

Healthcare in the 21st Century

COSAM Rises To The Top



COSAM Mission Statement

The mission of the Auburn University College of Sciences and Mathematics is three-fold: to *teach* by providing an environment that ensures excellence in the biological, physical, and mathematical sciences for the purpose of preserving, interpreting, and conveying existing knowledge; to *research* by creating, integrating, and applying new knowledge; and to *reach out* to others by fostering educational exchange within the university, the Alabama community, and society as a whole.



Pathways

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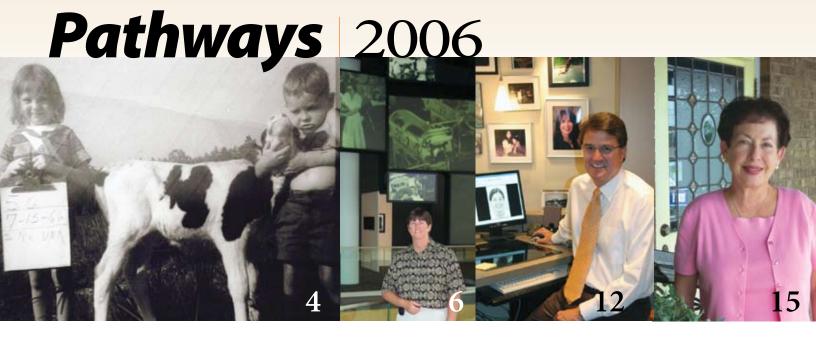
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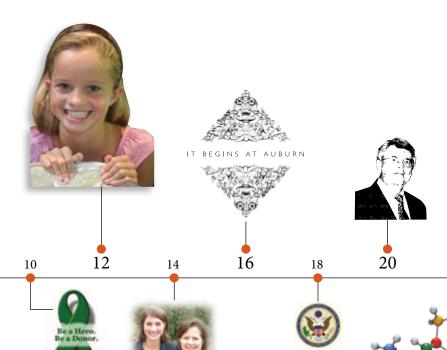


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COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

MESSAGE

From the Dean

By showcasing the career directions that COSAM alums have pursued since leaving the Plains, *Pathways* provides us a way to glimpse into the successes of our extended COSAM family. This issue has as its focus those alums who are participating in some way as trailblazers in healthcare at the dawn of the 21st century.

Each year the college presents a copy of the Auburn Creed to its graduating student ambassadors, the COSAM Leaders. It is our hope that the words of this inspiring document will serve as a guide for their post-Auburn lives in much the same way they have for **Lisa Harper** ('85). Lisa, an employee at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has coupled her desire to help people in need with her perseverance to fulfill her ambitions by playing a central role in coordinating the details of the transport, study and analysis of lethal viruses and other hazardous organisms.

You will see how Dr. **David Sarver** ('73) has used his talents to bring science and art together in his worldly acclaimed orthodontic practice. He has developed an integrative 3-dimensional facial mapping process to set in place a plan that meets his patients' needs without the use of x-ray analysis. By taking facial measurements he can obtain images of a patient over time and superimpose them to measure how the face changes and adapt his treatment to this study. He credits much of his success to the mentoring that came forth from his childhood orthodontist and from faculty influence as a student at Auburn University.

Atlanta surgeon Dr. Marty Sellers ('84) finds that the strong 24/7 work ethic that accompanied his childhood farm life formed the basis of his commitment to the quality of life of his patients. Dr. Sellers also acknowledges the significant mentoring role faculty at Auburn University played in setting the foundation for his career. Initially, a pre-vet major, he credits these experiences in spawning a change of majors and shaping his true passion for medicine.

A change in majors did not take place during the Auburn academic career of Martin Dalton ('53). For as long as he could remember he wanted to be a physician with his sights on surgery. While this ambition has been fulfilled, Dr. Dalton's early training provided him with valuable lessons. For example, his residency at the Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi saw him as part of a team performing early pioneering work on lung transplants. On the night in which their approach was to be carried out on a human for the first time, Dr. Dalton was called to the hospital emergency room to tend to a gunshot victim. Unfortunately, the wounds were so extreme that the patient, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, did not survive. Needless to say, Dr. Dalton's career has been associated with some very significant historic events.

Two Auburn alums, one from COSAM (Linda Stone, '79) and another with a degree from the College of Education (Glenda Albright, '70), have recognized the importance of studying in the College of Sciences and Mathematics by giving back. With Linda, a change from pre-engineering to a pre-med curriculum launched a successful career as a Birmingham pediatrician. Together with her husband, Jeff, she acknowledges Auburn's strong academic programs with a life insurance commitment to benefit future generations of COSAM students. Glenda Albright speaks highly of the professors and staff of COSAM and the interest and personal attention they show the college's students, in particular her son Matt, a COSAM graduate. Matt finished in the top five of a class of 165 in medical school. Glenda and her husband Karl have given back by providing a financial gift to COSAM to assist current and future students in reaching similar academic successes.

We also include a thoughtful essay from COSAM alum **David Hagan** ('65), who is now retired following a career as a prominent physician in Auburn. David continues as a dedicated member of the College's Leadership (formerly Advisory) Council.

This issue of *Pathways* would not be complete without featuring the four most recent COSAM alums who were *USA Today* Academic All-Americans. They all began their paths toward healthcare with a firm academic grounding while at Auburn.

It is exciting stories such as these that inspire us in COSAM to reach ever further in nurturing the talents of our students. As alums, they make us very proud. I hope you enjoy following the pathways in this issue.

Stewart W. Schneller Dean and Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry



f I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."



Clay McEntire '07 Margaret Malone Baskerville '78 first woman to earn Ph.D.









Anjali Gandhi '07 Rob Pate '02 UAB School of Optometry







Major General Kenneth Farmer '72 Commander General, Walter Reed Army Medical Center





Lawyers, Doctors, CEOs, Dentists, Athletes, Researchers, Leaders, COSAM has produced a wide range of success stories — giants in their respective vocations, both in and out of the spectrum of science and mathematics. Over 10,000 COSAM alumni have established a high standard that challenges current and future students to continue their pursuit of excellence. Imagine how far the next generation of COSAM giants will see standing on the shoulders of the College of Sciences and Mathematics' accomplished alumni.



COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

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CUC Of UMILU By Timothy Meeks

In his study of virtue, Dr. Marty Sellers, Biology '84, has encountered a true paradox in the writings of one of America's great philosophers. The author, in the autobiography *The Private Life of the Late Benjamin Franklin*, listed 13 virtues he tried to master, the most difficult being humility. Franklin mused, as he began to master the virtue, he would become proud of his accomplishment – hence the paradox. However, for Franklin, Sellers and all of us, the degree of humility developed is often gauged by those around us.

