex pregnancies in Arkansas. The Paul J. Wendel Maternal Fetal Medicine Endowment will help recruit medical students, residents and highly-skilled obstetric team members including nurses, ultrasound technologists and genetics counselors.

Patients have showered accolades on Dr. Wendel, both for his expertise and his compassion. "Dr. Wendel has a magical quality of making you feel that you are not only his most important patient, but his only patient," says Leslie Fiskien,

who credits him with saving her life during the birth of her third child in 2005.

For information on this endowment, please contact Mike Houston, director of development, at 501-526-6144, or via e-mail at mhouston@uams.edu.



Paul Wendel, M.D., with endowment co-founder Leslie Fiskien and her daughter Allie.

In Memoriam

1950s

James D. Grable, M.D. '50, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., died Nov. 7, 2007. He was 80. Dr. Grable practiced family medicine for 30 years, was a medical director for 18 years and continued to practice in Cape Girardeau until his death.

Joseph Key Farish Jr., M.D. '54, of Tulsa, Okla., died Sept. 5, 2007. He was 81. While practicing in Tulsa for more than 25 years, Dr. Farish helped create a program for parenting education and prevention of child abuse.

James Claude Bethel, M.D. '54, of Benton, died Oct. 6, 2007. He was 80. Dr. Bethel was on the staff of the VA hospital in Little Rock for 25 years. He also practiced in Bauxite, Benton and in North Carolina.

William R. "Dick" Seibold Jr., M.D. '54, of Texarkana, Texas, died Oct. 13, 2007. He was 81. Dr. Seibold practiced in Texarkana and was a clinical assistant professor of radiology at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport before retiring in 1992.

Nolan L. Simmons, M.D. '54, of Little Rock, died Oct. 14, 2007. He was 82. Dr. Simmons practiced in Little Rock for 50 years, including four years as chief of staff at Doctors Hospital.

Newman L. Riechman, M.D. '57, of Benton, La., died Sept. 2, 2007. He was 83. A Clarendon native, Dr. Riechman practiced family medicine in Bossier City, La., for many years.

1960s

Rodney Carlton, M.D. '60, a longtime Texarkana, Texas, resident, died in Jonesboro Oct. 19, 2007. He was 72. Dr. Carlton was a retired pathologist, former state medical examiner and UAMS faculty member.

Melvin K. Bottorff, M.D. '60, of Sam Rayburn, Texas, died Nov. 2, 2007. He was 72. Dr. Bottorff, an obstetrician and gynecologist, helped expand access to health care in eastern Texas as director of the Jasper/Newton Public Health Department.

George Paul Queen, M.D. '62, of Hot Springs, died Oct. 7, 2007. He was 76. Dr. Queen practiced family medicine in Hot Springs for 42 years.

RECENT EVENTS

A Taste of Paris ...



From left: Serethia Crawford, **Don Howard, Sr., M.D. '60**, Medical Alumni Association Director Judith McClain, and Debbie Diner sample wines at "A Taste of Paris," the Alumni Association's first wine tasting event. Hosted by Debbie and **Bradley Diner, M.D. '85**, the event brought alumni together to preview the sights of the next alumni travel tour, "Paris Highlights," and enjoy wines from the French regions provided by Glazer's Distributors of Arkansas. Judging from the excitement of the evening, we think many of the 50 or so who attended will be saying "bonjour" in France March 29-April 6.

A Little Lagniappe ...

About 50 College of Medicine alumni and guests from around the country visited at an Oct. 9 reception in New Orleans co-sponsored by the Medical Alumni Association, the Department of Surgery and the Arkansas Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The reception was held during the ACS Annual Clinical Congress.

Calling All Alumni ...

The annual Phonathon, a fundraiser for scholarships, is coming in mid-February. It's a great opportunity to talk with a student. Please give generously!

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

Alumni Matters is a quarterly publication of the UAMS Medical Alumni Association and the College of Medicine Office of the Dean.

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