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CLASS NOTES & IN MEMORIAM

Winter 2008
From the Executive Dean

It has been an exciting and productive year at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. On my behalf for the Memphis home campus and for Knoxville campus Dean James Neutens and Chattanooga campus Dean David Seaberg, it is a pleasure to outline this year’s accomplishments and challenges. In this issue, we highlight our statewide trauma network. All three major UT COM campus locations house a fully accredited Level I trauma program. The trauma programs not only emphasize the COM service to the entire state, but each center serves as a key training and research area.

**UTMG Update**

On the Memphis campus, we continue to grow the UT clinical services with our hospital partners. The UT Medical Group is having another strong year with a 15 percent growth rate. The practice also sold its interest in TLC, a managed-care company. This clinical growth rate, as well as the sale, gives the college and UTMG the capital to stay on track with our aggressive faculty expansion plans.

To reach this goal of a substantially expanded faculty, we are continuing major recruitment. We have added more than 70 faculty to the Memphis campus in the past year. Also of note, Drs. James Green and Ken Sakauye have assumed leadership of a reinvigorated Department of Psychiatry. The department has added fully accredited fellowships in child psychiatry and geriatric psychiatry and is expanding the psychiatry residency. New inpatient services are available at St. Francis and the newly constructed Memphis Mental Health Institute, adjacent to the Memphis campus.

The Maternal Fetal Institute is off to a strong start with the recruitment of internationally known Maternal Fetal Physician Investigator Gian Carlo Mari, MD. He and his wife Laura Detti, MD, will join us in the near future. We expect a major expansion in our maternal fetal medicine capability regionally and statewide. Pediatrics is steadily growing with new division directors being recruited.

**Students Achieve New Records**

Our multi-campus college-wide educational effort is functioning well. Our students continue to do remarkably well, achieving new records in national first-time pass rates with a 99 percent pass rate on Step 1. With former Dean of Students Dr. H. Pat Wall stepping up to be chancellor, we have reorganized our education enterprise. Robert Shreve, EdD, has been named the associate dean of medical education and Owen Phillips, MD, has been named the associate dean of students. These changes put us in a better functional alignment.

**Major Campus Initiatives**

In our college-wide science, the Biosafety Level 3 Regional Biocontainment Lab, under the administrative direction of Gerry Byrne, PhD, will serve as a site for dedicated pathogen research. The Cancer Research building has rapidly filled with investigators. We are working to forge a tighter relationship with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the areas of computational research and in a collaborative Mouse Genome Consortium. Our collaboration with the Memphis Bioworks foundation is bearing fruit as multiple joint projects are moving to the forefront.

Major initiatives from the Chattanooga campus (working with the Erlanger Health System) include the final steps in the development of UT’s first emergency medicine residency program. In addition, a fully accredited new vascular surgery fellowship program enrolls its first fellows in July. In continuing medical education, Chattanooga campus Associate Dean Robert Fore, EdD, assumes leadership of the college’s statewide CME effort.

On the Knoxville campus, we have accepted our first group of cardiology fellows and are in the final phases of accrediting other subspecialty fellowships. New inpatient services are available at St. Francis and the newly constructed Memphis Mental Health Institute, adjacent to the Memphis campus.

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Challenges abound on our campuses, but progress is palpable and each year is better than the preceding. Much remains to be done, but we are well under way in our goal of moving to the top tier of U.S. medical schools.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Executive Dean and Memphis Dean
College of Medicine
As you may have heard from other sources, President John Petersen has lifted the “interim” from my title and has asked me to serve as the chancellor for a while longer. The committee voted to suspend the search and recommended that “the team” we had put in place last April continue, stabilizing the work with our hospital partners and community leadership for a transitional period before resuming the search. Although not a candidate, I accepted his request to continue working with the outstanding campus leadership, especially with Steve Schwab, MD, in the College of Medicine who has assumed the permanent dean’s position in Memphis, as well as continuing as the statewide executive dean. We will be aggressively moving forward to create an environment here in the Health Science Center that will be far more attractive to future candidates for the chancellor’s position. We will continue working with President Petersen and the system’s leadership, as well as with Governor Phil Bredesen and the state legislature in creating a better funding stream which will be necessary to improve our campus infrastructure, as well as operational dollars to be more competitive in faculty recruitment and retention.

The communication team has done another outstanding job with this winter edition of the magazine beginning with featuring the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Memphis.

It will quickly become obvious to you as you begin reading the magazine that there has been a very aggressive recruitment effort, not only at the Health Science Center level, but very importantly in the college. There has been a significant reorganization within the dean’s staff.

We are very, very proud of our colleagues who have been recognized as Health Care Heroes including Drs. Ralph Hamilton and Chris Fleming, and also our outstanding former hospital partner at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, Gene Cashman.

The recent sentinel event was the submission of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) proposal to the NIH. As noted in the past, this activity will be truly transformative for this campus in how we translationally bring basic science to the bedside. This has been a campus-wide intercollegiate activity and headed by the Stollerman Professor, Jim Dale.

Our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Lester Van Middlesworth was recently named University Distinguished Professor, and there is an effort afoot to create an endowed professorship in his honor.

Ann Bell, whom many of us have known for decades, is also in the news and was honored at the December commencement with an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Since our last publication, the Memphis Mental Health Institute has been dedicated and opened on the site of the old Bowld Hospital. The former MMHI facility is now coming down to make way for the new 12-story tower for the $350 million Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. Ground has been broken for the new Pharmacy Building, which has been long sought by Dean Dick Gourley. The building will be a wonderful addition to the campus and is destined to house our new CTSI activities.

Our outstanding students continue to do us great honor with their public service and their commitment to the college. For the first time, we had a non-physician speaker for our White Coat Ceremony, Molly Caldwell Crosby. She is the author of an outstanding book titled, “The American Plague: The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, the Epidemic that Shaped Our History,” which is about an historic Memphis event.

Many of you will recognize the college’s Outstanding Alumni who were announced in September during the fall alumni weekend. I hope you will take time to read the article about another outstanding alumnus from the ’40s and his professional career in his home town of Roma, Texas. We are proud of Dr. Mario Ramirez, not only for his generosity, but for his commitment to public service.

As usual, we welcome your suggestions about the next edition of this magazine. In the meanwhile, it is fair to say that the College of Medicine is thriving under the leadership of Dr. Schwab as executive dean, and permanent dean on the Memphis campus.

Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, COM ’60
Chancellor, UT Health Science Center
Chair, Editorial Board
I think a great time was had by all those attending the 2007 Alumni Weekend this past October. Life is short and friends are special, so what could be better than seeing old friends and classmates? There were 57 Golden Grads attending from the class of 1957, and they had a wonderful time reminiscing with stories and even poems about their teachers, the dean and themselves “back in the good old days.” There were several other large and small class reunions, including the 55th and 60th reunions. Please put September 25 to 26 on your schedule now and join us for the 2008 College of Medicine Alumni Weekend.

