

SPRING 2011

MISSISSIPPI MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MISSISSIPPI'S BIG PROBLEM



UMMC seeks remedy for
fatter, sicker state population



WORTH THE WAIT

Kenneth Saul's name was the last drawn on Match Day 2011, so by tradition, he gets the doctor bag holding some \$600 in cash. Each student contributes \$5 when his or her name is called. Saul will begin a residency in internal medicine at UMMC July 1.

14

EDITOR'S NOTE



My 37-year career at the Medical Center will end in my retirement on June 30. Your new editor of *Mississippi Medicine* is Matt Westerfield who is currently the editor of the nursing, dentistry and health related professions alumni publications.

Please continue sending him information you want to share with your classmates.

He can be reached at mwesterfield@umc.edu or Matt Westerfield, Division of Public Affairs, 2500 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216-4505.

And if you're reading this issue and it belongs to someone else, please let us know and we'll add your name to our mailing list so you can have your own copy (free).

Janis Quinn
Editor
Mississippi Medicine

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School of Medicine
The University of Mississippi Medical Center

**Chancellor,
University of Mississippi**
Dan Jones, M.D.

**Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
and Dean, School of Medicine**
James E. Keeton, M.D.

**Associate Vice Chancellor
and Vice Dean,
School of Medicine**
LouAnn Woodward, M.D.

**President, Medical Alumni
Chapter, University of
Mississippi Alumni Association**
Hubert Spears, M.D.

**Director of Alumni Affairs,
University of Mississippi
Medical Center**
Geoffrey Mitchell

Editor
Janis Quinn

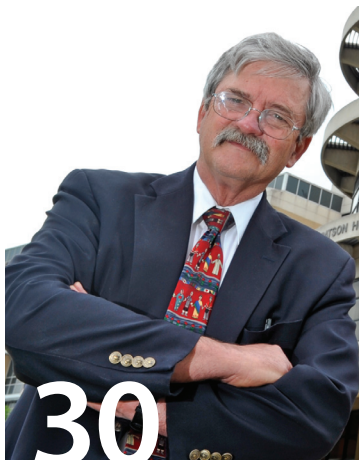
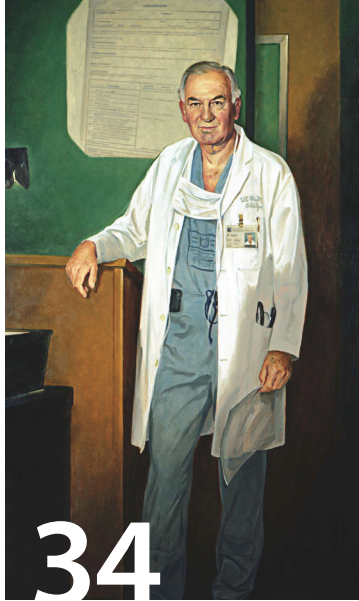
Writers
Patrice Guilfoyle
Janis Quinn

Photographer
Jay Ferchaud

Designers
Derrick Dyess
Mary Howell

**Associate Director
for Publications**
Tim Irby

**Chief Public Affairs and
Communications Officer**
Tom Fortner



CONTENTS

FEATURES

14 Mississippi's BIG Problem

UMMC seeks remedy for fatter,
sicker state population

22 From the Patient End of the Stethoscope

Alumni Profile: Dr. Nina
Washington

28 James E. Keeton— Happy man at the helm

30 Bev Evans—

Retiring pediatric chair steps down
with goals fulfilled

33 Joe Files

Hematology chief joins prestigious
ranks of college

THE REST

2 **News Digest**
A quick look at Medical Center news

34 **Philanthropy**
Three endowed chairs enhance
ob-gyn, pediatrics

42 **Class Notes**
What have your classmates
been up to?





Kellen Jex matches to Internal Medicine at UMMC

MATCH DAY SHOWS PRIMARY CARE ASCENDENCE AGAIN

Said Woodward: "We actually had a higher percentage of our students match to highly competitive specialties, such as dermatology and otolaryngology, than the national average."

In the primary care matches, UMMC still exceeds the national average (10 percent compared to 7.9 percent) in choosing family medicine.

"Our numbers for both pediatrics and medicine have held steady for the past four years."

Woodward says she sees growing numbers of UMMC students participating in the couples match, notwithstanding the difficulty of matching two people to the place they both want.

This year, Woodward noted, there were no students who matched west of Texas. "That's not a trend. It was just noticeable. Our students are usually all over the map."

In general anywhere from 45 to 65 percent of UMMC students stay in state for their residency training. This year was typical with 50 percent staying home.

Matching could become more difficult in the future if current trends aren't averted, Woodward said.

"Graduate medical education has traditionally been funded by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare. And while there's a cap on how many slots CMS will fund, medical schools have been urged to increase their enrollments and new medical schools are coming on line."

In medical education's own version of March Madness, UMMC's annual Match results reflected national trends, according to Dr. LouAnn Woodward, associate vice chancellor and vice dean of the medical school.

The National Resident Matching Program announces the pairings of senior medical students and residency programs every year in March.

WHERE THEY'RE GOING

UMMC seniors and their residency destinations

NOAH ABBAS

Surgery-Preliminary
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KAREN ABERNATHY

Internal Medicine
Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

MAC ABERNATHY

Psychiatry-Neurology
Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

AMEZE ADAH

Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

ANDREW ADAMS

Family Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KEITH ANDREWS

Radiology-Diagnostic
Baptist Memorial Hospital
Memphis, Tennessee

Medicine-Preliminary
University of Tennessee
Memphis, Tennessee

WILL ARMSTRONG

Surgery-Preliminary
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

Urology
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

LANCE ATCHLEY

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

DANE BALLARD

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JOHNNY BANAHAN

Radiology-Diagnostic
University of Alabama
- Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Transitional
Baptist Health System
Birmingham, Alabama

ALLISON BENNETT

Obstetrics-Gynecology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

HUNTER BERRY

Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

At UMMC, the clinical enterprise is paying for about 105 residency slots (out of 514 total) that CMS can't fund.

"Obviously, this is an issue that will have to be addressed at the federal level, but in the interim, residency slots may become more and more competitive," said Woodward.

Forty-eight percent of UMMC seniors opted for primary care specialties: 10 in family medicine, 23 in internal medicine, 10 in obstetrics and gynecology, 11 in pediatrics, and four in medicine-pediatrics.

Six each matched in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, and general surgery; five each matched in neurology; four (in addition to med-peds) matched in orthopedics, psychiatry and surgery preliminary.

Three matched in pathology, two each in urology

and ophthalmology, and one each in radiation oncology, psychiatry-neurology, plastic surgery, pediatric research, otolaryngology, neurosurgery, medicine-psychiatry, medicine-dermatology, and dermatology.

Sixty seniors will stay in state for residency training.



Fourth-year medical student Aashoo Pande reacts to her residency match in neurology at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas during the 2011 Match Day ceremony March 17.



Dr. Donna Sullivan, left, and Dr. Rathel "Skip" Nolan

chasing MRSA

Infectious disease specialists at UMMC are testing a quicker method of testing for the pathogen that is responsible for 60 percent of all staph infections in hospital patients—methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The new system from QuantaLife, a California-based biotech company, promises quick and cheap results but is it effective? UMMC researchers will take swabs of patients' nasal mucus and analyze both with current methods and the new system.

Compared to current technology, the new system uses far less specimen-micro droplets and fractional amounts of testing chemicals in casing about the size of a desktop printer. That's the key in cutting the costs per test from \$20 to \$2 and from 40 minutes to fewer than 15.

RAHUL BHAKTA

Internal Medicine
University of South Florida
Tampa, Pennsylvania

CLAIRE BRABEC

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JONATHAN BROWN

Orthopaedic Surgery
Tulane University
New Orleans, Louisiana

MATT BURFORD

Neurology
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
St. Louis, Missouri

CASSIE BURNS

Anesthesiology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JOHN BURNS

Surg-Prelim/Urology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

ADAM BYRD

Medicine-Dermatology
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

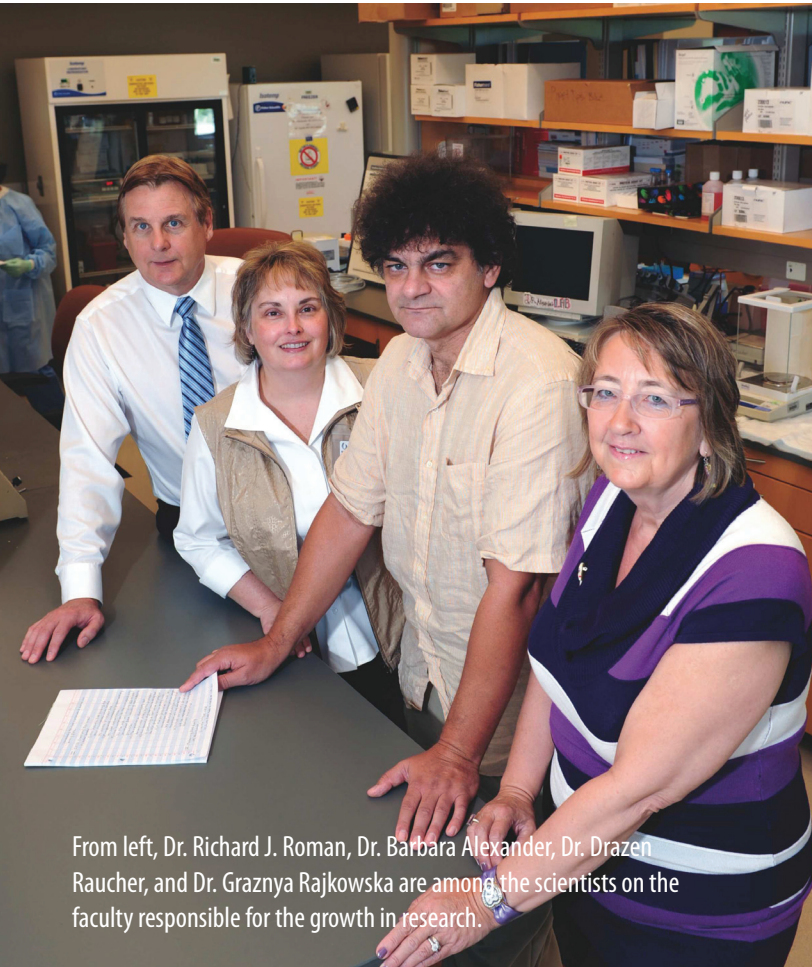
JASMINE CAMPBELL

Dermatology
Howard University
Hospital
Washington,
District of Columbia

Medicine-Preliminary
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

ZEKE CAMPBELL

Neurology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi



From left, Dr. Richard J. Roman, Dr. Barbara Alexander, Dr. Drazen Raucher, and Dr. Graznya Rajkowska are among the scientists on the faculty responsible for the growth in research.

RESEARCH BOOM

Research funding at UMMC shot up 90 percent in the past three fiscal years—from \$39.7 million in 2008 to \$75.7 million in 2010.

