

# matters

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## Scholarships: The Gift of Opportunity

Talented and deserving students often find that a scholarship can make all the difference in being able to attend the College of Medicine. The COM is embarking on a major campaign this year to strengthen our scholarship endowments and help ensure that exceptional students will come here undeterred by rising medical school costs.

Most COM students carry tens of thousands of dollars in debt upon graduation, even though our tuition is among the lowest in the country. In the Class of 2007, 92 percent of our students borrowed money to attend medical school. Their average debt for undergraduate and medical school was \$118,279. While lower than the national public school average of \$129,810, such debt is an overwhelming burden for our students.

Because the costs of medical education are so high and personal resources and funding opportunities are limited, scholarships are necessary to ensure quality performance and establish peace of mind for students. Unfortunately, schools in surrounding states have been able to attract some of the best students with more lucrative scholarships than we've been able to provide.

"In this day and age, there's no question that scholarships help students tremendously," said **Michael Barnett, M.D. '63**, of Heber Springs. Knowing that his class will reunite this year, he felt it was important to contribute to his class fund to go toward the \$250,000 goal that **Dean Debra H. Fiser, M.D. '77**, has set for each class to support medical education.

"When I finished medical school in 1963, my total debt was about \$15,000," said Dr. Barnett. "The point is, it didn't cost what it does now. We've all been there and practiced in the state of Arkansas and understand the financial concerns. We owe it to the current students to help them through medical school."

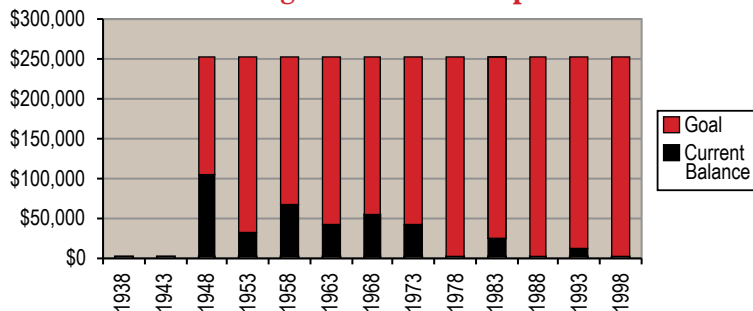
*Cont. on page 2*



"Scholarships not only help defray educational costs, but also encourage students to attend the College of Medicine. And with the growing medical school classes it is critical that additional money is raised to provide scholarships to deserving students. After attending a private undergraduate university and out-of-state graduate program, I felt overwhelmed with the debt that I accrued. However, I could not let that deter me from pursuing my lifelong dream of becoming a physician. I was fortunate to receive a scholarship, and I sleep better at night knowing that my financial burden is smaller. Also, I can focus more on my studies and learning the medical profession. I am grateful knowing that there are generous contributors who are committed to my education. One day, I will pay it forward and commit to funding the dreams of Arkansas' future physicians."

- **Clara Andrews**, first-year medical student and scholarship recipient

### 2008 Reuniting Class Scholarship Balance



Dean **Debra H. Fiser, M.D. '77**, has launched a multi-year campaign to raise class scholarship funds to help the College of Medicine attract top students. Class giving has been consistent, but as this sampling of classes shows, balances remain small. (Because space is so limited, our chart focuses only on the classes that are reuniting this year.) Class endowments of \$250,000 would support substantial scholarships to attract the most promising students – and ultimately provide the best doctors for Arkansas.

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



2008 will be a year of tremendous progress in the College of Medicine (COM). Our ongoing work to plan a satellite campus in Northwest Arkansas is just part of our extensive efforts to teach and train more doctors and to prepare them for the rapidly changing world of medicine. We're also working to develop a comprehensive clinical simulation center that

will centralize and enhance crucial hands-on training. And we anticipate opening a much-needed new education building in the fall.

The COM is striving to prepare students for a brand new era of medicine that focuses more on the growing understanding of genomics. We've recruited a national leader in medical genetics to be the founding director of our new Division of Genetics. G. Bradley Schaefer, M.D., currently is director of the Hattie B. Munroe Center for Human Genetics, associate director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation and an endowed professor in child health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He will start July 15. This important new division will consolidate and expand on existing genetics expertise on campus, serving as both a basic

science and clinical division. The division also will direct the sophomore genetics course.

We're looking forward to welcoming other new leaders. Read about **Pat O'Donnell, M.D. '72**, the new chair of the Department of Urology, in this month's Class Notes. On May 1, John Ansel, M.D., a professor of dermatology and ophthalmology at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, will start as the new chair of Dermatology. The Department of Radiology also will have a new chair on May 1: Philip J. Kenney, M.D., a professor of radiology, chief of the genitourinary section and medical director of outpatient radiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Meanwhile, we're working to recruit more underrepresented minority students, residents, and faculty to the COM. As our cover story notes, new substantive scholarships will help recruit minority and other students.

