A NOTE FROM DEAN REECE

AIM FOR GREATER SUCCESS

Each of us must aim for success, not only success professionally but personally. Peter Daniels, a noted leadership guru, says that “dreaming illustrates your hidden capacities and your unawakened ability.” The College of Medicine is aiming for even greater success over the next four years. Most of the goals and objectives in our five year plan will be accomplished in four years. This is extraordinary and indeed a spectacular performance by the entire COM family. It’s just sensational! What that says to me and to other COM leaders is that we need to aim even higher than we had dreamed!

We face challenges every day that allow us to grow mentally and emotionally. Our achievements in education and research provide us with the rewards of excellence in many different areas. Many of you are recognized often for your personal and professional skills, knowledge and abilities. We are empowered to aim even higher when we successfully meet our goals and objectives.

Certainly as we look forward to our campus expansion projects, we must begin to dream and aim for our next successes. There will be many opportunities to dream and dream we must if we continue our growth and rise to the challenges ahead. Where do we want to be in four years? What do you personally want to accomplish in the next four years? It is time to aim for greater success and dream. We have a wealth of hidden capacities and unawakened abilities in the COM.

I am reminded of a story of a professor who prepared a test for his soon-to-be-graduating seniors where he divided the test into three categories. Students were instructed to choose questions from only one of the categories. The first category of questions was the hardest and was worth 50 points; the second, was the easiest and was worth 40 points; the third and most simple was worth 30 points. Upon completion of the test, students who chose the hardest questions were given As; those who chose the mid-range questions received Bs; and those who settled for the easiest 30 points were given Cs. As you can imagine the students were frustrated when they received their graded papers. The professor explained. I was not testing your book knowledge; I was testing your aim.

In keeping with the COM mission, working, dreaming and aiming together, for greater successes, we are indeed “in relentless pursuit of excellence, everyday.” Congratulations to each of you listed in this month’s Buzz on your accomplishments and endeavors, which together are moving us further in our pursuit of excellence.

Sincerely,

E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
Vice Chancellor, UAMS
Dean, College of Medicine
**IT'S OFFICIAL—WELCOME NEW FACULTY**

**Reid D. Landes**, Ph.D., has joined the faculty in the Department of Biostatistics as an assistant professor. Landes holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Southern Arkansas University, a master's degree in biometry from the University of Nebraska, and a doctorate in statistics from Iowa State University. Prior to beginning his doctoral studies, Landes worked with the former Biometry Division at UAMS for two years as a research associate. He has also taught high school mathematics in Arkansas and English in Fukushima-ken, Japan.

**Tamara Robinson** has joined the COM as its new senior writer. Tamara received her Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Montana with honors. Tamara served as the public outreach manager at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and was manager for the White Hall/Pine Bluff Chemical Stockpile Public Outreach Offices. Tamara also has extensive experience as a newspaper reporter.

**Hongyu Jiang**, Ph.D., is an assistant professor and medical physicist in the Department of Radiation Oncology. Jiang received his master's degree in engineering in 1999 from Tsinghua University in China. In 2003, he received his doctorate in radiological science and technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). From June 2003 until February 2005, he was a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. At MIT he was awarded the Excellent Teaching Assistant Award in 2003.

**William T. Hickerson**, M.D., F.A.C.S., is the new director of the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Burn Center. Hickerson received his doctorate of medicine in 1978 from the University of Tennessee Center of the Health Sciences in Memphis, Tenn. He was previously an associate director at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, Ga., and a clinical professor in the Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia.

**Udaya Kumar**, M.D., an associate professor in the Department of Urology, is the new Chief of Urology at the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital. Kumar has been a faculty member at UAMS for the past five years and began his new position at the beginning of April. He received his master’s degree from Madras University in India, and his F.R.C.S. in general surgery and urology in the United Kingdom. Kumar trained for his fellowship in endourology and laparoscopic urology at the Cleveland Clinic and Loyola University.

**Fengjuan Zhang**, M.D., M.S., has been hired as an instructor in the Department of Pathology. Zhang completed his fellowship in Cytopathology at UAMS. He received his master’s degree in pathology at UAMS in 1996 and completed his medical degree at Bethune University of Medical Sciences (BUMS), in China in 1998.

