

2009-2010
OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Office of Student Affairs is responsible for all educational programs in the College of Medicine from admission through graduation from medical school. These activities encompass the areas of Admissions, Student and Academic Affairs, and Continuing Medical Education and are primarily overseen by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. An Assistant Dean of Curriculum oversees curriculum and an Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education oversees the residency programs. An additional Assistant Dean participates in academic counseling and career counseling is partly driven by clinical departments under the direction of Student Affairs.

Activities of the Office of Student Affairs are accomplished through offices in the Medical Sciences Building, Central Services and Administration Building, and Mastin Building.

Student Affairs

The Office of Student Affairs continues to be ably staffed by Ms. Kimberlee Nodine (MSB) and Ms. Karen Braswell (Mastin). Rhonda Smith, College of Medicine Registrar, Sharon Bull, College of Medicine Financial Aid Officer, and Connie Land, Student Affairs Business Manager, dealt with a myriad of student issues throughout the academic year. Emily Alford, secretary to Dr. Hattie Myles, Assistant Dean for Educational Enrichment, ably assisted with the organization and management of the DREAM program, in its second year having succeeded the BEAR program.

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama once again sponsored Match Day festivities which were again held at the USA Brookley Magnolia Ballroom on March 18, 2010. Match envelopes were distributed and at the stroke of 11 a.m., the bell was rung, and students opened their envelopes. While over half of the Class of 2010 remained in the State of Alabama, two students matched to Colorado and three to California.

Honors Convocation for the College of Medicine was held on Friday evening, May 7, 2010, in the Mitchell Center on the USA campus. Dr. Allan Tucker, chair of the Department of Pathology, was selected as the faculty speaker by the Class of 2010 and James Christopher Bailey was selected to be the class speaker. Awards for academic achievement and community service were announced along with the first recipient of the Regan Robinson Young Scholarship, created in memory of the young medical student who succumbed to cancer in the spring of her senior year several years ago.

Dr. Margaret O'Brien administered the Hippocratic Oath. An informal on-site reception followed the ceremony. Graduation was held at 2 p.m. the following day.

Junior Orientation for the 2010-2011 school year was completely redesigned this year. Instead of occurring immediately at the end of the second year, the orientation was a week long and was scheduled the week before the beginning of the third year. In addition to the historic topics of patient privacy and confidentiality, medical records, and student safety, professionalism in the clinical years was particularly addressed and a hands-on surgical skills session was added. All students were certified in ACLS.

At the end of their orientation week, rising third year students attended the White Coat Ceremony, sponsored by the Medical Alumni Association, on Saturday, June 26, 2010. Due to a constellation of factors, there was a last minute venue change. The White Coat Ceremony was held for the first time at the Saenger Theater in downtown Mobile. The students were addressed by Dr. Felicia Wilson, oncologist in the Department of Pediatrics, and by class president, Kacie Jackson. The junior students were "coated" by Drs. Strada and Franks. Subsequently, the new inductees of the Gold Humanism Honor Society were recognized. Dr. Margaret O'Brien administered the USA "Medical Student Oath."

Student Affairs supports a tutoring program which pays upperclassman and/or graduate students to tutor students who request assistance in the Basic Science courses. In 2009-2010, five (5) tutors provided 68.75 hours of tutoring to fourteen (14) students in Physiology, Neuroscience, Microbiology, Histology, Biochemistry, and Gross Anatomy.

The number of visiting medical students who participated in Senior elective courses at USACOM in 2009-2010 is outlined below:

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Total Visitors	20	19	26	19	19
From LCME Schools	6	9	10	8	10
From Osteopathic Schools	10	6	5	4	2
From Foreign Schools	4	4	11	7	7
Completed Paperwork, but Cancelled Visit					
From LCME Schools	2	5	4	6	3
From Osteopathic Schools	2	2	2	2	1
From Foreign Schools	8	2	3	2	6
Departments in which Electives were taken					
Anesthesiology	0	1	0	0	0
Clinical Pharmacology	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Medicine	6	3	5	2	0
Family Practice	0	4	4	4	1
Internal Medicine	15	7	11	9	8
Medical Genetics	0	0	0	0	0
Neurology	4	0	3	2	0
Neurological Surgery	0	0	1	0	1
Obstetrics/Gynecology	0	5	1	2	2
Ophthalmology	0	0	0	0	0
Orthopedics	3	3	4	1	5
Pathology	0	4	4	1	0
Pediatrics	2	2	4	2	5
Psychiatry	0	0	1	0	0
Radiology	3	6	2	2	0
Surgery	2	4	2	2	3

