

# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Fiscal year 2011

## OUR PEOPLE MAKE THIS HOSPITAL **more than bricks**



### **BRICKS AND MORTAR MAKE A SAFE, LASTING FACILITY**

in which to receive medical treatment, but the external trappings cannot provide the care and compassion needed for healing. In 2012, East Alabama Medical Center marks 60 years of service to residents of our communities. None of the original employees, physicians or volunteers who opened the doors to Lee County Hospital in 1952 are still serving today; however, others have followed in their footsteps and are proudly caring for our patients today.



1985



1976



1952



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear friends and neighbors,

This year marks the 60th anniversary of East Alabama Medical Center. It has been an honor to meet the health care needs of the residents of Lee County as well as our neighboring communities. We remain committed to our mission of providing high quality, compassionate health care, and we are grateful for your support.

While we are celebrating the anniversary of the hospital, we know that it takes more than a modern, spacious facility and technologically advanced equipment to provide patient care. Sure, those things are important, but what makes EAMC succeed in its mission are its people - the physicians, nurses, staff members and volunteers who are committed to providing the best patient care possible, and doing their best to support the hospital's efforts to become a national leader in quality, cost and service.

This year's annual report highlights some of these people. The people you will read about in the following pages have dedicated 25 years or more to East Alabama Medical Center, and some have worked that entire time in the same job. Their level of commitment to our patients and the community is truly admirable, and I consider it an honor to work alongside these individuals. I hope that you will be inspired by their stories as well.

East Alabama Medical Center has seen many changes over the past 60 years, and more changes are guaranteed to come. But it is my hope that our people - their professionalism, their dedication, and their compassion - never change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Andrus". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Terry Andrus  
President and CEO  
East Alabama Medical Center

# more than bricks

## EAMC ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



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## JEFF PAYNE, MT (AMT)

**"I grew up in the housing projects and your expectation was to work in a factory or go in the military," says Jeff Payne of his high school days in Opelika in the mid 1970s. Wanting something different, Jeff went to Southern Union for an associate's degree in applied sciences and to UAB for certification as a medical laboratory technician. "When my friends saw that I chose this profession, they were like 'you got a good job.'"**

After graduating in 1979, Jeff sought to return to Opelika where he was born at Lee County Hospital (LCH) in 1958. However, the hospital didn't have any openings in the lab. Instead, Jeff took a job at Chambers County Hospital in Lafayette because the lab director there was a UAB graduate and had recruited him earlier that year. Within four months, though, a job opened in the lab at LCH and Jeff came home to stay.

"I was a generalist when I started," states Jeff, explaining that the lab employees would train in all four lab areas (chemistry, microbiology, blood bank and hematology). "Then, in 1981, I went to micro and 30 years later, I'm still in micro."

While Jeff says he knew he would never leave, it helped that he had mentors in the early years. From the outset, Claudie Spradley - now with 37 years of service - made Jeff feel at home. "When you come into an organization and you see somebody of color, you realize that these jobs really do exist. That's not unusual today, but in 1979, you didn't see many blacks in the lab."

As for his love of micro, he credits his first supervisor, Ann Askew, for teaching him to embrace the field. Cathy Golden and Diane Washington also supervised Jeff, and then he stepped into the role. "Those people taught me the ropes of micro and then passed the torch on to me."

With 32 years of service, Jeff says he can't imagine being anywhere other than EAMC. "It's great because you can sit at the table with upper management and they treat you like one of their colleagues." He also says it's too early to even consider retirement, and jokingly adds that "I might get fired, but I'm not going to retire."

So, what happened to the friends who commended Jeff on getting a "good job?" "Now, they ask me when I am going to retire and if they are going to name a wing after me. I tell them that they would have to build a lot of wings because there are a lot of people who have been here longer than I have."



# SHARON PONUCEY

In the hospital's 60-year history, the telephone switchboard has only been supervised by two people: Mable Story and Sharon Pouncey. Talk about "long distance!" Mable was one of the original 66 employees in 1952 and remained at the switchboard until retiring in 1984. That allowed Sharon, whom Mable hired for a part-time job in 1979, to step in as the new supervisor.

Now a manager, Sharon says other changes have occurred as well. "We didn't have a computer, so everything was handwritten," explains Sharon. "Every time a patient was admitted, the admissions unit would bring us their little card, and we would have to fill in our census sheet." And, as odd as it sounds now, they would keep a list of patients wishing to rent a television so the "TV Hostess" could deliver the sets later in the day. "Looking back, it was all very time-consuming."

Those tasks no longer exist, but others have taken their place. Operators must be "good multi-taskers," says Sharon. "Voice is very important, but you also have to be a quick thinker. I have a very good staff and they are very dependable."

However, being an operator can give you the jitters. "When I came to work here and had to start saying, 'May I have your attention please,?' I would kind of panic and be like, 'oh no, everybody is listening to me.' It's kind of a nervous feeling." Sharon says it usually takes six months for an operator to feel totally comfortable on the switchboard.

