

## Clarendon's Ambassador Program celebrates a successful first year



FRONT ROW - Will Buick, Chris Lee, Dee Brown, Kathryn Turbeville, Mary Alice Ippock, Brian Corbett  
LAST ROW - C.D. Rhodes, Cathy Gilbert, Tim Baxley, Matt Evans, Rhonda Ritchie  
NOT PICTURED - Anthony Mack, Lamar Kennedy, and Randy Bradshaw

into the community and talk to friends, family, and colleagues about what they've learned," says Scherrie Cogdill, director of the program. "It is an important grassroots tool to build support and loyalty for our wonderful physicians and hospital."

The Clarendon Ambassadors are community volunteers and leaders who are working hard to educate others about the benefits of Clarendon Health System. The program's first year proved to be quite successful. Selections have already been made for this upcoming year. If you are interested in hearing more about the program, contact Scherrie Cogdill at 803.435.5246.

Community leaders donned hospital scrubs and entered doors normally reserved for "employees only" during a workshop for this past year's Clarendon Health Ambassador Program sponsored by the Cypress Foundation. The Ambassador Program is designed to educate community leaders on new technologies and services available through Clarendon Health System. The program also shows what an important economic impact one of the county's largest employers has on the local economy. "Not only does the program give ambassadors an intimate look at Clarendon Health System, it empowers them to go back out

Pay hospital bills online by going to [www.ClarendonHealth.com](http://www.ClarendonHealth.com).



"In looking for new ways to improve patient satisfaction, we realized that our patients are more adept at using computers," says Gary Morris, director of Patient Financial Services at Clarendon. "Online bill payment is simple and easy. Patients can now go to our website [www.ClarendonHealth.com](http://www.ClarendonHealth.com) and pay their bills."

To pay hospital bills online, patients must set up a secure account with a personal identification number, or PIN, and type in the amount of money they want to pay. Online bill pay is just another way Clarendon's website is making it easier for the community to access important health information. "People are going to our website to find information about our doctors, events, and volunteer opportunities. Online bill paying is a great convenience we think will improve patient satisfaction," Morris says.

### Online bill payment makes it easy and fast



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[www.clarendonhealth.com](http://www.clarendonhealth.com)

# PULSE

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A Publication Connecting the Community to the Latest Happenings at Clarendon Health System

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*We're here for you*

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## Clarendon welcomes two new physicians

The Clarendon Health System medical staff has just expanded by two with the additions of Marilyn J. Connors, DO, a family practice physician, and Yvonne J. Davis, MD, an internal medicine physician.

Dr. Connors comes to Clarendon from Cooperstown, NY, where she served as medical director of Health Center Performance Improvement for 25 regional health centers. A 1989 graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Connors completed her residency at the Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Stratford, NJ.

Dr. Connors and her husband Ed have their hands full with their five rescue dogs, but they still find time for music. Both are talented musicians. Dr. Connors plays the drums, specializing in country and rock.

Dr. Connors is thrilled about the couple's move to Clarendon County. "I am excited to become part of this community," she said. "Clarendon is a charming place full of warm, friendly people."

Dr. Davis comes to Clarendon from Miami, Fla.; there she served as medical director for Utilization at Jackson Memorial Hospital. A 1994 graduate

of the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dr. Davis completed her residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

In her free time, Dr. Davis enjoys spending time with her husband, Antonio, and their young son.

"Being a physician is a privilege and I am honored to practice medicine at Clarendon," Dr. Davis says.

"We are thrilled to have two such talented doctors join us," said Clarendon Health System CEO Ed Frye. "This community will benefit from their expertise."

Both doctors practice at MANNING MEDICINE and are accepting patients:



Marilyn J. Connors, DO  
Family Medicine

803.435.5250



Yvonne J. Davis, MD  
Internal Medicine

803.435.5250

# New stereotactic biopsy technology coming soon

*Patients will benefit from less invasive, less painful diagnosis of breast cancer*

New breast health technology at Clarendon means women can stay in a familiar, caring atmosphere and not have to leave town in the event that a mammogram shows a suspicious lump.

Starting this fall, Clarendon will offer women stereotactic biopsy, an alternative to surgical biopsy. According to Steve Davis, director of Radiology at Clarendon, the technology is on par with what is found at major medical centers across the United States.

"Clarendon has been elevating all of our diagnostic technology so that our medical staff has what it needs to deliver high quality care and our patients have local access to the very best, most accurate diagnostic services," Davis explains. "Our new stereotactic biopsy technology is the standard for breast cancer diagnostics and we're excited we will soon offer it to our patients."



A biopsy is the next step in breast cancer diagnosis if a physician finds a lump during a mammogram. A traditional biopsy is performed by making a surgical incision. Stereotactic biopsies are done with a fine needle that is inserted into the breast. Tissue from the suspicious lump is removed through the needle and examined to see whether it's cancerous. Many women say the procedure feels like a mosquito bite.