Months Electives Taken

	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-2010	
	American	Foreign	American	Foreign	American	Foreign	American	Foreign
January	1	0	2	5	3	3	1	0
February	5	1	1	5	2	1	0	0
March	3	1	0	5	0	0	0	0
April	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
May	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
June	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1
July	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
August	1	1	3	2	2	0	4	1
September	3	1	4	2	2	0	3	2
October	2	0	3	1	1	3	4	2
November	7	0	1	1	3	3	0	5
December	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	2

Letters of evaluation (Dean's Letters) were written for each of the 66 seniors who graduated in May, 2010. Students applied to 1917 residency programs through the AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS).

Fifty-eight (58) of the sixty-six (66) students matched for residency positions. Fifty-nine (59) of the May graduates used the NRMP as their primary means of obtaining residency. Two (2) graduates used the Military Match and two (2) used the San Francisco Match. Ten (10) students secured a residency training position in the "scramble" that followed the match.

	Number of Graduates	Match Utilized		Initially Failed to Match in NRMP
		NRMP	Non-NRMP*	
2006	61	55	6	7
2007	63	59	4	3
2008	65	61	4	1
2009	63	59	4	5
2010	66	62	4	10

**University of South Alabama Seniors
Residencies Received by Discipline**

	Class of 2006		Class of 2007		Class of 2008		Class of 2009		Class of 2010	
PRIMARY CARE:	28	46%	27	43%	26	40%	30	48%	28	42%
Internal Medicine	11	18%	18	29%	12	18%	15	24%	15	23%
Family Medicine	4	7%	0		8	12%	2	3%	1	1%
Pediatrics	9	15%	6	10%	4	6%	10	16%	8	12%
Med/Psych	0		0		0		0		0	
Med/Peds	4	7%	3	5%	2	3%	3	5%	4	6%
Anesthesiology	0		2		3		1		3	
Child Neurology									1	
Dermatology	0		0		1		0		0	
Emergency Medicine	1		1		4		3		1	
Neurology	5		1		4		3		3	
Neurological Surgery	0		0		0		1		0	
OB/Gyn	6		6		6		5		4	
Ophthalmology	1		0		0		0		1	
Orthopedics	5		4		4		4		3	
Otolaryngology (ENT)	0		0		0		0		0	
Pathology	0		1		2		3		5	
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	1		1		2		1		0	
Psychiatry	0		1		1		0		3	
Psychiatry/Neurology	0		0		0		0		0	
Radiology	3		4		4		6		6	
Surgery	7		10		5		4		4	
Surgery-Preliminary									4	
Transitional	1		4		2		2		0	
Urology	1		0		1		0		0	

**University of South Alabama Seniors
Residencies Received by State**

	Alabama		USA Hospitals (Mobile)	Out-of-State		Number of Different States
2006	23	37%	12	38	62%	15
2007	26	41%	18	36	57%	18
2008	30	46%	22	35	54%	17
2009	16	25%	11	47	75%	20
2010	33	50%	23	33	50%	14

Sixty-six seniors received the Doctor of Medicine degree at Commencement on May 8, 2010. On the evening of May 7, the College held its thirty-fifth Honors Convocation, which took place in the Mitchell Center. Dr. J. Allan Tucker addressed the class and Christopher R. Bailey responded for the graduates. Prior to hooding the graduates, the following awards were presented:

Dean's Award – Haley Hallman Ballard

Outstanding Student in the Anatomical Sciences – Haley Hallman Ballard

Charles M. Baugh Award in Biochemistry – Haley Hallman Ballard

Medical Assurance Award – Brandon Winslett Kirkland

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award – Brian Wesley Wells and Mary Mancao, M.D.

SNMA Leadership Award – Tiffany Chanté Henderson Mullins

Community Service Award – Tiffany Chanté Henderson Mullins and Loucresie Níchelle Rupert

Lewis Anderson Medical Student Achievement Award – Aaron Kyle Mates

William A. Gardner, Jr. Pathology Award – James Richard Frost

Merck Award – James Richard Frost and Sarah Silver Payne

Samuel Eichold Award – Rachel Kristina Traylor

Hollis J. Wiseman Award for Excellence in Pediatrics – Jamie Brooke Caudill

Pharmacology Achievement Award – Haley Hallman Ballard

John W. Donald Memorial Award in Surgery – Brandon Winslett Kirkland

Medical Alumni Leadership Award – Aaron Kyle Mates

Charles W. Urschel Achievement Award in Physiology – Haley Hallman Ballard

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award – Adam Wesley Watterson