Sharon wishes Mable could see EAMC now. "I'd like for her to see how things are today compared to back then. We've come a long way. We went from having what I called the 'dinosaur switchboard' - it was huge - to the PC-based consoles. Everything you need now is on the computer; it's just amazing how much we've grown."

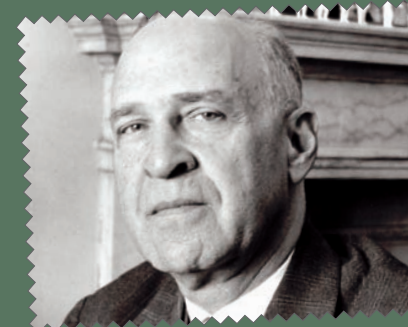


## 1940's



### 1945

Winston Smith T and other concerned citizens meet at the Opelika Chamber of Commerce to discuss the future health care needs of Lee County. At the time, area residents were using Opelika Hospital, a 25-bed facility located at the corner of 9th Street and 3rd Avenue.



### Late 1940's

U.S. Senator Lister Hill (D, Ala.) helps write the Hill-Burton Act, which gives matching federal funds to communities seeking to build a hospital. Smith T and others apply for and receive this funding. Pepperell Manufacturing Co. also contributes funds; they had already donated the land on which the hospital was built.

*Photo courtesy of:  
UAB Archives, University  
of Alabama at Birmingham*



# DAN GOSLIN, RN

**The first merit badge Dan Goslin earned in Boy Scouts was for first aid. That partially explains why the drowning death of a fellow scout when Dan was 21 - despite his efforts to resuscitate the boy - haunted him afterward. "It was two years before I stopped second-guessing my decisions that day and wondering if I should have done something differently that would have changed the outcome," says Dan, who had achieved Eagle Scout status at age 17.**

As a 34-year veteran at EAMC now, Dan, 54, says he occasionally recalls that experience - and others during his medical career - to help others through similar hardships. With most of his career spent working in the first responder field - emergency room and ambulance service - Dan has seen his share of tragedies. "Thankfully, I have learned to dwell on the positives of this career choice and not on the negatives. God's hand and His plan are in *all* things"

Dan, who is EAMC's emergency medical services director, says that he and his EMTs have seen firsthand how technology has helped and hurt in automobile accidents. "The number of fractured femurs that I saw as an orderly in 1977 has been reduced significantly with the use of seat belts," states Dan. "We do go to more rollover auto accidents now than I ever recall - I think because the weight of vehicles has been reduced so much - but the injuries don't seem to be quite as bad," adding that airbags have helped tremendously as well.

On the other hand, cell phones have been both a cure and a curse. Dan praises their worth for purposeful communication. "There's no delay in calling 911 for help by having to walk a mile to the nearest phone. Plus, family members are much easier to reach now; you used to have to call the home and leave a message." However, the reason for accidents gives Goslin concern. "Texting is a big problem, but if you look at distracted driving altogether, we have a much bigger problem."

Despite his haunting experience as a teenager, Dan says "I like the excitement of the EMS world." He adds, however, that the field is not for everyone. "The EMT personality is unique in the fact that they are very self-assured; they are very smart and very quick with thinking out problems. They are adrenaline junkies and they are dedicated beyond belief. It's not a job, it's a calling."





# ANIESE NUNN, RN

**She didn't start as an orderly and later become a nurse. She didn't start as a floor nurse and switch jobs when her knees or back gave out. And, she didn't start as a nurse on one unit and move repeatedly looking for the "right" job. No, Aniese Nunn's path was straight and narrow. She started as a nurse on the Medical-Surgical unit in 1971 and 40 years later, she is still there caring for her patients.**

"I like 'Med-Surg' because it has a variety of illnesses; it doesn't allow you to get bored and you learn a lot," says the soft-spoken Aniese, who graduated with the last class from J.W. Darden High School in 1969. She then attended Opelika State Technical College, where she earned an LPN degree in 1971. Already a Lee County Hospital employee, Aniese came to work on the same day she graduated. In 1988, she earned her RN degree from Southern Union so she could provide "better care for my patients."

While Aniese has seen the hospital grow exponentially over the years, she says her job has largely stayed the same. "People still get sick and they need to be cared for and that has not changed. The technology for providing that care has changed, but the need is still there."

Countless patients have received Aniese's care, but it was an elderly patient in 1988 that stands out in Aniese's memory. "As a teenager, she had been paralyzed in a car accident a short time after graduating from high school. As a result, she didn't get to enjoy her life as much as most people, and she was angry at the world when she was admitted here."

While some caregivers shied away from her, Aniese felt the need to try harder. "I finally won her over and would visit her at her house in Auburn before she died at age 76 in the mid 1990s." Aniese, who counts Zonya Carter, Mavis Halko and Eunice Bartlett as three of her nursing mentors, says, for her, being a nurse for 40 years has been easy. "I just love people and I love my patients." With passion like that, why not do the same job for four decades?