The ease at which Marty Sellers gives credit for his accomplishments to his parents, farm roots, supportive family and lifelong network of

peers, teachers and mentors is truly remarkable. As Sellers recalls his journey from a Millerville, Ala. farm to his medical office in the sprawling Piedmont Hospital complex in midtown Atlanta, his reflections often center on those he has encountered along the way. Successful operations are not recounted for their surgical acumen, but for the lasting impact on his patient's quality of life. For many of Sellers pediatric patients, his biggest accomplishments are not on display in the recovery room, but on the playground.

Sellers is an accomplished transplant surgeon and one might expect to find his office adorned with accolades. Instead, you see photos of his family, drawings from his children and other simple reminders of what is important in his life – including a miniature John Deere tractor that connects him to his formative years

on the farm where he learned the meaning of "on-call" well before his medical school peers.

Life on a Millersville Farm

"On the farm, you are on call 24/7 – every day of the year," remembers Sellers. "The cows needed to be milked and they didn't know Christmas or the 4th of July." With a family dairy operation with over 400 head of cattle, Sellers worked hard on the farm from sun up to sun down. That was, at least, until his father got a tractor with lights. With a fond recognition of that period of his life, Sellers remembers being kept company by the radio broadcast of Auburn football games. "I can still hear the call of the game where Charlie Thomas threw a pass to Byron Franklin that won Homecoming - that was the play that sealed the deal. That game, and of course, the infamous punt Bama punt game that put me on cloud nine."

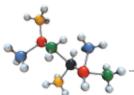
In addition to a strong work ethic, life on the farm prepared Sellers for college and his future vocation in ways he never imagined. "With science, I developed a natural curiosity of how things worked. There was a good fit with physics as well – many of the concepts, including momentum, I had experienced on the farm." With a laugh, Sellers said, "When a tractor is going out of control down a hill, you get a good sense of slope and momentum."

With ambitions of becoming a large animal veterinarian, Seller's decision to attend Auburn was easy. The home of his favorite college football team also provided excellent academic opportunities. The challenge for Sellers would be the move from a rural high school to a major university.

Transition to the Big Town

Relative to Millerville, Ala. (population 215), Auburn was a very big town to Sellers. With 28 people in his high school graduating class, the first history class he took at Auburn University had more people than his entire prep school – grades 1-12. However, Sellers quickly embraced Auburn, even with the size and pace

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of the class work. "Looking back, I probably should have been scared – but I wasn't smart enough to be scared. I just jumped in, hung on and it worked out great."

Sellers credits those around him, both former professors and fellow students, with making his Auburn experience so significant. "I had fraternity brothers that served as mentors and faculty members, including Dr. Larry Wit, who took an interest in me. There are undergraduate courses that I recall to this day, including domestic animal physiology, which served as a segue for me to move from vet med to pre-med."

The atmosphere and diversity of Auburn left a lasting impact on Sellers. "Being able to interact with people from all over the country was very significant to me.

My background was as different as those



around me and it was kind of a melting pot," remembers Sellers. "But we all shared the Auburn experience – which is easy to understand, but hard to describe." Sellers is willing to share most of his Auburn stories, but says that like most college students, "there are a few I don't want Mom to know –actually, now that I think about it, I think she knows them all."

University of Alabama, Birmingham Medical School presented a new set of challenges for Sellers. But he was soon able to see the value in his undergraduate work. "We were in gross anatomy class and I was talking to my roommate, also an Auburn grad, and our discussion on anatomy and physiology was overheard by guys from Harvard and Vanderbilt. They were both bookworms and were looking through the textbook so they could highlight the information we were discussing. When they asked us where we got the information, we said, 'Auburn."

An Accomplished Transplant Surgeon

Out of medical school and deeply involved in his resident rotations, Sellers traces his interest in kidney function back to an Auburn lecture on countercurrent exchange mechanisms by Dr. Wit. "What I had learned (at Auburn) was making sense; and now seeing patients with these things and hearing nephrologists talk about the issues and about certain diuretics and how they work made so much more sense to me. That is what got me interested in transplant. I've always been curious and felt challenged by the things I did not initially understand."

The drive to understand and grow expanded Sellers' interest to liver transplants. "Immunology is a critical part of transplant because of rejection,

and probably one of the more difficult organs to physiologically understand is the liver. Because of that, I thought, 'I have just got to figure this organ out,'" said Sellers.

Sellers put his drive to understand into action and has practiced surgery successfully for close to 10 years (sidebar). His skills as a transplant surgeon have been tested by patients as small as infants weighing less than 12 lbs. On a daily basis, Sellers deals with life and death

issues. Often, he is questioned by the anxious parents of children he operates on regarding "what to expect in the future." Sellers loves to respond: "Expect them to break curfew when they are fifteen, expect to buy a prom dress and you better start saving for college."

The Future

The Millerville farm where Sellers grew up is still in his family. The dairy operation has given way to timber, but he plans to return there some day. In the fall of 1980, when he left the farm to attend Auburn University and begin his journey as an accomplished physician, Sellers took several things with him that have served him well: a strong work ethic, a quest for knowledge and a humble spirit.

Perhaps it is not surprising that Marty Sellers struggles with Franklin's humility virtue paradox. To those around him, it is clear that Marty is too humble to realize he has already mastered it.

Dr. Sellers TODAY



Dr. Sellers is currently a transplant and hepatobiliary surgeon at Piedmont

Hospital in Atlanta, GA. Previously he was Surgical Director of Renal Transplantation at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He also served as an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Dr. Seller's medical career includes transplant work and teaching experience at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. In addition to being a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Sellers is a member of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Society of Transplantation, Association for Academic Surgery, International Transplant Skin Cancer Collaborative, International Pediatric Transplantation Association and the Transplantation Society. Dr. Sellers has served on many professional committees including OPTN/UNOS and the Gift of Life Donor Program Kidney-Pancreas committee. He has published articles on various topics relating to transplantation and organ donation. Dr. Sellers graduated cum laude from Auburn University with a bachelor of science degree and received his medical degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham School of Medicine.





Copy of the Auburn creed is tacked to her office bulletin board. The virtues of hard work, education and the human touch are specifically applicable to the vocation – and



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

passion – she has chosen. Because there is a real possibility that her work will touch you, and potentially millions of others, be glad that she is driven by the desire to discover and communicate new knowledge that can touch people at the most basic level. You see, Lisa Harper, Microbiology '85, is at the epicenter of global health as a Health Sci-

entist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA.

