Oparil honored for lifetime achievement

Professor Suzanne Oparil (Medicine), director of the vascular biology and hypertension program in the UAB Division of Cardiovascular Disease and former president of the American Heart Association, has been honored with the 2002 AHA Lifetime Achievement Award. Oparil’s clinical expertise in hypertension and basic research make her one of the nation’s leading physician-investigators. She has made significant contributions to the field, including a definition of the role of the anterior hypothalamic area in salt-sensitive hypertension. In 1970, while a post-doctoral fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital, she demonstrated that angiotensin II, a cause of cardiac enlargement and hypertension, is produced in the hypothalamic area in salt-sensitive hypertension.

Jerry Stephens is OCLC trustee

Director Jerry Stephens (Mervyn H. Sterne Library) has begun his first term as a member of the OCLC Board of Trustees. The Online Computer Library Center is a non-profit organization that provides member-based cataloging, reference, resource sharing and preservation services to 43,000 libraries in 86 countries and territories. Stephens, elected to the board in October, began serving as a delegate to the OCLC Members Council in 1997 as a representative of the Southeastern Library Network (SOINET), and he was president of the Members Council during the 2001-2002 term.

Transplant coordinator honored by AHA

Transplant coordinator Connie White-Williams (Cardiovascular Services) has received the American Heart Association (AHA) Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing Clinical Practice Award.

White-Williams, coordinates transplants for hearts and lungs at UAB. She has worked in the transplant field since 1986 for UAB and for two years prior to that in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The AHA honored her in part for maintaining roles in both clinical and research areas. She is part of a nationally recognized team that performs a large number of transplants every year and coordinates care for about 200 patients. In addition, she has helped conduct research studies in several areas of treatment, including quality of life for patients and spouses. Her results have been published in scientific journals and books, she has helped develop educational manuals and videos for patients, and she also teaches courses at the UAB School of Nursing.

Nutrition pioneer Weinsier dies

Roland L. Weinsier, professor of nutrition sciences, passed away Nov. 27. Weinsier, 60, was an internationally recognized nutritionist and renowned researcher, educator and administrator during his 27-year career at UAB.

Under Weinsier’s direction, UAB developed one of the most respected nutrition departments in the country, rated 2nd in the nation in a recent U.S. News and World Report poll. An international group of physicians and scientists who had collaborated with Weinsier through out the years made scientific presentations and celebrated his life’s work during a one-day symposium held in his honor Nov. 22.

Weinsier joined the faculty of UAB in 1975. Two years later he became director of the division of clinical nutrition in the newly formed department of nutrition sciences. He chaired the department for 11 years and was named director of UAB’s Clinical Nutrition Research Center in 1999.

Weinsier is survived by his wife Azleen, sons David and Steven and daughter Nancy Celia-Rose Kujawinski.

The family has requested that memorials be directed to the UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences: Roland Weinsier Memorial Fund, c/o Cathleen Erwin, School of Health Related Professions, 1530 S. 3rd Ave., Webb 616, Birmingham, AL 35294-3360.

Oparil

Stephens

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Lakehouse Hospital into what Forbes magazine called, “…a model laboratory for his ideas about rehabilitation.” Under his leadership, the hospital became world renowned for its work in the rehabilitation of people with physical disabilities.

Stephens’ progress with Lakeshore Hospital led to his founding ReLife in 1986. As president and CEO, he guided the organization to national prominence as an effective, comprehensive rehabilitation system. When ReLife merged with HealthSouth Corporation in 1994, he continued to work on behalf of people with disabilities, serving as an active member of the board of trustees for the Lakeshore Foundation.

He is the owner of Resting S Ranch, a champion Arabian brood-mare farm in Indian Springs, Alabama. Through his company S Enterprises, he has investments ranging from banking to real estate development. He serves on the United States Paralympic Leadership Council and the boards of Bank of Commerce and the Naples, Florida, Philharmonic.

Long, the founding director of UAB’s nationally recognized Honors Program, is a professor in the department of English. The UAB Honors Program, housed in the newly renovated Spencer Honors House, provides gifted and highly motivated students with an intimate, innovative and challenging interdisciplinary course of study. Under Long’s leadership, students in the UAB Honors Program have won major awards, including Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, and Fulbright scholarships as well as National Science Foundation fellowships. UAB students have repeatedly recognized Long for her excellence in teaching. She received the Ingalls Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1988 and Ingalls Recognition for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Humanities in 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1988. In 2001, she received the Honorary Alumna Award from the UAB National Alumni Society.

Long earned a bachelor of arts degree in English in 1967 from Stanford University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At SUNY-Albany, she earned a master of arts degree in English in 1971 and her doctoral degree in English in 1976. She taught at the University of Cincinnati from 1974 to 1977, before coming to UAB in 1977 as an assistant professor of English. In 1980, she became an associate professor and began a two-year term as director of graduate studies in English. In 1982, she took the lead in launching the University Honors Program. She was named a professor in 1992.

Long is past president of the National Collegiate Honors Council and co-editor of the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council. She has been a consultant and evaluator for 20 university honors programs. She is past president of the UAB Chapter and the Alabama Conference of the American Association of University Professors. She is chairman of the Truman Scholarship selection committee and a member of the Rhodes Scholarship committee. In 1981, she received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to develop the Interdisciplinary Course Sequence and Faculty Seminar in the Humanities at UAB. She has published four books and numerous articles, most on poetry, the arts, women’s literature and honors education.

She also is active in the community. She is a member and past president of the board of directors for Bread and Roses, a board member of the Birmingham Institute of Religious Studies and coordinator of the UAB Faculty Lecture Series at the Donaldson Correctional Facility. In 2000, she received the UAB Odessa Woofolk Community Service Award.