**John Theus**, M.D., has been hired as an instructor in the Department of Pathology. Theus completed his residency and fellowship at UAMS. He also received his doctorate at UAMS. Theus’ major areas of research interest include cord blood and marrow transplantation and transfusion medicine.

**EDITOR’S NOTEBOOK**

**Sergey N. Zolov**, Ph.D., a fellow, and **Vladimir V. Lupashin**, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, co-authored a paper titled “Cog3p Depletion Blocks Vesicle-Mediated Golgi Retrograde Trafficking in HeLa Cells,” which was recently published in *The Journal of Cell Biology* (2005 168: 747-759). This paper was evaluated and recommended by the “Faculty of 1000,” a new online research tool that highlights the
most interesting papers in biology, based on the recommendations of
over 1000 leading scientists.

A manuscript co-authored by Greer Sullivan, M.D., Xiaotong Han and Dana Perry has been accepted for publication in Psychiatric Services. The paper is currently in press and is titled “Mental Health Treatment Needs of Cohabiting Partners of Veterans with Combat-related PTSD.”

S. Bruce Greenberg, M.D., and the late Jonathan Drummond-Webb, M.D., published a paper in Pediatric Radiology (35:186-190). The paper is titled “Gadolinium-enhanced Magnetic Resonance Angiography of Right Ventricle to Pulmonary Artery Shunts Following Norwood 1 Palliation in Infants.”

The Radiotherapy and Oncology Journal recently accepted a paper by José A. Peñagarícano, M.D., for publication. The paper is titled “Feasibility of Cranio-spinal Axis Radiation with the Hi-Art Tomotherapy System.” He also has a document titled “An Assessment of Biologically Based Optimization (BORT) in the IMRT Era,” published in the current issue of the Medical Dosimetry Journal.

A manuscript co-authored by Greer Sullivan, M.D., has been accepted for publication in American Journal of Psychiatry. The manuscript, titled “Poverty and Response to Treatment in Primary Care Panic Disorder,” is currently in press.

Udaya Kumar, M.D., and Jody Purifoy, R.N., co-authored a study titled “Multi-Institutional Validation Study of Neural Networks to Predict Duration of Stay After Laparoscopic Radical/Simple or Partial Nephrectomy,” that has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Urology.

Bonnie Gance-Cleveland, R.N., P.N.P., Ph.D., Margaret Harris, Ph.D., and Wendy Ward-Begnoche, Ph.D., recently co-authored a manuscript titled “Family Centered Care: Working with Schools to Connect with Families of Overweight Children.” The paper was published in the Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing, in the January-March 2005 edition.

John F. Redman, M.D., co-authored two manuscripts that were published in recent scholarly journals. “Unilateral Perineal Ectopic Scrotum Resulting in Debilitating Orchalgia: Diagnosis and Management,” was published in Journal of Urology (173:104-105), and “Congenital Megacalycosis: A Forgotten Diagnosis?” was published in Urology (65:384-385).

Congratulations to those UAMS physicians who were listed in the Arkansas Times Best Doctors List. The Arkansas Times sent surveys to each licensed doctor within Pulaski County, and the doctors who received a significant amount of votes were included the list. Below is the list of the UAMS doctors who were listed as some of Arkansas’ best doctors:

Cardiologists: Joe Bissett Bruce E. Murphy

Oncologists: Laura Hutchins David Becton

Pulmonologists: Paula Anderson

Endocrinologists: Donald Bodenner Debra L. Simmons

Emergency Medicine: Darren Flamik Kendall Stanford

Cancer Surgeons: Richard Nicholas James Suen Kent Westbrook Scott Stern

Neurosurgeons: Ossama Al-Mefty

Vascular Surgeons: John F. Eidt

(continued on pg. 4)
The *Arkansas Times* also asked for physicians to write tributes about colleagues who they would like to see honored. Here is the list of UAMS doctors who were nominated:

Robert Lee Archer  ·  Joe Bissett  ·  David Becton  
William Fiser, Jr.  ·  Johannes Michael Gruenwald  
Michael L. Schmitz  ·  Kent Westbrook

**The Appointment Card**

Paula K. Roberson, Ph.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Biostatistics, has been appointed by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of NIH to the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for the Transfusion Medicine/Hemostasis Clinical Trial Network (TMH CTN) and the Transfusion Therapy Trial for Functional Outcomes in Cardiovascular Patients Undergoing Surgical Hip Fracture Repair (FOCUS).

