Welcome to “Medicine Matters,” the inaugural newsletter for the UAMS College of Medicine Alumni! “Medicine Matters” will be a quarterly newsletter that can also be found on the COM Web site. (The Web version of the newsletter provides hyperlinks to more expanded stories.)

The newsletter is designed to promote and support the philosophy and programs of the College of Medicine, to maintain communication of alumni through alumni news, reunions and special events, to promote life-long learning of alumni, to encourage activities that help to recognize individuals and organizations who provide meritorious service and to encourage promotion of the profession of medicine by alumni.

It is my pleasure as your outgoing president to see this newsletter come to fruition. I hope that this and many of the other exciting plans, such as the expansion of the Arkansas Caduceus Club Web site, help us all stay better connected and in touch.

This has been a good year for our alumni association. We have sponsored numerous activities for the students, including Freshman Family Day, Freshman Orientation Breakfast, the White Coat Ceremony, Breakfast for the Junior Registration, support for the Resident Spouse Auxiliary, a Student Research Week and the Golden Apple Awards for faculty. We also presented a record 64 scholarships that totaled almost $152,000. Our annual student phonathon raised more money than ever, and the March 17, 2005 Match Day was one of the best ever!

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the club’s personal loss of our beloved Arkansas Caduceus Club Director Janet Honeycutt. She was a remarkable woman and a friend to all of us. I know Janet would want us to continue her enthusiastic work and support of the Caduceus Club.

The search committee appointed by Dean E. Albert Reece and chaired by Dr. Debra Fiser has conducted an extensive search for a new director. More than 20 qualified applications were thoroughly reviewed by the committee, and the interviews are completed. The committee has forwarded to Dean Reece the top three candidates for the final selection. I report for all the committee when I say that all three candidates are outstanding, and we are confident that any one of them can provide outstanding, thoughtful direction and leadership. We expect that Dean Reece will select the new director within the next few weeks.

I predict that the Caduceus Club will expand its reach and activities in the months and years to come. Certainly the many activities and functions that are done so well now will continue, including helping and nurturing students and house staff, and the annual meeting and class reunions. Look for more alumni contacts, meetings and activities to expand all around the United States, and a more formal structure of our alumni organization with more member services and well-developed newsletters.

The Caduceus Club is ready to make a big step forward, and the college, its students, house staff and all its graduates are sure to benefit.

A Note from Dean Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.

My commitment to the alumni association is to provide a renewed and invigorated association that strengthens your ties to the College of Medicine. We are planning many exciting new opportunities and events for you. The new executive director will be named soon, and this position will take on an expanded role and association structure that will include regional alumni meetings with me or one of our associate deans, alumni association-sponsored CME meetings and events, additional student and alumni activities and much more.

It is my sincere hope that you enjoy “Medicine Matters.” It is designed with you in mind! We want you to share with other alumni your news, and we want to share our College of Medicine news with you as well. The COM faculty has a monthly newsletter that is posted on the College of Medicine’s Web site at http://www.uams.edu. Please visit that site often for updates about our faculty! There are exciting things happening in the College of Medicine.

Please stay in touch. Best regards.

E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
Vice Chancellor and Dean

A Note from Joe Bates, M.D.

President, Arkansas Caduceus Club

It is my pleasure as your outgoing president to see this newsletter come to fruition. I hope that this and many of the other exciting plans, such as the expansion of the Arkansas Caduceus Club Web site, help us all stay better connected and in touch.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Bates
Match Day

The results of the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), more commonly known as “Match Day” across the nation, were announced on March 17, 2005. This year 120 COM seniors participated and only nine failed to match initially; however of those nine who were eligible, all have received a position. 72 seniors received Arkansas residency positions and 53 received out-of-state residencies in 22 different states. For further information visit http://www.uams.edu.

Phonathon 2005

The annual student phonathon took place in February and March. Each year students from all classes compete and try to raise the most money by phoning you, our alumni. The winning class receives a percentage of the money raised, which in turn funds its own class scholarship. This year’s total raised was $72,500, the largest amount by far ever raised. We are extremely grateful to our alumni who give back to their alumni association. The money typically is designated to class scholarships, the Caduceus Club, the Excellence in Education Fund and the Medical College Discretionary Fund. This year’s winning class was the freshman class.

Class Scholarships Update

Did you know that the Arkansas Caduceus Club has a total scholarship endowment that is nearing $1.6 million and a total scholarship and gift endowment that currently stands at almost $2.9 million? There are several new scholarships that will be awarded for the first time in September, including the Fred Henker, M.D., the Linda Yeager Hough, the Alan Stevenson, and the Lee Nauss, M.D., scholarships. These student scholarships are greatly appreciated, and your continuing support is critical to many students’ medical education.

The Al Gordon Award

The Al Gordon Award is presented in honor of Al Gordon (class of 1991) for distinctive leadership, tenacious perseverance and enthusiastic service to the College of Medicine development program. This annual award is presented to an outstanding medical student whose personal commitment of time and energy has generated significant financial support for the advancement of the College of Medicine from alumni who are now practicing physicians. This year’s recipients are Britton Bennett, from Harrison, Ark., and Rocky Tsang of Bald Knob, Ark., for their tireless efforts and enthusiasm during the 2005 Phonathon.

In Memoriam

Janet Honeycutt
Executive Director

Want to receive the Medicine Matters at your own e-mail address? Just send an e-mail to RiceGinny@uams.edu and request that your name be added to the e-mail blast. (For the first year, all alumni will receive the newsletter in black and white hard copy via the U.S. Postal Service.) The electronic version that you can receive via e-mail will include direct links to further information, while the mailed version will only provide the UAMS Web site address where further information can be found. Sign up for the electronic version of “Medicine Matters” today.
Welcome to CLASS NOTES. This section is for news of note regarding our alumni. If you have information that you’d like to have published in this section, please e-mail to RiceGinny@uams.edu or snail mail to Arkansas Caduceus Club, 4301 W. Markham St., #642, Little Rock, AR 72205. Please include your name, address, phone number and class year, along with your news of note.