Clarendon Health System surgeon Dawn Holman, MD, and other members of the Clarendon Surgical Specialists Team will be performing the procedure. Dr. Holman is experienced in performing stereotactic biopsies and views the new technology as a major win for women in the community.

"Women will appreciate having this high-tech procedure close to home," Dr. Holman says.

# CHANGE is afoot



**Edward R. Frye, Jr., CEO**  
Clarendon Health System

Welcome to the first issue of *PULSE*, Clarendon Health System's newly expanded newsletter. What began as a means of bringing important information to Clarendon's medical community has now grown to include our community leaders. It will serve to inform those who play important roles in our system of what's going on at Clarendon such as updates on our physicians, technology, services, and events.

There is much to share with you. This summer we are welcoming two new physicians to our medical staff, Marilyn J. Connors, DO, and Yvonne J. Davis, MD. I am personally very pleased to have recruited physicians of their significant talents to our community. In an effort to improve women's services, we are bringing sophisticated new stereotactic biopsy technology to Clarendon, an addition that will elevate our ability to diagnose breast cancer quickly and accurately for our patients. This service will be available this fall.

In other news, congratulations to Victoria Ridgeway, the winner of the Clarendon Medical Scholarship. The scholarship will provide \$10,000 per year for her medical school expenses over the next four years, a total award of \$40,000. In return, after she graduates from the Philadelphia College of Medicine, in Sewanee, Ga, and completes her residency, she will practice medicine at Clarendon for at least four years. The Clarendon Medical Scholarship program is designed to maintain a steady stream of new doctors coming into our community. Anyone can apply, so if you know of any deserving young man or woman, encourage them to contact us.

I also would like to call attention to an effort underway by the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) calling upon the General Assembly to extend healthcare coverage to all of our state's citizens. Currently nearly 700,000 South Carolinians don't have health insurance. A large number live in small and rural communities like Clarendon County. They might not have health insurance, but they still get care, typically at hospital emergency rooms, a situation that drives up the cost of care for everyone. This spring I wrote an editorial that was published in the *Manning Times* asking our elected officials to address this issue as it affects not only the health of local people, but the health of businesses in our community.

Thank you for your support of our community hospital. Stay healthy!

# Potentially life-saving colonoscopies are available at Clarendon

*Patients' health, convenience and comfort are top priorities*

Thanks to celebrity news anchor Katie Couric, you're probably aware that colon cancer is deadly, but did you know that colonoscopies are done in Clarendon County?

If a doctor finds potentially cancerous growths, called polyps, during a colonoscopy, Clarendon surgeons offer patients the option of having polyps removed during their colonoscopy.

If you're over 50 years of age, it's important to talk to your doctor about getting a yearly colonoscopy and you don't need to leave Clarendon County to do it. Call Hope Bryant at Clarendon Surgical Specialists at 803.435.2822 for more information or to refer a patient.

"Colon cancer is a serious disease. Early detection can save lives," Dr. Dominici says.

## EXPERIENCE MATTERS.

**Clarendon's three surgeons have performed more than 16,000 colonoscopies.**

Clarendon Health System surgeons Raymond H. Dominici, MD; Dawn Holman, MD; and Aleksandr Sokolovsky, DO, perform colonoscopies on an outpatient basis at Clarendon Memorial Hospital. Collectively, the three surgeons have performed more than 16,000 colonoscopies to date.

Local residents often think they need go to an out-of-town specialist for a colonoscopy. Not so, says Dr. Dominici.

"What matters is the experience of the physician and the surgical team," says Dr. Dominici, who himself performs nearly 100 of the potentially lifesaving procedures each year. "At Clarendon, we have the latest technology, and the added safety of a hospital environment."

Another advantage is that patients don't have to travel to Columbia, Florence, or Charleston. Because patients must have another adult accompany them to drive them home after the procedure, this is a significant time-savings, particularly for those who must take off from work.



Clarendon surgeons: Raymond H. Dominici, MD; Dawn Holman, MD; and Aleksandr Sokolovsky, DO.

# Hospitalist program earns high marks

*Doctors save time, patients have access to doctors 24/7*

The new hospitalist program at Clarendon Health System is receiving high marks. The program has two full-time hospitalists, George Harrison, MD, and Catherine Thompson, DO, family medicine doctors who work full-time at Clarendon Memorial Hospital to

provide 24/7 physician coverage to patients. Hospitalists act as an extension of the patient's regular physician, delivering hospital-based care so other primary care physicians can see patients in their practices without the added responsibility of hospital rounds.

Clarence Coker, Jr., MD, a doctor in Clarendon County for more than 40 years, is one doctor using the program. "It allows me to spend more time with patients in my office and not have to go back and forth to the hospital." Once his patients are discharged from the hospital, they return to Dr. Coker's care.

The program is beneficial to patients as well. "Two excellent doctors are available to answer questions and to treat them when they need it. Patients don't have to wait until their doctor makes rounds," says Dr. Coker. "It's a win-win situation for doctors and patients and means improved patient care at Clarendon Memorial."