Two faculty members in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology have recently been appointed as full time members of NIH Study Sections. **Tim Chambers**, Ph.D., a professor, is a member of the Drug Discovery and Molecular Pharmacology study section. **Kevin Raney**, Ph.D., an associate professor, is a member of Molecular Genetics A (MGA) Study Section.

**John L. Carroll**, M.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, has been appointed to the membership of the Respiratory Integrative Biology and Translational Research (RIBT) Study Section at the NIH (NHLBI) for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2005.

**Eddie Ochoa**, M.D., an assistant professor of Pediatrics, was appointed by Attorney General Mike Beebe to the Latino Advisory Board, a select group of Arkansans who are active in the state’s growing Latino communities. The group was established to discuss the needs and concerns that are growing as the state’s Latino population increases.

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**Events, Lectures, and Workshops**

**Yulia Koriakina**, a graduate student in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, whose advisor is **Vladimir Lupashin**, Ph.D., was awarded a travel fellowship to the Experimental Biology 2005 Meeting that was held in San Diego, April 2-6. The award was $750.00 plus the advance registration fee. Koriakina presented a poster titled “Cog1 is a Bridging Subunit Between the Two Lobes of Conserved Oligomeric Golgi (COG) Complex.”

An abstract by **John Fortney**, Ph.D., has been accepted for oral presentation at the 2005 AcademyHealth Annual Meeting in Boston. The meeting will be held in Boston, June 26-28. The abstract is titled “Telemedicine Intervention to Improve Depression Care in Rural CBOCs.” Co-authors are: Jeff Pyne, Mark Edlund, Kathy Henderson, Dinesh Mittal and Dean Robinson.

**Paula K. Roberson**, Ph.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Biostatistics, chaired a special emphasis panel for NIH on April 7, 2005, to review the applications for “Prospective Investigation for Pulmonary Embolism DX III” (PIOPED III) and “Registry of Results with Retrievable IVC Filters.”

**Joshua Epstein**, Ph.D., made a presentation at the Department of Lymphoma Myeloma at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas on March 22. The title of his presentation was “The Mouse that Revolutionized Myeloma Biology.”

**Brian Storrie**, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, has been invited to give a seminar at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany. The seminar, held on April 1, 2005, was titled “Putting Physiology into Golgi Protein Recycling: Beware of Fool’s Gold.”
Chengyu Shi, Ph.D., a medical physics resident in the Department of Radiation Oncology, has been invited to present at the 2005 Monte Carlo Topical Meeting, April 17-21 in Chattanooga, Tenn. The paper is titled “Preliminary Development of a 4D Anatomical Model for Monte Carlo Simulations.”

José Peñagarícano, M.D., is an assistant professor and radiation oncologist in the Department of Radiation Oncology. He has been invited to present two papers at the American Radium Society, May 1-4, 2005 in Barcelona, Spain. The papers are titled “Evaluation of Daily Pre-Treatment Megavoltage CT (MVCT) in Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SQ CC) of the Head and Neck” and “Evaluation of Integral Dose in Helical Tomotherapy.”

The 10th International Myeloma Workshop was held in Sydney, Australia, April 11-13. Several UAMS faculty made presentations:

Bart Barlogie, M.D., Ph.D., presented “Total Therapy in Newly Diagnosed Myeloma: the Arkansas Experience with 1000 patients.”

Guido Tricot, M.D., Ph.D., presented “New Antiangiogenic Agents.”

Joshua Epstein, Ph.D., made two presentations. On April 11 he presented “Mouse Model in Tumor Microenvironment and Bone Disease,” and on April 13 he presented “Biomarkers of Myeloma-Associated Lytic Bone Disease Using SELDI-TOF MS.”