Cecil W. Cupp, III, M.D., of Hot Springs, Ark., (class of 1979) was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology (ACR) at a formal convocation ceremony during the ACR 82nd Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Ray Biondo, M.D., of North Little Rock, Ark., (class of 1967) was selected as the December-January recipient of the Recognition of Excellence in Eliminating Health Disparities by the AMA and the AMA’s Internal Working Group on Disparities. Ray was also featured in the Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society’s June issue.

Pat D. O’Donnell, M.D., formerly of Tulsa, Okla., (class of 1972) has joined the faculty at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine as professor of urology.

David A. Sparks, M.D., of Kingston, Tenn., (class of 1982) was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology (ACR) at a formal convocation ceremony during the ACR 82nd Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.


Recent Campus Activities

April 6 marked the “topping out” of a five-floor, $13 million addition to the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute that will provide more space for patient care, education and research. The Pat Walker Tower at the Jones Eye Institute, named for the Springdale philanthropist whose gift to UAMS made the expansion possible, will double the 11-year-old facility’s size when it is completed later this year. A steel beam, signed by JEI employees and supporters, was raised into place by a construction crew during the ceremony. For more information visit the Web at http://www.uams.edu.

UAMS has received all necessary approvals to begin the state’s first liver transplant program and performed the state’s first liver transplant on May 14. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the nonprofit, scientific and education organization that administers the nation’s organ procurement and transplantation network, certified the UAMS Liver Transplant Program directed by Youmin Wu, M.D., who is also a professor of surgery. An estimated 100 Arkansans are on out-of-state liver transplant waiting lists. For further information visit http://www.uams.edu.

Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., became the first recipient of the Harry P. Ward Chancellor’s Chair, the first chancellor’s chair endowed at an Arkansas university. The chair is named for Chancellor Emeritus Harry P. Ward, M.D., who served as chancellor from 1979 to 2000. Visit the following link for further information. http://www.uams.edu.

The Pat and Willard Walker Family Memory Research Center was dedicated recently at the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging. The UAMS Memory Research Center was established in 2001, but the center was renamed in recognition of a $5 million gift from the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation, matched by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. The gift will expand and intensify UAMS’ studies on Alzheimer’s disease and other cognitive disorders. For further information visit http://www.uams.edu.
Upcoming Calendar of Events

Dean’s Research Forum: Fourth Tuesday of each month (Except November and December). Pauly Auditorium, 4 p.m. Research presentations given by our faculty.

Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series: Walton Auditorium, 4 p.m. David L. Page, M.D., Tuesday, October 4, 2005; Harvey Lodish, Ph.D., Tuesday, November 1, 2005; William F. Crowley, Jr., M.D., January 10, 2006.

White Coat Ceremony: Thursday, August 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Robinson Center Exhibition Hall.

For continually updated campus events information please visit the Web site at http://www.uams.edu.

In Memoriam

William E. Jones, M.D., of Bristow, Okla. (Class of 1943)
John G. Watkins, Jr., M.D., of Little Rock, Ark. (Class of 1944)
C. Randolph Ellis, M.D., of Malvern, Ark. (Class of 1944)
Fred O. Henker III., M.D., of Little Rock, Ark. (Class of 1945)
Charles D. Cyphers, M.D., of El Dorado, Ark. (Class of 1945)
Anthony Thomas DePalma, M.D., of Fayetteville, Ark. (Class of 1949)
Harve Bell Thorn, Jr., M.D., of Benton, Ark. (Class of 1955)
Harry Hayes Jr., M.D., of Little Rock, Ark. (Class of 1955)
Henry Dawson Johnson, M.D., of Little Rock, Ark. (Class of 1956)
Rosemary Brandt, M.D., of Little Rock, Ark. (Class of 1957)
Mrs. Lynda Easter, wife of Rex Easter, M.D., Little Rock, Ark. (Class of 1964)
J. Shelby Duncan, M.D. of Bismark, Ark. (Class of 1964)
Fay W. Boozman, III, M.D. of Rogers, Ark. (Class of 1971)

Visit our campus expansion Web site, http://www.uams.edu, which details an exciting phase in the life of UAMS as we embark on a more than $200 million expansion effort. This series of projects will include a new hospital building, a psychiatry facility, a new student dormitory, a parking deck and a power plant. Work is already underway on some projects, including a five-floor addition to the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute. This site houses a Web cam that provides a view of the daily progress!

Dr. Reece visits with Pat Walker and Dr. Cornelia Beck.

Drs. Reece, Wilson, Hough congratulate Dr. Bruce Smoller.

Chair in Pathology. Hough is a distinguished professor in the Department of Pathology who chaired the department for more than 21 years and is associate dean for translational research and special programs. The chair was made possible through a gift of $1.5 million from the Marie Denise DeBartolo York Foundation, which also established the John and Denise DeBartolo York Chief Residency in Pathology. For further information visit http://www.uams.edu.

Dr. Reece visits with Pat Walker and Dr. Cornelia Beck.

Drs. Reece, Wilson, Hough congratulate Dr. Bruce Smoller.

Be sure and visit our new and expanding Web site. We are continually adding new information and links that provide information about our alumni association as well as easy access to update your alumni information. Please visit http://www.uams.edu and complete the online change of address form.