The CDC has been popularized in American culture by movies like the 1995 thriller "Outbreak," where biohazard-suited scientists battle lethal and nefarious viruses. While isolating and treating emerging infectious disease is one of the CDC's major initiatives, it is only a portion of the comprehensive approach to global health that is at the core of the CDC's ongoing mission of "Protecting Health for Life." This theme serves as a reminder of the importance of Harper's work and provides her with a sense of accomplishment with each life she touches – sometimes continents away.

What drives Harper is the knowledge that she has the ability to help people in need. In her years in the lab as a researcher, or in her current duties as a logistician, she knows that the fruits of her labor are not for a textbook or posterity, but can have real time impact on the lives of others. The ability to work and react under pressure can make a difference. "During the anthrax investigation in 2001, we were literally here around the clock," remembers

Harper. "Every minute we delayed, someone else could get sicker and sicker. Our response time allowed officials on the ground to limit exposure

and to provide prophalytic antibiotics to others." The anthrax investigation is just one of the myriad of ongoing searches for the pathology and prevention of infectious diseases around the globe.

Harper's office is part of a state-of-the-art, highly secure research facility in suburban Atlanta. A commitment to the infrastructure and facilities is evident with an impressive complex of new buildings and laboratories. Harper is hopeful that a similar commitment to the next generation of human resources will capitalize on those with science backgrounds. "Now

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we are seeing more science graduates. There are efforts, through fellows and fellowships, which are very competitive, to bring science folks in. There are avenues out there - you just have to be persistent - you can get your foot in the door."

Persistence has paid dividends for Harper's career. Fresh out of Auburn in 1985 and with a goal of working at the CDC, Harper pursued a research job at Emory University. Her lab work at Emory, with its proximity to the CDC, provided relevant experience and the ability to network with individuals in her chosen field. Harper's contacts and experience in

Human Touch



the Emory microbiology/immunology department led to a research position at the CDC.

The years spent in the laboratory provided Harper with the perspective to be an effective logistician today. With the handling of potential lethal viruses and other hazardous materials, each process has to be carefully directed by detail-oriented individuals like Harper. Her attention to detail and broad knowledge base are reminiscent of a symphony maestro, as she coordinates every detail of the transport, study and analysis of cultures and tissue samples. Security and safety, in Harper's department and across the grounds of the CDC, is evident in all corners of the Atlanta campus.

This fall, Harper will take her experience as a researcher and expertise as a logistician to the field as part of an HIV research team located in Cameroon. Her stay will provide the opportunity for field work – including interface with local citizens. "That's where I will be able to experience firsthand both the importance and need for the CDC's work."

What's the next challenge for Harper and the CDC? "You honestly never know what is coming. The CDC has a 'future's initiative' that is designed to shape the organizational structure to meet future needs. And day-to-day, we have a long list of things to do. But, anything can happen – from Avian flu to some unforeseen crisis - and that's what makes this job so exciting."

The printed Auburn Creed provides more than a bulletin board decoration in Harper's CDC office. Like so many Auburn people, she doesn't wake up and recite the creed each morning, but evidence of the words is apparent in her choice of career, work ethic and approach to the care of other individuals. When he penned the words to the Auburn Creed in 1945, George Petrie likely could not have conceived of an organization with the reach and impact of the CDC. However, an individual like Lisa Harper is probably exactly what he had in mind.



COSAM Alla Continue to

Each February, *USA Today* honors 20 undergraduate academic all-stars as its All-USA College Academic Team. Forty more runners-up are named to the Second and Third teams.

The Team honors full-time undergraduates who not only excel in scholarship, but also extend their intellectual abilities beyond the classroom to benefit society. Criteria include grades, academic rigor, leadership, activities and most important, the student's essay describing his or her most outstanding intellectual endeavor done while in college.

Honorees are awarded a trophy and a \$2,500 cash award. Their photos and accomplishments are featured in *USA*

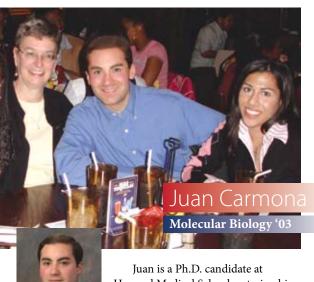


preparing applications for residencies. Since graduating from Auburn, Cyndee also received a Certificate of Advanced Studies in mathematics, the equivalent of a master's degree, from the

in mathematics, the equivalent of a master's degree, from the University of Cambridge in England.

While in England, she played on the British Universities volleyball team, participating in tournaments in both England and Scotland. At Georgetown, she took up swimming again and participated in team mini-triathlon fundraisers sponsored by the medical school.

Cyndee says that her family and faith are very important aspects of her life, and cheerfully notes that she recently became engaged to Tim DeKlotz of Portland, Ore., one of her classmates from medical school. "We met during orientation first year, and quickly became very close friends. Now, after two years of dating, we are engaged and simply overflowing with excitement about planning our future life together."



Juan is a Ph.D. candidate at
Harvard Medical School, entering his
fourth year. He works in the pathology
department, and is involved in the
Paul F. Glenn Labs for the Biological
Mechanisms of Aging. His research focuses
on understanding the aging process

in a small worm, known as C. elegans, and how an enzyme that is expressed in this worm contributes to longevity.

During the summer, Juan worked in the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURP) at Harvard Medical School, where he helped to mentor the next generation of biomedical researchers. As an Auburn undergraduate, Juan participated in the program two consecutive summers.

When he's not in the lab, Juan spends his time at the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts or the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He is also active in his church's youth group for young adults. "I think it's critical to remain connected to your faith throughout life," he said.

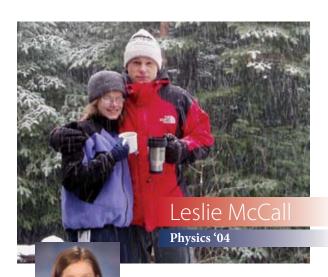
-Americans Excel

Today's Life section as representatives of all outstanding undergraduates. Second and Third team honorees receive certificates, and their names are listed in the newspaper.*

In recent years, COSAM has been home to four consecutive All-Americans. Cyndee Carver and Leslie McCall were named to the honorable mention teams in 2002 and 2004, respectively. Juan Carmona was named to the First Team in 2003 and Joshua Jarrell was named to the Second Team in 2005.

COSAM recently caught up with the four honorees to find out what they have been doing since graduating from Auburn.

*Courtesy of USA Today.com



Leslie is a third year student at Harvard Medical School. During the summer, she took part one of the boards, and just began her third year rotations, starting with medicine at Brigham & Women's Hospital. "Moving on to the two 'clinical' years after the first two

'academic' years has been tough, but really exciting," she said.