## 1950's



**1950**

Construction of the hospital begins. Batson-Cook Construction of West Point, Georgia, builds the 81-bed hospital in less than 18 months at a cost of \$900,000.



**1951**

Women's Auxiliary forms and Ida Mae Armistead - who served 55 years - is a charter member.



**1952**

Deanna Lee Sharpe - seen here at age 7 - was Lee County Hospital's first baby, so her parents chose Lee for her middle name.

# CAREY OWEN

**Sometimes it's not what you know, it's who you know. That's not a mantra that Carey Owen lives by, but when he was in college in January 1973 and needed a part-time job to help pay bills, he did contact Jim Stephenson - the personnel director at Lee County Hospital - because they were both from Alexander City. Luckily, the hospital had a part-time print shop job available and Carey's foot was in the door.**

He recalls saying to one of the vice presidents that even though he was thankful for the job, he probably wouldn't be here long. The VP's succinct response was "Oh, I don't know about that." Dan Childress was never more right. Carey parlayed that part-time print shop job over the years, and nearly four decades later, he's as much a part of EAMC's history as the 1952 administrator's desk he sits behind.

Over the next four years, Carey advanced to orderly (a.k.a. nurse's assistant), central supply supervisor (the first one in LCH history) and personnel director (yes, he replaced the man who hired him). Then, he was promoted to administration in 1977 and remains in that role today.

Unofficially, however, Carey's role is that of hospital historian. He cherishes the fact that he has met or worked with every administrator and nursing director in the hospital's 60-year history. And, his office is home to chairs from the original boardroom, pieces of surgical equipment that look like woodworking tools and aerial photos of the hospital from 1952 to present.

When Carey was promoted to administration in 1977, the role of overseeing construction came with it. The hospital board had approved a multi-phase expansion project in the early 1970s. As a result, Carey was able to see the end of Phase I through to completion and guided Phases II - IV over the next 30 years, culminating with the addition of four new floors in 2006.

Carey, who served in Vietnam, credits the military for shaping him. "I wasn't mature when I came out of high school...I lacked discipline. The military breaks you down and then they build you back up. Well, when they built me back up, I had a lot more confidence. I saw that I provided great value. When I came back, one thing that I had in my mind was that I don't care how hard it is - or even know how I'm going to pay for it - but I am going to get a college education."

Perhaps Carey is living proof that it's not always who you know. Sometimes it's *what* you know - about yourself.





# EUGENE BLACK

One telephone call was all it took to get Eugene Black to accept a job for which he did not even apply. It was the summer of 1978 and Eugene had recently received his diploma from Opelika High School. Acting on a recommendation, the hospital's Don Pickering called Eugene to see if he was interested in a job. With no other plans in place, Eugene accepted the job.

While Eugene isn't sure who at the hospital recommended him for the job in the laundry department, he did know going in that the hospital provided stable employment. That's because his mother, Odia Melton, was working here at the time and stayed on for 18 years before retiring. In July of this year, Eugene will celebrate 34 years with EAMC.

Eugene worked in the laundry for a few years and then received another call, this time from Cecil Tye, director of the materials management department. After offering Eugene a job, Cecil also offered him some sound advice. "When he hired me, he said 'Take care of your job and your job will take care of you,' and he was right."

The boxes Eugene now handles daily have not changed much, but he says other things

have. "The number of employees has grown by about 2000, so instead of a small family feel, it's like a big family now." He says the other major change was the addition of an on-campus warehouse, which allowed the hospital to make better use of space on the 2nd floor.

Likewise, two things haven't changed. "From Day 1, the hospital was building and 34 years later, they're still building," Eugene says laughingly. Eugene's daily routine is also unchanged. "When I was younger, I got up and went to school every day; after that, I just started waking up and going to work every day." Looking back, it appears the only thing separating his school career and his work career was that one telephone call in the summer of 1978.



## 1960's



**1964**  
Dr. William Lazenby joins the staff and is instrumental in recruiting many other specialists to the hospital.



**1965**  
Will Stewart became the hospital's 2nd administrator in 1952 and stayed here for 13 years before moving in 1965.



**1967**  
By 1967, the hospital had expanded, adding 30 hospital beds and 67 nursing home beds.

## BEVERLY LONG, RTT

**Beverly Long will mark 34 years with EAMC as of April 1. "I started working at EAMC in 1978 in the x-ray department, but in 1979, I began working in the radiation therapy department," says Beverly. The time Beverly has spent at EAMC is a testament to her opinion of the hospital. "It really is a great place to work. I enjoy working with the other radiation therapists. We communicate well and there is a real sense of teamwork."**

"I love that Terry Andrus walks through every day - he is always upbeat and knows everyone's name," she adds. Beverly also points out the family atmosphere at EAMC. "We care about each other. When my brother (employee Darrell Pflingston) was in an automobile accident, it meant the world that Terry and so many other EAMC employees checked on him."