Grade Distribution 2009 - 2010 Academic Year

	A	B	C	D	F	GPA
Freshman Courses Average GPA: 3.30						
Biochemistry	12	46	12	3	2	2.84
Developmental Anatomy	20	47	6	2		3.13
Fundamentals of Doctoring I	141	7				3.95
Gross Anatomy	23	41	5	4		3.14
Histology	14	40	13	4	4	2.75
Intro to Clinical Medicine I	53	17	5			3.64
Public Health	69	5				3.93
Physiology	15	49	7	3	1	2.99
Sophomore Courses Average GPA: 3.42						
Fundamentals of Doctoring II	110	36	2			3.73
Genetics	37	32	5			3.43
Intro. To Clinical Med. II	61	14				3.81
Microbiology	19	41	10	3		3.04
Neuroscience	33	29	9	2	1	3.23
Pathology	33	35	4	1		3.37
Pharmacology	28	43	2	2		3.29
Junior Clerkships Average GPA: 3.62						
Family Medicine	41	26			2	3.51
Internal Medicine	38	32	1			3.52
Neurology	66	5				3.93
Obstetrics/Gynecology	46	17	8			3.54
Pediatrics	35	34	1		1	3.44
Psychiatry	42	28	1			3.58
General Surgery	61	14				3.81

Academic Progress of Medical Students
Source: Part II of LCME Annual Medical School Questionnaire

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Initial Students in Class	64	67	67	70	75
Graduates	60	63	65	63	66
True Attrition (will not receive M.D. in any year)	N/A	1	2	3	7

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Dismissed					
Freshmen	1	3	1	0	2
Sophomores	1	1	1	0	0
Juniors	1	1	0	0	0
Seniors	1	0	1	0	0
Placed on Leaves of Absence (LOA)					
Freshmen	0	0	0	0	0
Sophomores	1	0	2	5	4
Juniors	5	7	7	9	9
Transferred to Another Medical School	2	1	0	1	0
Withdrew	1	0	2	1	0
Admitted with Advanced Standing or Re-entered from Graduate School	0	2	2	0	0
Deceased	0	1	0	0	0
Repeated All or Part of the Year	1	1	4	3	2
Enrolled on a Decelerated Schedule	0	0	0	0	0

Minority Students (Black, Native American, Hispanic)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Total	28	31	26	24	24
Freshmen	6	10	6	6	3
All Other Classes	22	21	20	18	21

**United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE) Step 1
First Time Takers**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of Students	65	64	69	67	72
National Overall Mean	217	218	222	221	221
USACOM Overall Mean	225	211	221	215	219
Failure Rate – National	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%
Failures at USA	2%	9%	3%	7%	8%

Minimum passing score = 176 in 1997; 179 in 1998-2000; 182 beginning in 2001; 185 in 2007; Standard deviation approximately 20

**United States Medical Licensure Exam (USMLE) Step 2
First Time Takers**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Students	59	63	65	63	66
National Overall Mean	221	225	226	229	230
USACOM Overall Mean	212	224	216	227	225
Failure Rate – National	6%	5%	4%	4%	3%
Failures at USA	8%	3%	9%	3%	0

Minimum passing score = 170 for Class of 1997-2000; 174 beginning with the Class of 2001; 182 beginning with the Class of 2004; 184 beginning with the Class of 2008
Standard deviation = approximately 20

United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE) Step 3

	Class of 2003	Class of 2004	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007
National Percentage Passing	96	97	97	96	96
USA Percentage Passing	100	98	96	92	95
USA Number of Students	58 (a)	61 (b)	54 (c)	50 (d)	56 (e)

- (a) 59/60 students had taken Step 3 as of 6/07
- (b) 58/59 students had taken Step 3 as of 6/08
- (c) 61/63 students had taken Step 3 as of 6/09
- (d) 56/56 students had taken Step 3 as of 12/09
- (e) 59/60 students had taken Step 3 as of 12/09

**Evaluation of Student Performance
in the First Postgraduate Year***

The questionnaire adopted by the Curriculum Committee in 1990-91 for assessment of graduates of the College of Medicine was sent to the Directors of the PGY-1 programs of our 2009 graduates. A total of 54 responses were received out of 63 requests. Below is a summary of the responses to the four major areas that were assessed.

