

ALUMNI

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

FALL 2012

Distinguished Alumnus 2012: Sterling Williams, M.D., Ph.D.



College of Medicine Dean **Debra H. Fiser, M.D.**, congratulates **Sterling Williams, M.D. '73, Ph.D.**, after presenting him with the 2012 Dean's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Sterling Williams, M.D., Ph.D., a 1973 UAMS College of Medicine graduate and national leader in obstetrics and gynecology education and training, was honored as the college's 2012 Dean's Distinguished Alumnus during Alumni Weekend in August.

"The Dean's Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes outstanding graduates who have made major contributions to the health of all people in areas such as patient care, education, research, health services administration and leadership," said Dean Debra H. Fiser, M.D. "Dr. Williams has distinguished himself in all of those areas."

Fellow alumni, faculty and a crowd of supporters also applauded Williams as UAMS Graduate School Dean Bobby McGehee, Ph.D., presented the Little Rock native with a Ph.D. in

physiology, a degree for which he had completed work in the late 1960s but which wasn't awarded before he left UAMS for his medical residency.

Since 2001, Williams has served as vice president for education at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). His division oversees the annual clinical meeting and other continuing medical education activities.

Williams also directs the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG), which publishes widely followed educational objectives for residency education and develops and administers the stringent annual in-training examination that is used by most OB/GYN residency programs in the United States and many other countries. He has served two terms on both the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Residency Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). He served as an examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology for 18 years.

Williams was recruited to ACOG after chairing the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Kansas Medical Center for four years. He also held faculty posts at Kansas earlier in his career, after completing his residency there in 1976. From 1987 to 1997 Williams



Graduate School Dean **Bobby McGehee, Ph.D.**, (left) and **Michael Jennings, Ph.D.**, (right) place the traditional doctoral hood on **Dr. Sterling Williams**.

was on the OB/GYN faculty at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, where he also served as vice chairman for academic affairs.

Williams received a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology at the University of Illinois-Champaign and a Master of Science in physiology from Northern Illinois University in 1966. He returned to Arkansas on a National Institutes of Health fellowship to work toward a Ph.D. in physiology in the UAMS Graduate School. He entered the College of Medicine in 1969.

"I am honored by the events of this evening," Williams said. "But this night, and these awards are not about me," he said. "It's about the many people who are coming behind me in medicine and academia, and hopefully the events of tonight will inspire people to do the best that they can ... to keep learning and understand that they too can reach their goals."

An extended feature on Dr. Williams will appear in the next issue of Medicine, the College of Medicine magazine.

More from Alumni Weekend 2012 on pages 4-5!





A Note from the Dean, Debra H. Fiser, M.D.

A few months ago I started including a symbolic photo graphic in some of my slide presentations. Ominous clouds loom in the photo's background and a road sign warns: Stormy Weather Ahead. I think that's an apt description of the challenges that medical schools will face

in the next few years. But it's only part of the picture.

In fact, 2012 has been a good year in the College of Medicine. In our undergraduate curriculum, we've converted to an active learning format that emphasizes team-based problem-solving and self-directed learning while relying much less on traditional lectures. Research shows that active learning promotes critical thinking and longer retention of complex medical concepts. In August, we opened a specially designed Active Learning Center, which facilitates team-based sessions, in the UAMS Library.

We're proud of our progress in clinical programs as well. I am very pleased to tell you about our new Department of Urology Chairman, Rodney Davis, M.D., who is internationally recognized for his minimally invasive techniques to treat urologic malignancies. Dr. Davis, a Malvern native who matriculated at UAMS in 1978, most recently served on the faculty at Vanderbilt University.

Unprecedented changes are occurring in the national health care system as well as here in Arkansas. At UAMS, we're feeling increasing pressure on our clinical revenue –

which supports our educational and research missions – due to evolving payment structures and cutbacks from Medicare, Medicaid and commercial payers.

Proposed cuts in Medicare funding for graduate medical education would substantially impact our residency programs. As of press time, the threat of federal budget sequestration in January 2013 adds to the uncertainty. It would mean a projected 8-percent cut to the National Institutes of Health, enough to eliminate one-fourth of all new and competing research grants.

In a series of recent roundtable discussions with our faculty scientists, we identified a number of software programs and website tools that would help them to become more collaborative and more competitive in today's tough funding climate. We were able to pay for these new resources with recent contributions from the Dean's Society, our annual giving organization. It's a good example of why philanthropy is more important than ever.