Beverly's passion is patient care. "I love what I do for many reasons, but mainly because of the patients. They're like family, and you feel like you can do something for them - give comfort, provide care, give hope, and help cure their disease. I'm with patients one-on-one every day. With this job, I get to know them, I get to love them, and I get to help them. What more could I ask?"

Beverly has seen many changes over the past 30+ years. "I love working with the physicians, and it is wonderful having the medical oncologists in-house now. I miss many of the doctors who are no longer here - Dr. Brown, Dr. Webb, Dr. Lazenby, and of course, Dr. Glisson," Beverly says. "The technology is very different from when I began working here. We have gone from cobalt to stereotactic radiosurgery. The department has grown immensely. We started with one radiation therapist; now there are four. We have a dosimetrist and physicist on staff now. The treatments are more complex and detailed with the use of on-board imaging and IMRT (intensity-modulated radiation therapy). It really has come a long way, with more enhanced treatments available."

Speaking of coming a long way, Beverly is a competitive distance runner, but is currently nursing a stress fracture. However, she does plan on getting back out and racing again. And while she looks forward to retiring, the "finish line" is not in sight yet - after all, she has patients to care for.





# EVANGELINE HEARD

**Evangeline Heard is 56 years old, and she has spent 35 of those years as a housekeeper at EAMC. Her appearance is seemingly ageless, and when people comment on how young she looks, she laughs and says, "God preserves me for the purpose He has for me."**

Evangeline's life is grounded in a firm faith in God. "When I started working here, it was Lee County Hospital, and you came in the front and had to walk up the steps to get in the hospital," Evangeline says. "I wouldn't say I chose EAMC. I was a recent divorcée with two children to raise, and I needed a job. I had been a stay-at-home mom up 'til then. I prayed about it, and then soon after that, I got this job. God has blessed me with this job and this hospital," she adds.

"I love what I do. I love the people I work with, and our patients are great. Over the years, people asked me if I wanted to change jobs, and I always said I was happy with what I do," Evangeline explains. While she has seen the hospital undergo major changes, she says some things have remained the same. "EAMC

is a great place to work. It's a family place. We love each other here." She cites teamwork as one reason for EAMC's success. "All along, the teamwork has been great. We respect each other and care for each other, and when you do that, everything works better."

Evangeline's children are grown now, and she has three grandchildren. In addition, while she acknowledges all the blessings in her life, like everyone else, she has seen her share of sadness and trouble. "I just remind myself that I am an heir of my Father, and my Father is rich in blessings and will always provide, no matter what," Evangeline says. "I tell people I am rich because my Father is rich."



## 1970's



**1975**  
Beverly Long operates a Cobalt 60 x-ray therapy machine, which was purchased for \$450,000 to treat cancer.



**1976**  
Following a \$9.74 million expansion, Lee County Hospital had more beds and a new "modern" look.



**1977**  
Four of the original 66 employees were still with LCH after the first 25 years: Willie Echols, Odessa Shumate, Doris Southers and Mable Story.

# BOBBIE ALLEN

**When Mrs. Jack (Bobbie) Allen was invited to become a member of the Lee County Hospital Women's Auxiliary in 1964 by Mrs. James (Inez) Hepburn, the young mother with two daughters unceremoniously said 'yes.' "My days were filled with cleaning, transporting children and playing bridge. Of course, there is nothing wrong with any of these - and I enjoyed them - however, I had household help and I needed a challenge in my life," says Bobbie.**

"Our Auxiliary being a service organization - not just a fundraiser - was really what got my attention. We do raise funds for the scholarship program and other services, but that is not our sole function."

Bobbie says that her decision did present some challenges. "It totally changed the way I did things," explaining that she had to adjust her calendar to balance volunteering with her family time and church commitments. Apparently, Bobbie made it work because she is now in her 47th year of service to the hospital, second only in longevity to Ida Mae Armistead.

Not only has Bobbie held virtually every board position for the EAMC Auxiliary (and for the state), she also earned Volunteer of the Year honors locally and at the state level in 1992. That's quite a feat for a lady who admits that she "started with no great ambition" and spent her first few months at the hospital "sewing pillow cases and gowns and anything that needed repair."

Bobbie hopes to surpass 50 years of service before hanging up her pink volunteer smock. When she does, she will remember the times fondly, especially the 34 years she spent working with Teenage Volunteers. "It was so rewarding to see them come in and learn to wear the uniform with pride and do their assignments cheerfully and competently." The students admired Bobbie as well and would call on her for help. "It made me very happy to be asked to give recommendations for either a job or for a scholarship application."

After 47 years, Bobbie is convinced the EAMC Auxiliary is among the best in Alabama. "This Auxiliary has always been known in the state for being progressive and innovative, and for contributing leaders." She also feels strongly about the virtues of being a volunteer. "If you can do something for others - touch lives for good - that is the reward for being a volunteer. Contributing something to your community is not something you can define or compensate with money."