A common thread to all of these exciting developments is philanthropy. Your generosity helps fund scholarships. Your gifts provide resources for recruiting the highest caliber of faculty leaders. They support new programs and vital research. Thank you for joining us in our progress!

*Debra H. Fiser, M.D.*

## A Note from the Director, Judith McClain



As this issue of Alumni Matters – our first annual philanthropy report – was going to press, another very successful Phonathon had just wrapped up (see page 3). And looking back over the past year, it's clear that College of Medicine alumni are more generous than ever.

Almost 800 alumni gave to the COM in calendar year 2007, or 13% of all alumni. Among those were 62 first-time givers. On pages 4-5, we've

listed all of the current members of two of our primary philanthropic organizations, the Dean's Society and the Founders Society. In Fiscal Year 2007, which ended last June 30, alumni giving was up 140% over the previous year! And giving during the first half of FY08, the period ending this past Dec. 31, was up 100% over the same period the year before.

In large part, the increase reflects the strong interest and steady growth of the Dean's Society, which Dr. Fiser launched in late 2006. By the end of 2007, almost 90 alumni and other supporters had joined this important annual giving organization, which provides unrestricted gifts that the dean can allocate wherever they are needed most.

Scholarship funds also are growing stronger thanks to the generosity of alumni. As discussed in our cover story for this issue, scholarships are more important than ever for medical students, and we hope you will join with us this year to substantially enhance what we can offer.

Perhaps more important than actual numbers, the growth in giving signifies the heightened interest, and participation, among alumni in the COM and charting its future. Our primary goal will always be to help you stay connected. But for now, we want to pause and simply say thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

*Judith*

### Scholarships Cont. from page 1

Also in the spirit of the giving, the Arkansas Community Health & Education Foundation has granted the COM \$48,000 to be used for four \$12,000 scholarships for underrepresented minority (URM) students. The scholarships will help recruit URM students and broaden the base of much-needed minority physicians in the state.

As we reported in our last issue, former Dean **Tom Bruce, M.D. '55**, recently gave \$100,000 as a challenge grant to the Arkansas Medical Dental & Pharmaceutical Association (AMDPA) and others. This campaign is helping endow a scholarship fund with a preference for URM students in honor of the beloved late physician **Raymond P. Miller, M.D. '63**.

## Students Give Back, Alumni Respond with Record-breaking Generosity

The annual Phonathon kicked off the first week of February when more than half of the freshman class began calling on College of Medicine alumni. Students were busy working through the month to help increase alumni participation of giving back to their school.

The M1 class set records for both participation and money raised in the first week. Not only did 38 students volunteer on the first night and 65 on the following night, but the 103 first-year students raised a total of \$52,635 for scholarships in one week. By the end of the month, 172 COM students had pledges of \$76,487. The final tally is expected to be 30% percent higher after follow-up mailings.

"The best part about Phonathon was on the first night of calling," said freshman **Beth Shipman**. "Alumni Director Judith McClain asked my classmates, 'How many of you received a scholarship?' and so many people raised their hands! I had no idea there were that many students - that many of my friends - who benefited from the Phonathon. That was when I knew I was doing something truly worthwhile."

The focus for this year was scholarships – providing more substantial scholarships to train the next generation of physicians. It gave current students an opportunity to help future generations of students and even to benefit themselves as future practicing physicians, as **Al Gordon, M.D. '91**, noted.

"In order to keep the sharpest students in Arkansas, we have to be competitive regarding scholarship offers," said Dr. Gordon, of Fayetteville. "Many medical students at UAMS choose to practice within our state, so obviously this would add to the quality of the excellent physicians we already have. This idea comforts me as a physician since this would add to the quality of future colleagues with whom I practice and to whom I refer."

As the student coordinator for this year's Phonathon, Shipman was in charge of the behind-the-scenes work like recruiting student callers, checking all cell phones donated by Alltel, and securing prizes for the volunteers.

Shipman said the response of her classmates was overwhelming. She noted in the initial planning how she asked freshman **Achal Patel**, another Alumni Association representative, how they could secure donations for prizes this year. The next week, he handed Shipman \$500 in gift certificates from restaurants in the area.

"I think that most medical students are intrinsically motivated towards continual improvement and also possess a certain level of competitiveness. We want to do better than the classes before us. We love being the best," Shipman said. "But even more than that, we really do want to help people. By participating in Phonathon, students make it possible for UAMS to grant more and larger scholarships, making medical school a little easier for those scholarship recipients."



