Dr. Harrell had the pleasure of hiring a new faculty for a school that was not completed yet.

The Legends and Leaders poster has an image showing the founding Dean of the College of Nursing, and six early College of Medicine faculty members, including the founding Dean and five department chairs, most of whom arrived in Gainesville in 1955, before the college opened. These include Thomas Maren, Chair of Pharmacology, Emanuel Suter, Chair of Microbiology, James Wilson, Chair of Anatomy, Arthur Otis, Chair of Physiology, Joshua Edwards, Chair of Pathology, and Sam Martin, Chair of Medicine. Other early hires included Frank Putnam, Chair of Biochemistry. The order of hiring reflected teaching needs because the first two years focused on basic sciences. Clinical faculty were hired later, especially after the hospital opened in 1958.

Rather than hiring established faculty members, or those who already were department chairs, Dr. Harrell chose “rising stars” - younger scientists and physicians who he felt would pursue innovative research programs and would forge breakthroughs in patient care.

The Department of Surgery in 1958. Anesthesiology was a division of Surgery at this time.

Family loyalty: Dr Joachim Gravenstein, head of the Division of Anesthesiology and then first Chair of the Department, is one of the many early faculty members who remained at the College of Medicine for much of his career. His son was the first baby born at Shands Hospital. Two of his sons are in the Department of Anesthesiology, and one is the current chair.

Women: the early faculty included 4 women. Lucy Birzis, hired in the Department of Pharmacology, was a pioneer in using electro stimulation to study brain function.