# JANET DEUTSCH, RN, BSN

When Janet Deutsch, RN, BSN, began working as a Med-Surg nurse at EAMC in 1985, she had just moved from Pennsylvania and her first nursing job. "I hated to leave that job. I thought, 'I'm never gonna find people like this to work with,' but as it turns out, I did!" she says. "People stay here. Where I work (7th floor), there are many long-time employees. We know each other and work well together."

Janet started her career as a teacher. "My degree was in biology and I liked teaching, but I always knew I needed to be a nurse," Janet explains. She was married, and she and her husband, Bill, had four little girls. "As soon as the girls were all in school, I went back and got my diploma in nursing."

Then Bill decided he wanted to go to graduate school, and the couple made the decision to relocate to Auburn. "We thought we would be here for a few years while Bill was in school, then move again, but we were very happy here and thought it was a great place for the girls, and we loved our jobs," Janet says. Bill went on to become a professor at Auburn in Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resource Management.

"I love being a nurse. My heart is with

patient care," says Janet. "I like being a Med-Surg nurse, working with a team of physicians and other nurses to provide care. I have always wanted to learn more." Janet says her natural curiosity sometimes made physicians and other nurses think she was second-guessing their interventions. "I just always asked a lot of questions because I simply wanted to know as much as possible about patient care."

In the past few years, Janet has taken her nursing skills farther afield. She is a parish nurse and serves the congregation of Shiloh A.M.E. Zion Church in Macon County. "I love that church. I see people of all ages when I go on Sunday mornings," says Janet. "They call me 'Sister Janet,' and I feel so honored to serve there."



## 1980's



### 1981

After 29 years as Lee County Hospital, the name is changed to East Alabama Medical Center in July.



### 1983

Terry Andrus joins the EAMC team as Chief Operating Officer. In 1984, he becomes the new Administrator, a position he still holds today.



### 1987

EAMC begins its open-heart surgery program, and employee Bobby Sizemore is the 1st patient.

# JOANNE SMITH T, M.D.

**Not long after Winston Smith T, Sr. (the hospital's first board chairman), and his 16-year-old daughter, Joanne, attended the ribbon cutting for Lee County Hospital in February 1952, young Joanne began her journey toward becoming Dr. Smith T. She completed medical school at Johns Hopkins University in 1960 and was one of only seven females in her graduating class of 75.**

After graduating, Dr. Smith T had some ideas about what she wanted to do. "Well, I was young and actually, coming back to Opelika and being a doctor for people I knew was probably the last thing I wanted at the time," Dr. Smith T laughs. So, she set out to see the world. She spent several years in Korea and Vietnam on medical missions, providing care and touching the lives of those suffering through overwhelming poverty and the destructiveness of war.

Dr. Smith T loved her work in Asia and says she always thought she would go back. "But once I came back to Opelika, I jumped right in and didn't get out," she says fondly. "I loved working in this area and at the hospital," she adds.

Like many physicians who moved to town in the 1970s, Dr. Smith T was recruited by the hospital's biggest cheerleader. "Dr. Bill Lazenby contacted me, and I ended up joining the practice [Internal Medicine Associates] with Dr. Himmelwright," says Dr. Smith T. "After that, there was no going back. I knew I was where I needed to be."

Of all the changes at EAMC, the one that strikes Dr. Smith T as being most revolutionary is something simple. "Going to all private patient rooms is the most profound change, I think. Not many hospitals can offer that to every single patient. It is so much better for the patient, and it helps the clinical staff, not having to move people around. It sure beats the old days when there were two patients in each room."

Dr. Smith T acknowledges the many advances in technology as well. In fact, she had to retire her trademark black doctor's bag with the advent of computer tablets and electronic medical records. "I had to stop carrying my bag because of the tablet," says Dr. Smith T. "It wouldn't fit in my bag, and it slowed me down trying to carry both."

Dr. Smith T officially retired earlier this year, but she has not stopped working. Continuing her life's mission of helping and healing, she is practicing with Dr. Dell Crosby at Mercy Medical Clinic in Auburn.





# JACK SMOLLON

**In February 1952, WJHO - and a cow pasture - were about the only two things across the street from the new Lee County Hospital. The AM radio station was excited about its new neighbor, but one problem stood in the way of a live broadcast at the ribbon cutting - no mobile equipment. Undeterred, Jack Smollon, with one year of radio experience under his belt, did the only sensible thing.**

"Since the station was located directly across the two-lane road, we took telephone wire we happened to have on hand and dragged it across the road. We connected to a remote amplifier on one end and the radio station on the other, and we were in business."

"Smilin' Jack" stayed in business - later as part owner - at WJHO for 39 more years. While radio was Jack's only private sector career, he did spend nine years in the United States Army and fought in World War II. On December 21, 1944, Jack, as a member of the 506th Parachute Infantry, was injured by enemy fire in Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. He spent the next four years in and out of Army hospitals because of a bone infection. "Those four years might have had something to do with me joining the EAMC Auxiliary."