She continues to pursue ballet, and has been taking classes in the undergraduate program at Harvard and with the Boston Ballet School. Leslie is enjoying Boston, and spent the 4th of July with her friends watching the fireworks on the Esplanade with the Boston Pops.

She visits her family in Birmingham, and says that she misses Auburn—especially this time of year. "I've made it to a couple of Harvard football games, but it's hardly even the same sport!"



In his spare time, Joshua swims, lifts weights and runs. He also continues to play the piano, and recently began visiting a nursing home each week to play for the residents there. "I did this before Iraq, but didn't get back into it after coming home until now," he said.

Following his Army career, Joshua plans to attend medical school or graduate school in hopes of working in prosthetics.



WITNESS TO By Timothy Meeks



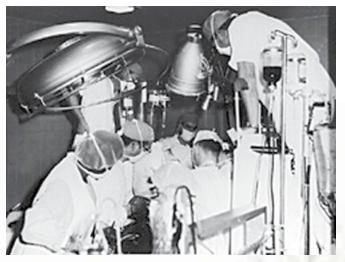
"It started as just an ordinary day," is often the prelude given by one whom is witness to an event of historical significance. On November 22, 1963, Dallas businessman Abraham Zapruder left his camera at home. Only after the urging of an office secretary, did Zapruder return home to fetch the Bell & Howell Zoomatic which would later capture the fateful 16 seconds of President John F.

Kennedy's last motorcade. As Juan Romero clocked in for the night shift at the Ambassador Hotel in April of 1968, the Los Angeles busboy never imagined that by the next morning a picture of him cradling the head of a slain presidential candidate, later to garner a Pulitzer Prize, would be viewed around the globe as an indelible image that, to many Americans, would define a generation. Both Zapruder and Romero had no idea that their ordinary days would intersect with history.

In contrast, Dr. Martin L. Dalton, Auburn '53, knew that June 12, 1963 was going to be an historic day at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. As a member of a groundbreaking team of physicians, led by pioneer Dr. James Hardy, the attempted transplant of a lung from one human to another would set a course that would shape the practice of surgery forever. However, before the sun rose the next day, Dr. Dalton would not participate in one, but two events that had a lasting impact on a nation and world.

Auburn Roots

A Virginia physician grandfather and a role as a doctor in a Eufaula Tom Thumb pageant were all it took to convince young Martin Dalton of his future vocation. From his earliest memories, Dalton was not only going to be doctor, but had his sights set on surgery. Two high school classmates were joining Dalton in his pursuit of medical school and tried to convince him not to head to Auburn for undergraduate work. However, the Auburn spirit and affordable tuition brought Dalton to the Plains – a decision he has never regretted. The faculty in the Department of Chemistry, a precursor to today's COSAM, engaged and enthused the young pre-med student. "Medical vocabulary was where I really soared," remembers Dalton. "I loved the words and etymology and to this day I still have the little folder that contains all the Greek and Latin derivatives." Any lingering seeds of doubt planted by Dalton's high school friends where laid to rest when Dalton remembers, "I was interviewed for medical school in Birmingham well before either of them- so I had the last laugh."



Transplant surgery, circa 1963, University of Mississippi Medical Center

The Groundwork for Innovation

For Dalton, an internship in Birmingham led to a residency at the relatively new Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. In his spare time, which was extremely limited in the early days of his residency, Dalton worked in the research lab with Dr. James Hardy, perfecting the transplant of lungs in dogs. This work in the lab was laying groundwork for historic measures yet to be effectively executed on a human. Making the leap from actual human to human transplant presented both medical and ethical challenges. 1963 was a time before organ donor cards, medical television shows and other public awareness vehicles that would present organ transplant as a viable medical treatment.

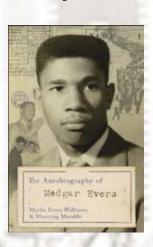
A night to remember

On June 11, 1963, a patient presented at the University of Mississippi Medical Center as an ideal candidate for transplant. Suffering from a plethora of maladies, this cancer patient had also lost function in his left lung. His prognosis was grim - could a new organ prolong his life? Where would they find a viable lung? An ER trauma patient that evening would answer that question. After valiant attempts to save his life, the ER patient died and now presented the possibility of an organ transplant. In an era before donor cards and transplant television specials, the concept of harvesting organs was foreign to all, but specifically a grieving family. However, seeing an opportunity to make something of their loss, the family of the first organ donor consented.

As Dalton was attending on the transplant surgery, he had a sense that he was involved with an historic event. However, as he was paged to the emergency room, Dalton knew that his attention would have to shift to the trauma at hand and someone other than the transplant patient would need his skills as a physician. "The patient came in with a severe gun shot wound to his left posterior chest," remembers Dalton. "The trauma was severe, and his heart was barely going - but we worked intensely for over an hour to save this man's life. Unfortunately, he succumbed to the extreme wounds." Dalton was troubled as he walked to the waiting room to see if he could find anyone who came with the gunshot victim. In the midst of historic efforts to save a life with a groundbreaking transplant, another life had been needlessly snuffed out. Only when finding out the name of his gunshot victim, did Dalton realize the gravity of the events of the past hours. The patient who had just passed away on Dalton's ER table was civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

Reflections

In the days that followed, Dalton realized the magnitude of the events of June 12, although he would not fully appreciate them until much later in life. The non-violent march of the civil rights movement would be replaced by destruction,



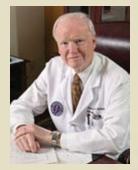
discontent and bloodshed over the remainder of the decade. The murder of Evers would wake the nation and polarize large groups of Americans. For the medical community, even though the transplant patient survived for 18 days, the groundbreaking operation generated condemnations and ethical debate over the procedure. It was clear that Dalton had participated in two significant events – but the results did not initially provide the young doctor with a sense of optimism.

But today, Dalton and oth-

ers can see that the events of one Mississippi night would ripple across a nation and world, changing the structure of society and expanding the limits of the medical community. The civil rights movement would move on with a new sense of conviction that even the most horrific violence could not overcome. The attempted transplant in Mississippi would serve as a catalyst to advance a new procedure that would literally prolong and save thousands of lives.

For Martin Dalton, June 11, 1963 was no ordinary day. The degree to which the day became extraordinary is even difficult for Dalton to fathom. "Sometimes it's hard to believe I was really there, actually a part of it. But in the end, and it's something that was always reinforced by Dr. Hardy, it is that the care and respect for individuals is what inspires us to work so hard."

