

ALUMNI & friends

SPRING/
SUMMER 2016
UAMS
 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Alumni Honored at Annual Ceremony



Hall of Fame inductee **D. Brent Polk, M.D. '84**, Dean **Pope L. Moseley, M.D.**, and Dean's Distinguished Alumnus **Richard F. Jacobs, M.D. '77**, pause for a photo at the reception following the Dean's Honor Day Ceremony.

Richard F. Jacobs, M.D. '77, and **D. Brent Polk, M.D. '84**, took separate paths to become nationally recognized leaders in pediatrics, but they both started with a passion for helping children and the good fortune of having remarkable mentors during their early years at UAMS.

Dr. Jacobs, chair of the UAMS Department of Pediatrics, received the Dean's Distinguished Alumnus Award at the College of Medicine's annual Dean's Honor Day ceremony on April 19. Dr. Polk, the 2009 recipient of the alumnus award, was inducted into the college's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Polk has served as physician-in-chief of Children's Hospital Los

Angeles (CHLA) and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Southern California (USC) since 2010. He is also vice president for academic affairs at CHLA, vice dean for child health at CHLA and USC and director of the hospital's Saban Research Institute.

The Lonoke County native noted during the ceremony that Arkansas started using the slogan "Land of Opportunity" on license plates the year he was born.

"Today, I feel like I am the embodiment of that slogan," Dr. Polk said. "A kid growing up on the Arkansas River was able to go to college, medical school, residency and

fellowship and have a great number of opportunities, leading to those of being responsible for the care and health of 2.9 million children living in one of the great cities of the world."

Dr. Polk counts the late UAMS anatomy professor Lawrence E. Scheving, Ph.D., and now-retired physiology professor James Pasley, Ph.D., as key mentors. He said they inspired him to pursue a career as a physician-scientist, which allowed him to combine his love of research and teaching with patient care. Several current and former pediatric leaders at UAMS and Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) also served as role models, including the late renowned physicians **Betty A. Lowe, M.D. '56**, **Tom Dungan, M.D.**, and **Robert H. Fiser Jr., M.D. '66**.

Dr. Polk served for 20 years on the faculty at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn., before his recruitment to Los Angeles in 2010. His accomplishments as chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition spurred the school to rename the division in his honor.

Dr. Jacobs, an Arkadelphia native, built his career at UAMS and ACH while garnering national recognition for his research and clinical work in

Continued on page 3



A Note from the Dean, Pope L. Moseley, M.D.

As my first year at UAMS draws to a close, I am more impressed than ever with the caliber of our faculty and their dedication to providing the next generation of physicians and scientists with the best possible education and training. As a

community of scholars, our faculty is also devoted to creating new knowledge that improves health.

I had the pleasure of participating in the College of Medicine’s annual Dean’s Honor Day ceremony in April. This newsletter highlights some of the exemplary faculty and alumni who were honored. I think it is significant that all of the honorees who spoke after receiving their awards emphasized how much their mentors at UAMS have meant to them.

Many exciting things are underway in the college. In our last issue, I noted that one of my priorities is to build a top-tier biomedical informatics program. Biomedical informatics uses extremely sophisticated computational tools to manage and analyze massive datasets of medical and public health information. The ability to discover and understand patterns in “big data” enables better care and precisely tailored therapies for individual patients.

Hockey legend Wayne Gretzky said that a good hockey player goes where the puck is, but a *great* player goes where the puck *is going to be*. Biomedical informatics and its subareas are “where the puck is going to be” in medicine in the decades ahead, and so that is where we are focused.

Having worked on major informatics initiatives in the United States and Denmark, I can’t stress enough how important this is for our education, research and clinical programs.

Last fall we recruited Fred Prior, Ph.D., an internationally known informatics imaging expert, as the inaugural chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics. Since then, Dr. Prior has led our efforts to recruit an extraordinary team of biomedical informatics experts to the faculty.

Dr. Prior and I will share information about biomedical informatics and the power of big data at a “UAMS Showcase” session during Alumni Weekend in August. Another session will highlight a very different College of Medicine initiative, the virtual “academic houses” that we are launching for students this summer.

These sessions will follow the format of the popular TED Talks – informative, thoughtful and entertaining. If it’s your year to reunite, we hope you can make it. We will also post videos of the talks online. (Watch for details in our next issue.)