Research expansion has been an institutional priority, according to Dr. John Hall, associate vice chancellor for research.

The prime movers in the burgeoning research enterprise are an influx of fully funded investigators, current faculty who are receiving more grants and a new system whereby departments appropriate some of the indirect funds from research grants to build infrastructure.

\$75.7 million

WHERE THEY'RE GOING

UMMC seniors and their residency destinations

COURTNEY CARTWRIGHT

Obstetrics-Gynecology
Southern Illinois
University & Affiliated
Springfield, Illinois

RON RON CHENG

Neurological Surgery
Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

REBECCA CHICK

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

BRAD CHISM

Transitional
Trident Medical Center
Charleston, South Carolina

Radiology-Diagnostic
University of Texas
Medical School
Houston, Texas

ERIN CLARK

Internal Medicine
University of Alabama
- Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

ANDREA COLLINS

Family Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JOE COOK

Anesthesiology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

TERESA CROUT

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

WILL DARSEY

Family Medicine
North Mississippi
Medical Center
Tupelo, Mississippi

JOHN DAVIS

General Surgery
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

DANETT DILLON

Psychiatry
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JENNIFER DINNING

General Surgery
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

STACEY DOUGLAS

Internal Medicine
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

EUGENE EILAND

Emergency Medicine
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

SAM FAIRBROTHER

Surgery-Preliminary
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

EMILY FAULK

General Surgery
York Hospital
York, Pennsylvania

BRANDON FOLE

General Surgery
Florida Hospital
Orlando, Florida

ERIN FORTENBERRY

Obstetrics-Gynecology
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

HEIDI FRAZIER

Medicine-Pediatrics
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

KIRSTEN GAMBRELL

General Surgery
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KIM GANNON

Neurology
Hospital of the University of PA
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HEATHER GARDNER

Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

BRANDON GARRIGA

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

DUSTIN GENTRY

Family Medicine
University of TX
Health Science Center
Tyler, Texas

SCOTT GIBSON

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

APRILE GILMORE

Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JACOB GRAHAM

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JARIEL HAIRSTON

Pathology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

AMANDA HARRELL

Internal Medicine
VA Commonwealth
University Health
Richmond, Virginia

AUSTIN HARRISON

Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JESSIE HARVESTON

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

TAL HENDRIX

Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

DEBORAH HILL

Medicine-Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

SAMUEL HOLDINESS

Medicine-Pediatrics
Greenville Hospital System/
U of SC
Greenville, South Carolina

KATHRYN HOLLIS

Obstetrics-Gynecology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi



Senior medical students Jeffrey Reeves, left, and Joe Cook, right, attend the Match Day breakfast with their wives, Phyllis and Shari. The breakfast was sponsored by the Medical Alumni Chapter.

CHRIS HOPE

Psychiatry
University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MANDY HORNE

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

DEREK HUANG

Med-Prelim/Neurology
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Neurology
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

BOBBY HUMBLE

Obstetrics-Gynecology
University of TX Southwestern
Dallas, Texas

LAURA JACKSON

Family Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KELLEN JEX

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

DEMARRE JONES

Internal Medicine
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

JESSICA JONES

Obstetrics-Gynecology
LSU - New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

AMANDA LEDBETTER

Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

BERT LIN

Ophthalmology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JOHN LUTZ

Anesthesiology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi



Seniors at Match Day Breakfast included Amanda Harrell, left, and Jennifer May.

WHERE THEY'RE GOING

UMMC seniors and their residency destinations

DREW MALLETTE

General Surgery
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

MATT MAREADY

Pediatric Research
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

DUSTIN MARKLE

Family Medicine
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

BRETT MARLIN

Emergency Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KATIE MAXWELL

Psychiatry
University of North Carolina
Hospitals
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

JENNIFER MAY

Medicine-Psychiatry
Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

BRENT MCCARTY

Orthopaedic Surgery
Tulane University
New Orleans, Louisiana

LAUREN MCCLAIN

Surgery-Preliminary
Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

LUCAS MCELWAIN

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

GERALD MCLEMORE

Emergency Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

TAYLOR MCPHERSON

Obstetrics-Gynecology
University of Alabama
- Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

ASHLEY MCPHIE

Pediatrics
Shands at the University
of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

LOIS MONTAGUE

Otolaryngology
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

REBECCA MOORE

Pediatrics
Medical University of South
Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

AMY NEELY

Anesthesiology
University of Maryland
Baltimore, Maryland

WILLIAM NORTH

Plastic Surgery
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

JOEL NUTT

Anesthesiology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

ANNA OBERHOFER

Family Medicine
Naval Hospital
Jacksonville, Florida

TOPE ODETUNDE

Obstetrics-Gynecology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

AASHOO PANDE

Neurology
University of Texas
Southwestern
Dallas, Texas

ANUJ PATEL

Medicine-Preliminary
St. Joseph Mercy
Health System
Ann Arbor, Michigan

TONI PETERS

Radiology-Diagnostic
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

TONI PETERS

Pathology
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts

MELODY PETTY

Pediatrics
University of South
Alabama Hospitals
Mobile, Alabama

SCOTT PRECHTER

Radiology-Diagnostic
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KATIE RAGLAND

Radiology-Diagnostic
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

TIM RAGLAND

Radiology-Diagnostic
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

TOM RECORE

Psychiatry
Duke University
Medical Center
Durham, North Carolina



Virginia Covington, left, education administrator in the School of Medicine, visits with students and their families during the Match Day breakfast who included Mariann Russell, wife of senior Keith Russell and Amanda Horne with her father Ron Horne, right.



Dr. Jimmy Stewart, left, associate professor of medicine, attended Match Day breakfast with Sam Holdiness, senior, and his wife, Amber.

BELHAVEN ATHLETES VOLUNTEER FOR CONCUSSION STUDY

Orthopedic specialists at UMMC will evaluate 90 Belhaven University athletes this fall to see if heart-rate variability studies can also be used to detect concussions.

Dr. Steve Watts, associate professor of family medicine and director of the UMMC sports medicine fellowship program, and Dr. James Hughes, M. Beckett Howorth Professor of Surgery, will conduct the study.

“Recognizing a concussion in a competing athlete is important in order to prevent further injury and perhaps avoid long-term effects of multiple mild insults to the brain,” Watts said.

Mild hits, multiple times can be linked to traumatic encephalopathy and dementia in older athletes, problems

with memory and communication, personality changes as well as depression.

They hope the technology used in the study will monitor the recovery of the athlete to ensure a safe return to play.



Dr. Steve Watts



WHERE THEY'RE GOING

UMMC seniors and their residency destinations

JEFFREY REEVES

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

MATT RHINEWALT

Medicine-Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KEITH RUSSELL

Radiology-Diagnostic
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KENNETH SAUL

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

MICHELLE SCHUSSLER

Obstetrics-Gynecology
LSU Earl K Long
Medical Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

WILL SEELY

Anesthesiology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

AARON SMITH

Ophthalmology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

MATTHEW SMITH

Emergency Medicine
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

JAY SONGCHAROEN

Surgery-Preliminary
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

CHRIS STODARD

Emergency Medicine
Palmetto Health Richland
Columbia, South Carolina

ROSS STONE

Internal Medicine
University of Alabama
- Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

JEANANN SUGGS

Medicine-Preliminary
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

Radiation Oncology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

KATIE THOMAS

Pediatrics
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

BENJAMIN TILLMAN

Internal Medicine
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

KARI VALENTE

Pathology
Wake Forest Baptist
Medical Center
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

JOEY VERZWYVELT

Emergency Medicine
University Hospital-Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

GRAY WALLACE

Family Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

TREY WARRINGTON

Pediatrics
University of Tennessee
Memphis, Tennessee

CHRIS WEBB

Family Medicine
North Mississippi
Medical Center
Tupelo, Mississippi

CHRISTOPHER WEEKS

Obstetrics-Gynecology
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

JEREMY WELLS

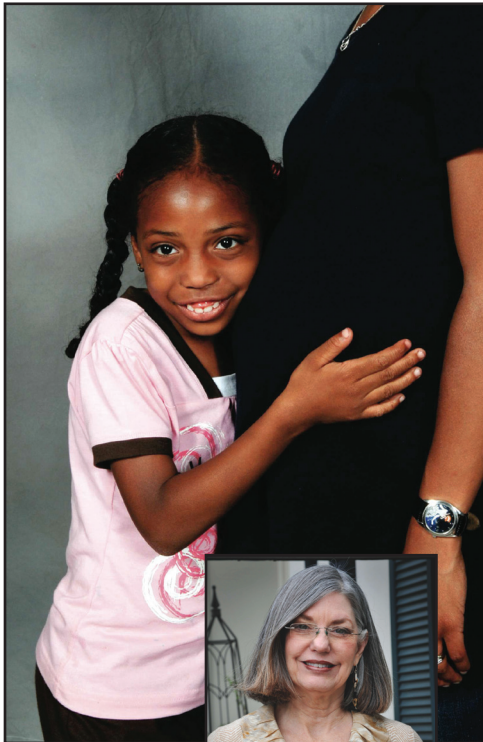
Family Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

RYAN YATES

Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi
Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

EMILY YOUNG

Pediatrics
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, Maryland



Madison Lewis of Jackson



Dr. Sharon Wyatt

FOR THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN

UMMC is a participant in what will be the largest, long-term pediatric population study in U. S. history. The National Children's Study is funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development along with its partners, the National Institute of Environmental Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Sharon Wyatt, professor of nursing and principal investigator for the Hinds County study location, says the data gathered in this study will provide "a huge, national repository of information on children's health that will allow us to ask scientific questions for generations to come."

Women between the ages of 18 and 49 who are pregnant or plan to become

pregnant in the next five years are will be recruited.

NIH selected Hinds County in 2007 as one of 105 locations from which to gather participants for the Main study. But the Medical Center was also selected as one of 37 locations to conduct the Vanguard Study that will look at alternative methods of recruiting participants. Ten of these 37 centers, including UMMC, will use health providers to assist in recruiting.

Recruiting for the 100 women who will be in the Vanguard pilot study started in January. Recruitment of participants for the Main Study should start in mid-2012. Nationwide, the study will follow more than 100,000 children from before birth to age 21, examining the effects of environment on growth and development.

PORTRAIT OF A HUMANITARIAN

Charles Haddad

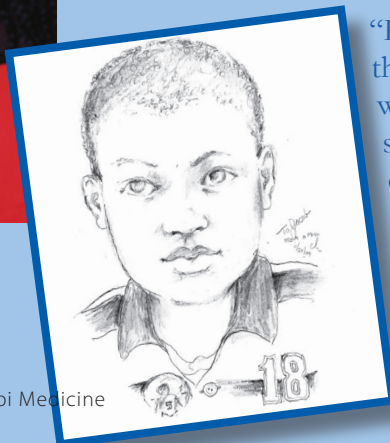
Charles Haddad, a volunteer in the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic, received a Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence Award from the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service.