And so, as I mentioned, looming "storm clouds" are only part of the picture. We remain committed to advancing the best medicine for Arkansas and beyond through our clinical, research and education missions. Our private funding has doubled in recent years as more supporters realize that their contributions are good investments in the future. Thank you for your support.

Debra H. Fiser, M.D. '77
Dean, College of Medicine



A Note from the Director, Judith McClain

You've heard me say how much scholarships mean to our students. Scholarships also help us recruit outstanding students who will make the best physicians. I recently received updated statistics that underscore my enthusiasm for thanking you for your generous contributions to scholarships.

Last year, 558 of our 640 medical students – 87 percent – received financial aid totaling \$23.3 million. Of that, \$1.78 million was in scholarships with the balance in loans. Even though our tuition is among the lowest in the nation, 90 percent of our 2012 graduates had medical school debt, with a cumulative average of \$139,044. I can't imagine starting

life as a physician, not to mention having a family, with that kind of debt.

We are privileged to work on alumni projects with many of these students. They "give back" even during medical school through a wide range of volunteer work. The student debt numbers are staggering. But when considering what scholarships really mean to our students, nothing compares to their own words. On the next page, you'll see a small sample of the many thank you notes that we pass along from scholarship recipients. That really says it all.

Judith McClain
Executive Director, Medical Alumni Association

A Tradition of Giving: '65 Class Scholarship Fund Going Strong

With one of the larger class fund balances and an ongoing commitment to giving, the Class of 1965 has provided at least one scholarship for medical students every year since 1995. One reason for the class's record of success is the encouragement that members receive from Class Agent **Larry Peebles, M.D., '65**, who views his annual letter as an opportunity.

"When you go through medical school with a group of people, you really bond with them," said Dr. Peebles. "My classmates all have a special place in my heart, and I enjoy sharing news about members of our class as well as news about the university."

"Our class has remained close through the years," noted Dr. Peebles, who retired from full-time practice in Texarkana, Texas, last March but continues to practice radiology two days a week at Magnolia Regional Medical Center in Arkansas. In addition to Alumni Weekend reunions every five years, the class has gone on several cruises.

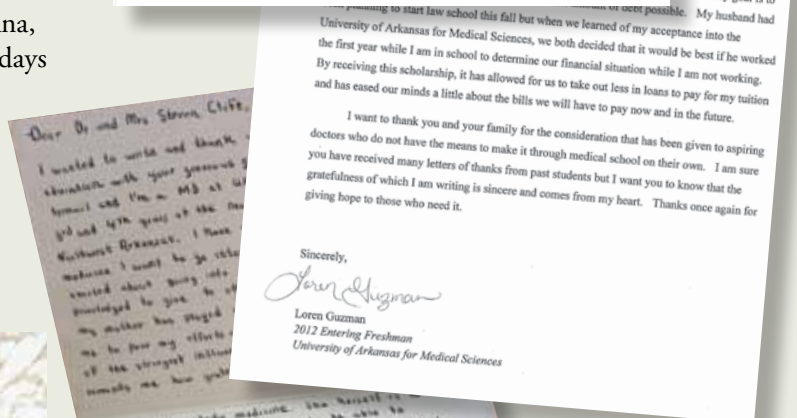
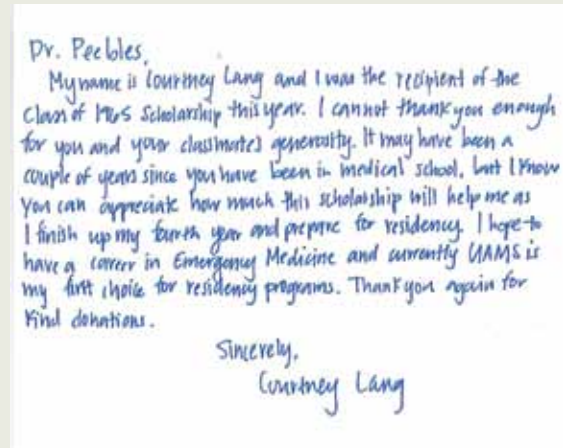
"My classmates and I believe in the importance of scholarships for College of Medicine students," he said. "We know that the more we can offer in our scholarship, the more impact it has on attracting students to UAMS."



Dr. Larry and Tish Peebles

Rising education costs and debt are a real concern for medical students today, and we want to do what we can to help."

Dr. Peebles and his wife, Tish, are members of the College of Medicine Dean's Society and Founders Society. "I wouldn't be where I am today without the College of Medicine," said Dr. Peebles, who also trained in radiology at UAMS.



These are just a few of the thank you notes from this year's scholarship recipients.