Whether at Alumni Weekend or through other opportunities, I am looking forward to meeting and working with you. We are grateful for your insights and support of the College of Medicine.

Pope L. Moseley, M.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor, UAMS
Dean, College of Medicine

ALUMNI WEEKEND '16

August 19-21

Reuniting all UAMS colleges including College of Medicine classes ending in '06 and '01

- ❖ Chancellor’s Reception
- ❖ UAMS Showcase
- ❖ Luncheon with the Dean
- ❖ Southern Supper
- ❖ Golden Graduates Brunch
- ❖ Campus Tours

Learn more and register online by Aug. 12 at giving.uams.edu/alumniweekend2016.

Alumni Honored at Annual Ceremony

Continued from page 1

pediatric infectious diseases as well as for his administrative leadership. He is currently president-elect of the national Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs and a past president of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society.

Dr. Jacobs joined the faculty after completing fellowship training at the University of Washington in 1982 and was promoted to chief of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases section in 1989. He was the Horace C. Cabe Professor of Pediatrics at ACH from 1993 to 2005. He served as president of the Arkansas Children's Research Institute from 2004 to 2015.

Dr. Jacobs began serving as chair of pediatrics in 2006. Two years later he was invested as the inaugural recipient of an endowed chair named for one of his most influential mentors – former department chair Dr. Robert H. Fiser.

“That old saying about ‘standing on the shoulders of giants’ really has special meaning for me,” Dr. Jacobs said when receiving the award.

Dr. Jacobs credited many mentors during his education, training and early and middle years as a faculty member at UAMS, including the pillars of pediatrics that Dr. Polk had mentioned in his remarks.

It's a Match!

College of Medicine seniors learned where they will complete their residencies on March 18, Match Day for senior medical students around the nation.

Fifty-five COM seniors matched to Arkansas residencies, while their classmates are headed for 30 other states. More than half of the class will train in one of the primary care specialties: internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine or obstetrics and gynecology.

Signe Rebolledo,
M.D. '16, will
train in diagnostic
radiology at
UAMS.



Beloved Educator Receives Faculty Service Award



Professor Robert E. McGehee, Jr., Ph.D., checks on a team of students working to solve a problem in the UAMS Active Learning Center.

If you graduated from the College of Medicine in the past decade or two, odds are that Robert E. “Bobby” McGehee Jr., Ph.D., helped you understand why basic science knowledge is so crucial for the practice of medicine. And you probably shared some laughs along the way.

Dr. McGehee, a faculty member since 1993 and dean of the Graduate School since 2004, received the college's Distinguished Faculty Service Award at the Dean's Honor Day ceremony on April 19. The professor of pediatrics, pathology, and physiology and biophysics was recognized for his leadership, teaching and research in developmental molecular biology.

“Dr. McGehee has taught or mentored scores of medical and graduate students, pediatric fellows and junior colleagues, earning many teaching awards and accolades along the way,” Dean Pope L. Moseley, M.D., said during the award presentation. “His rapport with medical students is almost legendary.”

In 2001, Dr. McGehee played a key role in developing a fundamental course on cell biology for first-year medical students. As the course director or co-director for 12 years, he taught more than 2,000 medical students in their very first hour of classes. He was an early advocate of “active learning” methods, such as team-based and problem-based learning, which are now central to the education of first- and second-year medical students.

Celebrating Educational Innovation

College of Medicine students have new opportunities for learning and thriving in medical school and beyond thanks to the innovative work of faculty members and academic leaders. Here are some innovative academic programs worth celebrating.

Houses without Walls: The COM Prepares to Open “Academic Houses”



The College of Medicine is building houses this year – but not the brick and mortar kind.

The COM will open seven virtual “academic houses” at the start of the 2016-2017 academic year to provide enhanced academic and career advising, a greater sense of community and new wellness-focused activities for students throughout medical school.

“This is an important step forward for the College of Medicine,” said **James Graham,**

M.D. ’85, associate dean for undergraduate medical education. “Academic houses represent a major restructuring of our advising system.”

Like similar learning communities programs across the country, each of the COM’s virtual academic houses will

include students from all four years of medical school. Students will be assigned to one of the virtual houses for their entire time in the college.