Haddad visits with children in the clinic every Friday while sketching their portraits. He's been a dependable "grandfather" figure for 13 years. He sketches anywhere from three to 14 portraits a visit. These lifelike pencil sketches become treasured keepsakes to the families. He signs them simply "from a friend."

"He helps the children focus their attention on something other than the procedures or treatment they're waiting to receive," said Dr. Jeanette Pullen, professor emeritus of pediatrics and former director of the clinic.

Haddad's wife, Vivian, rocked babies in the newborn intensive care unit for eight years.

The award was presented on April 11 at a ceremony at the Mississippi Museum of Art.

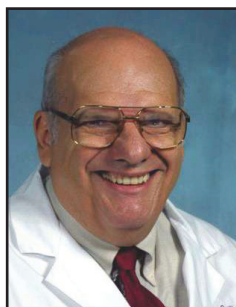


Death claims Former Faculty

DR. JOSE MIGUEL MONTALVO, who served as professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, died August 28, 2010, in Tallahassee, Fla. Montalvo earned the B.S. and the M.D. at the University of Tennessee and completed a residency at F.T. Tobey Children's Hospital in Memphis. He was a United States Public Health Service Fellow in pediatric endocrinology at UMMC and joined the faculty in 1963 as an assistant professor and director of the pediatric endocrinology research lab. He was a founding member of the Pediatric Endocrine Society.

During his tenure, he was the only pediatric endocrinologist in the state. Services for Montalvo were in September in Tallahassee.

DR. DON GRILLO, who was on the faculty in the Department of Family Medicine, died Dec. 16, 2010, in Jackson. He was 77. The New York native was



a graduate of Columbia University and Albany Medical College. He retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force. He helped establish

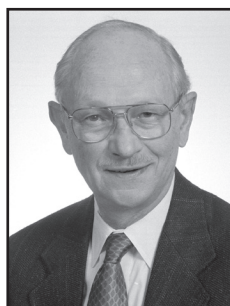
the first ob-gyn residency at Keesler Air Force Base, where he became chairman of the ob-gyn department. After retirement, Grillo worked for 20 years with the Mississippi Department of Health, where he established the first

statewide ultrasound and mammogram program for health department patients. He taught nurse midwives, nurses, family medicine students and ob-gyn residents at UMMC.

DR. NANCY DORMAN, former faculty member in the infectious diseases division of the Department of Medicine, died Feb. 22 after a long battle with cancer. A Michigan native, Dorman was a graduate of Bowling Green State University in Ohio. She earned the Ph.D. and the M.D. at Ohio State University. She completed an internal medicine residency and a fellowship in infectious diseases at Wayne State University in Detroit.



DR. DONALD E. BUTKUS, 76, died Feb. 2. He was professor of medicine at UMMC specializing in nephrology until his retirement in 2003. Butkus served as a U.S. Army physician for 30 years and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired from Walter Reed Army Medical Center at the rank of colonel.



DR. BRYAN COWAN, 62, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UMMC and former chair of the department of ob-gyn, died May 8 in his home after a long battle with cancer. He earned the M.D. with honors at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, did an internship and residency at Portsmouth Naval Hospital and completed a postgraduate fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at the National Institutes of Health. He had been on the UMMC faculty for 28 years.

A prolific author, he authored a book, scores of book chapters and journal articles. He has performed editorial duties for the major ob-gyn journals and was on the National Board of Medical Examiners for determining ob-gyn content for medical student examinations.

Dr. Cowan established the in vitro fertilization program at UMMC, the first in the state, and was responsible for the first IVF babies born in Mississippi.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR RURAL RECRUITING

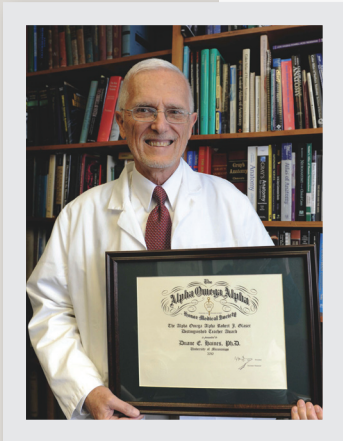
In the nation's poorest state, in the middle of a recession, the three-year-old Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program has provided nearly \$1 million in medical school scholarships. The brainchild of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians, funded by the Mississippi Legislature and directed by Janie Guice, this program with its unique undergraduate component received the American Academy of Family Physicians 2010 Outstanding Program Award.



Janie Guice

AAMC HONORS PROFESSOR

Dr. Duane Haines, who retired as chairman of the Department of Anatomy in 2010, received the Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges in November. "Dr. Haines has consistently gone the extra mile to provide an excellent quality education program with a focus on clinically relevant information," said Dr. LouAnn Woodward, associate vice chancellor, who nominated Haines for the award.



Dr. Duane Haines

"I'm not trying to get every student to be a neurologist or a neurosurgeon," Haines said. "I want to get them ready for the next two years where they'll be in clinical settings."



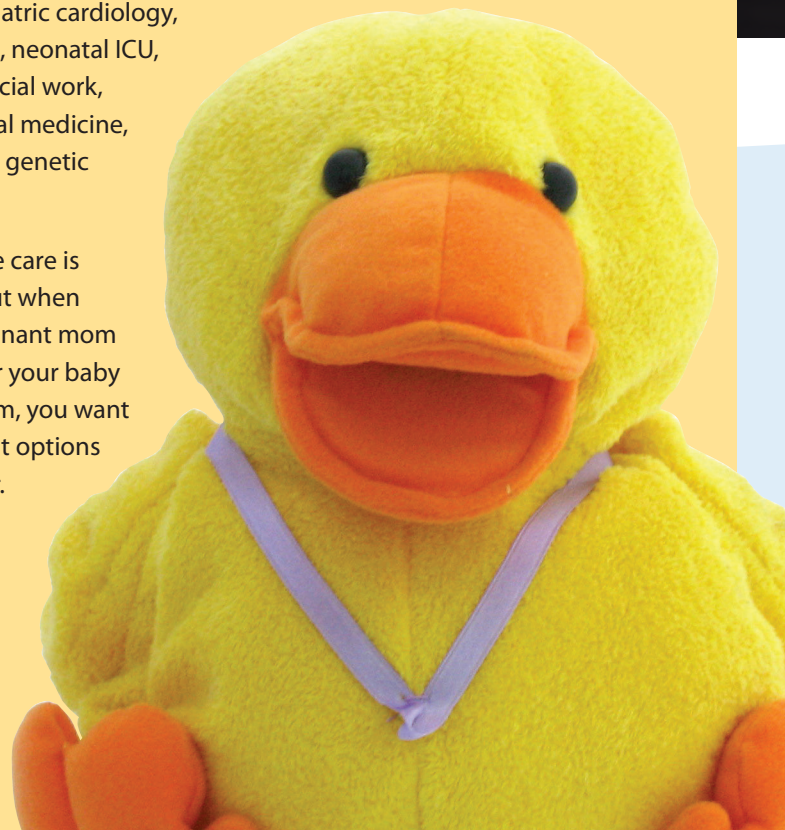
Fetal medicine staff include, front row from left, Dr. James Bofill, Dr. Jennifer Shores and Dr. Kenneth Liechty, and back row from left, Dr. Christopher Friedrich, Holly Zimmerman, Dr. Rick Boyte, B. J. Mize and Jackie Carrillo.

New Center Keeps Moms in MISSISSIPPI

UMMC's Center for Fetal Medicine has evaluated and delivered more than 200 babies since the center's inception a year ago. If not for the center, most of these patients would have sought treatment in Cincinnati, Philadelphia, San Francisco, or some other city far away from home. The center treats abdominal defects, congenital heart defects, lung lesions, teratomas, development defects in the brain and spine, diaphragmatic hernia, intestinal abnormalities and posterior urethral valve blockage.

Patients, who may have to drive several hours to get to Jackson, are evaluated and see all the specialists they need to see in one day, no small feat considering that the disciplines include ob-gyn, pediatric surgery, pediatric cardiology, pediatric ICU, neonatal ICU, radiology, social work, maternal-fetal medicine, genetics and genetic counseling.

"Most of the care is postnatal, but when you're a pregnant mom and you hear your baby has a problem, you want to know what options exist," said Dr. Kenneth Liechty, the center's director.



MORE, SICKER PATIENTS FLOOD ED

Patients with no other options for health care are flooding UMMC's emergency department.

According to Emergency Medicine chair Dr. Richard Summers, the ED treated 66,808 patients in 2010, nearly 5,000 more than were seen in 2009 and almost 2,300 more than the previous record set in 2004.

He knows the patients are sicker, too, based on the increase in the number of hospital admissions through the ED. In 2010, they admitted 17.9 percent of the patients who came to the ED, compared to the previous high-volume year of 2004 when 14.5 percent of the patients were admitted.

Summers says patients report having trouble getting in community clinics or have to wait two or three months for one.

"We're also seeing an aging of the population," Summers said.

The department has added a physician and two additional nurses to help with the burgeoning patient load.

"All of our rooms are almost full all day, every day," Summers said.



Dr. Nathan McIntosh, left, and Dr. Richard Summers



NORQUIST PICKED FOR QUALITY BOARD

The quest for quality is ubiquitous in health care today. Dr. Grayson Norquist, professor of psychiatry at UMMC and chairman of the department, has been tapped for a national board that will make him a key player in the quest.

The Government Accounting Office tapped Norquist and 18 other medical professionals and

policy experts as members of the Board of Governors for the new Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute. This non-profit organization, established through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, will guide research to determine the most effective and appropriate means to treat, diagnose, monitor, manage and prevent disease.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to improve the quality of health care we deliver in the U.S.," Norquist said. "I'm especially interested in bringing the best prevention and treatment options to populations that are traditionally underserved in our current health-care system."



Nikki Hutson, PET/CT manager, and
Dr. Edward Green, PET/CT director

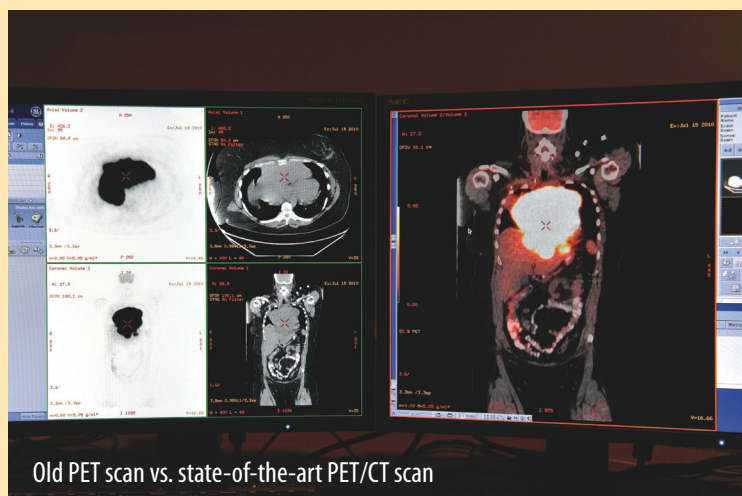
THE HIGH DEF WORLD OF IMAGING BRINGS CLARITY TO **CANCER, ALZHEIMER'S**

UMMC's new PET/CT scanner is one of only eight in the world. "It's like going from rabbit ears to high definition TV," said Dr. Edward Green, PET/CT center director and assistant professor of radiology.