A study co-authored by Udaya Kumar, M.D., has been accepted as a podium presentation at the American Urological Association Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in May. The title of the study is “External Validation of Outcome Prediction Model for Ureteral/Renal Calculi.”

Charles Feild, M.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and Manny Doyne, M.D., of Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center, presented “Community Pediatrics in Academic Setting” at the 4th Annual Meeting of the Community Pediatrics Training Initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Dyson Foundation. The meeting was held in Philadelphia Feb. 12, 2005.

Karen Farst, M.D., an instructor with the Team for Children at Risk in the Department of Pediatrics, presented Grand Rounds on March 15 at Arkansas Children’s Hospital. The lecture was titled “Children and Methamphetamine Labs in Arkansas.” The presenter outlined the risks to children living in homes where methamphetamine is being produced and reviewed the available national protocols and literature in making recommendations on how these children should be managed in the health care system.

The following Department of Pediatrics faculty presented evidence evaluations at the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation’s Consensus on Science in Emergency Cardiac Care in Dallas, Texas, from January 22-30, 2005:

Adnan Bhutta, M.B.B.S., instructor, “Dose of Epinephrine in Pediatric Cardiac Arrest.”

Tad Fiser, M.D., associate professor, “Use of the Laryngeal Mask Airway in Pediatric Cardiac Arrest.”

Steve Schexnayder, M.D., associate professor, “Use of Vasopressin in Pediatric Cardiac Arrest.”

S. Jill James, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, presented her recent research, “Low Plasma Methionine, Cysteine, and Glutathione Levels are Associated with Increased Frequency of Common Polymorphisms Affecting Methylation and Glutathione Pathways in Children with Autism,” at the American Society for Nutritional Sciences scientific sessions at the Experimental Biology 2005. The sessions were held from April 2-6 in San Diego, Calif. James was interviewed and several articles were published regarding this research, including those in the LA Times and Forbes Report.
John F. Redman, M.D., recently participated in several events. In October, he was a guest speaker to the 27th Congress of the International Urologic Society that was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. His topic was, “Reoperative Orchiopexy.” In September, he was the moderator at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the South Central Section America Urologic Association in Dublin, Ireland. Redman was a visiting professor in the Department of Urology at the University of Kansas College of Medicine in February.

Emre Vural, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, has been invited to present a Facial Cosmetic Surgery seminar to Merrill Lynch employees at the Pleasant Valley Country Club on April 29.

Sam Welch, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, will moderate a session on “Developing an Academic Allergy Business Plan” at the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy Academic Workshop in Las Colinas, Texas. The workshop will be held April 15-17.

Mimi Kokoska, M.D., an associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, gave a presentation to the family practice residents and staff at Whittier Presbyterian Hospital at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Calif., on March 29. The title of her presentation was “Evaluation of Neck Masses.”

Teresita L. Angtuaco, M.D., F.A.C.R., a professor in the Departments of Radiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology, recently returned from Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand as an international visiting professor for the Radiological Society of North America. She was part of a team of three radiologists who participated in an educational trip at the invitation of the Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand and the Thai Radiological Society. She gave six lectures on ultrasound at the annual meeting of these societies and spent four days as a visiting professor at King Chulalongkorn Hospital, Siriraj Hospital, Ramathibodi Hospital and Chiang Mai University. Her visit in these hospitals consisted of didactic lectures, hands-on ultrasound instructions and case discussions with residents and staff of the Radiology department.

Vladimir Zharov, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, presented at the 25th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, held April 1-4 in Orlando, Fla. His topic was “Enhanced Selective Laser Killing Cancer Cells with Aggregated Nanoclusters.”

Felicia Johnson, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, was invited to speak at the 2005 Joint Spring Meeting of the AAMC Southern Regions Group on Educational Affairs, Group on Student Affairs, GSA-Minority Affairs Section, and the Organization of Students Representatives at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. The meeting was held April 7-9. Her topic was “Faculty Development of Residency Program Directors: Principles, Opportunities and Scholarship.”

Mark Ray, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, and Gresham Richter, a PGY4 resident with the department, just completed a mission trip to Ramallah, Palestine. The mission trip was sponsored by an independent non-political organization called the Palestinian Children Relief Fund. Drs. Ray and Richter, along with other doctors, worked in a public hospital in Ramallah. They saw 60 patients in their one-day clinic and then scheduled 40 cleft lip and palate surgeries over a six-day period.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Reminder: UAMS Has A New Campus Calendar - Try It Out!

