

June 24, 2008

Dear Fellow Alum,

Just want to give you a summer update on MAA activities. I am delighted to report that our membership continues to increase and that our Endowment Fund has now reached \$425,000.

We have three new Role Model honorees for this year, who will be recognized at the White Coat Ceremony on August 24: Wayne H. Finley, Ph.D., M.D. '60 of Birmingham, Alabama, George C. Smith, Sr. M.D. '65 of Lineville, Alabama, and Jeffery D. Larson, M.D. '83 of Murphy, North Carolina. Nominations are open for 2009; a nomination form is available on the MAA website.

Thus far all has gone well with the construction of the Marriott Residence Inn next door to our alum building. They are compensating us for the inconvenience.

We had an antiquated and very expensive old telephone system in the Alum building and have replaced it with our own new system, which will save us hundreds of dollars. Please make a note of these new numbers: Elaine's direct line (205) 325-4749. Toni's new direct line (205) 325-4753. The new main line is (205) 325-3092. The old main line is still active, so you can still reach Elaine and Toni at (205) 934-4463.

Recently, through our Student Assistance Fund, we were able to assist a student who had a devastating fire just before his exams. He was most appreciative and says that our assistance enabled him to concentrate on his medical education rather than his loss from the fire. We appreciate your contributions to this fund, which now has over \$14,000. I would like to remind you that our card, featuring Qin Zhang's (COM2) artwork, is available all year and can be used for honorariums and memorials. Toni Sewell will be glad to personally inscribe and send these out for you (office@alabamamedicalalumni.org). Donations go to our Student Assistance Fund.

Our website (<http://www.alabamamedicalalumni.org>) has been enhanced and I hope you will visit often to keep informed of activities. We added a new Student's Corner when we learned that many of the students were unaware of available MAA programs and the Caduceus Club travel fellowships.

The year 2009 will mark the 150th Anniversary of Medical Education in Alabama. Wayne Finley, our historian, is working with the School of Medicine on celebratory plans. Wayne's book (*University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association 1859-2003*) contains a wealth of history and you may want to review it as we approach this monumental occasion. In case you do not have a copy, they are available on our alum website. We will focus on our history during the 2009 Annual Alumni Reunion, which will be held February 27th-28th.

Our next board meeting will be August 23rd in Birmingham. We plan to have our December 13th meeting at the University of Alabama School of Medicine campus in Tuscaloosa.

I hope that you are having a wonderful summer. Please send us your questions and comments, and remember to notify the MAA office if you have a change of address or email address. We do not share this information, but email saves the MAA (you) money that would otherwise be spent on postage.

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