The system can detect tumors as small as two or three millimeters. "We're seeing things we've never been able to see before," said oncologist Dr. Ralph Vance. "For oncologists, this is the most valuable tool in our armory of fighting cancer. It gives us new insight and a really great deal of confidence in telling patients they have no evidence of disease."

Dr. Thomas Mosley, professor of medicine and director of the MIND Center, said he plans to use the new PET/CT system to study the pathology of Alzheimer's patients. With a new radioactive dye introduced in 2010, the PET/CT scanner can make the plaques in the brains of Alzheimer's patients visible. Before now, the only definitive diagnosis of Alzheimer's was possible only at autopsy.

The first patient was scanned in July 2010, and as of January 2011, more than 400 patients have benefitted from the system at the UMMC Cancer Institute at the Jackson Medical Mall Thad Cochran Center.



VANCE HONORED BY **CANCER LEAGUE**

Dr. Ralph Vance, professor of medicine, was the Season of Hope honoree at the Cancer League gala this spring. Vance has been an outspoken advocate for the prohibition of smoking in public places. He was also cited for his pivotal role in establishing Camp Rainbow, a summer camp for children with cancer now in its 28th year. Vance is also a past president of the American Cancer Society.



The obese person spends an average of 41 percent more for medical costs per year than the average patient.

MISSISSIPPI'S BIG PROBLEM

By Janis Quinn



The normal mouse, left, looks small compared to the fat, leptin-deficient mouse.

Mississippi has many problems, but it is also a place of paradox. We have one of the nation's lowest literacy rates, yet the state has produced so many award winning writers, we've stopped counting.

Many people at the University of Mississippi Medical Center hope the same will be true of obesity. We're the fattest state in the nation but we might be the most promising laboratory for finding a solution that can stop the nation's inexorable slide to obesity.

Obesity isn't just a deep South problem or a Mississippi problem. It's a nationwide trend. According to a Robert Wood Johnson Trust for America's Health report in June, 2010, just 10 years ago, not a single state reported obesity rates above 20 percent. Now there are 38 states declaring adult obesity rates above 25 percent. Thirty percent of Mississippians are obese—the highest rate in the country.

Why is being fat a problem?

For the individual, it's a "gateway" condition, leading to killers such as high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease, just to name a few. The obese person spends an average of 41 percent more for medical costs per year than the average patient.

For the nation, obesity is a major contributor to the costs of medical care, accounting for 17 percent of all medical costs annually. That's a concern for people all across the weight spectrum who worry about the national debt and how the government will pay for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in the future.



Dr. John Hall with Dr. Jussara Do Carmo, assistant professor and research assistant in physiology and biophysics.



“... I spent years trying to prove that insulin caused obesity hypertension. It did not.”

Dr. John Hall

Mississippi's **BIG** Problem

For a region's economic prosperity, it spells failure. According to the same RWJ report, businesses are reluctant to locate to areas where workers are unhealthy.

For our children, if obesity trends continue, they may be the first generation in our nation's history to be sicker and have shorter life spans than their parents.

From hypertension to obesity

If there is a solution to obesity, it will come from labs like those in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at UMMC.

With a major gift of \$2 million, the Medical Center has established the Obesity, Metabolism and Nutrition Center (OMNC) where research, clinical applications and prevention efforts can be united under one science-based umbrella. Dr. John Hall, chairman of physiology, is leading the center until a permanent director can be recruited.

“There are a lot of programs out there that may seem to be useful in treating or preventing obesity, but right now we mostly have anecdotal evidence. We need real data to know what works and what doesn't. “He hopes the obesity center will become a national leader in obesity research and clinical applications and the nexus of state efforts for prevention.

Hall began his long look at obesity during collegial visits in the 1980s with the late Dr. Herbert Langford, professor of medicine and blood pressure guru.

“He took me with him to see his patients in what was then the clinical research center. Most of his hypertensive patients were obese or at least overweight.”

Hall was convinced that elevated insulin levels associated with obesity caused salt retention leading to increased blood pressure. “Our studies were the first ever to look at the effects of chronically high insulin levels. As a matter of fact, I spent years trying to prove that insulin caused obesity hypertension. It did not.”

In 1994, Dr. Jeffrey Friedman of Rockefeller University discovered leptin, a hormone produced in fat cells. He was indebted to the work of Dr. Douglas Coleman that three decades earlier had identified an unknown factor in mutant obese mice.

Hall's team has been engaged in leptin research ever since. In fact, they were the first to show that elevated leptin levels in obese animals not only decreased appetite, but chronically raised blood pressure. Their studies also showed that elevated leptin levels may be a key link between obesity and hypertension. Obesity usually raises blood pressure, but leptin-deficient mice are fat and have normal blood pressure.

Hall calls leptin the “survival” hormone. Its regulation probably saved humans from extinction during many thousands of years when man's biggest challenge was having enough food to survive.

“If you're starving, leptin levels go down with fat stores, making you have a strong drive for food. This leptin reduction also



decreases your metabolic rate so the body doesn't use as much energy. And the lack of leptin profoundly decreases the ability to reproduce. This is all perfect for a famine state."

So why then, if leptin is so crucial to appetite, can't it be manipulated to cause a decrease in appetite for those who need to lose a few pounds?

Hall says it's because of "selective resistance" of the brain to the hormone. In the overweight or obese state, the brain is resistant to leptin's regulation of appetite. Though there's plenty of leptin produced by all that body fat, it's not decreasing appetite.

What's needed is a drug that will activate leptin's effect on appetite control, but not on blood pressure.

Hall and his colleagues are studying the pathways by which leptin goes from its fat reservoirs to the hypothalamus region of the brain where it activates the proteins that regulate body weight by decreasing appetite and increasing energy expenditure.

With 25 populations of genetically engineered mice that are designed to activate or turn off one or more of the signaling factors in the brain pathway, Hall hopes to come miles closer to understanding our relationship to food.



Dr. Rick deShazo, right, takes direction from executive producer Jenny Wilburn (standing left) during a live production of the radio show, *Southern Remedy*, that airs on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Kevin Farrell, left, is the show's co-host, and Dr. Chad Vanasselburg, behind deShazo, is the resident researcher.

"Our studies have indicated to me just how difficult weight loss can be. We're really fighting biology," said Hall. "When you go on a diet and start losing weight, leptin levels go down and increases appetite, and your starvation hormones are released, also increasing appetite. You just want to eat. These hormone changes also reduce your metabolic rate, making it even more difficult to maintain weight loss."

In a nutshell, our bodies are designed to make efficient use of the food

available and to survive famines and bad hunts, not for the abundant and heavily fat-saturated food supply of today.

A Southern Remedy

Dr. Rick deShazo, professor of medicine and pediatrics at UMMC and former chair of the department, says the reality of an expanding universe hit him about 12 years ago. That was when he came to Mississippi from the University of South Alabama.





Dr. deShazo in clinic with nurses Kristy Stevens, at computer, and Frances Christian.

“Nearly every patient on our medical service was overweight or obese. They were all very sick with complications from diabetes, had severe heart disease or stroke.”

Callers to his weekly radio show on Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Southern Remedy, were frequently suffering the effects of diabetes, heart disease and other problems related to obesity. Many were failed dieters.

MPB offered him and UMMC the opportunity to collaborate with the statewide radio and television network to produce a series of television documentaries on obesity—Southern Remedy: Mississippi’s BIG Problem—the first of which aired Feb. 23. Three others are planned, which will air at three month intervals.

“This was a fact-finding journey for me,” he said. “I didn’t know when I started what I would find. But much of what I found was very surprising.”

He discovered that overweight and obesity are far more complicated than diet purveyors would have us believe. “It’s not just a matter of self discipline and willpower. Obese people are not weak people.”

Cultural factors that seem far removed from the issue have a profound impact on the national weight gain.

The nation’s farm policy, the original intent of which was to support a stable food supply and decrease the incidence of hunger, has been successful. But that policy now needs to be re-aligned with current American dietary needs, according to a report by Center for Mississippi Health Policy.

Obesity has replaced hunger as the overriding food and nutrition issue, the report states.

According to Therese Hanna, executive director of the center, 99 percent of Mississippi's crop land grows subsidy crops. And farmers who grow fruits and vegetables on land designated for subsidy crops must pay a penalty.

According to the same report, Mississippi ranks 13th in the nation for receipt of farm commodity subsidies, but 50th in the nation in consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Farm policy has also affected what children eat in school and what they consume in the fast-food strip malls that line the highways entering most small towns in Mississippi.

According to Mike Espy, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture during President Bill Clinton's administration and former Mississippi congressman, when farmers grow more corn than the market can sell, the government buys it—actually pays for it twice—and stores it in underground warehouses in Kansas City, where it is then sold to manufacturers to make high fructose corn syrup. It's also used in the federally supported school lunch program for children from low-income families.

Dr. George Bray, chief of the Division of Clinical Obesity and Metabolism of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, La., says the main problem with high fructose corn syrup is that it's cheap and plentiful and is used in abundance in processed food. It has made hamburgers and chicken nuggets and sweet soft drinks cheaper and more readily available than fruits and vegetables and meals that can be prepared at home.

"Who can blame a mother with two or three children—pressed for time and money and energy—for depending on fast food when it's so easy to

get and so affordable?" deShazo asks.

And there are those who just don't have access to fresh foods. In both rural and urban pockets of poverty, the convenience store, gas station and fast food restaurant are the only food options available.

There are some promising trends. The dearth of locally grown fruits and vegetables has given rise to an increasing number of farmers' markets in the state where growers can sell direct to consumers. During the BP oil spill on the Gulf Coast, market manager Dita McCarty gave commercial fishermen and their families access to fresh fruits and vegetables from the market she manages in Long Beach.

Landholders of small plots or vegetable gardens are finding more markets for their produce after having been squeezed out by large grocery chains that buy in such huge quantities they have to contract with wholesalers, McCarty said. The attorney from Long Beach began growing her own



"It's not just a matter of self discipline and willpower. Obese people are not weak people."

Dr. Rick deShazo



deShazo interviews Dita McCarty in her garden for the first in a series of documentaries on obesity aired by MPB television, Southern Remedy: Mississippi's BIG Problem.



**“We can’t change
the future of
Mississippi
without everyone’s
participation.”
Dr. Rick deShazo**

Mississippi’s **BIG** Problem

vegetables out of frustration. “I couldn’t stand the way tomatoes tasted from the supermarket. For a lot of us, it starts with tomatoes.”