At our Alumni Council meeting we were updated on the “Wows” and “Woes” of UTHSC and our College of Medicine. Dr. Pat Wall continues to do a great job as chancellor, and he presented from that point of view. Chancellor Wall is working with UT President John Petersen to improve funding for priorities at UTHSC. Dr. Wall also spends much of his time working with community leaders to address the challenges of The MED – a vital underfunded safety-net hospital serving Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi.

Executive Dean Steve Schwab welcomed new Knoxville Dean, Dr. James Neutens, as well as Dr. David Seaberg, the new dean of the Chattanooga campus. Kudos to Dr. Schwab for unifying the campuses and increasing the communication and efficiency of our statewide College of Medicine.

Educational programs remain strong. Last year 97 percent of UT College of Medicine grads said they received outstanding overall training, while in residency program surveys, UT College of Medicine students rank in the top 20 percent of residents across the United States. Van Morris, president of the M4 class, and recent grad, Dr. Chuck Gilliland, who is in his third year of radiology residency, spoke to the council about UT’s excellent reputation for providing a top-notch education. Students continue to make financial commitments prior to graduation to the Peri Ankh Fund to help provide funds to ensure a bright future for their college.

I hope that everyone shares my desire to give something back to the school that gave us so much. Linda Garceau-Luis, vice chancellor of development and alumni affairs, explained one relatively painless way it can be done, the charitable gift annuity. I call this the “gift that gives back.” You can give a gift and get a significant tax deduction. Your gift works as an annuity during your lifetime, paying you an income stream that usually includes a tax-free component. When the gift annuity terminates, UTHSC will receive the remaining funds. If each of us would make a generous commitment, we could help our college more quickly attain the national prominence it deserves.

I’m looking forward to seeing you next year in September at the Peabody Hotel for Alumni Weekend.

William A. Sims, MD, COM ’61
President
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council
The Cannon Center: The New Center of Attention

The Cannon Center for the Performing Arts is a relative newcomer to the city’s performing arts scene and downtown area. Its grand opening in January 2003 received rave reviews for its 2,100-seat multi-purpose facility and Web site with readily available information about all the upcoming events and shows.

The world-class theatre is capable of holding a substantial amount of events, including opera, ballet, pop and jazz concerts, touring productions, children’s theatre and general sessions for the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. The facility also serves as a vital part of the Memphis Cook Convention Center’s efforts to attract meetings and conventions from around the world.

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra calls the Cannon Center its new home because of its unique acoustic abilities. The collaboration of WPA/Pickering, LMN Architects, and Jaffe Holden Acoustics of Norwalk combined their expertise to create an environment that enhances performances ranging from full symphony orchestras to soloists. During a special Hard Hat Concert, sponsored by Clark Construction, the Cannon Center was tuned by the acousticians.

The Cannon Center also has movable seat wagons on two orchestra pit lifts and adjustable reflectors and shells. The hall can accommodate 1,900 people for symphonic performances and 2,100 for theatrical performances. Backstage accommodations include a 100-foot-high stage house with line set rigging capabilities, two lighting galleries and follow spot locations suitable for a wide range of performances.

Since 1952, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra has been a vital part of the Memphis performing arts venue and its cultural background. Under the direction of Maestro David Loebel, the orchestra has won many national awards for artistic programming. Members of the orchestra have also participated in Ballet Memphis and Opera Memphis.

This winter, the Cannon Center offered a wide variety of shows and performances including The Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker, Home for the Holidays and the Memphis Messiah, along with general sessions from the award-winning Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

In honor of its two principal contributors, the Cannon Center was named after Bob and Kitty Cannon. The facility was built as part of the Memphis Cook Convention Center’s $92 million renovation and expansion project. In addition to the Cannon Center, the Memphis Cook Convention Center offers a new 35,000-square-foot exhibit hall and a 28,000-square-foot ballroom.

For more information about the Cannon Center for Performing Arts or the Memphis Cook Convention Center, go to www.thecannoncenter.com and www.memphisconvention.com or call (901) 576-1201.
Two Chaired Professors Named in Ophthalmology

Although their faces are not new to the UT Health Science Center, the positions they hold are. The Department of Ophthalmology has announced the investiture of James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, (UT COM ’74) as the Philip M. Lewis Professor of Ophthalmology and Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS, as the Roger L. Hiatt Professor of Ophthalmology.

Drs. Lewis and Hiatt were former professors and chairs of ophthalmology at UTHSC. Both are world renowned in their fields.

At the investiture held November 2 at Freeman Auditorium in the Hamilton Eye Institute, Barrett G. Haik, MD, professor and chair of the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology, indicated that there is no greater honor in an academic institution than to be selected as an endowed professor.

“Drs. Fleming and Kerr have each distinguished themselves in ophthalmologic research and clinical care,” said Dr. Haik. “These chaired positions are fitting capstones to their careers.”

A recognized leader in the field of ophthalmology, Dr. Fleming is past president of several professional organizations including the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Tennessee Medical Association.

Specializing in orbital disease and oculoplastic surgery, Dr. Fleming has been named to the “Best Doctors in America®” list since 1996. He is the recipient of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Honor Award, the Marvin Quickert Fellow Award from the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and the Philip M. Lewis, MD, Award in Resident Instruction and Clinical Service at UTHSC.

Dr. Kerr is widely published and nationally recognized in the areas of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, more commonly known as cross-eyed and wall-eyed affliction. Named among the “Best Doctors in America®” since 2001, Dr. Kerr has received numerous professional accolades including the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2004 and the Honor Award from the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus in 2005. In 2006, she received the American College of Surgeons/American Academy of Ophthalmology Health Policy Scholarship.

Nichols Named Executive Assistant to UT President

Margie Nichols, senior director of communications and government relations for Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, has been named executive assistant to University of Tennessee President John Petersen.

Nichols will have chief of staff responsibilities and will oversee organization and follow-up as part of the president’s senior staff. She replaces Lofton Stuart who had held the position for three years, prior to being named executive director of the UT Alumni Association.

Nichols joined Haslam’s senior staff in January 2004 and has had responsibility for internal and external communications for the city. She worked for 26 years in television news, including an eight-year stint as news director at WBIR-TV in Knoxville, as well as positions with stations in Nashville and Memphis. She is past president of the Executive Women’s Association and is a member of the UT Alumni Association Board of Governors Executive Committee. She previously served as chair of the UT Knoxville Chancellor’s Associates. She has a bachelor’s degree in English from UT Martin.
Development and Alumni Affairs in Full Force

A buzz of activity dominates the fifth floor of the Hyman Administration building, which is home to the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

Occupied with new faces, the office has filled eight open positions in the past year.

Linda Garceau-Luis, MBA, MA, was named vice chancellor for the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs in March and from that time began building her team.

“The addition of more staff allows us to approach our fundraising with new vigor and excitement,” said Garceau-Luis, who prior to coming to UTHSC, worked for more than five years as an independent consultant providing development services to large and small nonprofit organizations.

Prior to starting her own firm, Garceau-Luis spent 10 years as director of major and planned giving for Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Before assuming that role, she worked for three years as director of major gifts at the State University of New York at Binghamton and with Dartmouth Medical School for four years as the director of capital gifts.