*Achal Patel talks to an alumnus during the first week of calling. He was one of more than 100 freshmen who volunteered for the fundraiser.*



*Students were hard at work to raise more support for scholarships and increase alumni participation during each night of Phonathon.*

# Thank You!

Two of our primary philanthropic organizations are the Dean's Society and the Founders Society. We've shared names of new members in recent issues of Alumni Matters, but want to pay tribute to all current members\* in this special philanthropy issue. We also want to note, with gratitude, the important things contributions have funded this past year.

## Dean's Society

The Dean's Society had almost 90 members by the end of 2007, its first full year of service. Contributions helped fund UAMS Library renovations, including a glass wall on the first floor that provides a new and improved study environment that our students can use around the clock.

*Members make annual unrestricted gifts to the College of Medicine. Giving levels start at \$1,000 for individuals or \$500 for recent graduates*

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## Founders Society

Since 1994, the Founders Society has supported educational tools that our original founders couldn't possibly have imagined. In 2007, members funded four full-size, interactive patient simulators that are helping freshmen learn skills. The Founders Society now has nearly 300 members who have collectively given almost \$39 million to various COM programs.

*Founders Society members have pledged or given \$10,000 or more to COM endowments.*

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UAMS Medical Alumni Association  
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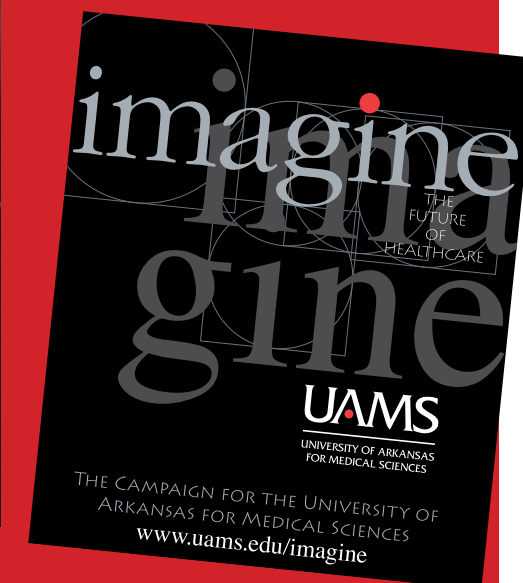
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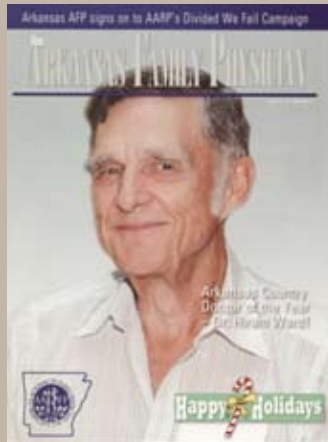
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*\*Our lists include current Dean's Society and Founders Society members as of Jan. 28, 2008.*



*Dean's Society contributions helped fund a glass wall on the first floor of the UAMS Library that enables COM students and residents to study around the clock. During the day, the partition reduces noise from the library entrance. Students can enter the area using their ID badge through a special entrance after hours, and the wall provides additional security.*





**Hiram T. Ward, M.D. '52**, was named the 2007 Country Doctor of the Year, a national award presented by the temporary physician staffing agency, Staff Care, to primary care physicians practicing in rural communities. Dr. Ward practiced family medicine in Murfreesboro from 1953 until his retirement in 1999. For many years, he served as the town's only doctor.

In early 2007, when the only hospital in the county, Pike County Memorial Hospital, faced closing after the last three physicians left the staff, Dr. Ward volunteered to come out of retirement and provide medical coverage at the hospital 24/7.

For seven months, he was on call around the clock and would see nearly 40 to 50 patients each day. Dr. Ward continues to see patients and stay until he sees the last one. He's also the only physician who continues to make house calls, day or night. "He has the determination to do whatever it takes for the community and he's so deserving of this award," said his wife, Janice Ward.



Howard Suzuki, Ph.D., is most remembered as the "tough as nails" Gross Anatomy professor during the 1960s and for the influence he had on his students. **Raymond P. Miller, M.D. '63**, was one of the many students who developed a friendship with his former professor over the course of the years. In the fall, Dr. Suzuki of Highlands, N.C., (center) joined the late Dr. Miller's wife Clarice Miller (left) and Judith McClain (right) to discuss the scholarship fund for URM students in honor of the beloved physician.

**Mark Robbins, M.D. '87**, his wife, Sarah, and teenage children Ben and Grace are spending a year in New Zealand, where Mark is putting his expertise as a radiologist to work at Tauranga Hospital.