She and Diane Claughton of Ocean Springs now manage three farmers’ markets on the Gulf Coast.

The state boasts 53 farmers’ markets with 17 of them certified by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture in the Mississippi Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program. Families receiving assistance from the Women Infant and Children’s (WIC) program or senior citizens in the Mississippi Council on Aging programs can get fresh fruits and vegetables as part of their allotment from the state if the farmer’s market is certified.

Both policy makers and scientists agree that the state’s nutritional scale has tipped to the danger zone largely because of the scarcity of fresh fruits and vegetables in the diet and sedentary lifestyles.

According to information from the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, it takes some Delta residents 20 minutes to get to a grocery store where produce is sold. Many of them depend on fast food or convenience stores that routinely serve a smorgasbord of deep-fat-fried meats and starchy vegetables.

In areas that lack the availability of fresh and wholesome foods, the meals at school take

on even greater importance, especially when they’re potentially accountable for up to two meals per student per school day.

The state legislature enacted the Healthy Students Act in 2007 to address the state’s high rate of childhood obesity by improving nutrition, offering more physical activity and health education in public schools. The same year, the state’s Board of Education began phasing in new rules and regulation about what schools could offer in vending machines on the campuses. Today, full-calorie, carbonated soft drinks can no longer be sold to students during the school day. Cafeteria meals are better and include more vegetables and fewer fried options. In fact, data from surveys conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show Mississippi making the greatest strides among all states in removing unhealthy foods from its schools.

Obesity is especially unkind to children, not only acting as a social barrier, but setting them up for a lifetime of chronic, potentially life-threatening health problems.

And Dr. Clinton Smith, UMMC professor of pediatrics and a preventive cardiologist, knows how difficult it is to change the family dynamics when a child is overweight.

“I tried and failed,” he said. Smith ran a clinic for overweight children in an effort to pre-



vent hypertension especially. "Primary care doctors just don't have the time to devote to this problem, so my model was to spend two hours with the family on the first visit, an hour on the second visit, and follow up very closely. It was just very discouraging." But he learned, as others since have learned, that diet was just one of the factors leading to overweight and obesity in children.

"In a poor family, having an overweight child is probably the least of their problems. They're just pressed from so many sides just getting by every day."

Smith began conducting his clinic in the early 1990s well before the Healthy Students Act of 2007. But he recognized early on that schools would have to play a major role in the solution to the problem, and he may have seen more encouraging results if the patient's school had implemented the legislation fully. "School is the child's work place, and they're encouraged by peers."

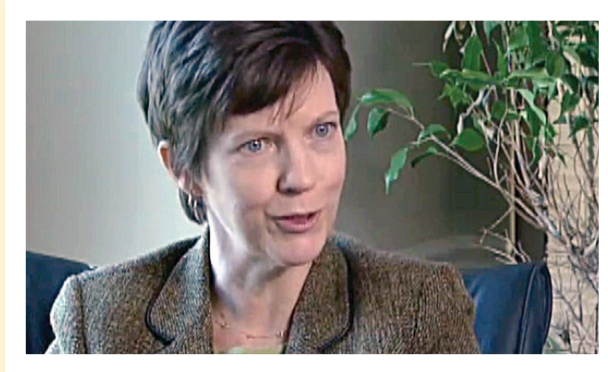
According to Therese Hanna, "Children who are not fit have lower test scores. So they do poorly in school, they don't grow up to have good jobs and aren't productive citizens, particularly if they get chronic disease and they end up on

dialysis or disabled or die early."

The schools of Desoto County were featured in "Mississippi's BIG Problem." They have instituted rigorous physical activity programs, opened up their playground and expanded it for the community's use, and bought special ovens that make baked foods taste like fried and other equipment that makes serving fresh fruits and vegetables easier.

According to the assessment of the first year of implementation of the Healthy Students Act by the MCHP, progress has been slow in some areas, rapid in others, but improvement is astounding so soon after the bill's passage into law. "If you consider that we started at 1 and we're hoping to get to ten, we're right around 5 right now. We have a long way to go, but we have come a very long way," said Hanna.

As Dr. deShazo and Dr. Hall have found, the solution to obesity is not simple. The individual alone can't create safe places for children to play outdoors as



Dr. Therese Hanna

their grandparents and even parents did. They can't control the way food gets to our plates. They can't build grocery stores in their neighborhoods or build sidewalks.

"We can't change the future of Mississippi without everyone's participation," deShazo said. **M**





Nina

The Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., is Dr. Nina Washington's new professional home. "I'm just beginning to realize it's nice to have nice weather all the time."



From the Patient End of the Stethoscope

Washington

By Janis Quinn

After nine months in Palo Alto, Calif., it's dawning on medical school alumna Dr. Nina Washington (2007) that it's nice to have nice weather all the time.

"I was getting beaten up by Chicago winters."

Now that she's looked up from her work long enough to recognize the beauty of her surroundings, she's looking forward to the next two years of her fellowship in pediatric rheumatology at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University.

After medical school, where she was a Barksdale Scholar, she completed a residency in pediatrics at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. During medical school, she took a year off to earn a master's in public health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"I saw it as a way of learning more about care for the whole community—not just the patients in my practice."

Washington has a long history with the Medical Center that began even before she started medical school. For six weeks in 1991, the Jackson native was a patient in the children's hospital. She spent two weeks in the pediatric ICU and another month on the floor. She has lupus, which has been in remission since 1997.



One of Washington's patients in the rheumatology clinics is 17-year-old Jose Penalzo.

*"I saw it as a way of learning more about care for the whole community—not just the patients in my practice."
—Nina Washington*

"The things I remember about being a patient have nothing to do with being a patient, but being a child in the hospital." She has a couple of mementos from her stay. "For some reason, I can't part with the message board nurses gave me that allowed me to communicate with them while I was intubated. I could tell them if I was sad or happy or hungry".



Mayra Cruz, left, and patient Briana Quiroga, 4, talk to Washington about how Briana is progressing. Washington spends half a day in clinic and half a day in the hospital doing rheumatology consults.

She remembers the nurses decorating her bed for Halloween and giving her a red plastic pitchfork. It had "Booty Jabber" written on it, so the 10-year-old could nudge the doctor when she wanted his attention. The booty jabber's target was Dr. Rajinder Arora, the director of the PICU at the time of her hospitalization.

Fifteen years later and many miles from Jackson, she heard a familiar voice coming from down the

Nina Washington



hall during her second year of residency in Chicago. "It was Dr. Arora. I couldn't believe it. I told him that he was my doctor many years ago. He said, 'I can't believe this is you. You were a very sick little girl.'"

She was frequently the public face of the Medical Center. She represented Batson Hospital patients at the ribbon cutting for the new Batson Hospital

six-week close-up view of medicine as a patient in the children's hospital, she had other career goals. "I wanted to be a lawyer like Claire Huxtable," the wife of Bill Cosby on the popular television comedy, "The Cosby Show." Even after she got to medical school, she was more interested in ob-gyn.

"I became interested in pediatrics, and I think rheumatology just found me. Obviously my experience had something to do with it, but I just found the whole spectrum of rheumatology illnesses fascinating."

She was always a good student, and after a high school summer program at Mississippi State University, she began to explore the biological sciences. She received her undergraduate degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, and applied to



Washington meets with Dr. Tzielan Lee, pediatric fellowship director, to discuss a patient's medical record in a work room at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. "I think rheumatology found me."

in 1997. In 2004, she spoke at the opening of the pediatric surgical addition of the children's hospital. In 2005, she appeared in a video commemorating the medical school's 100th anniversary.

Perhaps her choice of a specialty isn't surprising. Her mother also had lupus and died from complications almost two years ago. But even after a

several medical schools.

She liked UMMC best from the beginning because it was "home." Her family was here, and she felt at home with the students. "Dr. (Steve) Case (associate medical school dean for admissions) won me over in the interview, but that same night, I went to a Christmas party with some of the students. They shared each other's pain and took care of each

"It's always been my plan to come back. I hope there's a place for me down there in two years."
-Nina Washington



other. They were just very supportive of each other, and I knew I wanted that support."

Of course, being offered the Barksdale Scholarship sealed the deal.

"Medical school? Free? What's to think about?"

The Barksdale family (Jim Barksdale of Netscape and Federal Express) established several full-ticket medical school scholarships for African-American students who wanted to come back to Mississippi to practice.

"I just feel blessed to have received it. It gave me the freedom to learn without having to worry about how to pay for medical school. It did put some pressure on me, but it was positive pressure. If someone saw something in me that made them think I would be a good physician, then I wanted to work as hard as I could. I felt I owed it to the people who selected me."

She also enjoyed being close to her family during medical school. "My family made it so much easier for me. They brought supper from home when I worked late. They did my laundry. And it was wonderful to go to church on Sundays with my family and have so many people I knew praying for me."

"Nina is the perfect example of an investment well made and the impact these scholarships can have in providing access and opportunities for talented Mississippians," said Dr. Jasmine Taylor, associate vice chancellor for multicultural affairs at UMMC. "She was an excellent student who understood the human side of medicine and combined that with excellent technical skills."

Nina Washington



At the Packard Children's Hospital, she spends half her day in the hospital doing consults for rheumatology and half in the clinic, mixed with rounds and lectures.

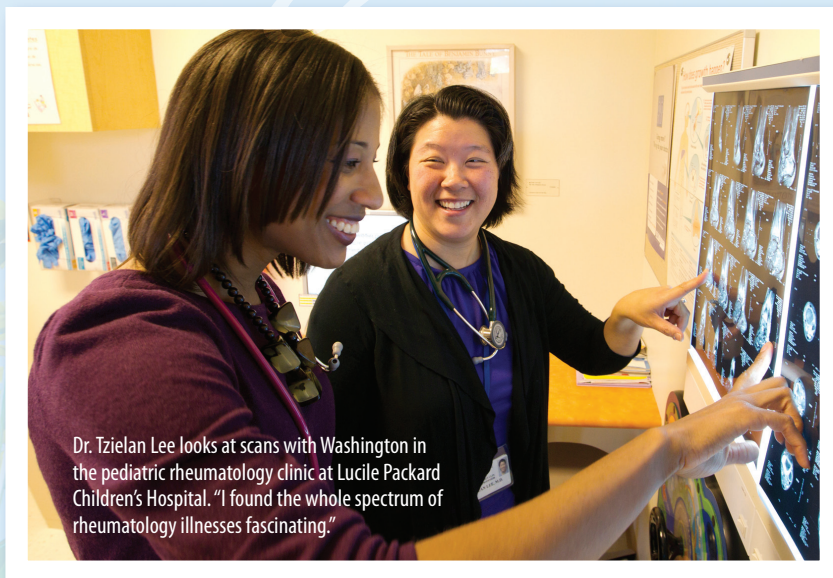
"Fellowship is a little different from residency because there's more continuity. And when you have a patient, you're their doctor. If they have a problem, they want to talk to you. I'm ready for this. I have the training, but it is still a little humbling when I find myself talking with parents about their children; especially when they are looking to you for an answer."

