

Dr. Blair E. Batson

Class of 1937

Mississippi-born Blair Batson moved to finish school at University City High School, renowned for its proper college preparatory education. Graduating UCHS in 1937, he earned a BA and MD from Vanderbilt University and served as chief resident, then as a faculty member until 1952. At Johns Hopkins University, he earned a master's of Public Health and taught there until 1955.

At age 34, he was named Pediatrics' department chairman at the University of Mississippi Medical School where he

remained until his retirement in 1989. Concurrently while at U of M, he served 27 years as an examiner for the American Board of Pediatrics and 16 years on the American Academy of Pediatrics' executive board.

Batson also served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II as a war officer for contagious diseases and pediatrics in Germany.

Batson taught more than 3,500 medical students and 240 pediatric residents. He was honored by the AAP and received their Clifford G. Grulee award. He was named to University of Mississippi's Alumni and School of Medicine's Medical Alumni Hall of Fames. He earned Vanderbilt's School of Medicine Distinguished School of Medicine Alumnus of the Year award and the Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi's Humanitarian of the Year Award.

One of his greatest honors was the naming of Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children in 1997 in recognition of his lifetime contributions to the health of children in Mississippi... just a few blocks from his current home.



**Blair E.
Batson**

Class of 1937