Dr. Dalton **TODAY**



Today Dr. Martin L.
Dalton is Dean of the
Mercer University School
of Medicine. Prior to
being named Dean in
September of 2005,
Dalton served 15 years
as the Chairman of
the Mercer University
Department of Surgery
and Program Director

of the Surgery Residency at the Medical Center of Central Georgia. In his short tenure as Dean, Dalton has articulated a clear vision and plan that has brought renewed enthusiasm from faculty and students. "I view this appointment as the capstone of my professional career and I intend to make the most of the opportunity presented to me," says Dalton.



Former classmates Bill Lazenby left and Martin Dalton right, along with spouses Peggy Lazenby and Alice Dalton, visit for the first time in 25 years at a COSAM luncheon in the summer of 2006.



ONE SMILE AT A TIME

By Carol Nelson

sk David Sarver, Pre-Dentistry '73 of what accomplishment he is most proud. He won't tell you that it's his award-winning research that has changed the face of orthodontics; or that his work has been featured on "The Today Show" and "The View." He won't

He won't tell you about the books he has written; and he won't tell you about his successful orthodontics practice. No, David Sarver will tell you that he is most proud of what he does for his patients.

tell you about the books he has written, and he won't tell you about his successful orthodontics practice. No. David Sarver will tell you that he is most proud of what he does for his patients.

"We take an 11-year-old child at a difficult time in life when kids are looking at each other, sometimes making fun of the way others look; we help a child through that and the way others see and treat him or her.

By the time we finish at 14-15 years old, we have enhanced not just the teeth, but the child's self image," said Sarver.

Sarver's research changes the approach to orthodontic treatment. It used to be that an orthodontist looked

exclusively at the teeth and jaw. But, Sarver began by looking at the face first; planning how the teeth would fit in the face and have the best results. By taking facial measurements and studying the aging process in regard to facial development, he began to see trends in how the face changes with age. He wondered if there was more he could do in adolescent care to make for a better facial appearance in the long term. The face and overall appearance became the target and directive, rather than the just the teeth.

"A lot of our research and writing has been about the current concept of 'better than well.' If you look at my parents' generation, they didn't think that much about health; they just took things as they came. Then in the next generation, people would jog, workout, swim to maintain health. Now the current generation wants to be vibrant and vigorous. I try to take that same approach in my treatment. There are probably a lot of things you don't have to have in braces, but if you are going to choose to be treated, you won't only want to have a correct bite, but you will be more interested in enhancing your overall appearance."

Sarver's idea to look at the aging process began in the 1980's. At the time, he had a number of adult patients, and noted that there were a number of things, in terms of orthodontic decisions, that did not "wear well" over a 20-year period. However, he realized that doing research on the aging process is not easy.

"X-rays cannot be taken without a diagnostic purpose; so fast forward to now, where we are currently working on the development of a 3-D facial mapping camera. This will allow us to take an image of a child now, one year later, another year later, and superimpose them to measure how the face is growing and the changes occurring with or without orthodontic treatment. All of this can be accomplished without x-ray; it's simply taking a photograph."

Sarver says that some of his ideas have been met with skepticism, but he believes that is as it should be. "As any physician, I am responsible for a certain standard of care to my patients. When we are challenging or changing how things have been done in the past, we expect to be challenged. We are responsible for the science to validate what is being said so that it is legitimate and can be accepted by the profession."

He also believes that dentistry is a combination of science and art. Aspects like tooth shape, lip balance and tooth support are not often thought of, but they are very important, beyond creating a perfect, straight set of teeth. So, part of it is science, but the rest is dealing with the vision of what enhances a person's overall appearance.

Sarver says he knew in the 10th grade that he wanted to be an orthodontist. He had just gotten his own braces off and thought, "That wasn't so bad." He says that his decision

was completely "unscientific."

"I'm a big believer in mentorship – that we pattern our careers after people we admire or people who take an interest in us. My orthodontist always seemed happy with what he was doing, and he took an interest in me."

Sarver remembers riding the train with his mother from Opelika to Columbus, Ga. for his appointments.

"We usually had 11:00 appointments, and we'd finish up around lunchtime, then he would join us for lunch. He took an interest in me as a kid. So, I didn't do any research at all in regard to the profession; I just thought, 'That's the kind of person I'd like to be."

When he began planning for college, there was never a question of where he would go. His father, Joseph B. Sarver, Jr. '38, founded the Auburn Alumni Association in 1951, and his mother, Molly, was a former Miss Auburn.



Patient Whitney Wash shows off her new smile.

Sarver was born in Drake and grew up in Auburn, with a number of his future professors being family friends.

"Growing up in Auburn and knowing a number of my professors in college was kind of a plus and a minus. They were harder on me because of who my parents were. If I was not performing in a class, I would get the furrowed brow and the 'You know your parents would be disappointed to know...' but the upside was again, that opportunity for mentorship. I had professors who were my Sunday school teachers as a child, and later my chemistry professors. But, that gave me an opportunity to know my teachers beyond just showing up for class. Many of them maintained an interest in my career after that. It was always in the back

"We take an 11-yearold child at a difficult time in life when kids are looking at each other, sometimes making fun of the way others look; we help a child through that and the way others see and treat him or her. By the time we finish at 14-15 years old, we have enhanced not just the teeth, but the child's self image," said Sarver.

of my mind as I went through dental school that I did not want to embarrass my former professors," Sarver remembers.

Years later, when Sarver helped establish the Orthognathic (jaw) Section for the dental school in UAB's Department of

Continued on page 19



The Best of Both Worlds

By Carol Nelson



Linda Stone and one of her daughters, War Eagle Girl, Callie.

inda Stone, Pre-Med Chemistry '79 was sure of one thing – she was going to Auburn. "I've loved Auburn all my life," she says. "My parents, aunts and uncles went to Auburn, so when the time came for me to choose, it was a no-brainer."

While choosing to attend Auburn was an easy decision, determining her career path took a bit more effort. "I actually started out in pre-engineering, but when I got to freshmen

"I've had the chance to watch them grow and to build relationships with them and with their families. It's very rewarding."

orientation, I figured out quickly that it was not where I was supposed to be. I always liked science, though, so I thought, 'Well, maybe pre-med is what I ought to do." At that time, pediatrics had not even crossed her mind. "I thought I'd be an internist. I never thought I'd be a pediatrician; I didn't think I'd have children either."

Twenty years in pediatrics and three children later, Stone has thoroughly enjoyed being a doctor and mother. Pediatrics was her first clinical rotation and

she loved it. "The doctors were great, the patients were great; the whole atmosphere was just wonderful. I was hooked."