"We decided we needed to have some adventure before our kids leave us forever," said Sarah. The Hot Springs family is doing more than soaking up the local culture; they're writing about it on the family's blog: <http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Arkiwis/>.

Mark noted that the hospital is a teaching program where radiologists in training are called "registrars." He shared observations about national health care and, on a lighter note, discussed adapting to British spellings (oedema rather than edema, for instance) and the dialect. "Kiwis are a lot like southerners," Dr. Robbins blogged, "we politely smile and pretend we know what each other is talking about."



Ben, Sarah, Grace and Mark Robbins, M.D. '87, embark on one of many family expeditions in New Zealand (above). The family has posted hundreds of scenic shots on their blog. Below, Dr. Robbins prepares for a scuba dive.



**Class Rosters are now available online! Visit [www.uams.edu/com/alumni](http://www.uams.edu/com/alumni).**

### Altruistic Opportunity: Medical Missions

As we reported in our September 2007 issue (available at [www.uams.edu/com/alumni](http://www.uams.edu/com/alumni)), COM alumni are active in medical mission trips around the world. Want to get involved? Here are some upcoming opportunities, along with contact information.

**Laura Hutchins, M.D. '77**, Honduras/Trujillo area, June 21-29, 2008. Needed: three clinic physicians, one general surgeon. Phone: 501-686-8511. E-mail: [HutchinsLauraF@uams.edu](mailto:HutchinsLauraF@uams.edu).

**Lee Archer, M.D. '82**, Honduras, Jan. 19-27, 2009. Needed: generalists, specialists. Phone: 501-686-6714. E-mail: [ArcherRobertL@uams.edu](mailto:ArcherRobertL@uams.edu).



**Jack Blackshear, M.D. '68**, received the Odyssey Medal for Service to the World from Hendrix College, his undergraduate alma mater, in February. A physician with the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, Dr. Blackshear has made numerous mission trips to Honduras, taking more than 100 medical students with him over the years. He is pictured here with **Casey Throneberry**, now a junior in the COM, outside a medical clinic on a 2006 mission trip.

The Medical Alumni Association cannot endorse any of these trips, and is simply a source of information for our alumni who are sponsoring mission activities. Contact us if you would like to request help with your project.



**Pat O'Donnell, M.D. '72**, has been named chairman of the Department of Urology, effective April 15. Dr. O'Donnell served on the faculty from 1982 to 1992, and also from 1996 to 2000 when he was

a clinical professor of urology and chief of surgery at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville. Most recently Dr. O'Donnell was a professor of urology at Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine and director of the SIU Incontinence Center. A specialist in female incontinence, he holds patents on urological incontinence devices.

### Looking Back



In our Fall/Winter 2007 issue of *University of Arkansas Medicine*, we invited readers to help identify the men seated at a microscope with Anderson Nettleship, M.D., in a circa 1950 photograph. Several of you had fun guessing. The top sleuth was **Ernest**

**Cashion, M.D. '51**, of Prairie Grove, who consulted his 1949 edition of the *Arkaduceus* to identify three of them. Dr. Cashion said the man seated to Nettleship's left wearing glasses is **William W. Christeson, M.D. '45**, who was a pathology resident in 1949. Next to him is **Volney W. Steele, M.D. '45**, who was then a surgery resident. The man second from the right was thought to be instructor Claude C. Stafford, M.D.

Following Dr. Cashion's tips, we called Dr. Steele at his home in Bozeman, Mont. He confirmed Dr. Cashion's findings. Dr. Steele couldn't identify others in the photo, but he recalled that the microscope doubled as a slide projector.



**Samuel D. Smith, M.D. '80**, is serving as interim chairman of the Department of Surgery in the College of Medicine. A faculty member since 1992, Dr. Smith is a professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery. He holds the Boyd Family Chair in pediatric surgery and also is director of the Trauma Program and chief of medical staff at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

### Share Your News in Class Notes!

In an effort to include more news about you and your classmates than this newsletter can hold, we are creating an expanded *Class Notes* online! So continue sending us news about your awards and adventures, your practice and other items of interest to fellow alumni. We will continue to select and publish items in *Alumni Matters* as space allows.

E-mail your news to [riceginny@uams.edu](mailto: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.

## In Memoriam

### 1940s

**Robert Andrew Calcote, M.D. '46**, of Little Rock, died Feb. 12, 2008. He was 84. Dr. Calcote specialized in ophthalmology.

**James Morgan Bodie, M.D. '46**, of San Carlos, Calif., died Feb. 13, 2008. He was 86. Dr. Bodie was a county public health director in California from 1962 to 1987.

