Booyse Wins “Silver Tray” Award

UAB Professor of Medicine Francois Booyse, PhD, has been awarded the 2004-2005 Silver Wine Productivity Tray by the Vinifera Wine Growers Association (VWGA). This prestigious annual award honors individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to the growth and viability of the American wine industry. Past recipients include Senator John Warner and television personality Willard Scott. In addition to the award, the VWGA also contributed a $1,000 grant to the UAB Center for Wine and Cardiovascular Health.

Dr. Booyse, a cardiovascular disease expert and prominent wine researcher, leads a multidisciplinary team of more than 17 researchers in exploring the genetic and molecular mechanisms by which alcohol and polyphenols — two...
financially supported medical education and facility construction and promoted continuing medical education and development of a patient referral network.

CHRONICLE OF STATE MEDICAL PROGRAMS

The text chronicles events that led to growth of the public Alabama medical programs and the alumni association, beginning with the Mobile school’s founding in 1859. The Civil War forced closure of the school in 1861; it reopened in 1868.

During most of its existence, a volunteer faculty provided instruction and state money was not forthcoming. Consequently, the school was unable to keep pace with the new emphasis on science and laboratory-based medicine. To improve its financial and academic standing in 1897, the Mobile program merged with the University of Alabama and changed its name to the Medical College of Alabama, Medical Department of the University of Alabama.

In 1919, despite efforts to bring the Mobile program into compliance with the 1910 Flexner Report recommendations, the American Medical Association’s Council on Medical Education recommended that the university close the 4-year school in Mobile, confining its efforts to “undergraduate” medical education. Students finishing the 2-year basic science course in Tuscaloosa had to complete medical training out of state.

“From the time the school moved from Mobile to Tuscaloosa, University alumni, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA), and private citizens fought to re-establish a 4-year medical school in Alabama,” Dr. Finley notes. This was accomplished in 1945 when the Medical College of Alabama moved from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham.

Back in 1927, the Southern Medical Association held a meeting at the Memphis Peabody Hotel. Most medical schools had alumni representation at this meeting. Realizing they had no representative association, 20 graduates of the Tuscaloosa program formed a medical alumni association,” he says. At a 1928 MASA meeting in Mobile, the Alumni Association of the Medical Department of the University of Alabama was organized.

“The current Medical Alumni Association was founded in 1963 and includes graduates of the Medical College of Alabama (now the University of Alabama School of Medicine), the Medical College of Alabama in Mobile, the Birmingham Medical College, and the 2-year program in Tuscaloosa,” Dr. Finley explains. “At that time, the association was set up with an office and staff, finally able to support the School of Medicine and its mission.”

NATION’S FIRST HIPAA CRIMINAL CONVICTION

United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington John McKay, has announced that Richard W. Gibson of SeaTac, Washington, pled guilty in a federal court in Seattle to wrongful disclosure of individually identifiable health information for economic gain.

Gibson admitted he obtained a patient’s name, date of birth, and social security number while employed at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. He used the patient’s information to obtain credit cards in the patient’s name.

Under a plea agreement, Gibson was sentenced to 10 to 16 months in prison and will pay restitution to the credit card companies and the victim.


Papapietro Joins Interventional Cardiology

UAB Professor and Director of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease Robert C. Bourge, MD, announces the recent appointment of Silvio E. Papapietro, MD, as assistant professor and director of the Chest Pain Center.

Dr. Papapietro joins UAB from private practice and from Carraway Methodist Medical Center, where he was medical director of cardiac catheterization and interventional cardiology laboratories for 17 years and medical director of the coronary care unit for 21 years. Dr. Papapietro also was a staff physician at Norwood Clinic in the Department of Cardiology for 21 years and on the faculty of the School of Medicine at UAB from 1978 to 1981.

Dr. Papapietro graduated from the University of Chile Medical School in Santiago, where he also completed a pharmacology fellowship. He completed his internship at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in Worcester, a residency at the UAB/Montgomery Internal Medicine Program and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at UAB.

He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, with subspecialties in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology.

