



***Call for Nominations: 2026 Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame  
Finley Scholars Scholarship Program***  
*in honor of Wayne H. Finley PhD, MD and Sarah Crews Finley, MD*

The Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame (AHHOF) is recognizing the leadership and legacy of Dr. Wayne H. Finley and Dr. Sarah Crews Finley through a new scholarship program to support students attending Alabama's healthcare education institutions. In 2026, AHHOF will award up to **five \$2000 scholarships** to outstanding students.

***Overview of the 2026 Nomination, Selection and Celebration Processes:*** Each accredited school of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, health care management, or public health will nominate a single student who meets the identified criteria. In short, *which student do you believe will become a health care hero and a leader people will admire and respect throughout his or her career?*

AHHOF's Finley Scholars Committee will review nominations and select recipients who will be honored at the AHHOF Awards Ceremony in August in Montgomery. We request that, if possible, scholars attend and be recognized (this includes a complimentary lunch). Please note we will mail the checks to the scholars (attendance is not mandatory).

The 2026 AHHOF Finley Scholars Committee includes Arlene H. Morris, RN, MSN, EdD (chair), Christy Harris Lemak, PhD, FACHE; Max Michael, III, MD; Charlotte Wynn, MSN, CRNP; Gerhard A. W. Boehm, MD, FACS and Maria R. Shirey, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-C, ANEF, FACHE, FAAP, FAAN, Danne Howard.

***2026 Nomination Process:*** Each Dean will select a single student from their school who best meets the criteria listed below. The nominated student will submit a resume and personal statement to the Dean. One nomination will be sent from the Dean's office by email to AHHOF ([lemak@uab.edu](mailto:lemak@uab.edu)) by 5pm on January 15, 2026.

***Criteria for the 2026 Finley Scholar Scholarship Program. Nominated students must:***

1. Be an enrolled and successfully continuing student in an accredited program of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, health care management, public health, or other health profession (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy) in the State of Alabama.
2. Demonstrate a record of strong academic achievement.
3. Demonstrate evidence of and/or potential for leadership.

4. Show strong potential for future contributions in their field.
5. Demonstrate values of integrity and commitment to improving health and health care for patients and communities, in the spirit of the Finleys' careers.
6. Special consideration will be given to those who plan future study or service in the State of Alabama upon graduation (this is not required).

**Application Materials:** Please send a single email with these attachments to Christy Harris Lemak ([lemak@uab.edu](mailto:lemak@uab.edu)) **no later than 5pm January 15, 2026:**

1. **Nomination Letter from the Dean**, providing specific examples of how the nominee meets each of the criteria.
2. **Student Resume or CV.**
3. **Student Personal Statement** (up to three hundred words) responding to this prompt: *What are your career goals? How do you plan to make a difference? What kind of impact do you hope to make in health care and in your community, including in Alabama?*

Questions: Contact Christy Harris Lemak ([lemak@uab.edu](mailto:lemak@uab.edu)) or Arlene Morris ([arlenehughesmorris@gmail.com](mailto:arlenehughesmorris@gmail.com)).

### **About Dr. Wayne H. Finley and Dr. Sara Crews Finley – 2001 AHHOF Honorees**

Alabama natives Sara Crews and Wayne Finley met while students at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Dr. Wayne Finley received his Ph.D. and M.D. from the University of Alabama; Dr. Sara Finley received her M.D. from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. After studying at the Institute for Medical Genetics in Sweden, the Finleys returned to Birmingham and opened a genetics clinic at a time when discoveries were bursting on the scene. In the early 1960's, the field of medical genetics was so new there were no trained geneticists to staff a laboratory. They therefore started a training program that helped UAB become known as a national leader in healthcare.

For close to 34 years, UAB's Laboratory of Medical Genetics has brought unique distinction to UAB for clinical evaluations, genetic counseling, and unparalleled educational opportunities for students. The Finleys' numerous honors and accolades extend across UAB, Birmingham, Alabama, and the nation. After 33 years of service to UAB and upon their retirement in 1996, President J. Claude Bennett stated that scientists Sara and Wayne Finley "have been, and will always remain, an institutional treasure for UAB."

### **About the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame**

The Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame was founded in 1997 with the purpose of recognizing those persons, living, or deceased, who have made outstanding contributions to, or rendered exemplary service for healthcare in the State of Alabama. Through the organization we hope to

pass on these examples of outstanding accomplishment to our young people. It is operated under the authority of the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame and Museum, a non-profit 501-C-3 Alabama corporation. For more: <http://www.healthcarehof.org/>