Another hospitalization also played into Jack's decision. "My wife, Billie Ann, spent 23 days in intensive care at EAMC before going to be with the Lord in May of 1997." In January of 1998, he decided to give back to the hospital and to the community. "I became involved with the EAMC Auxiliary because I saw a need and thought I could help fill it."

Now 91 and a proud Gideon Bible distributor, Jack reflects fondly on the hospital's first 60 years. "The people I interviewed in 1952 were thrilled at their new medical facility." Over the years, he had a front-row seat to changes. "Everything I saw was growth, progress and dedicated service to the community. And today, as in the beginning, EAMC continues to be a source of extreme pride for the citizens of Auburn, Opelika and Lee County."



## 1990's



### 1992

The Cancer Center of EAMC opens. Roughly half of the \$3 million price tag was funded by a capital campaign through the EAMC Foundation.



### 1995

EAMC's Cornerstone program builds its 1st Habitat for Humanity home for employee Annie Foster.



### 1998

Officials break ground for Auburn Medical Park, now home to HealthPlus, Camellia Place and Bethany House.



## EARLE FULLER, M.D.

**Even before being recruited to Lee County Hospital by medical school friend and fellow physician Doyle Haynes, in 1968, Dr. Earle Fuller was well aware of Opelika. Well, vaguely aware anyway. "I recall it from when my parents and I were returning to Atlanta from New Orleans," says Dr. Fuller, pointing out that this was before the interstate system was in place. Also, he recalls that a high school classmate of his played for the Opelika Owls minor league baseball team.**

Other than that, the Georgia native knew little of the town, and was content to practice at Decatur General Hospital, which was two blocks from where he grew up and three miles from where he and his wife called home. However, on some afternoons, that 3-mile ride home would take 45 minutes or more. So he admits to being interested in the small-town atmosphere when he and his young family visited Opelika at Haynes' urging.

"Everything just sort of fell into place," states Fuller, who was pleased to raise his four children in a smaller community. Fuller still recalls what it was like leaving Decatur. "My surgeon friends at the hospital I left said, 'You don't know what you're doing, but we'll take you back - we'll see you in six months,' and that was about 43 years ago."

Arriving at Lee County Hospital on January 1, 1969, Dr. Fuller became the first anesthesiologist on staff, joining two CRNAs who were handling the anesthesia tasks up to that point. In the mid-1970s, Fuller started Lee Anesthesia, and that practice - now known as Anesthesia Associates of East Alabama - currently has eight physicians on staff.

"When we moved here, we came to a small county hospital, but it didn't stay that way. I never expected the hospital to be anything like it is today," says Fuller, adding that the hospital has "very good physicians in all the different specialties and is a nice place to work." At age 76, the grandfather of eight says he enjoys a scaled-back schedule, but he isn't quite ready to retire. "I'm doing what I like, and as long as I am physically and mentally able, I plan to work."

When pressed for an improvement idea at EAMC, Dr. Fuller jokingly points to the doctors' parking lot. See, as an anesthesiologist, Dr. Fuller is among the first to arrive at work each day, which affords him a prime parking space in the doctor's lot. However, Fuller quips, "When I came here, I had my own parking space with my name on it; I don't have that anymore."





# GINGER MCCONNELL

As the administrative secretary to the president for 35 of her 36 years at EAMC, Ginger McConnell has pretty much had her finger on the pulse of the hospital for more than half of its life. "I was hired to be the receptionist out front, which I did for about a year, but then the secretary left during that year," says Ginger and she has held the position ever since.

"I worked for Thurman Turner (the administrator before Terry Andrus) for eight years, and when Terry came, I started working for him," she says.

While Ginger notes that the size of the hospital is the biggest difference she has seen, it's what she hasn't seen change often that she feels gives the hospital its stability. "Our leaders in administration have been solid over the years," states Ginger. "Obviously, a lot of people know that Terry has been here a long time, but many of our other administrative team members and our board members also have many years of service."

Ginger loves her job and is proud of all the growth she has seen come about under Terry's leadership. And while she truly enjoys supporting Terry in his role as CEO and

president, she cites working with the EAMC Board of Directors as particularly rewarding.

"In many ways, coordinating the board has been my favorite part of this job. I really enjoy working with the board members and getting to know them and their families," she says.

Ginger and her husband, Rick, have been married for almost 50 years, and they have four grandchildren. And while she says spending time with her grandkids is her favorite thing to do away from work, retirement isn't on her radar yet. "I'm never going to retire," she laughs.



# 2000

and beyond



## 2001 and 2002

EAMC is named to *Fortune* magazine's list of the "100 Best Places to Work" in America.



## 2005

Construction to add 4 floors to the South Bed Tower begins.



## 2010

EAMC employees make annual mission trip to Honduras and treat 1000+ patients.