	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009
Medical Knowledge				
Top Fifth	1%	20%	21%	30%
Upper Middle Fifth	27%	48%	39%	46%
Middle Fifth	51%	24%	27%	22%
Lower Middle Fifth	13%	6%	11%	1%
Bottom Fifth	0%	2%	2%	1%
Data Collection				
Top Fifth	12%	17%	22%	27%
Upper Middle Fifth	39%	52%	42%	49%
Middle Fifth	45%	25%	32%	24%
Lower Middle Fifth	3%	6%	4%	0%
Bottom Fifth	0%	0%	0%	0%
Clinical Judgment and Skills				
Top Fifth	21%	29%	27%	24%
Upper Middle Fifth	36%	40%	38%	55%
Middle Fifth	39%	20%	28%	20%
Lower Middle Fifth	6%	4%	7%	0%
Bottom Fifth	0%	0%	0%	1%
Professional Attitudes				
Top Fifth	24%	39%	36%	51%
Upper Middle Fifth	33%	36%	41%	31%
Middle Fifth	39%	18%	20%	17%
Lower Middle Fifth	3%	6%	3%	0%
Bottom Fifth	0%	0%	0%	1%

*Evaluated by Residency Program Director and/or Faculty

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The 2009-2010 Curriculum Committee was chaired by Dr. Abu Al-Mehdi, Associate Professor of Pharmacology. During the year, the Committee addressed the following issues:

- Proposed new senior level electives in surgery, including a new acting internship in laparoscopic surgery were approved.
- The second year Basic Science course directors presented their courses to the Committee including performance statistics, student feedback, and correlation to institutional objectives.
- A task force examined the content of the second year, spring semester, medical genetics course. With the assistance of the medical genetics course director, the essential course content was incorporated into existing courses, particularly Developmental Anatomy, Biochemistry, Pathology, and Neuroscience. The Curriculum Committee then approved the cessation of the Medical Genetics course on the grounds that the prior course had duplicated material and a concerted effort has been made to lighten the curricular load in the spring semester of the second year so that students may better prepare for USMLE Step 1.
- A task force under the leadership of Dr. Tony Gard developed uniform, standardized, e-mail-driven course evaluations that will be utilized beginning in the fall of 2010. The course evaluations will provide bankable data for Curriculum Committee purposes. Dr. Gard's task force was ably assisted by Cecelia Martin from the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment.
- Dr. Benjamin Estrada was the head of a task force that examined the need for informatics instruction at both the faculty and student level. His task force is in the process of designing on-line educational modules in this area.
- Drs. Al-Mehdi and Sosnowski headed up a task force to examine the need for case-based integrated review for USMLE Step 1. A two-week curriculum was adopted by the Curriculum Committee which will utilize case scenarios developed by clinicians, presented by students and will focus on integration of basic science information. The course will be pass/fail/honors and will be held at the end of the school year.
- A medical education workshop was held for the third consecutive year during the summer. The workshop focused on issues such as incorporation of an informatics curriculum, on-line evaluations, and the inclusion of simulation within the curriculum.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF STUDENT ASSEMBLY

As set forth in the Student Handbook, the Student Assembly addressed issues affecting student life. The Officers for 2009-10 were Christina Cochran - President, Brandon Kirkland - Vice President, and Sonia Singh – Secretary/Treasurer. The Faculty Advisors were Dr. T. J. Hundley, Internal Medicine and Dr. Anthony Gard, Cell Biology.

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

- 1) **Student Health Insurance.** Prior to the start of the 2009-2010 academic year, a University-wide task force was formed to bid out specifications for student health insurance. United Health Care was awarded the contract. Many incoming freshmen purchased the United Health Care policy and subsequently complained to the Student Assembly about inadequate service and payment of benefits. The Blue Cross Blue Shield policy, previously purchased from Alabama Administrators, expired when Alabama Administrators declined to further participate with the Student Assembly. Subsequently, the Student Assembly permitted students to have any form of health insurance and then voted to require a more expensive policy directly with Blue Cross Blue Shield. At the end of 2009-2010, students were covered by policies either from parents/spouse, United Health Care, or Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.
- 2) **The Student Assembly voted to change the officer structure.** It was noted that senior members of the Student Assembly frequently missed meetings secondary to externships. Accordingly, the Assembly voted to draw Assembly officers from the junior class, instead of the senior class.
- 3) **The second annual Gumbo Chili Cookoff, supported by the Student Assembly, occurred in February, 2010.** This event was created last year to benefit the Regan Robinson-Young Scholarship fund. The support and response were unprecedented and the event earned more than \$15,000.
- 4) **A new Student Mentoring and Advising Program was designed to offer students in the first and second year “peer” advice from upperclassmen.** The SMAP program will be instituted in the fall of 2010.
- 5) **Skit Night was held at the Temple in downtown Mobile in May, 2009; it was again financially supported by the Student Assembly.**
- 6) **Previously outstanding yearbooks finally issued.**