When scheduling an event on campus, please be sure to contact Felece Gassman at fgassman@uams.edu to add your event on the campus calendar. Please include a title of the event, the date or recurring dates and the location of the event. Any descriptive information, such as event contact, whether reservations or registrations are required, and any event details to help describe the event should be sent as well. The calendar can be found at http://calendar.uams.edu. From there, you can choose to view either the current day’s calendar or the (continued on pg. 7)
calendar for the week. The calendar also allows you to save events to your own calendar in Outlook and to recommend events through e-mail to colleagues via a “recommend link.”

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine Continuing Medical Education will continue the “Cardiovascular Update” via interactive television. The second series in this update will be held April 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2005. The April 8 and 29 sessions will be located in the UAMS College of Public Health, Room G219, Pauly Auditorium. The April 15 and 22 sessions will be located in the UAMS College of Public Health, eighth floor, Room 230. This course is designed for primary care physicians, including family practitioners and internists, as well as advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, emergency room physicians, certified health education specialists and social workers. Participants will gain clinical information regarding secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease and quality assurance projects in relation to cardiovascular disease. This conference is free to all participants, and pre-registration is required for lunch. For registration information, please contact Daryl Parat at 676-7607 or paratdarylj@uams.edu.

In May 2005, Susan Leon and Beth Wheeler will travel to England to give several concerts with the “Etesian Winds.” Leon and Wheeler play bassoon and oboe respectively, with the wind quintet. Other members are Diane McVinney, flute; Kelly Johnson, clarinet; and Caroline Kinsey, horn. Susan Leon is the assistant dean of Finance and Administration in the UAMS College of Medicine; Beth Wheeler is the director of Operations for the UAMS FGP Billing Office. All are members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. The program will include the piece “Duel’n Woodwinds,” arranged especially for the Etesian Winds by UALR faculty member Robert Boury. Other composers represented will be Bach, Copland, Mahler and Szervanszky. The Etesian Winds will preview their England program in two free concerts:

Sunday, April 17, 3:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
1610 Prince Street, Conway

Thursday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.
Second Presbyterian Church
600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock

NEWS OF NOTE

Mark Edlund, M.D., Ph.D., recently submitted a grant application to NIDA/NIAAA. Edlund serves as principal investigator for the grant, which is titled “Pathways into Services for Drug and Alcohol Disorders.” Brenda Booth, Ph.D., is the co-principal investigator, and co-investigator is Diane Steffick, Ph.D. (Total direct costs for project, requested over five years: $550,000).

The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
Florida's premier research and training center for behavioral health services research

Teresa Hudson, Pharm.D., received notice of funding from the University of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI) on a proposal to evaluate the Institute’s Behavioral Pharmacy Management Program (BPMP). Hudson is the principal investigator and Brad Martin, Pharm. D., Ph.D., serves as the co-principal investigator. The title of the program is “Evaluation of the Florida Medicaid Behavioral Pharmacy Management Program.” Co-investigators are Richard Owen, M.D., Martha Phillips, Ph.D., and Diane Steffick, Ph.D. The total direct cost for over two years is $490,803.

Jeff Smith, Mona Ritchie, and Mike Glenn recently submitted the Mental Health QUERI Strategic Plan for FY 2006 to the Department of Veterans Affairs HSR&D. The principal investigator was Richard Owen, M.D., and co-clinical coordinators are Steve Marder, M.D., and Lisa Rubenstein, M.D., M.S.P.H. Co-Investigators are Jeff Smith, Ph.D., candidate, Geoff Curran, Ph.D., and Mona Ritchie, L.C.S.W. Executive committee members include: Ellen Fischer, Ph.D., JoAnn Kirchner, M.D., Fred Blow, Ph.D., Mike Davies, M.D., Nancy Jo Dunn, Ph.D., Susan Esoeck, Ph.D., Martha Gerrity, M.D., Ph.D., Ed Knight, Ph.D., Miklos Lonsocz, M.D., Ph.D., Susan McCutcheon, R.N., Ed.D., Bill Van Stone, M.D., and John Williams, M.D., M.H.S. The total direct cost for FY 2006 is $290,000.