Each house will have M.D. and Ph.D. faculty advisors. Students will be assigned one of their house’s M.D. faculty members as their primary advisor and will meet with them at least twice a year. Each house will convene as a group at least four times a year to discuss topics related to academic success, career preparation or wellness, or for other house-chosen activities such as service learning.

Learn More

- **Sara Tariq, M.D. ’98,** assistant dean for undergraduate clinical education, will discuss academic houses at a UAMS Showcase session during Alumni Weekend on Aug. 20.
- We will post a video of Dr. Tariq’s talk online and feature more information about academic houses in the Fall/Winter 2016 issue of *Alumni & Friends*.

Anatomy Pilot Program Gives Students First Look at Clinical Procedures



Freshmen **Caroline Chen** (left) and **Ples Spradley** were two of the students who participated in a laparoscopic abdominopelvic demonstration in the Gross Anatomy Lab using lightly embalmed cadavers.

College of Medicine freshmen and sophomores are raving about a pilot clinical anatomy program that uses lightly embalmed cadavers to give students realistic, hands-on and low-stress experiences with clinical procedures far in advance of their first encounters with patients.

“The clinical procedure demonstration program has introduced me to many techniques, fields of medicine and doctors that I would not normally know until later in my education,” said freshman **Ples Spradley,** one of more than 240 students who voluntarily participated in the pilot program during its first two years.

Lightly embalmed cadavers allow for more realistic procedure simulations than would be possible with classically embalmed cadavers. For example, the lungs of a lightly embalmed cadaver will inflate, allowing greater learning opportunities in the Gross Anatomy Lab. Students have observed and performed simulated intubations, lumbar punctures and many other procedures.

The program was developed by Kevin Phelan, Ph.D., who co-directs the Division of Clinical Anatomy and was recently invested as the Charles H. Lutterloh and Charles M. Lutterloh Medical Education Excellence Professor. The program was funded by a grant from the Arkansas Medical Society’s Medical Education Foundation of Arkansas in its first year.

Education App, Research Make Cover of Surgery Journal



When College of Medicine juniors take the national board exam at the end of their surgery rotation, many of them breathe a little easier thanks to a study guide that works on their smart phones.

Developed by assistant professor Matthew Smeds, M.D., and colleagues in the Department of Surgery, the study guide and research into

its effectiveness made the cover of the March 2016 issue of the *Journal of Surgical Research*.

Dr. Smeds and coauthors Carol Thrush, Ed.D., Jason Mizell, M.D., Katherine Berry, Ed.D., and Surgery

Chair Frederick Bentley, M.D., reported on the the app's effectiveness in improving test scores.

Introduced to students in 2014, the study guide poses daily case-based questions, repeated over spaced intervals to help students master the material. App use is voluntary, and the study demonstrated significantly higher test scores in regular users of the app as compared with casual and non-users in mid- and low-achieving students.

“The third-year surgical rotation can be very intimidating,” said Dr. Smeds. “At the same time, students often have down time over unpredictable stretches, such as when they are waiting for operating rooms to open up or trauma cases to come in. They have limited access to traditional study materials such as textbooks during these times, but easy access to their smart phones.”

Programs Help Students, Residents Understand Finances

New physicians often leave medical school and residency with little understanding about the financial aspects of practice management or achieving personal financial stability. Jason Mizell, M.D., an associate professor and director of the surgery clerkship, decided to do something about that.

In 2011, Dr. Mizell led the development of a program for surgery residents to help them understand business and personal finances. He brought in experts to teach various topics, including financial aspects of practice management.

Noticing that senior medical students were making financial mistakes as they

transitioned to residency, Dr. Mizell later adapted the residency curriculum for senior medical students. Over half of the Class of 2016 signed up for the elective course. The initiatives earned Dr. Mizell the college's 2016 Educational Innovation Award.