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Total Financial Aid	\$7,476,092	\$8,732,001	\$8,800,872	\$8,863,202	\$9,758,827
Students on Aid	244	252	267	250	264
Loans					
Perkins	912,480	1,350,000	0	0	0
Stafford Loan	1,612,329	1,925,439	1,842,228	1,791,132	1,962,148
Graduate Unsubsidized	3,752,394	4,310,896	5,537,603	5,770,917	6,245,368
FGrad Plus	0	0	1,198	40,095	151,801
Outside Private Loans	27,398	22,495	25,677	0	0
Total Loans	\$6,304,601	\$7,608,830	\$7,406,706	\$7,602,144	\$8,359,317
Scholarships					
University Sponsored	493,272	545,506	517,640	500,529	777,563
Outside Sponsored	481,251	305,514	580,790	427,982	342,364
Military – Army	27,423	14,439	0	17,790	38,439
Military – Navy	27,557	72,917	64,377	36,429	58,994
Military - Air Force	96,988	144,795	146,501	180,524	97,988
Alabama Medical Board Scholarship	45,000	40,000	45,000	50,000	35,000
Alabama VA Benefits	0	0	39,858	47,804	25,460
Post 9-11 GI Bill					23,702
Total Scholarships	\$1,171,491	\$1,123,171	\$1,394,166	\$1,261,058	\$1,399,510
Average Indebtedness of a Graduating Senior					
	\$98,952	\$126,116	\$126,692	\$130,890	\$133,227

An Emergency Loan Fund is available to medical students. Loans of up to \$500 may be obtained by students through a fund administered by the Office of Student Affairs and Medical Education for a period of up to 60 days for the purpose of alleviating an unanticipated financial need. There is no interest charged. During the period August 1, 2009, through July 31, 2010, fifteen (15) emergency loans were approved for a total amount of \$7,200.00. During that period, thirteen (13) payments totaling \$6,500.00 were paid back into the loan account.

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

Diversity, Recruitment, and Enrichment for Admission into Medicine (D.R.E.A.M.)

The summer of 2010 marked the twenty-fourth (24th) year of the summer recruitment and enrichment program at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. Over this period of time, the program has served a total of 248 students.

Recent University budget challenges has made it necessary to reduce the number of program participants, for the second year in a row, to the original number, seven (7), accepted when the program first began in 1986.

The focus of the D.R.E.A.M. continues to promote diversity within our college and help educationally and economically disadvantaged candidates realize their dreams of becoming physicians. The envisioned outcome is that these students will remain in the state and return to their communities to serve the underserved and help eliminate health disparities within our state and the nation.

Phase I

The composition of the 2010 Phase I class of incoming D.R.E.A.M. students was a total of seven (7) students; two (2) males and five (5) females representing five (5) institutions:

Alabama A&M.....	1
Howard.....	1
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.....	1
Stillman.....	1
University of South Alabama.....	3

Four (4) of the seven students are Alabama residents, two (2) are residents of Mississippi, and one (1) is a resident of Columbus, Georgia. The grade point averages of Phase I entering students ranged from 3.35 to 4.0, and ACT scores ranged from 18 to 29.

Phase II

All of the students who participated in Phase I of the program in the summer of 2009 were successful and returned in 2010 for Phase II except one (1) student from USA who chose a different major field. The Phase II students represent four (4) different institutions:

Auburn	2
Mississippi Univ. for Women....	1
Stillman.....	2
USA.....	1

Five (5) of the six Phase II students are Alabama residents; one (1) is a resident of Jackson, Mississippi.

Admissions

In August of 2010, three (3) males and two (2) females, former D.R.E.A.M. students, entered the University of South Alabama College of Medicine freshman class. The new students represent Tuskegee University (1), University of Alabama, Huntsville (1), Notre Dame (1), Salem College

(1), and Texas Christian (1). Three (3) students are Alabama residents, one (1) is a resident of Texas, and one (1) is a resident of California.

Other Recruitment

The Office of Educational Enrichment visited fewer colleges this year, again due to budget challenges. Recruitment trips were made to five (5) colleges and universities: Alabama State University, Stillman College, University of Alabama, and Xavier and Dillard Universities of Louisiana.