Jeff Pyne, M.D., has received funding for a NIDA grant titled “Cost-Effectiveness of Reducing Drug Treatment Barriers.” Co-investigators are Brenda Booth, Ph.D., Diane Steffick, Ph.D., and Keith Williams, Ph.D. The direct cost for over four years is $975,000.
Rick Owen, M.D., serves as principal investigator on a recent grant submitted to AHRQ. The title of the grant is “UAMS CERT: Increasing the Safety and Effectiveness of Psychotropic Medications.” The co-investigators for the project include: Cornelia Beck, Ph.D., Brenda Booth, Ph.D., Mohit Chopra, M.D., Mark Edlund, M.D., Ph.D., William Golden, M.D., Song Hee Hong, Ph.D., Teresa Hudson, Pharm.D., Lisa Hutchison, Pharm.D., Teresa Kramer, Ph.D., Bradley Martin, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Glen Mays, Ph.D., Jeffrey Pyne, M.D., Elaine Souder, Ph.D., Diane Steffick, Ph.D., Greer Sullivan, M.D., Purushottam Thapa, M.D., Carol Thrush, M.A., Ross Vanderbush, Pharm.D., Donna West, Ph.D. Total direct cost for project, requested over five years: $2,933,903.

Abbas Parsian, Ph.D., has received funding for a grant titled “Genetic Causes of Alcoholism and Depression” from the NIH. The direct cost for three years is $368,439.

DID YOU KNOW?

**Transgenic Mouse Production Core Facility is Available**

A transgenic mouse production core facility is now available to all investigators associated with the UAMS campus (UAMS, ACH, and CAVHS). This facility was originally developed by the Division of Endocrinology in 2001. Tobacco Settlement Funds have been utilized recently to increase production capacity, allowing the facility to become a core for the entire UAMS campus. The facility offers transgenic mouse production in the C57BL/6 strain of mice by pronuclear injection. Please contact Charles O’Brien or Joseph Goellner for further information or visit the Web site at: http://endocrinology.uams.edu/research/transgenic.asp.

**The Office of Faculty Affairs** has relocated from Freeway Medical Center to the UAMS campus to better coordinate services for our growing faculty. Jeannette M. Shorey II, M.D., is pleased to announce that she and her staff, Lee Lee Doyle, Ph.D., assistant dean, Faculty Development, Glenda J. Cooper, director, Faculty Affairs,

Connie Albert, appointments and database specialist, and Tina Dobbins, project manager, are located on the fourth floor of the main hospital in Room 4D-40, behind the patient elevators. The main phone number is 526-4661, and the mail number is 849. The office is here to support the faculty. It conducts new and exiting faculty interviews, assists departmental recruiting efforts, coordinates faculty appointments and the promotion and tenure process, brokers professional development workshops and staffs the Women’s Caucus. With colleagues, it is also developing the new Faculty Assistance Program and a new faculty database (Faculty Facts). There will be an open house June 1-4 from 4-5 p.m. Please drop by for refreshments and a tour of the new offices.

**SPOTLIGHT**

The recipient of the Women’s Faculty Development Caucus Outstanding Woman Faculty (OWF) Award is Jeanne Wei, M.D., a professor and the executive vice chairman in the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics. The award was established to honor women for their leadership, mentoring, academic achievement, teaching or administrative skills and community service.

Fellow nominees for the award included: Nancy Andrews, M.D., associate professor, OB/GYN, Gwen Childs, Ph.D., professor and chairman, Department of Neurobiology.

Wei was honored at the Women’s Caucus annual dinner March 10.

Please note: While caring for patients in clinical services, please remember the proper dress attire. Flip-flops, jeans, and t-shirts are not acceptable or professional attire. Also remember that hospital or lab jackets and ID badges are required while caring for a patient. Please cooperate and dress appropriately.
and Development Sciences, **Sue Griffin**, Ph.D., professor, Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics, **Stacie Jones**, M.D., holder of the Dr. and Mrs. Leeman King Endowed Chair in Pediatric Allergy, Department of Pediatrics, **Michelle Moss**, M.D., professor and vice chairman for clinical services, Department of Pediatrics, and **Margie Scott**, M.D., a professor and vice chairman in the Department of Pathology.