Though she's been on the other end of the stethoscope, she doesn't share her history with all her patients. "If I think it will help, I do. Really it's on a case-by-case basis. I told one set of parents about my illness because they were having such a hard time accepting their child's diagnosis of a chronic illness and that it was going to have to be treated with powerful medications. I told them that I had taken the same drugs when I needed them, and that this wasn't something they could fix with vitamin C and B12. I had to convince them that I believed in the therapies."

The Barksdale scholarships were established with the hope that talented physicians would stay in Mississippi.

"It's always been my plan to come back. I hope there's a place for me down there in two years."

"She talks about Mississippi and home all the time," says Dr. Joyce Hsu, one of her supervising physicians at Stanford. Hsu says she's become good



Dr. Tzielan Lee looks at scans with Washington in the pediatric rheumatology clinic at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. "I found the whole spectrum of rheumatology illnesses fascinating."

friends with Washington during her year there, as her guide to the California landscape.

"Nina's great, both personally and professionally. And she brings a new dimension to the program with her experience as a patient. She's always the consummate professional, but she has a great empathy and rapport with patients."

Hsu says Washington gives something else to patients: hope. "We're seeing these children at their worst (physically), and Nina is a testament that a chronic illness can be overcome. She was this sick, and twenty years later, she's a professional, contributing to society and achieving her dreams." **M**

The first 15 months— UMMC alum at center of the Center

If this springtime afternoon had been the future Dr. Jimmy Keeton was planning nine years ago, he would be on a golf course in Oxford.

Instead, he is living the minute-to-minute life of vice chancellor, meeting with one person or group every 20-30 minutes, answering phone calls, and waiting for the next call from the Mississippi legislature that will signal a command performance at the capitol.

But the robust 71-year-old, whose only medication is a daily aspirin, thrives on the hurly-burly, perpetual motion job.

As an associate vice chancellor from 2003 to 2009, and interim vice chancellor from 2009 to 2010, he says he thought he knew everything that went on in the vice chancellor's office. "Believe me, it's a lot different when you're sitting in the chair."

He caught the attention of Dr. Dan Jones, UMMC's vice chancellor from 2003 to 2009, while he was working with Dr. Bev Evans, chair of pediatrics, as director of the surgical services for the Children's Hospital.

Keeton, a pediatric urologist, had the job of bringing together all the pediatric

surgical specialists to plan the two-floor addition on the children's hospital. "I spent an entire year talking to representatives of every discipline who would operate there to learn the specific needs of each."

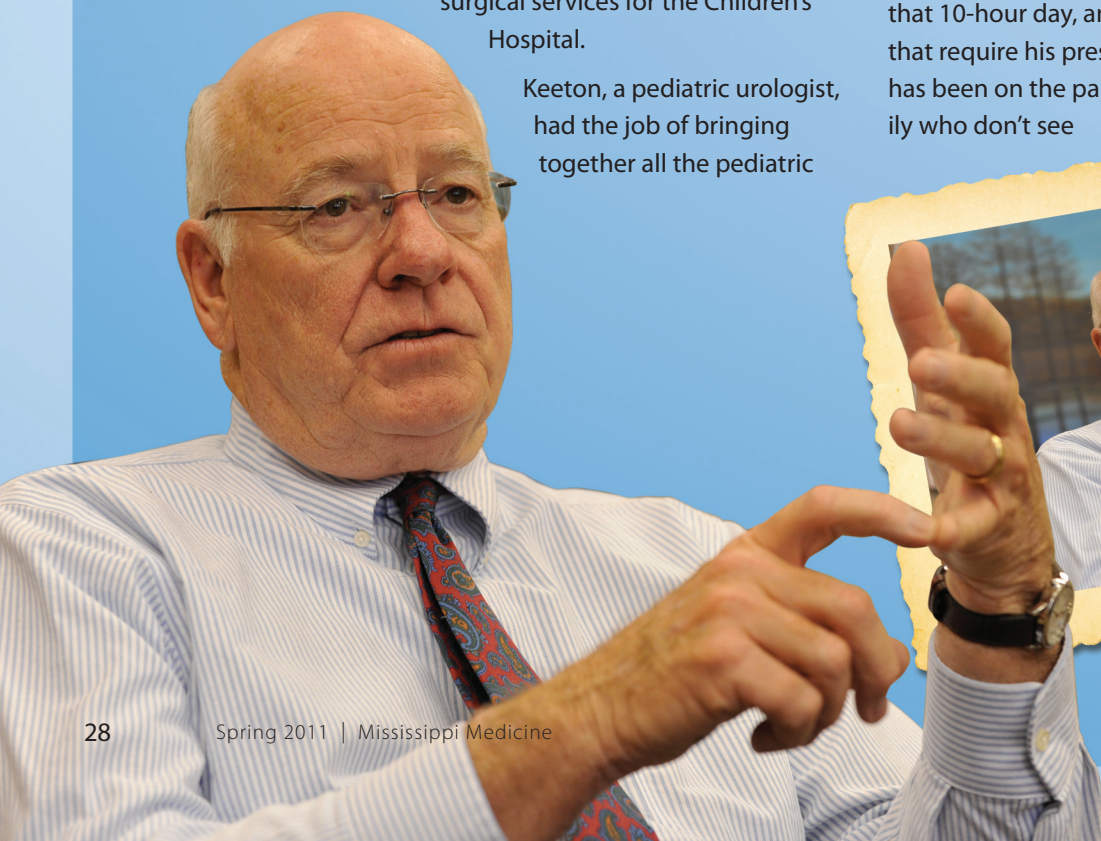
Keeton says he and Jones worked through some very difficult issues together and became good friends. Jones asked Keeton to be his associate vice chancellor in 2003.

That was when Keeton had to make the decision to postpone his retirement plans to move to Oxford.

"We had a house built there, ready to move. I was planning to play golf, be a midway point with grandchildren in Nashville and Jackson, and take the occasional free course at Ole Miss.

"I couldn't say no to Dan. He became one of my best friends. I told him I would do it for two years, then retire." Two years came and went, and Keeton now holds a job as vast in responsibility as CEO of a major corporation.

His routine is to get up at 5:30 a.m., be in the office by 7:30, and leave at 5:30 p.m. He rarely gets a break during that 10-hour day, and often has night duty at events that require his presence. He says the real adjustment has been on the part of his family who don't see



as much of him as they once did. "Jona (Keeton's wife) has been a real champion. She can't retire until I do."

The vice chancellor has absolutely no regrets about filling his current post and calls himself a "lucky man."

"I am surrounded by many good people at many levels who I depend on and trust to help me make the decisions that will be good for the Medical Center and the state."

Keeton believes his most urgent call is to keep the Medical Center sustainable. "We can't go away. We have to be here and we have to grow to meet the desperate needs of the state."

Mississippi still has the lowest ratio of physician-to-population in the country and the worst health-care disparities. "We have 9,000 employees who can help correct both problems, and it's our moral responsibility to do so."

He has also been concerned with getting an important message to both the legislature and the public about how important it is from an economic standpoint for the Medical Center to thrive and grow.

There's nothing like that connection with patients and the camaraderie in the operating room.

"If we were not here, the economy of both Jackson and the state would be severely threatened."

Though the legislative appropriation makes up about 15 percent of the Medical Center's budget, it is absolutely essential to the educational programs. "When a legislator or the governor has a question about our budget, they don't want it explained in an e-mail or by phone. They want to talk face-to-face with the person in charge."

Keeton is an Ole Miss grad (1961) and UMMC alum (1965). He is the fourth UMMC medical school graduate to be the dean of a medical school. Jones, his predecessor was the third. Dr. Ponjola Coney (1978) was the first. She was dean of Meharry Medical School, and Dr.

Ocie Harris (1966), the second. He was the first dean at Florida State University's medical school.

"I feel as though I know most of our medical school alumni. I've either taught them or been their medical colleague. I share with them that special relationship with patients that we're blessed to have. They all know what a sacred bond it is, especially when you see and care for a patient through a long and difficult night."

And that is the one thing he misses in his present job.

"There's nothing like that connection with patients and the camaraderie in the operating room."

In a way, the instructions he once gave to his OR personnel when everyone was scrubbed and ready, are the same he would give himself now.

"I would tell everyone before we started that we're here to do two things: to help this baby and to have a good time. So put on the James Taylor and let's get going. And if you're not having a good time you should probably get out." **M**





the face of PEDIATRICS

Retiring Pediatric Chair Steps Down with Goals Fulfilled

By Patrice Guilfoyle

Dr. Owen "Bev" Evans may appear to be the kind of person who will slip off to his library on retirement. But his quiet, deliberate manner and "bookish" looks belie his propensity for movement.





Evans with patient Peter Nunnelee

“We don’t want our children to leave the state to get their care”

Dr. Owen Evans

This is a man who’s rarely still, says the person who knows him best, his wife Lynn.

So having retired as chair of the Department of Pediatrics and medical director of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at UMMC, the job he’s had for 22 years, he won’t be resting on his laurels, though there are many.

He joined the faculty in 1983 and became the second chair of the department succeeding his mentor and friend, Dr. Blair E. Batson.

He has an enviable record of accomplishments. In his tenure, a new children’s hospital, a two-floor surgical addition to that hospital—both the only facilities of their kind in the state—and the Eli Manning Children’s Clinics were completed. Construction is under way on a new pediatric emergency department. He has added many new pediatric programs included the hospital school. He had great success at recruiting pediatric specialists. In 1989,

the pediatrics department had 19 physicians; currently 80 physicians work in the department.

He led all those efforts while still seeing patients in the clinic.

Evans’ motivation was a desire to provide Mississippi’s children with the best health care available right here at home. He graciously acknowledges the help of countless volunteers and donors but he was often the face of Batson Hospital during this critical growth period.

Borrowing from his artistic talents, Evans’ satisfaction comes from turning a vision into a reality.

“I like to make things. To me, that was the most fun, to seize the opportunities to grow something for the state. We don’t

want our children to have to leave the state to get their care,” he said.

A 1973 graduate of the Vanderbilt University Medical School, Evans completed an internship at Children’s Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle. He spent two years in the U.S. Naval Medical Corps and returned to Vanderbilt for postgraduate training in pediatrics and neurology.

With his appointment as chair, Evans requested that a new fundraising organization for the hospital be formed, Friends of Children’s Hospital. The organization has contributed more than \$6.8 million to the hospital since its inception.

Suzan Thames, one of the first members of the Friends Board, remembers when Evans asked her to help estab-

lish and lead the fundraising group. She said she had no idea how ambitious his plans were for the hospital.

“He just kept plugging and plugging and said we could do it. His whole spirit, his whole attitude was we could do it. He made me a believer. He set the bar for us, and we intended to meet every aspiration,” she said.