Did you know?
If your class achieves a \$250,000 scholarship endowment, the investment earnings will provide a \$10,000 scholarship every year?

Mark Your Calendar:
2013 Phonathon – March 4-6
Our students will be calling alumni on the evenings of March 4, 5 and 6 to raise money for scholarships. It's a great opportunity to encourage them in their pursuit of becoming a physician, to share your wisdom, or to simply ask them about life on campus today. Please consider contributing to your class fund or the general scholarship fund!

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2012



More than 400 alumni, spouses and guests gathered for Alumni Weekend in Little Rock August 24-25, with record-breaking turnout for festive receptions, memory-filled class dinners, a campus tour, an update on the College of Medicine from **Dean Debra H. Fiser, M.D. '77**, and other activities. The reunion was tailored for alumni from class years ending in "2" or "7," with guests from other years adding to the camaraderie.

Alumni Weekend was generously sponsored again this year by the Arkansas Medical Society and the Arkansas Financial Group. Proceeds support scholarships for College of Medicine students.

Visit medicine.uams.edu/alumni for more photos of Alumni Weekend.

'02 FIRST REUNION ...

Nicole Lawson, M.D. '02, of Newport; Angie Hughes Shy, M.D. '02, of Little Rock; and Heather Diemer Sojourner, M.D. '02, of West Jordan, Utah, reconnected with 75 other classmates and guests for their inaugural Alumni Weekend.



Joe Bates, M.D. '57, congratulates Sterling Williams, M.D. '73, Ph.D., after Dr. Williams was honored as the 2012 Dean's Distinguished Alumnus. (Read more about Dr. Williams in our cover story.)



Paulette Johnson, M.D. '73 and Mary Louise Powell Corbitt, M.D. '72, enjoyed the all-class reception on Friday evening, August 24, at the colorful Heifer International Visitors Center.

Jerry Thomas, M.D. '62, and his wife, Evelyn, of Little Rock, donated "Spring Blossom," a painting by their son, famed impressionist Barry Thomas, to the silent auction. (The winning bidder was O'Tar Norwood, M.D. '57, of Edmond, Oklahoma.)



Cover couple: The 1957 Caduceus sparks memories for Daniel Christman, M.D. '57, and his wife, Marnie, of Rogers (bottom of front page).

'52
'57
'62
GOLDEN GRADS



At left: Golden Graduates – the 50-year reuniting class of 1962, along with graduates of 1952 and 1957 – were honored at a reception on Saturday before their class dinners. Reception attendees included classmates (from left): **Jimmie Bussey, M.D. '62**, of Newton, Texas; **Warren Parker, M.D. '62**, of San Antonio, Texas (seated); **Jeff Johnson, M.D. '62**, of Paducah, Ky.; **Charles Dicken, M.D. '62**, of Rochester, Minn.; **Rodger Lewis, M.D. '62**, of Union City, Tenn. (at back); **King Lee, M.D. '62**, of Mission Hills, Kan.; **Ron Avery, M.D. '62**, of Reno, Nev.; and **Robert McGrew, M.D. '62**, of Little Rock. Class Agent **Lindsey Miller, M.D. '62**, of Fayetteville, is shown in the graduation photo button.



At right: **Anne and Wayne Buckley, M.D. '62**, of Shreveport, and **Patty and Don Lewis, M.D. '62**, of Jackson, Tenn., were among 50 alumni and spouses who attended their class dinner.

SIM TOUR

A highlight of the annual campus tour is UAMS' Center for Simulation Education, where alumni learn about the computerized manikins and other equipment used for hands-on clinical teaching. The reuniting Class of 1967 (along with 1966 and the Founders Society) supports clinical and simulation education through its class fund.



Above, **Don Perdue, M.D. '67**, of Boyce, La., performs a simulated intubation. At right, behind the manikin, are seniors **Steven McKee** and **Andrea Reed**, two of the 18 student ambassadors who volunteered during Alumni Weekend, with classmates **Patrick Hale, M.D. '67**, of St. Augustine, Fla.; **Charles McClain Jr., M.D. '67**, of Batesville; **Michael Platt, M.D. '67**, of Rogers; **Don Perdue, M.D. '67**, of Boyce, La.; and **Charles Miller, M.D. '67**, of Fayetteville.



Alumni Weekend 2013 is set for August 23-24 for classes ending in "3" or "8." Mark your calendar!