As of January 1, 2012,

more than 130 active employees had given  
25 years or more of their lives to EAMC.





# Here are a few of the departments

with multiple employees who have reached (and surpassed) that milestone. A complete list can be found on page 20.



Pharmacy



Management Information Systems



Childbirth Unit



Surgical Services



# Active employees with 25 years or more of service \*

ALLISON, RONNIE (35 years)	DUNNING, ROGER (34 years)	JENKINS, CHARLENE (30 years)	REGISTER, DENISE (27 years)
ALSOBROOK, COLLEEN (34 years)	FINLEY, JULIA (35 years)	JOHNSON, GINA (29 years)	ROBINSON, MAGGIE (32 years)
ANDREWS, BUDDY (32 years)	FITZWATER, SUSAN (25 years)	JOHNSON, RHONDA (27 years)	SCOTT, DANY (29 years)
ANDRUS, TERRY (28 years)	FREEMAN, SANDRA (27 years)	JONES, LETTIE (34 years)	SMITH, DEBBIE (29 years)
BAKER, JANICE (26 years)	FULLER, SHIRLEY (30 years)	KELSEY, DENISE (29 years)	SMITH, MICHAEL (29 years)
BARFIELD, CAROL (27 years)	GARNER, TRACY (25 years)	LAWLER, BRENDA (30 years)	SPRADLEY, CLAUDIE (37 years)
BARNETT, PEGGY (32 years)	GARY, CAROLYN (29 years)	LEDBETTER, MARTY (26 years)	SPRATLIN, GAIL (27 years)
BARTLETT, PAM (30 years)	GAYLES, KAREN (28 years)	LIEN, GAIL (29 years)	STERLING, SANDRA (37 years)
BASS, SUSAN (25 years)	GILLIAND, CAROLYN (33 years)	LOCKHART, JOHNNY (26 years)	STINSON, MARY (31 years)
BATTLES, ANNETTE (31 years)	GOODEN, GLENDA (35 years)	LONG, BEVERLY (33 years)	STOREY, KATHY (26 years)
BENFORD, ELLA (27 years)	GOSLIN, DAN (34 years)	LOTT, KEN (25 years)	STRONG, LAMAR (32 years)
BILLINGSLEA, PRISCILLA (28 years)	GOWAN, PHILLIP (29 years)	MANLEY, DEDEE (29 years)	TALLEY, JAMES (30 years)
BLACK, DINA (29 years)	GRAY, SARAH (25 years)	MARTIN, MARTHA (26 years)	THOMAS, HATTIE (35 years)
BLACK, EUGENE (33 years)	GREEN, ALAN (27 years)	MATTHEWS, MARY (27 years)	THOMAS, KATHY (31 years)
BOCEK, GENIE (25 years)	GREENLEE, BARBARA (36 years)	MAYS, COKER (25 years)	THOMPSON, JOAN (52 years)
BOOTHE, RHONDA (25 years)	GREENLEE, DIANE (25 years)	MCCARD, TERRI (33 years)	TUCKER, LISA (27 years)
BROCK, GLENDA (35 years)	GUICE, BERNICE (36 years)	MCCONNELL, GINGER (36 years)	TURNER, BRENDA KAY (26 years)
BUCHANAN, JEWEL (27 years)	HADAWAY, KATHY (35 years)	MCCRORY, CAROL (34 years)	TURNER, MARY (27 years)
BUTLER, DORIS (33 years)	HALL, SHEILA (29 years)	MCEACHIN, KATHEY (26 years)	TYNER, JENESE (26 years)
BUTZ, BETH (27 years)	HARRIS, PAT (31 years)	MCFARLAND, CONNIE (30 years)	WALLACE, BEN (27 years)
CALLAHAN, MONA (28 years)	HARRIS, SHIRLEY (39 years)	MELTON, KATHY (31 years)	WARE, DIANN (32 years)
CALTON, KAREN (27 years)	HARTZOG, LENNIE (25 years)	MILLER, BILLIE JEAN (25 years)	WASHINGTON, DIANE (27 years)
CANADA, VALINDA (33 years)	HAYNES, NANCY (32 years)	MOORE, ROBERTA (25 years)	WHEATLEY, DIANE (37 years)
CAUSEY, RANDY (33 years)	HEARD, ANGELA (26 years)	MORRIS, SABRINA (30 years)	WHITE, CAROL (29 years)
CLAYTON, SHEILA (27 years)	HEARD, EVANGALINE (35 years)	MOTLEY, JACKIE (35 years)	WHITE, LISA (27 years)
COLE, MARY LOIS (36 years)	HEARD, MARCIA (27 years)	NORRELL, GLADYS (34 years)	WILKERSON, ROBERT (29 years)
COLEMAN, CATHY (32 years)	HENDERSON, CLAUDIA (28 years)	NUNN, ANIESE (40 years)	WILSON, DOT (37 years)
COOPER, CHARLOTTE (31 years)	HODGE, BARBARA (31 years)	OGLETREE, ROBERT (27 years)	WILSON, SHIRLEY (28 years)
COOPER, ELAINE (32 years)	HODGE, MINNIE (35 years)	OLIVER, HATTIE (26 years)	WOODY, EDGAR (36 years)
COTTON, RALPH (30 years)	HOOD, JANET (26 years)	OWEN, CAREY (38 years)	WRIGHT, BRENDA (36 years)
COX, PATTI (26 years)	HORNSBY, LESLIE (25 years)	PAYNE, JEFF (32 years)	YOUNG, CONNIE (26 years)
CRAWFORD, LAVERNE (30 years)	HOWARD, MARILYN (25 years)	POUNCEY, SHARON (32 years)	YOUNG, BUDDY (32 years)
DAVIS, JAMIE (26 years)	HUDSON, MARIE (30 years)	PRESCOTT, GINA (32 years)	YUILL, GRAHAM (25 years)
DAVIS, LINDA (30 years)	HUMPHREY, BELINDA (28 years)	RANDLE, PAT (38 years)	
DEUTSCH, JANET (26 years)	HUMPHREY, RICHARD (31 years)	REESE, HAZEL (36 years)	
DRAKE, CHERYA (28 years)	JACKSON, LEDELL (38 years)	REESE, MARTHA (32 years)	