Apple of Their Eye

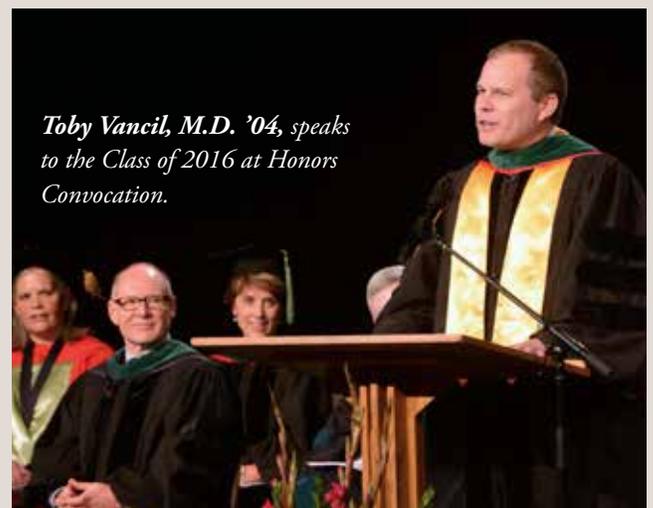
The Class of 2016 chose **Tobias “Toby” Vancil, M.D. '04**, to deliver the address at Honors Convocation *and* presented him with the prestigious Golden Apple Award as their most outstanding teacher this year. The junior class echoed the seniors, presenting Dr. Vancil with their Golden Apple as well.

Dr. Vancil, an associate professor and director of the internal medicine clerkship, urged seniors to take time to “live in the now” when possible both personally and in their professional practice.

“Don't let patient visits become blurry snapshots of a busy day,” he said. “Take time to have a conversation with the patient; look at them eye-to-eye; use the exam skills you've worked so hard to learn.”

Dr. Vancil's previous honors for teaching include the 2014 and 2015 Golden Apple Awards from COM juniors,

numerous Red Sash and Gold Sash awards from seniors, and the college's 2014 Educational Innovation Award for using simulation education to prepare students exceptionally well for their clinical rotations and internships.



Toby Vancil, M.D. '04, speaks to the Class of 2016 at Honors Convocation.

Alumni Inspire, Support, Hold New Endowed Chairs

Three endowed chairs established at UAMS this past year are named in honor of College of Medicine alumni – and other graduates who serve on the faculty are the inaugural holders of two of the chairs.

An endowed chair is the highest academic honor that a university can bestow on a member of its faculty. Chairs are supported with contributions of \$1 million or more (\$1.5 million for distinguished chairs). Each chair holder uses chair proceeds for research, teaching or service activities.

G. Richard Smith, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Personalized Medicine



G. Richard Smith, M.D. '77, speaks at the inaugural investiture of the distinguished chair named in his honor.

This chair was established with contributions from friends and supporters of former dean **G. Richard Smith, M.D.** '77, who share his vision to make

genomically informed, individually tailored psychiatric care more available to Arkansans. Dr. Smith chaired the Department of Psychiatry for 12 years and was founding director of the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute before serving as dean and executive vice chancellor from 2013 to 2015.

Jeffrey Clothier, M.D., professor and executive vice chair of the department, was invested as the inaugural recipient on Oct. 6, 2015.

Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, George K. Mitchell, M.D., Endowed Chair in Primary Care

Mark T. Jansen, M.D. '81, was invested in the chair honoring **George K. Mitchell, M.D.** '56, on April 4. The chair was established with a \$1 million grant from Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Dr. Mitchell is a Blue Cross board member who served as the company's president and CEO from 1975 until his retirement in 1993. Earlier, Dr. Mitchell co-founded the Little Rock Diagnostic Clinic.

Dr. Jansen is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and medical director for UAMS' Regional Programs, Center for Healthcare

Enhancement and Development, and Physician Relations and Strategic Development.

Chair namesake **George K. Mitchell, M.D.** '56, (left) with newly invested **Mark T. Jansen, M.D.** '81.



Patricia and J. Floyd Kyser, M.D., Chair in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery



J. Floyd Kyser, M.D., '62, (left), with his wife, Patricia, and **James Y. Suen, M.D.** '66, at Dr. Suen's investiture.

On May 12, **James Y. Suen, M.D.** '66, was invested in a chair made possible by longtime UAMS and College of Medicine supporters Patricia and **J. Floyd Kyser, M.D.** '62. The endowment will be used to advance Dr. Suen's internationally recognized work in head and neck surgery.