Garceau-Luis’ staff represent extensive and varied experience. Many alumni may have already met some of these staff members at the College of Medicine Alumni Weekend in October, but for those who have not, a brief introduction follows:

Gloria Greiner-Callihan, JD, assistant vice chancellor of development for the College of Medicine, is a veteran fundraiser with more than 11 years of experience as a development officer. She also served on several community and nonprofit boards before becoming a professional. Greiner-Callihan did her master’s course work in the fundraising program at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota—one of the first non-resident master’s programs in the country geared specifically to fundraising practitioners. The program is in its 20th year. She has also worked at Opera Memphis, The Germantown Performing Arts Centre, and has consulted for arts groups and schools in Alabama, North Carolina and Mississippi.

Kelly Brown-Morris, executive director of development for the College of Medicine, is a seasoned fundraiser with more than 13 years experience in development. A native Memphian, she returned to Memphis in July from Atlanta where she led the fundraising efforts for Grady Memorial Hospital, a 1,000-bed public hospital and Level I Trauma Center. Prior to that, she worked for The Gallup Organization consulting firm, the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis and the United Way of the Mid-South. She also has extensive experience as a philanthropic advisor to professional athletes and entertainers.

Brown-Morris is a proud graduate of the University of Tennessee Martin with a degree in English and is glad to be “home.”

Bethany Goolsby, JD, assistant vice chancellor for planned giving, is responsible for securing deferred gifts for all colleges and programs at the UT Health Science Center. A native of Memphis, Goolsby holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a law degree from the UT College of Law. Prior to joining UT, she worked as an associate attorney at Waring Cox, PLC and as a vice president and trust officer for NBC Wealth Management. Most recently she served as director of planned giving for Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. Goolsby is a member of the Memphis Rotary Club and serves as president of the board of directors of Grace House of Memphis, a substance abuse treatment facility for women.

Jennifer Burns, a native Memphian, was named assistant director of development in mid-October. Burns attended high school at Memphis Catholic and graduated from UT Martin with a degree in communications. She has more than 10 years experience in communications, corporate relations, marketing and event planning.

Burns spent the last year at UTHSC in alumni affairs before transitioning to development. Prior to that, she spent several years in marketing and development in the Tunica Casino market, then moved to Elvis Presley Enterprises (Graceland). Her most recent position before coming to UTHSC was as the public relations and member relations director at the Crescent Club. She is married to Scott Burns, and they have a 2-year-old son named Carter.

Development continued on Page 10
New Executives Announced in Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs

In November, Cheryl R. Scheid, PhD, vice chancellor of the Office of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs at UTHSC, announced three new executive appointments.

Matthew T. Sanchez was named the assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, responsible for oversight of admissions, financial aid and registrar functions for UTHSC.

Carol A. Schwab, JD, LLM, accepted the position as director of medical legal education and will develop a new curriculum, “Legal Issues in Health Care.” Initially the curriculum will be taught in the College of Medicine but ultimately it will be available for all six UTHSC colleges.

Chanchai Singhanayok McDonald, PhD, assumed the position of assistant vice chancellor for institutional research and educational technology. She oversees the design, development and delivery of database systems needed to support institutional programs, facilitate faculty research, and enhance the educational enterprise.

Prior to joining UTHSC, Sanchez was director of financial aid and scholarships for California State University (Stanislaus, Turlock, Calif.). He holds a master’s in public administration and an EdS in education from Arkansas State University (Jonesboro, Ark.), and is currently working on his EdD in educational leadership at Saint Mary’s College of California.

Professor Schwab came to UTHSC from the Medical College of Georgia where she was assistant dean of medical/legal education and developed the “Legal Issues of Medicine” for medical students. Professor Schwab holds a juris doctorate from the University of Missouri School of Law (Columbia, Mo.) and a master’s degree in taxation law from Washington University (St. Louis, Mo.).

Dr. McDonald spent the last eight years at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tenn.) where she was an assistant professor and director of educational technology, biomedical research education and training. She holds a PhD in curriculum and instruction from the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, Minn.).
Department Chairs Named in Psychiatry

James A. Greene, MD, professor in the Department of Psychiatry, has been appointed chair of the department by Executive Dean Steve Schwab, MD.

“Our search committee worked very hard to identify candidates from around the United States with the best qualifications to fill this important position,” stated Charles Handorf, MD, professor and chair for the Department of Pathology and chair of the search committee. “We unanimously agreed that Dr. Greene has the right mix of practical patient care and business skills needed to manage in a complex medical environment; furthermore, he is highly motivated to advance the educational and research missions of the Department of Psychiatry.”

Dr. Greene’s expertise combines his in-depth knowledge of psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, in particular, clinical practice and academic teaching with business experience. In 2004, Dr. Greene accepted a position as professor on the UTHSC faculty, and was appointed interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry in 2005.

Upon his designation as departmental chair, Dr. Greene named Kenneth M. Sakauye, MD, professor of psychiatry, as co-chair of the Department of Psychiatry.

“After joining us in May 2006 from the Louisiana State University College of Medicine in New Orleans,” Dr. Greene commented, “Dr. Sakauye has demonstrated the leadership and industry needed to build an outstanding department.”

An internationally known geriatric psychiatrist, Dr. Sakauye serves as director of the section of geriatric psychiatry. In this role, he has been instrumental in the development and accreditation of a UT Psychiatric Fellowship program in geriatric psychiatry that will begin in July. This fellowship program will be based at St. Francis Hospital and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, both in Memphis.

In January, Dr. Sakauye’s textbook on geriatric psychiatry, which has garnered national attention and acclaim, was released.

Four Surgeons Join UTHSC Faculty

Timothy C. Fabian, MD, chair of the Department of Surgery for the UTHSC College of Medicine, announced the addition of four highly recognized cardiothoracic surgeons as full-time UTHSC faculty and to the UT Medical Group, Inc. Joining the faculty are Phillip Schoettle, MD, (UT COM ’72) UTHSC chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Methodist University Hospital; Jonathan J. Ellichman, MD; Charles Austin Hunt, II, MD; and Alim Khandekar, MD.

UTHSC executive dean of the College of Medicine, Steve J. Schwab, MD, stated that these physicians, formerly of the Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Association, are outstanding surgeons who have emerged as some of our most productive bedside teachers for surgical residents, cardiothoracic fellows, and medical students.

Historically, these surgeons were responsible for several “firsts” in the Methodist Hospital System (Memphis, Tenn.):

1972 - first heart valve replacement
1987 - first Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator and first ventricular assist device placement
2005 - first Coronary Artery Bypass Graft performed off bypass pump
Stokes Named Professor, Chief of Pediatric Pulmonology

Dennis C. Stokes, MD, MPH, has been named professor and chief of pediatric pulmonology at the UTHSC College of Medicine and Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. A board-certified pediatric pulmonologist who has consistently been named among America’s Best Doctors®, Dr. Stokes is known for his expertise in asthma and cystic fibrosis. Russell Chesney, MD, chair of the Department of Pediatrics, observed that Dr. Stokes is an internationally known pediatric pulmonologist with tested leadership and clinical research capabilities. During his last several years at Dartmouth Medical School, he has been developing novel clinical quality improvement programs.

