

A&M College of Medicine Delivers!

School maintains tradition of academic excellence

Story by Juliette Rizzo
Photos by Phelan M. Ebenhack
Of The Battalion Staff

"Doctor, Doctor, give me the news."

The news is that A&M's College of Medicine is expecting — expecting to maintain its more than ten-year tradition of turning out quality medical students from quality medical facilities.

As the newest medical school in the state, the College incorporates the medical expertise of Texas A&M, Scott and White Clinic, Scott and White Hospital/Foundation and Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center.

With the passage of legislation to establish educational medical facilities to work in conjunction with Veteran Administration hospitals, Texas A&M's College of Medicine opened its doors in the fall of 1977 to its first class of 32 students.

Since then, nine classes of students have graduated from the college to provide private and clinical medical care in Texas and around the world.

Today, maintaining its longstanding tradition of excellence, the College stands as a hallmark of academic excellence, as well as a center for quality experimental research.

Prior to 1983, students in the College attended classes in five different buildings spread across campus. Today, the major teaching and research facilities for the College of Medicine are centrally housed in the modern Medical Sciences Building.

Students spend their first two years at the facility studying basic medical sciences, which include mas-

tering clinical skills under the supervision of practicing physician staff members. In addition, students are also introduced to clinical skills. Dur-

On any given day, it is not uncommon for an entire shift of on-call residents to be A&M medical school graduates. One day this summer, the

White Hospital. After completing his residency, he hopes to practice at Scott and White Clinic in College Station.

Janacek, an anaesthesiologist in his second year of residency, is responsible for being present each day during all deliveries. He works a mandatory 12 hour shift but says it's not uncommon to work as many as 36 continuous hours.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of MEDICINE COLLEGE STATION • TEMPLE

ing their third and fourth years, the students acquire actual clinical training in "real-world" hospital settings at the above mentioned accredited medical facilities in Temple.

During this period of on-the-job training, or "clinical science work" as it is called, students are trained in one-on-one settings with physicians and patients. The students get firsthand experience by following a rotation clerkship through internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, OB/GYN, psychology, radiology and neurology.

After four years of hard work and intense training, students are finally awarded their M.D. degrees, enabling them to proceed to the next hurdle on the way to becoming practicing doctors — residency training.

In the pursuit of residency training, students may choose from a myriad of medical specialties offered at an unlimited number of medical facilities nationwide. A number of A&M medical school graduates, however, choose to stay in Texas. Many complete their residencies at Scott and White Hospital and Olin E. Teague Veterans' Center, both in Temple.

labor and delivery room was entirely staffed by Aggies. The doctors included Dr. Melanie Ayres, Class of '87; Dr. Henry Galan, Class of '89; Dr. Jeff Gubbels, Class of '87; Dr. Kevin Huddleston, Class of '88 and Dr. Stephen Janacek, Class of '88.

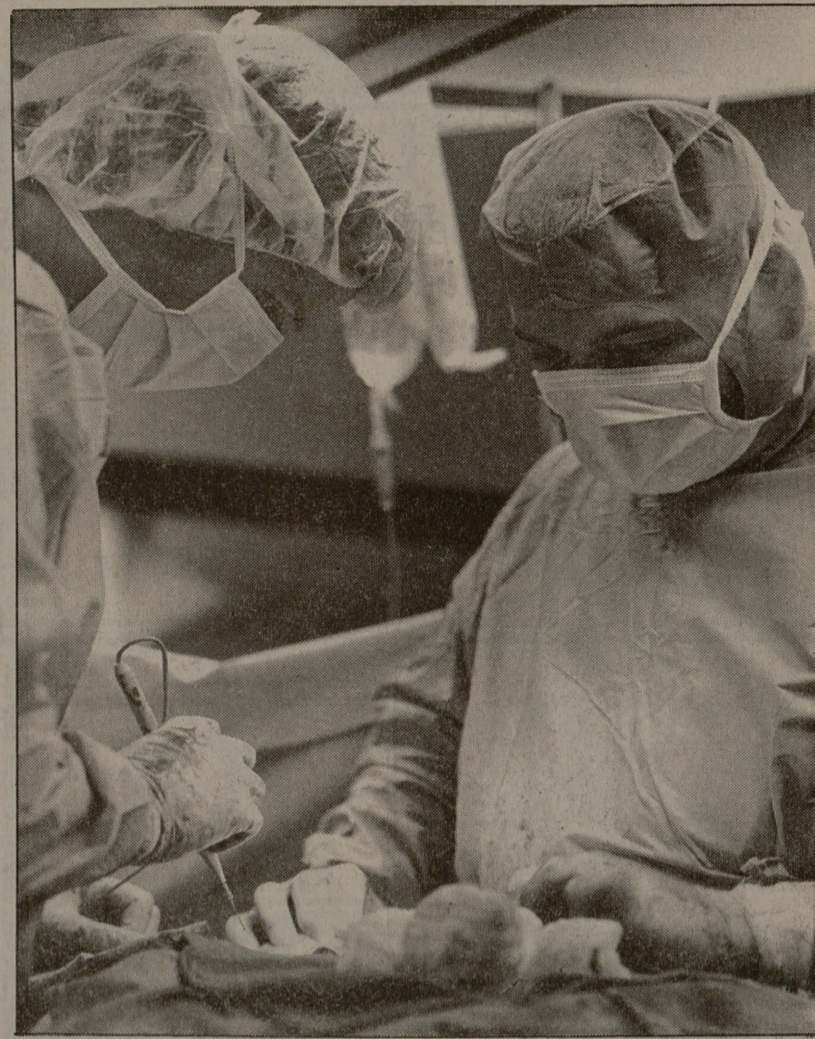
Ayres, an obstetrician/gynecologist in her third year of residency, was also an undergraduate in microbiology at A&M. She was accepted into A&M's medical school after completing only three years of undergraduate studies in microbiology. While completing her third and fourth years of medical school at Scott and White, Ayres decided she liked the atmosphere and the staff of the hospital enough to continue her residency there. Ayres delivers babies routinely at the facility. Daily, she tends to her own personal patients and is on call for emergencies as well. In 1990, when she completes her residency, she hopes to practice obstetrics in the Dallas area.