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Hair Transplant Pioneer O'Tar Norwood, M.D. '57, Gave Many Patients Self-Confidence



O'Tar Norwood, M.D. '57, knows first-hand that the desire for a full head of hair isn't just a matter of vanity. By his late 30s, while building his dermatology practice in Oklahoma City, Dr. Norwood grew so frustrated with his own severe hair loss that he underwent a hair transplant by the founder of hair transplant surgery.

"Hair is not essential for life," he notes. "But for many, its presence and beauty are essential to self-esteem. Hair loss affects your everyday life and, more than anything, your self-confidence."

Dr. Norwood's experience more than 40 years ago inspired him to go into the specialty himself – and few in the field have garnered greater international recognition. He introduced the Hamilton-Norwood scale, which remains the worldwide standard for assessing the severity and variations of androgenic alopecia (AGA), in a seminal 1972 study, "Male Pattern Baldness: Classification and Incidence." He authored more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals before retiring in 2001.

Dr. Norwood was among a small group of dermatologists who founded the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery in the early 1970s, and his work helped to change

dermatology from a mostly medical to primarily surgical specialty. Later, he established the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery, the world's premier organization for hair transplant surgeons. He also founded the Hair Transplant Forum International, a bimonthly, still-growing journal.

Aside from medicine, Dr. Norwood has long enjoyed outdoor activities ranging from surfing (in his 20s) to falconry. He and his wife, Elissa, enjoy traveling to locations as diverse as the Netherlands and the Antarctic. They make it back to Arkansas every year for a Razorback game (with fellow Oklahomans Bonnie and **Jerry Hoyt, M.D. '57**), and always return for the Class of '57 reunions, including this year's.

And what about Dr. Norwood's unusual first name? "Everyone asks me about that," he said, explaining that his mother named him O'Tar after a friend from Sweden who had the common Scandinavian name *Ottar*.

With the advent of microscope-aided hair transplant surgery, the field has come a long way since the early days of "hair plugs." At the same time, Dr. Norwood's appreciation for the value of hair has only grown. "I'll tell you, what little I've got now matters a heck of a lot," he said.



Top left: O'Tar Norwood, M.D. '57, speaks at a conference in Istanbul. Above: Dr. Norwood and other hair transplant pioneers are honored in New York City. At right: Dr. Norwood and his wife, Elissa, attend a hospital gala.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

The College of Medicine is accepting nominations for induction into the **Hall of Fame** and for a new recognition, the **Dean's Distinguished Alumnus Service Award**, through January 15. Both will be recognized April 30 during Dean's Honor Day, a ceremony recognizing the accomplishments of faculty, staff and alumni.

- The College of Medicine Hall of Fame honors graduates and faculty who have distinguished themselves in extraordinary ways. Inductees include physicians and scientists of national and international distinction and individuals who have greatly advanced health care in Arkansas.
- The Dean's Distinguished Alumnus Service Award will honor alumni whose service has substantially advanced the mission and programs of the College of Medicine. The award will recognize contributions such as advocacy of the college, volunteer work, educational activities, mentoring and student recruitment, and philanthropic support.

Please visit medicine.uams.edu/alumni for complete criteria, instructions and submission forms.

This spring, watch for our Call for Nominations for the 2013 Dean's Distinguished Alumnus, who will be honored next August during Alumni Weekend 2013!



Jon Palmer, M.D. '01, received a national Innovation in Medical Education Award for his leadership in developing a simulation program for emergency department personnel. The award was from the Academy of Clerkship Directors in Emergency Medicine of the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Palmer, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at UAMS, teamed with department staff and the UAMS Simulation Center to develop a "trauma ambush" program that enables physicians and nurses to take part in a mock trauma scenario that they do not know is coming. Scenarios from the program were broadcast live to rural hospitals in Arkansas through the AR SAVES telemedicine network as well as to residents and faculty at UAMS.

Connect with us Online ...

The Medical Alumni Association rolled out a new and improved website this month! Your new one-stop location for alumni news and services, class rosters and more is: medicine.uams.edu/alumni

Photo courtesy of Sara Blancett for AMS



Dr. Steve Magie passes the gavel to 2012-2013 AMS President Dr. Gene Shelby.

Gene Shelby, M.D. '77, was inducted as president of the Arkansas Medical Society (AMS) at the organization's Annual Session in May. The former two-term Representative in the Arkansas General Assembly has helped to advance numerous health policy improvements for the state. Dr. Shelby has practiced emergency medicine in Hot Springs since 1982.

In addition to issues relating to health care reform and Medicaid changes, he plans to focus on tort reform, physician leadership and prescription drug abuse, according to a report in the *AMS Journal*. Dr. Shelby succeeds **Steve Magie, M.D. '80**, of Conway.