Dr. Stokes earned his medical degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and received a master’s degree in public health from Indiana University-Purdue University.

Education Deans Named in College of Medicine

Robert Shreve, EdD, and Owen Phillips, MD, have been appointed to associate dean positions within the College of Medicine (COM). Dr. Shreve has been named associate dean for medical education, and Dr. Phillips associate dean for student affairs.

The appointments follow an education reorganization plan proposed by the COM faculty blue-ribbon panel that reviews education administration. The panel, headed by Eugene Mangiante, MD, associate dean for graduate medical education, proposed a restructuring of responsibility along content areas. The report proposed integration of all student education including curriculum, testing, standards and academic activities into a single position — medical education. Student support activities and admissions will be maintained in the area of student affairs.

Graduate Medical Education (GME) and Continuing Medical Education remain under the GME umbrella administered by Dr. Mangiante.

Dr. Shreve, associate professor of preventive medicine, previously served as interim associate dean of academic and faculty affairs. Dr. Phillips, professor and vice chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, previously served as assistant dean for student affairs. The associate dean appointments became effective December 1.

The Memphis campus will maintain associate deans for both hospital services and clinical ambulatory services. James “Lacey” Smith, MD, serves as the associate dean for hospital services. The UT Medical Group, Inc., chief medical officer serves as the associate dean for clinical ambulatory services.

Metheny Named Assistant Dean UT Graduate School of Medicine

The UT Graduate School of Medicine Office of the Dean in Knoxville has named William P. Metheny, PhD, assistant dean for graduate medical and dental education. Previously, Dr. Metheny was the director of medical education at Women and Infants Hospital, a teaching hospital affiliated with the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and professor of OB/GYN at Brown.

“Dr. Metheny brings a tremendous amount of experience to the Graduate School of Medicine,” said James J. Neutens, PhD, dean of the UT Graduate School of Medicine. “He is nationally recognized for his efforts in education and is well published in the field of medical education.”

A native of Missouri, Dr. Metheny received his PhD from Michigan State University, concentrating on sociology of education. In his new position as assistant dean, Dr. Metheny will ensure compliance with national accreditation standards for the UT graduate medical and dental education programs, teach resident physicians, and conduct and support research in teaching and learning in medical education.
Three From UTHSC Community Selected as Health Care Heroes

Each year, the Health Care Heroes Awards salute companies, individuals and organizations for their contributions to improve health care in Memphis and the Mid-South. The annual awards, organized by the Memphis Business Journal, are presented during a well-attended dinner event in early September. Last year, three members of the UTHSC community received top honors.

The 2007 Health Care Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was Ralph Hamilton, MD, Memphis ophthalmologist and former UTHSC faculty member. The UT Health Science Center’s Hamilton Eye Institute was founded by setting the highest standards in honor of three generations of Hamilton ophthalmologists who have served the citizens of Tennessee and the nation by advancing the science and art of medicine and surgery. The institute serves as the only university eye center providing an advanced level of vision care within a 200-mile radius of Memphis.

A man of few but well-chosen words, Dr. Hamilton said he was “over-awed by the evening” and thanked all “those great good friends” who attended the event. He also thanked his wife, Barbara Howell Hamilton, for her many years of support.

In addition to Dr. Hamilton, Denise Bollheimer, vice president, marketing and managed care, UT Medical Group, was nominated as a Health Care Hero for Community Outreach, and James C. Fleming, MD, professor of ophthalmology at UTHSC, received the Health Care Heroes Award as the 2007 Health Care Provider, Physician. He observed that “Memphis is a phenomenal community, especially when it comes to opportunities for giving back.”

UTHSC also nominated Eugene K. Cashman, president and CEO of the Urban Child Institute, who was chosen as the 2007 Health Care Hero for Administrative Excellence. As president of Le Bonheur, from 1977 to 1995, Cashman expanded the vision of the hospital and transformed it into a leading medical center. The Urban Child Institute has awarded more than $50 million to programs at Le Bonheur, the University of Memphis and UTHSC for data-driven, results-oriented programs.

UTHSC finalists were nominated not only by UTHSC but also by Le Bonheur, Semmes-Murphey Clinic, Methodist and other health care entities:

- Administrative Excellence: Charles Handorf, MD, PhD, chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Community Outreach: Alicia McClary, EdD, professor of preventive medicine; Health Care Innovations: Kevin T. Foley, MD, professor of neurosurgery; Health Care Provider, Non-Physician: Susan R. Jacob, RN, MSN, CFNP, professor and executive associate dean, College of Nursing; and Health Care Provider, Physician: Morris Ray, MD/FACS, Semmes-Murphey Clinic, Department of Neurosurgery; Robert A. Sanford, MD, and Frederick Boop, MD, both neurosurgeons at Semmes-Murphey Clinic and Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center.

UTHSC was honored to have so many finalists chosen.
New Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Launches

The Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville announces the launch of a new fellowship program focusing on cardiovascular disease. This program is one of only four in Tennessee.

During the three-year program, the fellows will receive specialty training in several areas including: invasive cardiac catheterization, echocardiography, electrophysiology and nuclear cardiology.

Gayathri Baljepally, MD, and Rubinder Ruby, MD, are the first two fellows in the program. They will evaluate patients with cardiovascular disease both in private practice, as well as in a clinic setting. Additionally, each fellow will work closely with a research mentor on a research project and will be provided six months of dedicated research time during the third year of the fellowship to complete the project.

“The UT fellowship program will improve cardiac care and access to quality cardiac care in East Tennessee, and as our fellows graduate from the program and begin their medical practices, cardiac care across the nation will be improved,” said Dale Wortham, MD, UT Graduate School of Medicine cardiologist and fellowship program director.

Each year two fellows will be accepted for a maximum of six in the program. Future applications will be accepted through ERAS (electronic residency application system), and the program will participate in the Medical Specialties Matching Program through the National Resident Match Program. For more information about the fellowship, visit http://gsm.utmck.edu/internalmed/fellowships_cardio.htm.

Blues Project Continues with Mission to Improve Babies’ Health in Memphis

The UT Health Science Center and BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee have extended their collaboration on The Blues Project, a clinic- and home-based social intervention program, to positively affect health outcomes for at-risk mothers and their babies. Open enrollment began for Phase II of The Blues Project in mid-August.

The initiative is designed to help improve maternal, fetal and pediatric outcomes in Memphis through education, employment and removing social barriers linked to adverse child health outcomes. The first two years of the pilot have had positive results in these areas. The project is beginning the third year of a four-year pilot.

Memphis has the highest infant mortality rate among the nation’s 60 largest cities. The U.S. infant mortality rate is 7.1 babies per 1,000 live births; however, that number is an alarming 17.4 babies per 1,000 live births among African-Americans who reside in Memphis. The majority of participants in The Blues Project have been African-American women (96.17 percent) under the age of 35 who were single and unemployed upon enrollment in the study.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee funded Phase I of the project, May 2004 through December 2006, through corporate contributions with $1.7 million over two years. Phase II will be funded by the company’s Tennessee Health Foundation with $681,000 over three years.
Many faculty, staff and students saw a familiar face as they flipped television channels last summer. A new medical mystery series, titled “Diagnosis X,” which ran on the TLC Network, starred Alan Redding, MD. Dr. Redding doesn’t just play a physician on TV. He is one of our own – a UT Health Science Center fellow in allergy and immunology.