Through community involvement and coalitions, the physical expansion of Batson Hospital began to take shape. Evans brought together the groups who wanted to help achieve the goal of a stand-alone children’s hospital—the Junior League of Jackson, the Ronald McDonald House, Candlelighters, and the Children’s Miracle Network.

The Junior League raised the funds to create the



Emily Young, M4, Dr. Bill Hannigan, Evans, Jane Criddle, Dr. Betsy Herrington



BARR TABBED TO LEAD PEDS DEPARTMENT

Dr. Rick Barr has been named chair of the Department of Pediatrics, effective July 1. Dr. Frederick (Rick) Barr is currently endowed professor of pediatrics in pediatric critical care medicine at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where he is also director of clinical and translational research.

Barr said he looks forward to working with and serving the UMMC faculty, staff, residents, students and community partners to improve the health of children in Mississippi.

"I know that we are poised to become a regional and national leader in quality clinical care, education and research," he said. "I am thoroughly impressed by the dedication of both the institution and the community to the future growth of pediatric services and to improving the lives of children."

Barr received his medical degree from the University of Virginia and completed residency training in pediatrics at Vanderbilt University, where he also earned the M.S. in clinical investigation. He completed a fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic in 1991, and around that time, Evans promoted the idea that floors needed to be added to the top of the cancer clinic. The five floors were completed in 1997 and became the Batson Hospital. Another two floors were added in 2004 for the pediatric surgery programs.

With construction projects in the works, Evans began adding to the department's faculty, hiring pediatric specialists and working with community pediatricians to build relationships. "We're very fortunate to bring back the best and the brightest to take care of our children," Evans said.

One of the faculty members who joined the department during the growth was Dr. James Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs at UMMC. He was a pediatric urologist under Evans.

"For several years, I was Dr. Keeton's boss," Evans said with a smile.

Keeton said he became very close to Evans, helping him build the pediatric surgery program and traveling with him around the state to visit community pediatricians.

"Bev's No. 1 accomplishment besides improving facilities, which he did, was to increase the number of general pediatricians in the state. He moved pediatric care up to an incredibly high level. That is a huge legacy," Keeton said.

Evans adopted Batson's motto of children aren't just small adults. That guiding philosophy is behind

the work of ensuring the hospital has modern, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities tailored especially for children.

Evans said his wife Lynn is his biggest supporter. "Without her, I would not have been able to do what I did," he said.

A writer and frequent columnist, Lynn Evans is a health-care activist and an outspoken advocate for the health needs of Mississippi's children. She said her husband wanted the hospital to belong to the community and serve as a source of pride in the state. He also wanted a hospital that takes care of all children, no matter who they are or where they live.

"When he has a vision, not only can he see where he needs to go but he's very good at planning how to get there," Lynn Evans said. "When we first came here people didn't realize the importance of getting specialty care for children. Now we have a community who knows where Children's Hospital is and wants to

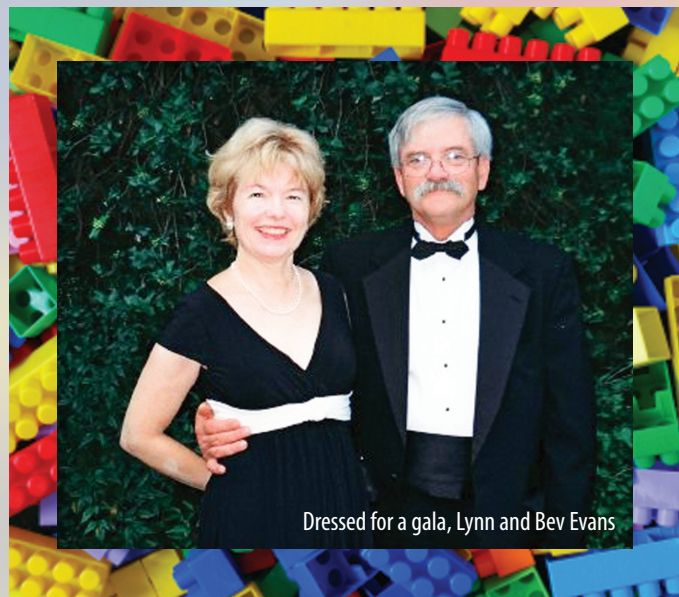
support it. That was really his vision."

Lynn Evans said relinquishing his duties as chair won't slow Evans down. He likes to build furniture, make wooden toys for their grandson and travel. Evans, who has been painting since he was a child, regularly donates paintings for charity art auctions. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of these pieces benefit the charities.

Creating something for others to enjoy has been Evans' inspiration. Now, he said, it's someone else's turn to lead the Department of Pediatrics into the next phase of growth into academic and research programs.

Evans is grateful for every donor and volunteer who made Batson Hospital what it is today. From the chicken dinners to the 5-mile walks, they all matter to him.

"When you give of your time and efforts and money, you want to know it made a difference. What they did made a difference," he said. **M**



Dressed for a gala, Lynn and Bev Evans

PROFESSOR ALUM

GETS ACP'S HIGHEST HONOR

Patrice Guilfoyle

Dr. Joe Files (1972), professor of medicine and director of the Division of Hematology at UMMC, has received mastership standing in the American College of Physicians, joining a select group of Mississippi physicians who have received the national organization's highest recognition.

"It's really quite a unique honor for me to receive this award. For service, this is the highest honor they bestow," Files said.

The ACP is the largest medical-specialty organization and second-largest physician group in the United States. Its membership of 130,000 includes internists, internal medicine subspecialists and medical students, residents and fellows. The group's goal is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.

Four Mississippians, all UMMC faculty, have received mastership since it was established in 1923. They include Dr. Robert Blount, Dr. Harper Hellums, Dr. Peter Blake and Dr. James Achord.

To qualify for ACP mastership, a physician must be a fellow in the organization, be highly accomplished in their professions and be distinguished by the excellence and significance of their contributions to the field of medicine.

Files is modest about his nomination.

"A lot of people must have perjured themselves for me to get it," he said.

Dr. Shirley Schlessinger, interim chair of the Department of Medicine, disagrees. Files exemplifies the attributes required for the recognition and more, she said. The ACP Mastership status is awarded sparingly and only to remarkable physicians who have dedicated their careers to excellence in patient care, a passion for educating the next generation of physicians, and a commitment to expanding medical knowledge.

"Dr. Joe Files unquestionably deserves and has brought honor to our department and to our institution in receiving this prestigious title and tribute," she said. "He is truly a 'master' of medicine, an excellent role model for all of us in our profession."

A native Mississippian and University of Mississippi graduate, Files completed his residency at UMMC in internal medicine, including a year as chief resident. He then attended the University of Washington in Seattle for his hematology fellowship, where his primary focus was in the field of bone marrow transplant. He returned to join the Medical Center faculty in 1979.

Files has been an active member in the ACP for more than 30 years and served as the governor of Mississippi for the college from 2001-05. His primary focus has been patient care and resident education.

Dr. Stephanie Elkins, professor of medicine, has known Files since 1987 when she was an internal medicine resident. She said he was the reason she decided to go into hematology/oncology.

"He trained me and then hired me," she said. "He's the reason I do what I do.

"He's just one of those consummate physicians, possessing the clinical skills, the knowledge and the compassion."

Elkins also said Files has been instrumental in developing hematology/oncology in Mississippi.

"Many of those who practice hem/onc in the state trained with him or under him. That's a great legacy," she said.



Dr. Joe Files

ENDOWED CHAIRS HONOR

Great Legacies

Three fully endowed chairs at the Medical Center pay tribute to three people who have made lasting contributions to the institution.

THE D. JEANETTE PULLEN CHAIR of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology honors the professor emeritus who was director of

the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic and who started the program and nurtured it into the asset it is today.

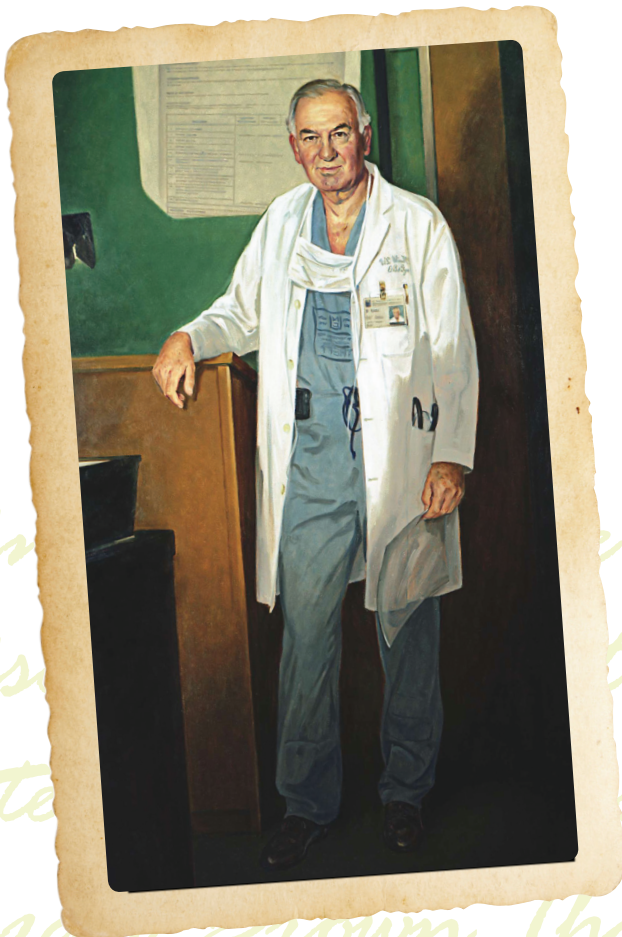
THE SUZAN BROWN THAMES CHAIR OF PEDIATRICS recognizes exceptional and unwavering support of the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children through grassroots philanthropy and volunteerism.

THE WINFRED L. WISER CHAIR OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY is a memorial to the man who built one of the strongest academic programs in ob-gyn in the country and whose passion for women's health was the driving force behind the Wiser Hospital for Women and Infants.

Nearly 400 of Wiser's former trainees and colleagues, under the leadership of Dr. Rodney Meeks, current holder of the Winfred Wiser Chair, have succeeded in raising the funds to fully endow the chair.

"This was a real grassroots effort, and it reflects how highly respected he was, not only by the people he trained, but by physicians in practice all over the state," Meeks said.

When Wiser became chair, he rescued a languishing department that had difficulty filling its residency slots and turned it into one of the most competitive programs in the country. He started the first research endowment in a medical school department



The portrait of Wiser by Marshall Bouldin. It hangs in the Wiser Hospital.

Winfred L. Wiser • D. Jeanette Pullen • Suzan Brown Thames • Winfred L. Wiser

and repaired the broken relationship between the department and practicing physicians.

Meeks said Wiser was also one of the most renowned surgeons of our time, but few people other than his patients and his colleagues knew of his reputation. His surgical specialty was correction of vaginal bulges, urinary incontinence and congenital abnormalities of the reproductive organs. His patients came from all over the United States.