**Donald Mock**, a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been selected by the freshman medical class to be awarded the “Red Sash Award” for excellence in teaching in Medical Biochemistry.

**Margie Scott**, M.D., M.T., (ASCP), and **Alex Pappas**, M.D., both members of the Department of Pathology, have been chosen by the senior class for the “Red Sash Award.” Each year, the senior class selects those individual faculty members they feel have had the most significant input into their medical education. Those faculty members who are nominated by the class to receive these special honors are given scarlet sashes to wear over their academic regalia and are acknowledged by the dean during the College of Medicine Honors Convocation.

**James A. Clardy**, M.D., Department of Psychiatry, has been selected by the American Psychiatric Association as a recipient of the First Annual Irma Bland Award for Excellence in Teaching Residents. The award was established in honor of Irma Bland, M.D., for her unique and creative contributions to psychiatric education. The certificate will be awarded at the annual APA meeting in Atlanta on May 22.

**Kirt Simmons**, D.D.S., Ph.D., Department of Otolaryngology, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Planning and Awards Review Committee of the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF). The AAOF Board elected Simmons after his nomination from AAO and AAO COE. He will begin his term at the 2005 AAO Annual Session and serve until the 2008 AAO Annual Session.

**Joan Cranmer**, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, was presented with a plaque by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in appreciation for her five years of service as a member of the NIH National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council.

**George J. Fuchs**, M.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, has been asked to chair the Obesity Treatment Guideline Committee for the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN).

**Lisa Buckmiller**, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, was invested into the Benjamin and Milton Waner, M.D., Endowed Chair in Pediatric Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Arkansas Children’s Hospital on March 17. **Dr. James Suen**, chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, gave a speech that honored Dr. Buckmiller and stressed the importance of the chair. Other speakers included **Dr. Robert Selbert**, retired UAMS professor of Otolaryngology, and Dr. Milton Waner, co-director of the Vascular and Birthmarks Institute of New York. Buckmiller attended medical school at the University of California, Irvine, and completed an otolaryngology residency at the University of California. She then came to Arkansas to obtain specialty training in pediatric otolaryngology with an emphasis on the treatment of cleft lip/palate and vascular anomalies. Buckmiller is the clinical director of the Vascular Anomalies Center. She also serves as the director of the Cleft Lip/Palate program.

**Richard Zraick**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, an associate professor in the Department of Pathology, was recently honored with the inaugural “Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award” in the College of Health Related Professions.

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Balm Innovations was formed after a visit of an Executive MBA team to the UAMS in search of a technology around which to develop a business plan, for the 2004 Governor’s Award for Entrepreneurial Development business plan competition. It was discovered that a “miraculous” topical cream had been invented by UAMS research pharmacist Bill Gurley, Ph.D. This cream, which has been given the trade name Omnibalm, was presented as a highly effective product for skin ailments and burns that achieved significant and powerful results after other prescription and over-the-counter products had failed.

Testimonials from individuals in several states, as well as first-hand verification of the effectiveness of Omnibalm, resulted in the August 2004 launch of Balm Innovations, LLC, a company centered on this cream and related natural personal care products. Initially, the company’s main office will be located within UAMS Arkansas BioVentures, a business incubator designed to match entrepreneurs with new technologies developed by researchers at UAMS.

Balm Innovations’ initial offering, scheduled for introduction in the summer of 2005, is Omnibalm, a tea tree oil-based topical cream shown to be highly effective when applied to a variety of skin ailments. Omnibalm will be promoted as an aromatic, multipurpose skin cream that soothes minor burns, sunburns, dry skin, insect bites, cuts, abrasions, and other skin irritations by providing natural, moisturizing relief without harsh drugs or chemicals. Tea tree oil, a key ingredient in Omnibalm, is a naturally powerful essential oil distilled from the leaves and twigs of the Australian shrub *Melaleuca alternifolia*.