This new series began in July, and Dr. Redding’s episode aired in August.

The path to Dr. Redding’s Hollywood debut began when he and his identical twin brother, who is a fellow in allergy and immunology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, attended a medical conference in San Diego. Producers of the show approached them and asked if they had any interesting medical cases that might fit in a new television series in which doctors strive to diagnose rare diseases. Immediately, Dr. Redding recalled a case he had worked on at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center.

In the fall of 2006, concerned parents brought their 6-week-old son to Le Bonheur. The baby’s face was bright red and his underweight body was covered in a scaly rash. After a series of tests and consultations with extended family members, doctors and medical staff determined that the baby suffered from IPEX, an inherited syndrome caused by a mutated gene that affects a very specific type of white blood cells. IPEX Syndrome leads to death without proper diagnosis and prompt treatment.

Although in reality the diagnosis took several months to confirm, writers condensed the story into a few days. Meant to be dramatized, the episode does not follow actual events exactly; however, Dr. Redding worked with writers to ensure the script was realistic. And then he had to memorize it.

Although nervous at first, Dr. Redding, who headed off to Hollywood at the end of May to play himself, said, “I found it pretty natural to act as a doctor. The medical dialogue was easy for me, but hard for the actors.”

The taping took place at the old North Hollywood Medical Center. No longer used for its health care facilities, it now makes an ideal set for medical sitcoms such as “Scrubs.”

After his five-day visit, Dr. Redding said, “It would have been fun to do more on-camera work, but it was a good feeling to know that my real job was waiting for me when I came back.”

In his real job, the patients are the celebrities. Dr. Redding explained many specialists from UTHSC and Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center collaborated on the treatment of his patient, who is making progress as a result of the provided care.

“Our baby was like a celebrity patient at Le Bonheur,” said Dr. Redding. “Everybody knew about his case. He touched a lot of people’s lives.

“In the show, I arrive at the diagnosis. I get the glory, but in real life I wasn’t the hero,” Dr. Redding said. “In real life, it was a team effort.”
International Team of Scientists Collaborate to Discover Key to Flesh-Eating Disease

An international team of researchers from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), University of Wollongong (Australia), University of California, San Diego (UCSD), and Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (Germany), have discovered an explanation for how a deadly strain of “flesh-eating” bacteria has evolved to produce serious human infections worldwide.

The research group has sought to identify what special characteristics make a single strain of strep known as the invasive M1T1 clone so virulent for humans. Recently, they observed that during the early stages of a simple skin infection, a small subpopulation of the strep bacteria hijacks a protein, called plasminogen, from the human bloodstream, attaches plasminogen to their own surfaces, then activates it into a protease capable of destroying cells and tissues. This sequence of events allows the bacteria to break out and spread through the body. It is now understood that a specific genetic mutation in the M1T1 strep clone controls the shift to this invasive form.

“This is a perfect example of how dangerous forms of microbes can suddenly emerge to cause much more serious diseases than they normally do,” said Malak Kotb, PhD, (UTHSC). “In this case the bacteria were infected with a virus, which introduced an important enzyme that made the bacteria much more invasive and more deadly in humans. By understanding how these events occur, we can be better prepared for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, including those that can cause major pandemics.”

This collaborative study was initiated when Mark Walker, PhD, professor of biological sciences at the University of Wollongong, was awarded the Australian-American Fulbright Commission Senior Scholar Award sabbatical in Dr. Kotb’s (UTHSC) and in UCSD laboratories, and was financed by grants from the National Institutes of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, and the Department of Employment Science and Technology (Australia) International Science Linkages Program.

CTSI Proposal Released to NIH

On November 5, a dozen UTHSC researchers and administrators gathered at the Memphis Bioworks Foundation offices to celebrate a special FedEx pick-up — the release of the 601-page proposal for the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). The massive proposal has been in production since September 2006 when UTHSC was awarded a nearly $185,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to fund the planning process for the development of the CTSI.

The NIH is engaged in a series of initiatives, collectively known as the “NIH Roadmap for Medical Research,” which promote clinical and translational investigation to improve health. The goal of the Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program is to transform the environment for clinical and translational science by increasing efficiency in the research process.

Through the CTSA program, the NIH plans to fund up to 60 CTSIs nationwide by 2012. To date, 24 sites have been funded. About 52 institutions have received planning grants, and many may have submitted applications at the time UTHSC did.

The CTSI is designed to facilitate and enhance the conduct of translational and clinical research.

“The CTSI proposal was planned with input from hundreds of people representing all colleges of UTHSC, all of our affiliate hospitals and academic partners, as well as leaders in the community,” stated James B. Dale, MD, professor of medicine and molecular sciences, who is the principal investigator for the NIH award.

“...The application for the CTSI is the result of the most comprehensive strategic planning process ever undertaken on our campus,” he added.
MemBIS Symposium Features High-Tech BioImaging

World-renowned experts in the major fields of medical imaging gathered at the Fogelman Executive Conference Center at the University of Memphis for the Fourth Annual Memphis BioImaging Symposium (MemBIS) in November. The focus was on bioinformatics, or turning visual information into digital information to be shared and used online.

More than 170 scientists, engineers, physicians, business leaders and students gathered to hear the latest on bioimaging. Some of the biggest names in bioimaging gave reviews covering the technology, clinical applications and latest research in the fields of MRI, CT, ultrasound, nuclear, optical and molecular imaging, as well as other topics.

Blatteis Featured in Physiological Society Living History Project

Forget those Indiana Jones action-adventure movies of the ‘80s, where the hero escapes Nazis, ancient curses and giant rolling balls. Clark M. Blatteis, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology, is adding his own version of the adventurous scientist – minus the fedora and bullwhip – to the Living History Project, recalling his perilous escape from Europe as a child, his high altitude research in the mountains of Peru, and his fever research in newborns and adults.


More Than 40 Years of NIH Support

“Research is not a profession; it’s a way of life,” observed Terrance G. Cooper, PhD, Harriet S. Van Vleet Professor of Microbiology and Immunology in the Department of Molecular Sciences. This way of life has spanned more than 40 years for Dr. Cooper, beginning with the 1965 publication of his first scientific paper. Coming to the UT Health Science Center from the University of Pittsburgh in 1985, he served as chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology for 15 years. Last March he was awarded a $1.4 million grant, marking 40 years of continued NIH support at the award’s end in 2012.

Dr. Cooper’s research program studies baker’s yeast in order to understand how a cascade of specific proteins switches genes on and off, causing cell division.

Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute Marks Milestones

On November 25, the 100th liver transplant of 2007 was performed at Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute, moving it closer to becoming one of the top 10 transplant centers nationwide. The transplant marked a record for number of liver transplants performed annually by a transplant center in Tennessee.

