 Eclectic Collection Adds Culture To The Clinic

ART IN TKC

Barbara Oliver’s chair at The Kirklin Clinic®’s (TKC) information desk gives her a perfect view of the new Birmingham Museum of Art (BMA) exhibit enhancing once-empty first-floor space. It’s fitting that Oliver, who has worked at TKC since it opened in 1992, should have a good view; she has advocated bringing art into the clinic for 11 years.

Once her boss, TKC Assistant Executive Director David Caldwell, MPH, got behind the idea, the project took off, and on November 29, 2004, two large display cases housing a selection of BMA art objects were installed. The custom-designed cases echo the modern lines of TKC’s architecture and showcase 19 pieces of art from the museum’s Asian, African, European, Modern and Contemporary, and Decorative Art collections.

A Qing dynasty (1644-1911) porcelain jar, a French bronze, and an 18th century teapot from the museum’s extensive Wedgwood collection are among pieces that give TKC patients, visitors, and staff a taste of the BMA’s 21,000 works of art.

Also highlighted are a turn-of-the-century tribal mask from Liberia, 19th century candlesticks from France, and a whimsical piece cast in bronze by internationally known Birmingham artist Frank Fleming.

“We are pleased with this outstanding opportunity for the museum to forge new connections with the community and with UAB’s medical staff,” BMA Director Gail Trechsel says. “The clinic’s high visibility and traffic increase awareness of the museum, especially for the many out-of-town guests who visit Kirklin.”

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We are always seeking ways to improve patients’ experience. Bringing art into TKC provides an aesthetically pleasing diversion, highlights one of the city’s best cultural attractions, and sets the clinic apart from other local healthcare institutions. I am grateful to physicians on the Clinical Practice Committee for their support of this project; they are enthusiastic about enhancing all aspects of the time patients spend in TKC,” Caldwell says. “In the future, I’d like to expand our relationship with the museum, possibly filling other underutilized spaces around Kirklin.”

**BREMSS Designated State’s Sole Regional EMS Service**

Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System (BREMSS), Alabama’s sole remaining regional Emergency Medical Service (EMS), covers six counties — Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker. Previously, Alabama had six EMS programs, but BREMSS was the only one to survive recent state budget cuts.

“Reevaluation of each regional EMS program resulted in BREMSS being the only program still funded by the Alabama Special Education Trust. BREMSS also has a contractual relationship with the Alabama Department of Public Health,” BREMSS Executive Director Joe Acker says.

“As required by law, BREMSS uses state funds to coordinate emergency services in its six-county area, as well as provide EMS training and education, assist EMS providers with their jobs, such as obtaining grants for equipment, oversee EMS medical control functions, and develop a plan to educate emergency medical technicians,” Acker explains.

“Our education plan is critical, because the number of emergency medical technicians in Alabama is declining. In fact, we are fast approaching a point where lack of trained personnel will affect our ability to meet our obligations to patients.”

**BREMSS SERVICES**

BREMSS coordinates the Regional Trauma System through its Trauma Communication Center (TCC) and the LifeTrac system. Trac, which stands for triage, routing, and communication, links the emergency teams and ambulances with the 17 hospitals in BREMSS’s area. The system provides continuous, up-to-the-minute information on hospital resource availability.

“When a hospital’s resource is overloaded, it is placed on diversion status, which means ambulances are directed to deliver patients requiring that resource to another hospital,” Acker says.

In addition, through an extension of the diversion program, BREMSS’s surveillance plan can rapidly detect a possible biological or chemical attack and coordinate TCC’s response. “When four or more hospitals report overloaded emergency departments or critical care or medical/surgical beds, we upgrade the system’s status from ‘monitoring’ to ‘investigatory,’” Acker explains. “TCC in-
vestigates and tracks signs and symptoms, such as respiratory, dermatologic, or gastrointestinal events, that could signal a biological or chemical attack.

In the event of trauma cases, catastrophes such as tornadoes or train crashes, terrorist attacks, or outbreaks of an infectious disease, BREMSS can link all area hospitals through its TCC radio system and send secure messages, providing the fastest and most efficient exchange of crucial information.

“We will continue to perform the duties that garnered state support and expand our services, when possible,” Acker concludes.

### NEW MEDICAL CENTER MAPS

Updated UAB Medical Center District maps are available with directions from Interstates, street maps, and Medical Center second floor concourse map. Produced by UAB Health System Marketing Communications, there is a color map booklet and black-and-white pad version with tear-off sheets.