Pullen played a leadership role in many cooperative clinical studies with the Children's Oncology Group. This clinical research, pooled with research from other pediatric cancer programs across the nation has brought the cure rates for acute lymphocytic leukemia up to 80 percent.

She recognized early in her career that community support could make a difference in the lives of the patients she treated, and she played a major part in the development of a Junior League of Jackson volunteer

program that eventually led to the League sponsorship of a major fundraising campaign that raised \$2 million to build a separate clinic for children with suppressed immune systems.

Thames began her association with the Batson Hospital as a League volunteer where she met and became friends with Pullen. She and Pullen worked side by side in the campaign to build the clinic. Thames also helped create the Friends of Children's Hospital, the nonprofit group that supports and promotes awareness of the hospital and was a driving force in raising funds for the new children's hospital (1997). Friends has raised more than \$6.8 million to help fund various projects throughout the hospital. **M**



Pullen, left, and Thames on the construction site of the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic.



Pullen and Thames in front of the mural in the Children's Cancer Clinic.

*... Suzan Brown Thames
... Suzan Brown Thames • Winfred L. Wiser • D. Jeanette Pullen • Suzan Brown*

1960s

William (Bill) M. McKell (1962) is retired from active practice but does some part-time coding for the Singing River Health System and volunteers as the medical director of a free clinic for the uninsured. (Volunteers in Medicine Gautier www.vimgautier.org) After medical school, he interned at Wilford Hall U.S.A.F. Hospital, served two years as a flight surgeon and came back to UMMC for an internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship. He practiced until 1996 in Jackson, Houston and Pascagoula. He was also on the clinical faculty in the GI division at UMMC.

1970s

Thomas Jeffcoat (1973) was elected president of the Mississippi Orthopaedic Society at the annual meeting in Biloxi. He practices with the Orthopaedic Clinic of Southwest Mississippi in McComb. He has been on the active staff of Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center since 1979 and is a former chief of staff. He serves as medical director of the

Kings Daughters wound care clinic. He earned the B.S. at the University of Mississippi and completed internship at Baylor University. He completed residency training at UMMC and at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.



Dan Shell (1974) owns the Shell Cosmetic Surgery Center in Memphis. He completed residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Tennessee in 1981 and was a partner in the plastic surgery practice until he began his own practice in 2003. He attended Murrah High School and the University of Tennessee.



Donald E. Williamson (1979), state health officer for the Alabama Department of Public Health, was one of seven elected officials and government employees to receive Nathan Davis Awards from the American Medical Association. The awards recognize people who went above and beyond the call of duty to im-



University Chancellor **Dr. Dan Jones**, left, with **Dr. Hubert Spears**, president of the Medical Alumni Chapter, at the breakfast for past presidents at the Brandt Memory House at the University of Mississippi during November homecoming events.



Geoff Mitchell, left, director of Alumni Affairs at UMMC, and **Dr. Frank Bowen**, center, with **Dr. John Cook**, right, at the medical alumni chapter past presidents' breakfast during Ole Miss homecoming.

prove public health. Williamson has been state health officer since 1992, having previously served as director of the Bureau of Preventive Health Services and the director of disease control. He was the tuberculosis control officer for the Mississippi State Department of Health until his move to Alabama in 1986. He has been president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (1997-1998) and has served on its executive committee. In 1998, he received the Internist of the Year Award from the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine. Williamson completed residency in internal medicine at the University of Virginia.

1980s

Lance Line (1988) received subspecialty certification in sports medicine from the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He practices with Southern Bone and Joint Specialists in Hattiesburg. He completed residency training in orthopedics at UMMC and a one-year fellowship in sports medicine and arthroscopy in Richmond, Va., where he also interned with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He is a team physician for the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University and Pearl River Community College.

Michael Mansour (1984) was recently elected Mississippi governor of the American College of Cardiology. He is a cardiologist at the Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville. After medical school, he did postgraduate training at Ochsner Clinic, the University of Florida and Harvard Medical School. He was on the faculty at the University of Florida and Emory University before establishing his practice in Greenville in 1998.

Send us your lives

We're looking for more and more class notes. If you didn't get your news in this issue, send it for the next. Let your classmates know what you've been doing since graduation or the last class reunion. Be sure to include the name you used in school, the year you graduated, and if possible, a digital photo of yourself.

We also welcome your story ideas, subjects you'd like to see covered in these pages or a graduate you know who would make an interesting profile.

Send class notes, story ideas and photos to mwesterfield@umc.edu or mail to

Matt Westerfield
Division of Public Affairs
University of Mississippi Medical Center
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216-4505



William J. (Jim) Phillips (1986) will begin a critical care fellowship at Vanderbilt this July. He is currently associate professor of emergency medicine and is program director for the emergency medicine residency. He works part-time in the UMMC pediatric intensive care unit. Before his appointment to the UMMC faculty he was director of the pain clinic and program director of the pain fellowship at Mayo Clinic. He is a colonel in the U.S. Army. For many years he has been a member of the 20th Special Forces Group and served as a physician for deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. He received the Bronze Star, the Mississippi Magnolia Cross and the Army Legion of Merit. He is enrolled in the Army War College.



The annual Margie Bulboff Memorial golf tournament, sponsored by the Medical Alumni Chapter, was attended by **Christine** and **Tom Darby**, her son and daughter and law. **Bulboff** worked in the student affairs office for many years and was a great friend of students.

Jeffrey Todd Willis (1989) has joined the family medicine practice in Neshoba County, the Neshoba County Medical Arts Clinic. He completed internship at UMMC in 1990 and began practicing in Neshoba County in 1994. He was the Neshoba county General Hospital emergency department director from 1997-2000.

2000s

Son Lam (2003) joined Oxford Nephrology Associates in Oxford in 2009. He attended Corinth High School and the University of Mississippi. He completed a residency in med-peds at UMMC as well as a fellowship in nephrology.

Emily Vigour (2003) of Winona and Brian King of New Orleans were married Jan. 15 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Winona. Vigour is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College. She practices pediatrics in Marrero, La.

In Memoriam

George Glaucus Armstrong Jr. (Certificate, 1954) died February 24 in Beaumont, Texas. A native of Houston, Miss., he graduated from Ole Miss, earned the certificate in medicine at Ole Miss and earned the M.D. at the University of Illinois in 1956. Armstrong began his career at UMMC in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics where he is credited with perfecting one of the early heart pumps. Most of his career was spent with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration where he did research and served as a physician

in the manned space flight program. He designed instruments to monitor physical conditions and reactions of the astronauts while in space. He received awards at NASA for his work with the Gemini support team, Apollo flight 7 operations, medical research, lunar landing team, Sky-Lab planning and Sky-Lab medical teams. After leaving NASA, he worked for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture until he retired in 1984.

James Murray Brock, Sr. (1942) died at his home in McComb on Feb. 4. He was 91. After receiving the BA and a medical certificate at Ole Miss, he transferred to Harvard. His medical training was interrupted for two years when he contracted rheumatic fever. After his recuperation he enrolled at Tulane and completed the requirements for the M.D. in 1947. After a rotating internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, he returned to McComb where he was in general practice from 1948-1960. He completed a fellowship in dermatology

In Memoriam continued

at Louisiana State University Medical School while maintaining his practice in McComb. In 1960, he opened the Brock Skin Clinic where he practiced dermatology until June 2010. He was one of the earliest practitioners of the Mohs micrographic surgical technique, and residents came from Mayo Clinic, LSU, and Tulane to be trained by Brock in his clinic. He was also a gifted musician throughout his life, and in 1990 created the Dr. Jim's One More Time Band, which traveled the South playing big band, classic jazz and show tunes.

Van Robinson Burnham Jr. (1942) died at his home in Clarksdale on Dec. 4, 2010. He was 90. After completing the two-year medical curriculum at Ole Miss, he transferred to Northwestern University in Chicago to finish medical school. He interned and completed a pathology residency at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. He retired from practice in 2003. He delivered babies until 1962, made house calls for many more years and was the team doctor for the Clarksdale Wildcats. He served on the board of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and was an active supporter of the University of Mississippi Foundation for the Civil War Museum. He also served as president of the North Delta Museum's board of trustees.

Henry Frank Howell II (1971) died Feb. 27 at his home in Brandon. He was 65. He was a graduate of Mississippi State

University. He practiced family medicine for more than 30 years in south Jackson.

John E. Lindley (1950) died Jan. 27 at his home in Marion. He was 84. He held the B.S. from the University of Mississippi and a medical certificate from the two-year curriculum. He transferred to Harvard where he earned the M.D. He completed residency training in ob-gyn and was chief resident at Jeff Davis Hospital in Houston, Texas. He served on the ob-gyn faculty at both Baylor and UMMC. He practiced ob-gyn in Meridian for 33 years. He was the first mayor of Marion, inventor of the Lindley I newborn resuscitator and the Lindley II neonatal resuscitator, TOILEFRESH, a patented toilet odor removal system and the holder of 17 patents. He was a member of the Guardian Society, the Wiser Society, the Sons of the American Revolution and Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Dr. William C. "Chappie" Pinkston (1974), professor of medicine at UMMC, died March 5. Services were March 11 in Jackson. Pinkston was medical director of Intensiview, the remote monitoring system for the intensive care unit, and director of the Sleep Disorders Center at the G.V. Sonny Montgomery V.A. Medical Center. He completed internship, medicine residency and pulmonary fellowship at UMMC.

He was past president of the Mississippi Thoracic Society, a fellow and Mississippi governor of the American College of

Chest Physicians. He joined the faculty in 2007.

Thomas Homer Horton (1970) died on March 4 in Tupelo after a brief illness. A native of Grenada, he first attended Mississippi State University, then the University of Mississippi to study pre-med. A board certified anesthesiologist, he practiced with the Tupelo Anesthesia Group from 1970 through 2002 and was managing partner from 1990-2000. He served as medical officer for the 134 Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, U.S. National Guard from 1967-1973. From 1993-1998, he was coordinator and clinical instructor of the Tupelo site of the University of Alabama School of Nurse Anesthesia. He served as medical director of the North Mississippi Surgery Center from 1986-2002. In 2002, he became medical director for HealthLink Preferred Provider Organization, medical director for Acclaim and NurseLink.

Charles Lee Wilkinson (1969) died Jan. 5 in Meridian. He graduated from Meadville High School and earned a degree in pharmacy from the University of Mississippi where he also earned the M.D. After completing a pathology residency at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, he moved to Meridian where he practiced medicine for 37 years.

Upcoming Alumni Events

June 17

ALUMNI MEETING
6:30 p.m.
Grand Hotel
Point Clear, Ala.

June 21

YOUNG PHYSICIANS RECEPTION
MSMA meeting
6 p.m.
San Destin, Fla.

August 26-27

MEDICAL CLASS REUNIONS

Friday
11 a.m.
Lunch and Campus Tours

Friday
6 p.m.
Reception
Old Capitol Museum

Saturday
7 p.m.
Dinner
Country Club of Jackson

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