In addition to reaching this milestone, the Transplant Institute also surpassed its previous record for number of transplants performed annually at the facility by completing more than 200 transplants in 2007. The institute, which is a partnership program with the UT Health Science Center, expected to perform more than 230 transplants by year’s end.

“Everyone played a significant role in reaching these milestones,” said Daniel Stanton, administrator, Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute. “We’re all excited to see this program continue to thrive. The program’s success and increased volume mean that we’re saving more lives each year.”
Van Middlesworth Honored as University Distinguished Professor

Lester Van Middlesworth, MD, PhD, has been named University Distinguished Professor by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

In addition to his teaching and research activities in the Department of Physiology, Dr. Van Middlesworth will now counsel and assist the chancellor on regional and national issues within his area of expertise, which broadly includes physiology, medicine and biophysics.

Dr. Van Middlesworth has dedicated his 55-year career to the UT Health Science Center and the study of the thyroid.

Graduate School Researcher Sets Grant Record

UT Graduate School of Medicine researcher, Alan Solomon, MD, professor of medicine and director of the Human Immunology and Cancer / Alzheimer’s Disease and Amyloid-Related Disorders Research Program in Knoxville, was recently awarded a five-year renewal on a grant from the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Cancer Institute that now is one of the longest active NIH grants in NIH history and is the longest running NIH grant in UT history.

The grant, originally awarded to Dr. Solomon in 1965, has been renewed continually for the past 42 years and has provided more than $12 million to fund Dr. Solomon’s work at UT.

Dr. Solomon has devoted these 42 years to the study, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. For the past 10 years, he has studied amyloidosis, a protein-folding disorder associated with rheumatoid arthritis, Alzheimer’s disease, adult-onset (type-2) diabetes, and an illness related to multiple myeloma called primary or AL amyloidosis.

“I am very appreciative and grateful for the initial and the continuing NIH grant, which will make it possible for us to achieve our ultimate goal: to improve the outcome of patients with these medically devastating amyloid-associated diseases,” said Dr. Solomon.

In 1992, Dr. Solomon, who received his MD degree from Duke University, was named one of the American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professors and is a scientific advisor to the International Myeloma Foundation and the Amyloidosis Research Foundation. He has published more than 250 articles in scientific and medical journals on his research.

UTHSC Implements Emergency Text Message Service

Faculty, staff and students at UTHSC are now signing up for a free emergency alert text messaging service: e2Campus. The secure system will be used only to deliver critical messages in the event of an emergency.

Officer Reno Greganti, deputy chief of campus police, stated, “The protection of lives on campus is our main priority. With the e2Campus emergency notification system in place, we have the ability to warn a large portion of the campus community in a very short time. This allows our officers to respond to the emergency at hand without distraction.”

UTHSC Professor Rao Lands Fourth NIH Grant

Gadiparthi N. Rao, PhD, professor of physiology, was recently awarded his fourth National Institutes of Health grant. The four grants, totaling more than $5 million, mark a rare achievement.

“Under normal funding conditions, maintaining two NIH RO1 grants is considered a mark of success. Given today’s extremely difficult funding environment, for a single investigator to hold four RO1s simultaneously is exceptional, to say the least,” said Leonard R. Johnson, PhD, vice chancellor for research. The Research Project (RO1) grant is an award made to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project based on the mission of the NIH.
UT Assistant Professor Pens Another New York Times Piece

In January 2007 *The New York Times Health Section* featured an article by UT Assistant Professor Manoj Jain, MD. And again on September 4, an article he wrote ran in the publication.

Titled, “Putting Pay on the Line to Improve Health Care,” Dr. Jain’s latest article examines the reasons why some doctors fail to answer crucial questions regarding quality of care.

The lack of consequences for poor performance is one noted reason Dr. Jain offers as to why physicians are reluctant to assess the quality of care through statistical analysis. He writes, there are “no financial penalties from the insurers who pay most of the bills.”

However, Dr. Jain informs readers that a federal law that took effect last summer will change this. He refers to a 1.5 percent bonus incentive Medicare can pay to doctors who report measures from a program called PQRI, Physician Quality Reporting Initiative.

He also cites that, in an effort to open information to the public, hospital quality data is already being posted on Medicare’s Web site, www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov, allowing comparisons to be made between hospital services, as well as creating what is being called, “value-based purchasing.”

Though it sounds promising, Dr. Jain highlights some potential dangers the approach could have in the way doctors approach Medicare patients. He concludes that only time will tell how value-based purchasing will affect health care.

Eye Institute Uses Telemedicine to Reach Out to Panamanian Patients

The UTHSC Hamilton Eye Institute presented its first live teleconference meeting from Panama City, Panama, as part of the inauguration of the new Retinoblastoma Center at the Panama City Children’s Hospital on November 29. This new center is the result of collaboration between the Hamilton Eye Institute (HEI), the 2020 Foundation of Panama and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Panamanian Congressman Jorge Alvarado played a pivotal role in launching the center.

This conference highlights the potential for international telemedicine consultations in diseases such as retinoblastoma and retinopathy of prematurity, which is a significant cause of childhood blindness throughout Latin America.

The burden of treatment for these complex disorders lies with local physicians in developing countries who may not have the clinical volume to develop the expertise that physicians in large United States referral centers can offer. “The goal of the Hamilton Eye Institute is to become more than a regional referral center for complex diseases,” said Barrett G. Haik, MD, chair of the UT Health Science Center Department of Ophthalmology. “Our hope is to develop into a leader in prevention and treatment of blindness worldwide.”

The partnership between the Hamilton Eye Institute and Panama has grown from personal relationships and friendships between colleagues to formal agreements with local charity foundations, hospitals and the Panamanian government. The relationship began when Dr. Haik trained Ernesto Calvo, MD, in oculoplastic surgery and ophthalmic oncology. Dr. Calvo returned to his home country and has become a prominent ophthalmologist and philanthropist. He founded the Fundacion Pro-Vision 2020, which provides specialty ophthalmology care to Panamanian underserved and indigent patients. This foundation has already helped hundreds of local patients with cataract surgery operations.

Jorge I. Calzada, MD, who served as a consultant via teleconference during the live examinations, also has a special place in the partnership. Dr. Calzada, a physician born and raised in Panama and who later trained under Dr. Haik, finished his ophthalmology residency at UTHSC. Dr. Calzada practiced in Panama for two years with Dr. Calvo, assisting him in the development of the foundation. Since then, Dr. Calzada returned to Memphis where he is a vitreoretinal specialist at the HEI and the Charles Retina Institute.
**Cancer Research Institute Receives NIH Funding to Study ‘Sunshine Vitamin’**

Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD, was recruited to the UTHSC Department of Pathology in 2000 for his clinical expertise in dermatopathology. In 2002, he was promoted to professor, and in 2006 he was awarded a five-year grant with direct costs of $1.9 million from the National Institutes of Health.

His grant, titled “Novel Biosynthetic Pathway for Secosteroids and the Skin,” studies altered chains of vitamin D and their affects on the skin and the rest of the body.