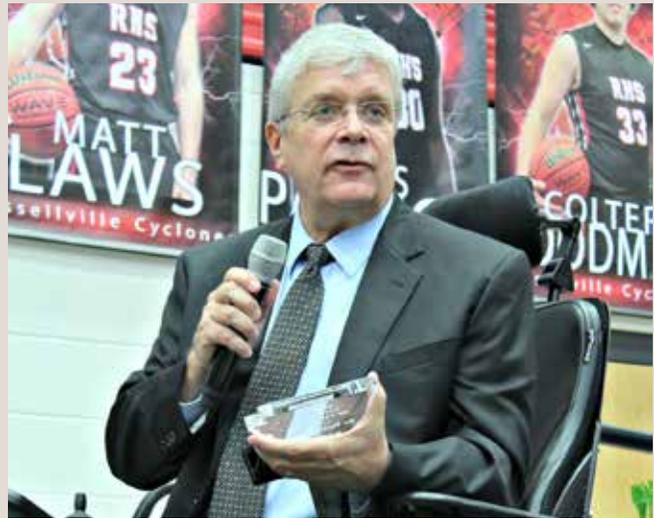
Dr. Kyser had a very successful solo otolaryngology practice in Little Rock from 1969 until his retirement in 2002. Dr. Suen, who trained under Dr. Kyser while a resident, has served as chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery for 41 years. He is a co-founder and former director of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

Citizen of the Year

As Russellville, Arkansas, Citizen of the Year, **Finley Turner, M.D. '77**, is proof positive that College of Medicine alumni make an indelible mark on the communities they serve.

Dr. Turner retired in 2013 after 33 years in family practice at two local clinics. He also served as chief medical officer for St. Mary's Regional Health System, earning parent company Capella Healthcare's Physician Leadership Award in 2013. Dr. Turner was Russellville High School's team physician for over 25 years.

Among his civic activities, Dr. Turner has served for many years on the board of the Wesley Foundation at Arkansas Tech and the board of Friendship Services, a non-profit organization serving children and adults with disabilities.



Finley Turner, M.D. '77, receives the Citizen of the Year award from the Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 2.

In Memoriam Oct. 15, 2015 - May 31, 2016

1950s

Ernest L. Cashion Jr., M.D. '51

Tulsa, Okla., Nov. 28, 2015

Francis M. Wilson, M.D. '53

Jonesboro, Ark., Dec. 11, 2015

Thomas A. Bruce, M.D. '55

Little Rock, Ark., March 4, 2016

James R. Rasch Sr., M.D. '56

Maumelle, Ark., Nov. 24, 2015

Virgil B. "Jack" Perry, M.D. '56

Blue Springs, Mo., Jan. 25, 2016

1960s

Gene D. Ring, M.D. '61

Dardanelle, Ark., Jan. 16, 2016

Donald N. Offutt, M.D. '62

Hot Springs, Ark., Oct. 25, 2015

Noel W. Lawson, M.D. '65

Little Rock, Ark., March 19, 2016

Carl C. Welch, M.D. '68

Corinth, Miss., April 3, 2016

1970s

William F. Clardy, M.D. '73

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 2, 2016

1980s

J. Charles Henry, M.D. '80

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 25, 2016

Remembering a Leader: Former Dean Dr. Thomas Bruce



pro tem of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, died March 4 after a two-year battle with cancer.

Dr. Bruce served as COM Dean from 1974 to 1985. His tenure was marked by comprehensive measures to enhance education and expand primary care training to address physician shortages in rural Arkansas. He also enhanced clinical programs, doubled the number of full-time faculty and recruited chairs to 19 of the college's 21 departments.

Dr. Bruce went on to develop grant-making initiatives and direct projects in health, leadership and rural development as program director for

Thomas A. Bruce, M.D. '55, former dean of the UAMS College of Medicine, inaugural dean of the UAMS College of Public Health and dean

the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Mich. He returned to Arkansas and helped found the UAMS College of Public Health and later the Clinton School of Public Service.

Also Remembering ...

Robert Shields Abernathy, M.D., Ph.D., former chair and revered faculty leader in the Department of Internal Medicine, died Jan. 29, 2016. Dr. Abernathy served at UAMS from 1957 to 2002.

Glenn V. Dalrymple, M.D., chair of the Department of Radiology from 1973 to 1976 and head of the Division of Nuclear Medicine from 1969 to 1973, died March 9, 2016.

Howard K. Suzuki, Ph.D., a highly respected professor of anatomy from 1958 to 1970, died Jan. 26, 2016.

For information on making a memorial contribution in honor of a classmate or faculty member who inspired you, please contact Brigitte Grant, chief development officer, at (309) 645-5852.

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