### 1950s

**Merritt O. Alcorn Jr., M.D. '50**, of Madison, Ind., died June 16, 2007. He was 86. The Wynne native practiced pathology in southern Indiana for many years and helped draft the federal Medical Licensing Act of 1974.

**Johnson Pace Graves, M.D. '50**, of Marshall, Texas, died Sept. 27, 2007. He was 84. Dr. Graves was a surgeon and leader in the medical community in Marshall for many years.

**Charles A. Hesterly, M.D. '50**, of Honokaa, Hawaii, died Nov. 11, 2007. He was 85. A Prescott native, Dr. Hesterly practiced family medicine in Arkansas and then Hawaii from 1968 to 2001.

**David S. LeVine, M.D., '51**, of Alpine, Texas, died Nov. 10, 2007. He was 82. Dr. LeVine practiced anesthesiology in the Denver area for many years.

**David Philip Hefner, M.D. '51**, of Mena, died Feb. 9, 2008. He was 84. Dr. Hefner practiced in Mena for 30 years and served as head of the emergency room at Crawford Hospital in Van Buren for six years.

**W. Dean Hidy, M.D. '53**, of Tulsa, Okla., died Nov. 28, 2007. He was 79. Dr. Hidy was a surgeon and a clinical associate professor of surgery at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. As a young doctor he uncovered a serial killer, Nannie Doss, who poisoned victims with arsenic.

**Mitchell M. Young, M.D. '53**, of Nash, Texas, died Jan. 24, 2008. He was 79. Dr. Young was a general surgeon in Texarkana for nearly 40 years before retiring in 2000.

**George D. Pollock III, M.D. '55**, of Osceola, died Feb. 3, 2008. He was 78. Dr. Pollock was a family physician in Mississippi County from 1960 to 2000.

### 1960s

**Allen R. Rozzell, M.D. '60**, of Atkins, died Feb. 26, 2008. He was 71. Dr. Rozzell was in family practice and sub-specialized in pathology.

**Paul Enrich Sauer, M.D. '62**, of Thayer, Mo., died Jan. 31, 2008. He was 75. Dr. Sauer specialized in thoracic surgery.

**John R. Williamson, M.D. '69**, of El Dorado, died Feb. 22, 2008. He was 65. Dr. Williamson practiced ophthalmology in El Dorado for 31 years.

### 1970s

**Vincent Robert Russo, M.D. '71**, of Baton Rouge, La., died Sept. 17, 2007. He was 65. Dr. Russo was a general and vascular surgeon in Baton Rouge for 29 years.

**Bill R. Thomas, M.D. '77**, of Benton, died Dec. 15, 2007. He was 62. Dr. Thomas practiced internal medicine in Benton for many years. He also served as a physician for the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and as an instructor at UAMS.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Alumni Weekend 2008 ...

Festivities are planned on and off campus for Aug. 22-23. It's your year if you graduated in '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93 or '98.

### Pack Your Bags ...

A very special, All-Arkansas Alumni Trip to **Tuscany and the Italian Riviera** is set for Sept. 26-Oct. 4. While all of our alumni trips are great fun, only alumni from Arkansas colleges will be in the tour group for this adventure.



If the breathtaking, emerald hills of **Ireland** are more to your liking, check out our other fall trip slated for Sept. 19-27. For more information, visit [www.uams.edu/com/alumni](http://www.uams.edu/com/alumni).

### Northwest Arkansas Reception ...

The dean will host a reception in Northwest Arkansas on the evening of May 7. Stay tuned for details.

### "Lost" Alumni

Help! We're missing addresses for some of your classmates. If you know how to reach someone on this list, please let us know. (See the contact information for Class Notes on previous page.)

*Carl Knitzer, M.D. '38*

*William V. Fairchild, M.D. '73*

*Tom Townsend, M.D. '73*

*David A. Morton, M.D. '78*

*David W. Underwood, M.D. '83*

*David A. Miller, M.D. '88*

*David L. Beck, M.D. '03*

*Olga Y. Fundyler, M.D. '03*

*Oakley B. LaRue, M.D. '03*

*Robert A. Lester, M.D. '03*

*Lisa A. Surgeon, M.D. '03*

*Christopher G. Webb, M.D. '03*

*Theresa O. Wyrick, M.D. '03*

*Jason E. Vickery, M.D. '04*

*Ronald E. Tilley, M.D. '05*

### Get Alumni Matters Via E-mail!

Just send an e-mail request to [riceginny@uams.edu](mailto:riceginny@uams.edu) and ask that your name be added to our e-mail broadcast list.

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