When she started out, Stone joined another female doctor in a very small practice. "A lot of people doubted that we'd stay in practice because we were both married and were having children. Each time one of us had a child, everyone thought we were going to quit. But, by the time she'd had four and I'd had three, and we hadn't gone anywhere; they figured we were here to stay," she said.

Now Stone has the best of both worlds in a practice including five other women with families. The doctors work interlocking schedules, and are able to balance their time at home with their time at work. Some doctors work two days a week and others, three days a week; while Stone works two short days and two long days a week.

"It works very well. We love our practice; we love what we do. It is important to us to be good physicians, but we all want to spend time with our children. Because we all feel this way, we help each other and fill in when needed. We've been lucky to be able to do that."

Stone says her love for her young patients ties into her interest in furthering education. One of her favorite aspects of her work is doing physicals for teenagers who are heading to college. "Seeing these kids – many I've been seeing since they were born – it feels like maybe I had a hand in their growth and development. Here they are grown up and going different places. It's like I have lots of children. I've had the chance to watch them grow and to build relationships with them and with their families. It's very rewarding."

She has continued to stay involved at Auburn by serving on COSAM's Leadership Council; her husband, on the Engineering Council. Recently, they made a designated life insurance gift to Auburn.

"We are aware of Auburn's financial need. They need money now, but they also need to know they have money down the road. The life insurance gift was attractive to us because we are at a point in our lives where we are doing well financially, we have several more years to work, and three children to put through college," she said. "We could put Auburn in our will, but we don't know how much our situation could change. With the life insurance gift, we have the option to pay immediately – we've chosen to pay over a five-year period – and once we've done that, the money is there for Auburn regardless of what happens to us for the rest of our lives."

Stone says that they are happy to take care of Auburn, a place that has meant so much to her family. "Auburn has a lot to offer, particularly in science and math and engineering. I think if students really knew how competitive Auburn is, they would find Auburn very attractive."

A Place to Belong

By Carol Nelson



Glenda Albright, July 2006

hile some things have changed, when Glenda Albright, Education '70 steps on to the Auburn campus, she feels like a student again. "I lived in the Hill residence halls; those were the new dorms, and I wanted to live there because they had air conditioning! Also, Foy wasn't very old at the time," she remembers. Today, Auburn's campus looks a little different, but the feeling is still the same.

"When I come to Auburn to visit, or for a football game, I still sense the same attitude,

the same friendliness, the same feeling I had as a student. It's there for the students now."

While Albright remembers her own Auburn experience, the one that is fresh on her mind is that of

"When I come to Auburn to visit, or for a football game, I still sense the same attitude, the same friendliness, the same feeling I had as a student. It's there for the students now."

her son, Matt, Biomedical Sciences '01. "Matt went to a small high school where he received a lot of personal attention and was very well prepared for college. As much as we loved Auburn, and had no apprehension about it as far as academics, we were concerned that he would get lost in the shuffle at a large school. COSAM did not let that happen."

Matt was accepted into the Honors College, and was in the second group of COSAM Leaders. He also participated in the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee (PPAC) program, which guides students

through the medical school application process. "PPAC helped tremendously in preparing Matt for the MCAT, and made the application process for medical school seamless. The speakers and interview practice were essential in preparing him for medical school," she said.

Albright says that her time at Auburn was wonderful, and that she too was very well prepared for the beginning of her teaching career. "I graduated

in June, and got married in July. My husband, Karl, took a job in California, and I applied for a teaching job there. The school system had a list of about 20 out-of-state schools from which they'd accept graduates without any additional requirements, and Auburn was on that list."

Albright taught high school for five years, then after receiving her master's, she taught at a community college. Finally, through a position at Ft. Rucker, she settled in to teaching helicopter pilots who needed to finish their degrees. "For 22 years, I taught grown men history and social sciences on a military base. I could not have had better students," she remembers. "They found out I had a minor in English, so I also taught technical report writing."

"As a teacher, I know when professors and staff are just doing their jobs, and when they are going a little further to do more," Albright said. "I feel so strongly about COSAM – for them to give that much care, interest and personal attention to the students is a great accomplishment."

The Albrights firmly believe in COSAM and appreciate all that Matt's experience meant to their family. It is for this reason they have chosen to sup-

port COSAM's current and future projects through a gift to the college. Private contributions to COSAM fund faculty support, technology, tutoring centers, lectureships, research and other special projects.

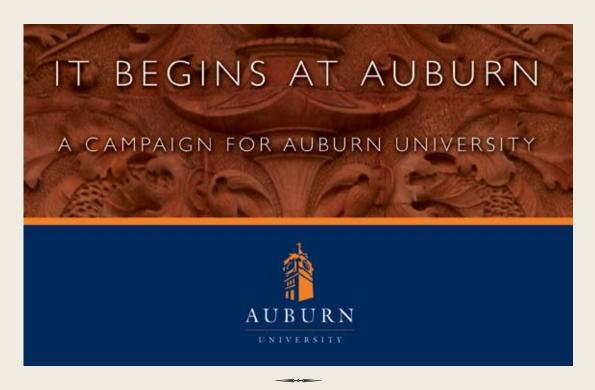
As for Matt, he finished in the top five in his medical school class of 165. He and his wife, Nichole, are currently doing their



Matt and Nichole Albright

residencies at Case-Western University Medical Systems in Cleveland; he in ophthalmology, and she in pediatrics. Matt says of his time in COSAM, "I just ended up exactly where I belonged."

Albright says that she and her husband love traveling during football season. They love to follow Auburn to their away games, and enjoy visiting other schools, but say that there is nothing better than coming back to Auburn. "I feel so at home here, so comfortable. Everyone is so welcoming. I love coming back."



The public phase of the "It Begins at Auburn" capital campaign is in full swing. Support from generous COSAM benefactors has put the college's goals in sight. With each additional gift, the possibility to meet and exceed the \$16 million mark becomes a probability. Private support, from a wide range of gift sizes and types, ensures the continued success of the College of Sciences and Mathematics for current and future generations.

COSAM CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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2006 Scholarship Statistics

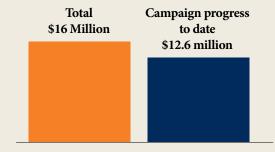
Number of students who applied for scholarships in 2006.

Number of applicants that received aid.

\$1,954 Average received per student.

\$535,405 Total awarded.