Balm Innovations’ management team has a broad skill set with expansive knowledge and experience, including executive management, manufacturing and research. Lydia Carson, president and chief executive officer, graduated from Vanderbilt University with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering and earned a Master of Business Administration through the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Executive MBA program.

Gurley, chief science officer, serves as the director of the UAMS Clinical Pharmacokinetics Research Laboratory and is a professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the UAMS College of Pharmacy.

MATCH DAY BRINGS CHEERS FOR MED STUDENTS HEADED TO RESIDENCIES

Some of the fourth-year students in the College of Medicine looked nervous March 17 as they received envelopes revealing the location of their medical residences!

But cheers soon erupted as each student walked to the microphone and announced his or her destination during the annual “Match Day” ceremony.

“I’m really excited,” said Jeremy Whitt of West Memphis after finding out he will go to Washington, D.C., to begin a five-year residency in surgery at Washington Hospital Center. “I’m going to get great training while having a wonderful experience.”

Seventy-two seniors were appointed to Arkansas residency positions, while 53 others received out-of-state residences in 22 different states. Many of the in-state residencies will be at UAMS. Out-of-state destinations included Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Baylor College of Medicine in Texas and Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.
By tradition, the students met at Juanita’s Café in Little Rock and counted down the final seconds until 11 a.m., when the results of the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) are released simultaneously to medical school students across the country. A nationwide computerized selection process matches the fourth-year students with residency openings based on student preference and availability.

Richard Wheeler, M.D., executive associate dean for academic affairs, presided over the ceremony in which one by one, students were called to the stage to receive their envelopes.

Nationally, there were 21,454 first-year, post-graduate positions to be filled through the NRMP match. There were 25,348 total active participants for these, 14,719 of them from the United States. Of those, 19,760, including 13,798 from the United States, matched and 5,588, including 921 from the United States, failed to match.
BUZZ CONTACTS

Thanks to the following list of people who serve as the contacts for the information you see in the BUZZ. Please send any information that you’d like to see in the BUZZ to the appropriate person within your department.

Anesthesiology
  Coleen Habenicht, administrator

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
  Alan Elbein, Ph.D., professor & chair

Cardiology
  Roy Kitchens, division administrator

Dermatology
  Thomas Horn, M.D., professor & chair

Emergency Medicine
  Barry Brenner, M.D., Ph.D., professor & chair

Family and Preventive Medicine
  Tiffany Allen

Geriatrics
  Marsha Hines, RCOA, PR director

Hematology/Oncology
  Paulette Mehta, M.D., professor

Internal Medicine
  Brent McKay, administrator

Microbiology/Immunology
  Roger Rank, Ph.D., professor & chair

MIRT
  Janet Aronson, director of communications

Neurobiology & Developmental Sciences
  Gwen Childs, Ph.D., professor & chair

Neurology
  Sami Harik, M.D., professor & chair

Neurosurgery
  Amy Keeland, project-program specialist

OB/GYN
  Helen Kay, M.D., professor & chair

Orthopaedics
  Jan Hundley, administrator

Ophthalmology
  Ashley Hooten, director of development

Otolaryngology
  Beth Seward, director of communications and development

Pathology
  Kelly Suskie, administrator

Pediatrics
  Cindy Collie, special projects analyst

Pharmacology & Toxicology
  Raven Gregory, administrative assistant II

Physiology & Biophysics
  Mike Jennings, Ph.D., professor & chair

PM & R
  Gwenn Higginbotham, administrative assistant

Psychiatry
  Ken Hall, project/program manager

Radiology
  Teresita Angtuaco, M.D., professor

Radiation Oncology
  Dawn Bolt, administrator

Research
  Charles G. Winter, Ph.D., associate dean

Surgery
  Kay Allen, administrator

Urology
  Alex Finkbeiner, M.D., professor & chair

The new contact in the Dean’s office for submission of Buzz information is Misty Engler. Please call 686-8614 or send an e-mail to mlengler@uams.edu.

COM STUDENTS BUZZ INFORMATION LINK

An e-mail link is available for students to submit information to the BUZZ to acknowledge honors, prizes, presentations, leadership positions, and other noteworthy COM accomplishments. Go to:

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