In addition to numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, abstracts, and presentations, Dr. Papapietro is an international lecturer and received the 1991 Robert M. Bryan Award for Excellence in Teaching at Carraway Methodist Medical Center. Additionally, he was listed in the 2002 edition of Best Doctors in America and the 2002 and 2003 editions of “Best Docs in Birmingham,” by Birmingham Magazine.
Dr. Papapietro’s clinical interests center on cardiac hemodynamics and percutaneous interventions in coronary and peripheral vascular disease, and his current research focuses on the treatment of ischemic heart disease.

He is currently accepting patients at The Kirklin Clinic®; call 934-7898 for patient appointments. He also can be reached via e-mail at spapapietro@uab.edu.

Remembering Sue Marchase

Susan Darrow Marchase, former director of administration and fiscal affairs for UAB’s Department of Medicine, died December 26, 2004. She was 54.

Marchase worked in the Department of Medicine since 1988. There, she was responsible for overseeing departmental human resources, management, grants, and faculty development programs. She also was an honored advisor to UAB Synopsis, and is deeply missed by the staff.

“She was instrumental in ensuring how smoothly our department operated,” says William J. Koopman, MD, medicine department chair. “The fact that she stayed within the department for so many years made it so much easier to face new challenges. She enabled the physicians and researchers to go about their work because we knew that administrative matters were being handled in a timely and professional manner.”

Marchase also was active in women’s issues at UAB, serving on the Department of Medicine’s faculty women’s committee. She continually worked to identify, retain, recruit, and develop women for leadership positions within the department and the university. In 2002, she was named Outstanding Administrator/Staff by the UAB Women’s Center and UAB’s Women’s Studies Program. As one of the letters of support stated, “Sue is a woman of strong convictions and has the courage to speak them, as well as live them.”

In 2004, the award was renamed in her honor. Applicants must demonstrate throughout their careers qualities of leadership, vision, courage, dedication, and commitment to the university, and especially to the cause of advancement of women at UAB and in the community. All these are characteristics that describe Marchase.

Marchase received a BA in economics from Duke University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to joining UAB, she worked at AT&T, Duke University’s development office, and AmSouth Bank.

She is survived by her husband, Richard, son, Nicholas, daughter, Allison, mother Anita Darrow, sisters, Karen and Barbara, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service on December 29 honored her unique contributions to UAB, its faculty, staff, and students. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Susan D. Marchase Outstanding Woman Administrator Award, care of UAB Gift Records, 701 20th St.South, Birmingham, AL 35294.

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key wine components — work to prevent heart disease. The research, which further examines the heart-protective benefits of moderate wine consumption, is supported by a $7.6 million, 5-year grant awarded to UAB in 2003 by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). It is the first-ever multi-disciplinary NHLBI Program Project Grant focused specifically on studies of the mechanisms underlying wine and cardiovascular health.

Dr. Booyse was instrumental in establishing UAB’s Center for Wine and Cardiovascular Health. The center provides a formal structure that builds on the university’s unique government-funded research base by incorporating innovative programs, strategies, and opportunities aimed at enhanced promotion of wine and cardiovascular health research, nationally and internationally.

Established in 1973, VWGA was an early supporter of the production of quality commercial wines and the building of a wine industry along the Eastern seaboard. Today, the international wine trade association works with state and national governments on issues that challenge
Dr. Hawxby has been the recipient of a variety of awards, including a 2003 Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Education Award for Teaching Excellence, in addition to coauthoring book chapters, abstracts, and peer-reviewed journal articles. Dr. Hawxby’s clinical interests center on abdominal organ transplantation and procurement, dialysis access, general surgery in dialysis patients, and incompatible kidney transplantations. He may be reached via e-mail at alan.hawxby@ccc.uab.edu.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The International Center for Equal Healthcare Access (ICEHA) is recruiting experienced physicians and nurses for 8 to 12 week sessions in developing countries. Currently, 200 short-term volunteer providers are urgently needed for technical assistance in HIV and infectious diseases care. Using clinical mentoring, volunteers provide local health-care providers with HIV bedside training. ICEHA’s largest program, and the one most in need of volunteers, is in Cambodia. Worldwide, more than 500,000 HIV patients will be targeted for help.