COSAM CAMPAIGN GOALS



Scholarships Distinguished Professorships Endowed Programmatic

\$5 million \$3 million

\$5 million

Examples:

Summer Bridge Program COSAM Outreach Programs Donald E. Davis Arboretum

Funds for Excellence

\$3 million

Examples:

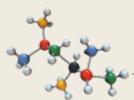
Lectureships Faculty Travel Student Recruitment

Total

\$16 Million

Campaign progress to date

\$12.6 million



COSAM DONOR LIST

The College of Sciences and Mathematics would like to recognize those who have supported the COSAM campaign with a gift or pledge of \$25,000 or more:

Dr. and Mrs. Roger W. Allen, Jr.

Drs. T. Lee and Brenda Baumann

Mr. John G. Blackwell

Mr. Raymond H. Brannon (deceased)

Dr. and Mrs. Fleming G. Brooks

Dr. and Mrs. Jack B. Brown

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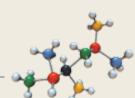
Dr. Barry L. Wilson

Drs. Marie and Michael Wooten

Dr. and Mrs. S. D. Worley

Drs. Harold and Eugenia Zallen

As of September 30, 2006



ALUM Updates



Ivy Carroll '57 was the recipient of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence's 2006 Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award for outstanding research in the field of drug addiction. "I'm honored to receive this prestigious

award that recognizes the significance of developing drug addiction treatments," Carroll said. "Such drugs can alleviate the suffering of patients and their families, reduce the financial burden to families and societies, and help educate the public that drug addiction is a treatable condition."



Yilliam D. Lazenby
'53 was recently named to
the Alabama Healthcare
Hall of Fame. The Hall
of Fame was founded
in 1997 "to recognize
those who have made
outstanding contributions to, or rendered
exemplary service for

healthcare in the State of Alabama." Dr. Lazenby is well known for his distinguished career as an outstanding surgeon in east Alabama.

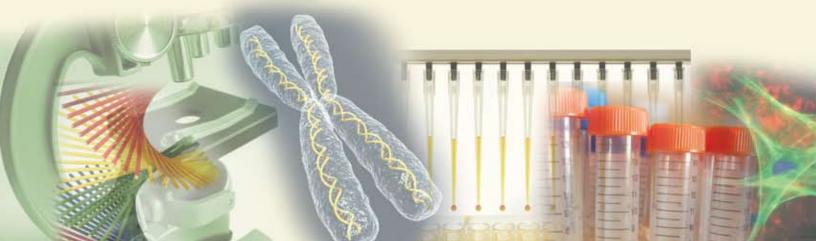


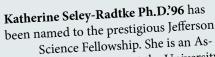
Henry "Hank"
Hartsfield '54, along
with Charles Bolden
and Brewster Shaw
Jr., was inducted into
the U.S. Astronaut
Hall of Fame on May
6 at the NASA Kennedy Space Center
Apollo/Saturn V
Center in Florida.

"I achieved the goals I set out to accomplish and there were some rough spots along the way," Hartsfield said. He encouraged students to set goals for themselves and to try their best to achieve them. "You will never know unless you try," he said.



Dr. Jon "Jack" Moody, '82, his wife **Emily '83**, and son Rice are pictured with Linda and Mark Smith. The Smiths, both patients of Dr. Moody, recently endowed a scholarship for pre-med students in honor of Dr. Moody.





Science Fellowship. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and her current research involves drug discovery and development.

The Jefferson Science Fellowships are a partnership among American

philanthropic foundations, the U.S. academic community and the United States Department of State.



TaShawna Thomas Stokes '01 began a threeyear residency position at Children's Hospital Los Angeles in June. She was married in August 2005 to Dr. Jameson Stokes, who is doing his residency in anesthesiology. TaShawna says she was thrilled to be accepted

to CHLA, as it was her first pediatric choice, and one of the top 10 children's hospitals in the nation.

John Whitlow '88 of

LaGrange, Ga., and newly elected vice-president of the Georgia Optometric Association (GOA), received the GOA Optometrist of the Year Award at the organization's 2006 annual meeting held in Amelia Island, Florida June 16-18. Dr. Whitlow and his wife Donna, also a

Doctor of Optometry, began West Georgia Vision Center of LaGrange in May of 1993. They have two children.

Sarver

Continued from page 13

Orthodontics, a patient was referred into the system by his orthodontist from Columbus, Ga. "He had lost track of me, so I called him. He had not put together that he was referring his current patient to a doctor who was a former patient," Sarver said.

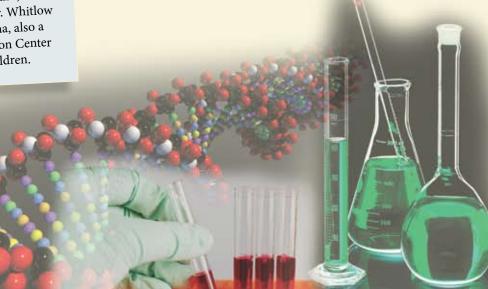
"About a month later, he called me and asked if he could come up and visit my office; sort of see how I turned out. Not a lot of people would show that kind of interest. So again, this was another form of mentorship in that he was a person to admire for his interest in other people and seeing me as more than some kid who was just another patient."

Sarver believes it is important to bring those same qualities into his own practice. He remembers his own experiences and the impact they had on his life, and he strives to treat his patients with the same kind of care. Because of his love for technology, he says that when he set out to design a website for his practice, he wanted to create a feeling of familiarity so that when patients visit for the first time, they will feel like they have been there before.

"If the website does what I want it to do, you feel like you've been here before you even get here. You see the surroundings, the faces; so you're not intimidated, you're not scared, you're not apprehensive. Instead you feel like, 'I've been here before; I know these people."

Sarver says that all of this goes back to his reason for wanting to be an orthodontist in the first place, remembering the kind of person his orthodontist was, and wanting to be that same kind of person.

"Day-to-day, that's what draws us in as physicians – doing for others. People entrust their children to my care. That's a big responsibility. It's very rewarding when it turns out well."



AN ANCIENT ART A Young Science

he art of healing is an ancient profession, dating back to the shamans of Stone Age cultures; but the science of healing is relatively young. "The Youngest Science," an autobiography by the esteemed medical essayist, Lewis Thomas M.D., provides a fine portrait of the advances of the



healing arts during the 20th century. Dr. Thomas' curriculum during his tenure at Harvard Medical School (1930-34) emphasized diagnosis and clinical course of disease using then-current scientific methods. It

is interesting that therapeutics was taught in the final few weeks of medical school! Almost all of our modern medical therapy has developed in the past one hundred years.