\*As of December 31, 2011.



## Active staff physicians with 25 years or more of service\*

*\*As of December 31, 2011.*

Bert Anz, 32 years	Park McGehee, 33 years
Linda Anz, 32 years	John Mitchell, 26 years
Thomas Chase, 39 years	William Mock, 38 years
Dell Crosby, 25 years	Robert Patton, 37 years
Charles Diskin, 30 years	Joel Pittard, 31 years
Richard Freeman, 36 years	Steve Russell, 46 years
Earle Fuller, 43 years	David Smalley, 26 years
Ray Godsil, 40 years	Joanne Smith T, 35 years
James Grady, 37 years	Garth Stauffer, 26 years
Ronnie Hillyer, 32 years	John Stewart, 31 years
Kevin Jackson, 29 years	Charles Veale, 26 years
Michael Johnson, 30 years	Bill Whatley, 33 years
John McFarland, 27 years	James Whatley, 32 years

## Active volunteers with 25 years or more of service\*

*\*As of December 31, 2011.*

Claire Adams, 32 years	Chloe McAlister, 32 years
Bobbie Allen, 47 years	Jean Meadows, 30 years
Ruth Dutton, 27 years	Lillian Overton, 28 years
Ida Frazier, 26 years	Brenda Pridgen, 42 years
Sherry Freeman, 26 years	Jenny Roe, 37 years
Louise Huskey, 28 years	Jackie Samford, 28 years
Vionne James, 26 years	Doris Ward, 33 years
Jean Lancaster, 30 years	



## **EAMC Board of Directors**

**Joel Pittard, M.D.  
Chairman**

**Ken McKemie  
Vice Chairman**

**Bob Dumas  
Secretary/Treasurer**

**Wayne Alderman, Ph.D.**

**Bill Baker**

**Lucinda Cannon**

**Bill Garrett, M.D.**

**David Smalley, M.D.**

**Paul Waddy, Ph.D.**

## **EAMC Foundation Board of Directors**

**Tutt Barrett  
Chairman**

**Dozier Smith T  
Vice Chairman**

**Robert Williams  
Treasurer**

**Jane Moore, Ed.D.  
Secretary**

**Rose Ann Denson**

**Betty Fuller**

**Edie Graves, M.D.**

**Jennifer Harper**

**Bert Harris**

**Jim Haygood**

**Doug Horn**

**Susan Hubbard, Ed.D.**

**Dora James**

**Russ Lester**

**Steven Presley, M.D.**

**Jerry Teel**

**Michael Williams, M.D.**



# East Alabama Medical Center Income Statement 2011

## Operating Revenue

Net patient service revenue	\$251,677,898
<i>(net of provision for bad debts of \$34,099,890 in 2011 and \$30,629,965 in 2010)</i>	
Other revenues, net	12,665,966
	264,343,864

## Expenses

Service departments	42,052,044
Earnings departments	195,485,998
Depreciation and amortization	17,514,823
	255,052,865

## Income from Operations

9,290,999

## Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)

Interest income from trustee held funds	443,957
Donations	924,281
Loss on disposal of assets	(495,070)
Other interest income	2,782,741
Interest expense	(7,455,970)
Ad valorem taxes	3,913,666
Gain from sale of subsidiary	-
Loss of early extinguishment of debt	-
Electronic Health Records awards	4,005,812
Impairment losses	(151,993)
Unrealized losses	(6,264,527)
	(2,297,103)

## Excess of Revenues over Expenses

\$ 6,993,896

*East Alabama Medical Center has been continuously accredited by  
The Joint Commission since 1959.*





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