Gubbels, chief resident of the labor and delivery wing, is in his fourth and final year of residency in OB/GYN. He chose A&M's medical school because of its small class size and its affiliation with Scott and

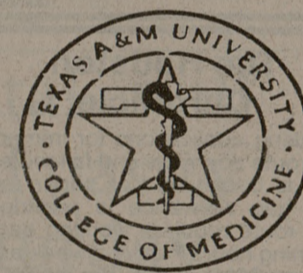
Galan and Huddleston, the rookies of the staff, are both beginning their residencies in OB/GYN. The two of them come from medical backgrounds. Huddleston's father is a family practitioner in Hearne, and both Galan's father and grandfather are pediatricians. Galan, a University of Texas graduate in biology, said that although he still roots for UT and "bleeds orange," his only choice for medical school was A&M because of its reputation and small class size. He says his favorite hang-out is still the Dixie Chicken.

After the last baby of the day was delivered, the final tally was one boy and five girls (including one set of twins). All the resident Aggies said that hearing the healthy cries of a newborn baby make all the long hours and hard work of medical school worthwhile.

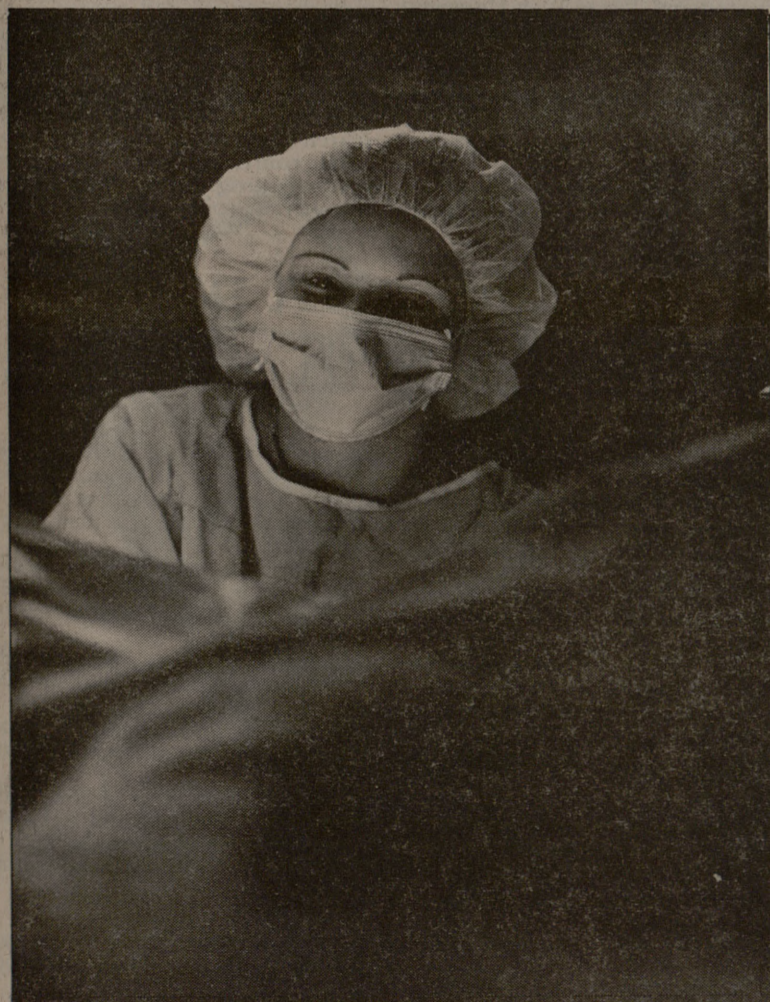
For more than a decade, the College has prospered, continuing to provide opportunities like these to its students. Numerous programs in education and research have been developed to combine high-quality educational facilities with well-qualified students. The College's success may well be contagious as it provides A&M students with a solid foundation for future generations.



Dr. Kevin Huddleston, Class of '88, and Dr. Jeff Gubbels, Class of '89, close the incision made during a caesarian section delivery.



(Photo at left) Dr. Stephen Janacek, Class of '88, right, is assisted by the supporting staff in preparing a patient for a caesarian section delivery.



Dr. Melanie Ayres, Class of '87, encourages a mother-to-be to push harder during natural childbirth.



Because of the mother's small size, Ayres is forced to use a pair of obstetric forceps to grasp the baby's head and facilitate the delivery.



Ayres holds the newborn baby after cutting its umbilical cord.