Scientific medicine began its true flowering around 1900 with the onset of modern medical education based upon scientific observation and analysis, experiment and clinical trials. Under the auspices of a number of giants of medicine such as Osler, Welch, Halsted, Flexner and many others, the pattern of modern medical and dental education and training was established. Medical school was to be preceded by four years of college curriculum with an emphasis on science. The house staff system was established for residency training. Clinical clerkships were begun for medical students with emphasis placed upon involvement of the student with patient care and bedside teaching. Medical schools, dental schools and other healthcare programs came under academic inspection and regulation. Many inadequate professional schools were eliminated.

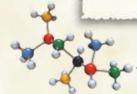
All of this evolved into our modern curricula of medical education and the structure of our entire healthcare system, with all of its wonderful diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. Also, public health measures over the last century have eliminated many of the most fatal diseases and plagues that have haunted our species since the dawn of time. This has resulted in a great reduction of the incidence of premature deaths and a marked increase in our lifespan.

Yet even with the wonders of modern science, the ancient mission of the healing arts is exactly the same – the care of the suffering patient in a humane and sympathetic manner. It is this mission that binds all the members of the healing arts into an ancient and honorable guild.

The words of Tinsley Harrison in the opening paragraph of his "Principles of Internal Medicine" address the ideals of not only physicians, but every member of the healthcare professions. "No greater opportunity, responsibility or obligation can fall to the lot of the human being than to become a physician. In the care of the suffering he uses scientific knowledge, technical skill and human understanding. He or she who uses these with courage, humility and wisdom will perform a unique service for his fellow man and will build an enduring edifice of character within himself. The physician should ask of his destiny no more than this, and should be content with no less."

These are words to ponder; even to learn by heart, to carry with us throughout our professional lives.

Dr. David Hagan '65



Last Word



Larry Wit

In the past 31 years, I have had innumerable opportunities to interact with Auburn's pre-health students. For nearly 25 years I have taught Mammalian Physiology, and it was more than 20 years ago that Dr. Frank Stevens asked me to serve on

"PPAC" (Pre-Health Professions Committee). I have seen a generation of students come here as unpolished freshmen and leave as confident and mature seniors on their way to some professional school. Yes, I have even been "lapped" by your children who are now Auburn students. Paradoxically, I have seen diversity and consistency.

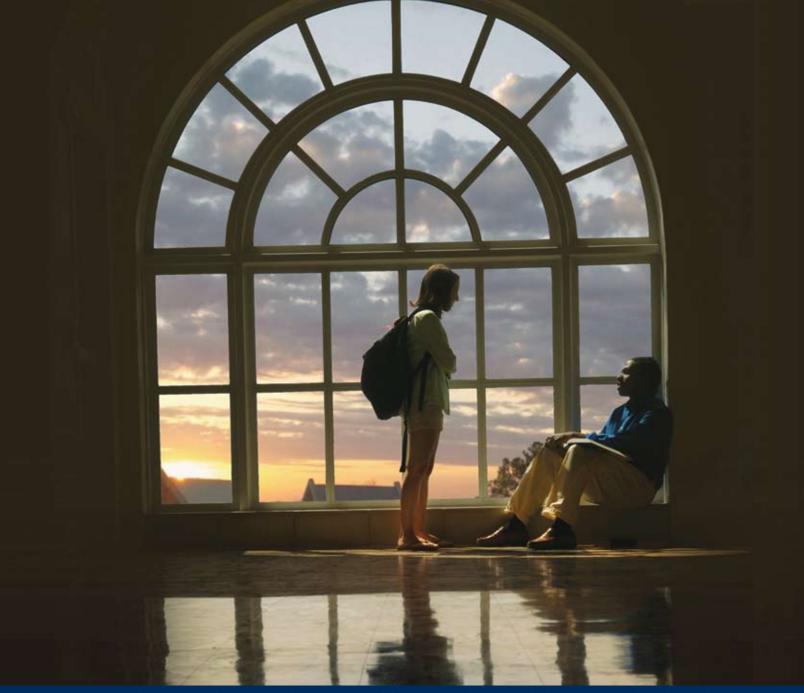
Some of you remember Dr. Stevens, the progenitor and prototype of all of Auburn's prehealth advisors. Dr. Stevens was followed by Dr. Bill Dorgan who retired in 1999 and returned to his beloved Montana. Since Dr. Dorgan's retirement, our programs have been under the able leadership of Ms. Beverley Childress. Students have come to Auburn from everywhere. There are those like Chris LaRussa (1988-Birmingham), John Dykes (2005-Atlanta) and Charlene Lepane (1998-Orlando) who came from big cities, while others like Fleming Brooks (1989-Samson, AL) and Jody Hughes (2001-Slocomb, AL) have come from small towns. Auburn students have been accepted to a host of different professional schools-at least 25 in the past 5 years alone. These include some of the best known such as Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Emory, and Vanderbilt. Most students, however, still choose to go to one of Alabama's fine professional schools.

Since leaving Auburn, our alumni have pursued numerous specialties in a host of locations. There are those like Scott Sprayberry (1992, orthodontist), Larry Thorne (1986, pediatrician), David Olive (1995, optometrist), and Michelle Reed (1984, radiologist) who have returned to the Auburn community; while others like Kinji Hawthorne (1992, Chief Medical Officer/Health Care Manager Richard J. Donavan Correctional Facility-San Diego), Phil Crockett (1983; Dentist U.S. Navy-Jacksonville), Mitch Schuster (1981, gynecologist-Athens, AL), Beverley Williams (1976, cardiologist- Memphis) and Linsey McDonough Phillips (2000, physical therapist-Honolulu) have moved to more distant locations. Another change has been the number of females pursuing careers in the health professions. In 1976, 15 women completed a PPAC application; this past year, the number had grown to 47!

There have also been significant changes in our buildings. Aged facilities such as the labs in the Physiology Building, Cary Hall, and Saunders have been replaced by a \$40-million complex which is second-to-none.

However, some things have not changed. Most importantly, Auburn students still get a superb education which prepares them exceptionally well for their professional training. Whether students graduated in '55 or '05, went to medical school, dental school, or optometry school, or attended UAB, Case Western, or Harvard, I hear consistent testimonials such as: "My current classmates note that all the Auburn students are well-prepared (often with a hint of jealousy)." "... Auburn students have a distinct advantage. The most important thing I learned was how to think and how to study in a way that was high yield for me." "I felt as well if not better prepared than anyone else in my class, including those from very prestigious schools."

Truly, the more diverse Auburn has become the more it has stayed the same. Thanks for being such an important catalyst of change/consistency.



This photo, by jeff Etheridge of A.U. Photo Services, taken from the Sciences Cater Laboratory Building was awarded "Best in Show" at the university Photographers of America Association Meeting.



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