“What we are counting on is that the vitamin D-like derivatives we are studying won’t have the toxic effect seen when it is given orally but would have other beneficial effects documented for vitamin D3,” stated Dr. Slominski. He said that their research could benefit skin physiology and pathology and the immune system, as well as have anti-cancer properties.

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**Ophthalmology Receives Grant to Prevent Blindness**

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) has awarded a grant of $110,000 to the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to support research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases. The research will be directed by Barrett G. Haik, MD, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology. RPB is the world’s leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. To date, the organization has awarded grants totaling $1,530,000 to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

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**UT Researcher Links Foie Gras Dining with Disease**

University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine (Knoxville) researcher, Alan Solomon, MD, director of the Human Immunology and Cancer/Alzheimer’s Disease and Amyloid-Related Disorders Research Program, led a team that discovered a link between foie gras prepared from goose or duck liver and the type of amyloid found in rheumatoid arthritis or tuberculosis.

Their experimental data, appearing in the June edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, have provided the first evidence that a food product can hasten amyloid development.

Foie gras is a culinary delicacy derived from massively enlarged fatty livers of ducks and geese. It is produced by gorging the fowl over several weeks. Dr. Solomon and his research team analyzed commercially sold foie gras from the United States and France and found that it contained a type of amyloid called AA. Amyloid deposits are commonly found in waterfowl, but this condition is noticeably increased in force-fed birds. In their study, mice prone to develop AA amyloidosis were injected or fed amyloid extracted from foie gras. Within eight weeks, a majority of the animals developed extensive amyloid deposits in the liver, spleen, intestine and other organs.

Based on the findings of the study, Dr. Solomon and his team concluded that this and perhaps other forms of amyloidosis might be transmissible, like “mad cow” and other related diseases. Until now, no other infectious sources of food products have been found.

“It is not known if there is an increase of Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, or other amyloid-related disease in people who have eaten foie gras,” cautioned Dr. Solomon. “Our study looked at the existence of amyloid fibrils in foie gras and showed that it could accelerate the development of AA amyloidosis in susceptible mice.”
The golden hour. The 60-minute difference between life and death. What happens to a person in this first critical hour starting with the impact of a steering wheel crashing into the sternum, a bullet blasting into the spleen, or a knife thrust in the belly will make all the difference in the world.

“We’ve got to take the right action fast to save lives,” said Don Barker, MD (UT COM ’75), professor and medical director of the Erlanger Health System Level I Trauma Center in Chattanooga, who succinctly summarized the role of a trauma team.

A team is just what it takes to enter this golden hour day after day, night after night, around the clock, 365 days a year. They are working miracles that would not have been possible little more than 30 years ago. Today, thousands of lives are saved thanks to the development of Level I Trauma Centers and new medical procedures designed to stabilize blunt trauma or penetration injuries within the first hour of occurrence.

**UTHSC - Providing a Safety Net for the Greater Part of Tennessee**

Leading the way to ensure Tennesseans have access to Level I trauma care across the state are University of Tennessee Health Science Center medical school faculty and the hospitals in which they serve. “UT programs are providing a safety net for a large part of Tennessee,” said Phillip Burns, MD, chair of the Department of Surgery at the Chattanooga campus. “In fact, we have been at the forefront of trauma center certification from the beginning.”

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Three of the state’s six Level I Trauma Centers are UTHSC facilities: The Regional Medical Center (The MED) in Memphis, Erlanger in Chattanooga and the UT Medical Center in Knoxville. Vanderbilt’s Level I Trauma Center covers Nashville, and two smaller facilities operate in Johnson City and Kingsport.

Strongly supporting the drive to create this statewide network in the early 1980s were UTHSC surgeons Tim Fabian, MD, and Dr. Burns. Along with James Pate, MD, professor emeritus, they were instrumental in launching the nationally recognized Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center at The MED. They lobbied the state legislature for a full year to get approval for the centers and wrote the criteria for certification as well. With Dr. Burns in Chattanooga, Andrew Rittenberry, MD, (UT COM ’69) drove the Erlanger certification process. Kimball I. Mauell, MD, chairman of surgery at UT Knoxville in the 1980s, was also a key player in getting the statewide trauma system established, as well as getting the trauma center at Knoxville certified.

The Vietnam Experience – Birth of Trauma Care

The significant number of soldiers saved during the Vietnam War gave impetus to the institution and institutionalizing of trauma centers. “Surgeons at the time (in the 1970s) realized that soldiers in the jungle were getting better care than many patients stateside,” Dr. Burns recalled. “The key was getting to the downed soldier as soon as possible after injury.”

Helicopters played a major role by plucking the injured out of harm’s way and treating them en route to the field hospital. Back home, helicopters were quickly adopted to supplement the ambulance fleet as part of the plan to launch trauma units. “It is critical to start treating shock before organs start to fail,” explained Dr. Burns.

Martin Croce, MD, professor and trauma surgeon at The MED, continued, “If the paramedics can quickly stop the bleeding and get the heart working to deliver oxygen to the tissue, we’ll have fewer complications to deal with by the time they get to the trauma center, and outcomes will significantly improve. In fact, if a patient can survive the first 24 hours, his chance of dying is 2 percent.” It should be noted that referring to a trauma patient as “he” is not necessarily politically incorrect. Statistics show that a solid 70 percent of trauma patients are male and the vast majority are under age 45.

Thanks to the lessons learned in Vietnam and trauma research since that time, more and more people are surviving once fatal injuries. According to Dr. Croce, today, the overall mortality rate is about 6 percent including patients who arrive basically dead on arrival. Dr. Burns added, “Trauma specialists will learn so much more from the Iraq War; we’ll be able to take today’s treatment up another notch. It’s staggering.”

The Level I Trauma Center – More Than Hanging Up a Shingle

“You can’t just hang up a sign and call yourself a trauma center; much less a Level I Trauma Center,” explained Dr. Burns. The American College of Surgeons is the official governing body and determines the criteria that separate a Level I Trauma Center from the typical hospital emergency room and lower level trauma units:

- Surgical capability 24/7/365 – A typical trauma team includes a general surgeon, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgeon, radiologist, anesthesiologist and trauma nurses.
- Clinical research conducted and published
- Medical education offered
- Public education promoted

Blaine Enderson, MD, professor and head of the UT Medical Center Level I Trauma Center in Knoxville, pointed out another distinction: “We treat severely injured people from the point of injury throughout hospitalization to rehabilitation.”

Because a Level I trauma unit must be manned 24/7 and specially equipped, they are expensive;
but because they are also critically necessary to saving lives, they are strategically located regionally. As Dr. Fabian describes them, “A Level I Trauma Center is a hospital within a hospital.” Level I trauma units have their own:

- Communication center for triage consultation with ambulances and helicopters en route;
- Critical care assessment area with CT scanners and other high-tech radiology equipment;
- Operating and recovery rooms;
- Laboratory and technicians;
- Intensive care units;
- Ambulances and helicopters;
- Ambulance and helicopter access directly to the trauma unit.