October means it's time for our costumed "Snack Attack" delivery of goodies to freshmen and sophomores between classes. Pictured from left: **Ginny Rice**, Director of Special Events and Student Activities, sophomore **William Penny**, Executive Director **Judith McClain**, and our newest team member, **Keri Taylor**. Keri joined us as Assistant Director of Special Events and Student Activities in August. She brings a wealth of experience from her previous posts at Garver, a regional civil engineering firm, where she worked for nine years, first as Marketing Coordinator and most recently as Special Projects Coordinator.

In Memoriam

1940s

David Matthew Yocum, M.D. '46, of El Dorado, died July 16, 2012.

Luther R. White Jr., M.D. '47, of Newport, died September 2, 2012.

Ralph F. Joseph, M.D. '47, of Walnut Ridge, died November 1, 2012.

1950s

Billy V. Hall, M.D. '50, of Gravette, died July 9, 2012.

J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D. '51, of Brookline, Mass., died May 3, 2012.

Thomas L. Ashcraft, M.D. '53, of Tulsa, Okla., died May 2, 2012.

Glen E. Keller, M.D. '55, of Houston, died May 26, 2012.

Robert H. Langston, M.D. '56, of Harrison, died November 23, 2012.

1960s

George Robert Cole, M.D. '61, of Fayetteville, died July 19, 2012.

Bob G. Smith, M.D. '62, of Springfield, Mo., died November 5, 2012.

M. Bryan Page, M.D. '65, of Hot Springs, died June 16, 2012.

James Turbeville, M.D. '67, of Murfreesboro, died May 26, 2012.

Keong-Chye Cheah, M.D. '67, of Steilacoom, Wash., died August 25, 2012.

Harold Truman Baber Jr., M.D. '68, of Houston, died July 3, 2012.

Earl Ballard Riddick Jr., M.D. '69, of Fayetteville, died August 25, 2012.

1970s

Timothy E. Davis, M.D. '71, of Greensboro, N.C., died October 26, 2012.

John C. Lewellen, M.D. '76, of Gainesville, Ga., died May 25, 2012.

Milton Ralph Barrett II, M.D. '79, of Lewisburg, W.V., died May 12, 2012.

1980s

Robert Akins, M.D. '82, of Sioux Falls, S.D., died March 28, 2012.

Gregory Lance Farque, M.D. '84, of Little Rock, died May 20, 2012.

1990s

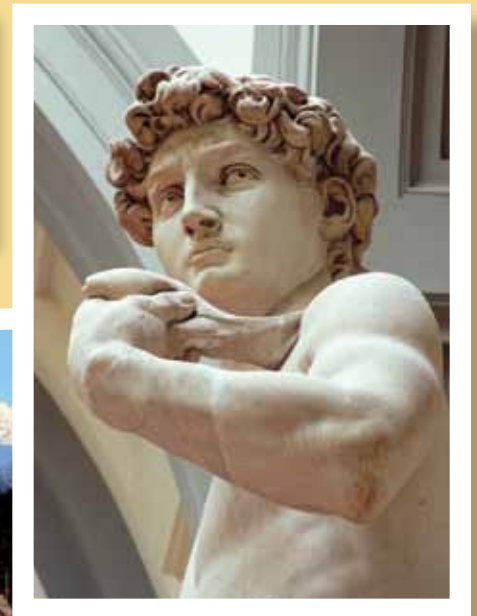
Tory Lee Stallcup, M.D. '98, of Jonesboro, died August 26, 2012.

PACK YOUR BAGS!

The old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words definitely applies to the breathtaking destinations on our **2013 Alumni Travel Program** itinerary. We'll let the pictures do the talking ...



Mayan Mystique: Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Honduras, Belize and more – February 22-March 4



Mediterranean Grandeur: Voyage to Rome, Sorrento, Positano and Florence (home of Michelangelo's "David," shown) – May 19-30



Alaskan Adventures: The Inside Passage, Sitka (shown), Ketchikan and Juno are a few of this cruise's destinations – August 5-12

Northern Italy Culture and Cuisine: A land tour of Sirmione (shown), Milan, Bardolino, Padua and more – October 11-19

For more information, visit medicine.uams.edu/alumni. Don't wait too long; these trips often sell out quickly!



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Publisher: Debra H. Fiser, M.D.

Editor: Judith K. McClain

Writer: Tamara Robinson

Contributors: Ginny Rice, Keri Taylor

Art Director: Mindy Stout

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