Hospital departments can order maps via Better Business Forms using Lawson Item #67132 (color map) and #17466 (black and white map). For more information on hospital ordering, contact Tish Stewart at 934-2755.

The Kirklin Clinic® (TKC) offices and clinics can request maps from TKC Patient Relations. For more information on TKC ordering, contact Joanna Addison at 801-8623.

### Appointments

#### ACTIVE STAFF

**Ashraf E. Khan, MD, 934-8666, THT 215, Pulmonary, Effective November**

**Kristine L. Lokken, PhD, 975-8751, CPM C123, Psychiatry, Effective December**

**Kristen O. Riley, MD, 996-2461, FOT 1046, Neurosurgery, Effective October**

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### Monfared Joins Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

UB Professor and Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Amie B. Jackson, MD, announces the appointment of Hassan H. Monfared, MD, as assistant professor. He holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Anesthesiology.

Dr. Monfared graduated from Shahid Beheshti School of Medical Sciences and Health Services in Tehran, Iran, where he also completed an orthopedic surgery residency, including a year as chief resident.

In the United States, he completed an internal medicine internship and physical medicine and rehabilitation residency at Case Western Reserve University of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, where he again served as chief resident. Prior to joining UAB, Dr. Monfared completed a pain management fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Dr. Monfared’s clinical interests center on pain management and interventional pain management. His current research focuses on discogenic pain. He is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and board eligible in the subspecialty of pain management.

He is currently accepting patients at The Kirklin Clinic® and The Workplace; call 934-4131 for patient appointments. Dr. Monfared may be reached at 996-4047 for academic and administrative calls; e-mail monfared@uab.edu.

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2005 FACULTY PROMOTION AND TENURE AWARD CYCLE GUIDELINES

School of Medicine deadline for submitting material for faculty promotion and tenure awards is Friday, March 18, 2005, by the close of business. All material must be completed in concordance with the guidelines and delivered to Kim Rodgers, Faculty Office Tower 12th floor. The 2005 guidelines for promotion and tenure can be reviewed at:

www.uab.edu/uasom

To access a Synopsis article from the last 2 years, visit our Web site at www.health.uab.edu/synopsis. You can search by date or subject in the left sidebar.

UBA physicians: visit MSI, the password-protected Medical Staff intranet site, at https://horizon.hs.uab.edu.
Report Suspected Abuse

All staff having knowledge of a patient (elder, adult, or child) with a physical injury as a result of personal violence (ie, suspicious fractures and bruises, domestic violence, gunshots, knife wounds, or sexual assault) are mandated to report it to their immediate supervisors. State law stipulates penalties, including fines and jail time, for not reporting.

It is the responsibility of the supervisors notified of the injury to contact the UAB police officer assigned to the Emergency Department (975-8148 or 934-5100). The information should include the following, if possible:

- Patient’s name;
- Type of injury;
- Perpetrator;
- Method of conveyance to hospital; and
- Current location in hospital.

The UAB police officer receiving the report must forward the information to the proper authorities, to University Hospital Social Services (934-4737), and to Risk Management through the paging operator.

Stresses Of Resident Life

The Resource Center, UAB’s employee assistance and counseling service, is a free, confidential, and voluntary service for all employees and their families. The center provides one-on-one counseling and referral services in areas that sometimes threaten an employee’s emotional balance.

“Some people think you should be able to leave your problems at home,” says Director Marie Baisden, LPC. “Although that sounds wonderful in theory, it just doesn’t work. That’s why we’re here.”

The center’s six full-time counselors each hold a minimum of a master’s degree in counseling and are licensed by the State Board of Examiners in Counseling.

Consultations are strictly confidential. Information is not included in personnel records or revealed to supervisors, co-workers, colleagues, friends, or family members.

The center’s office, located in Medical Towers, is open Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. Telephone 934-2281 for more information or to arrange an appointment.

16th Floor Lounges

The 16th floor of Jefferson Tower offers residents call rooms and other facilities, including a lounge (room 1625) with a large-screen TV, reading materials, and telephones. A dining area (room 1621) is available with vending machines, a refrigerator, a microwave, and a television.

Residents can work out in the exercise area (room 1620), equipped with modern exercise equipment, including a LifeStep machine, LifeCycles, a Hoist 4000 exercise station, and benches and barbells.