UTHSC trauma specialists agree that the development of high-resolution CT scanners and ultrasound are the number one reason trauma care has improved equipment in the last 15 years. “Twenty years ago, we had to do surgery to discover blunt trauma damage,” recalled Dr. Barker. “But now, because we have better diagnostic equipment and much more information on the first examination, we only operate on about 20 percent of this type of trauma.” This explains why high-tech radiology equipment is located within seconds of the trauma bay.

**UTHSC Trauma Research Leads the Field**

In addition to the 24/7 mandate and the special staffing and equipment requirements, what sets a Level I Trauma Center apart is the stipulation to conduct research, which explains why most of these centers are located in university-affiliated hospitals.

“UT Health Science Center trauma centers have led the world in research advances in trauma care for the past 25 years,” Dr. Croce noted. “Our research has completely changed the way liver and spleen injuries are treated, for example. Treatment of cerebral vascular injuries has improved significantly because of the work done at our trauma centers.”

Critical care for trauma patients is considerably different from that for other ICU patients, and much of the progress made in this arena has been due to discovery and clinical exploration at the three UTHSC trauma centers.

“Research done at our trauma centers has changed the entire pattern of care,” said Dr. Barker. “Now surgery is the last resort on the kidney, liver and spleen. We’ve learned to let patients stabilize first, and very often we save the organ.”

In spite of the headway made in trauma research, Dr. Croce acknowledged that much more funding is needed. “Trauma accounts for more years of lives lost than heart and cancer combined, yet receives a minuscule amount of federal research dollars in comparison.”

**Education in the Fast Lane**

Justifiably proud of UTHSC’s contributions to trauma care research, our Level I Trauma Center leaders are also focused on education, another criteria for Level I designation. According to Dr. Barker, the UT health care system has had a long and intimate involvement with training surgeons to care for injured patients. “No matter what our students end up doing, their stint with trauma care trains them to take care of really sick people,” he noted.

In addition to regular work days, trauma team residents and attending surgeons are typically on call nights, weekends and holidays. In spite of the arduous shifts, Dr. Barker pointed out, “A lot of residents have learned a tremendous amount from trauma patients.”

**Trauma Is No Accident**

“Trauma is a preventable disease,” noted Dr. Ender-son, “Everyone thinks in terms of ‘accidents’ but a big part of our job is to get people to understand that they can be prevented.”

“Trauma is no accident,” stated Ben Zarzaur, MD, assistant professor at the Memphis campus. “We don’t let the word ‘accident’ enter our vocabulary. We don’t want residents to come out here and make the word ‘accident’ the norm.”

Dr. Zarzaur, who also holds a master’s degree in public health, is particularly focused on educating the public, the fourth mission of a Level I Trauma Center. “We can save one life at a time or impact thousands at a time and leave a bigger footprint.”

**Trauma continued on Page 24**
Level I Trauma Centers must have outreach programs to prevent the injuries they see most often, many of which are alcohol related. Alcohol screening programs are run regularly and interventions are required for those who screen positive.

Promoting safety, thereby preventing trauma, is evident in poster campaigns throughout the UTHSC trauma centers. In addition to drinking and driving campaigns, they focus on prevention in a variety of other situations: motor vehicle safety (wearing seat belts), bicycle safety, water safety and infant/child safety, even anger management counseling.

“Trauma centers and trauma surgeons are at the point of the spear when it comes to prevention,” summarized Dr. Zarzaur. “We see the consequences of preventable injuries, and we have a duty to publicize and participate in prevention efforts.”

Where the Action Is

Trauma care, which became a subspecialty of general surgery about 15 years ago, is not everybody’s idea of a good time. While trauma docs come in all types of personalities, the profession does seem to attract a certain kind of person. They could be called the fighter pilots of the medical profession. “Trauma is definitely where the action is,” observed Dr. Burns.

“I guess you could say we’re adrenalin junkies,” said Dr. Barker. “You have to be able to do this day and night. But let me be clear: we’re not risk takers with our patients’ lives.”

“We don’t know from one minute to the next what we’ll be doing,” explained Dr. Enderson. “We can’t have a steady practice because we have to be able to drop whatever we’re doing on a moment’s notice. People who do this thrive on unpredictability.”

“Anybody can play if you’re tough enough,” added Dr. Barker, “Sometimes you really have to suck it up. We see teenagers injured beyond repair.”

“Think about it. Our patients leave home perfectly healthy one moment and the next, something horrible happens and they’re on their way to us,” reflected Dr. Croce. “It’s fun getting these people back on their feet, because, when they finally leave us, they’re well again.”

“Fun” is the prime motivator for those who choose the trauma route; money isn’t. Statewide, up to 15 percent of trauma patients don’t have insurance, and a total of 30 percent never pay a dime. Those numbers are much worse in Memphis. Bringing patients back from the brink on a regular basis is what inspires these men and women to keep coming back for more. “They’ve come in with double-digit bullet holes and we get them back to near 100 percent, but it takes a team, and I want to emphasize that,” concluded Dr. Croce.

 UT Medical Center – Knoxville

- Covers a 21 county East Tennessee region, also, western North Carolina and parts of Kentucky
- Treats approximately 3,700 cases per year; 10 percent penetrating injuries; 90 percent blunt trauma
- Six trauma surgeons
- 26 operating rooms
- One recovery room
- 32 ICU rooms
- Dedicated radiology suite
- Four helicopters

 Erlanger Health System – Chattanooga

- Covers southeast Tennessee, northeast Alabama, north Georgia and western North Carolina
- Treats 2,800 patients a year; 90 percent blunt trauma; 10 percent penetrating injuries
- Five trauma surgeons
- Eight operating rooms
- 21 adult recovery rooms
- 12 ICU rooms
- Three helicopters

 Trauma

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Interim Titles Removed for Top UTHSC Leaders

On January 17, UT President John Petersen announced plans to immediately remove the interim title designation for both Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, and Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD. Since mid-April 2007, Dr. Wall has served as interim chancellor and vice president for health affairs, while Dr. Brown has served as chief of staff and interim executive vice chancellor for the UT Health Science Center.

“The change for Pat requires board approval and I will submit that recommendation,” President Petersen said. “The change for Ken will take place immediately. Both have done excellent jobs in carrying out their responsibilities and we appreciate their willingness to provide leadership going forward.”

UTHSC, Partners Celebrate Opening of Eye Surgery Center

“Dreams do come true,” said James C. Fleming, MD, professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, as he welcomed almost 100 guests to celebrate the opening of the new Hamilton Eye Institute Surgery Center in January.

Guests included members from the Hamilton Eye Institute, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (Methodist), Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation (BMHCC) and UTHSC. The surgery center, the culmination of a four-year project by the above groups, brings together a full range of all of the partners’ eye surgery services under one roof. Guests at the opening were given tours of the center, which featured three fully equipped operating rooms.

Peggy Troy, chief operating officer at Methodist, said, “This most extraordinary partnership is an example of how we can bring together the best minds and do something world class. This shows the power of one man’s vision to bring together a team that will change the world.” Troy lauded Ralph Hamilton, MD, for his vision, and Dr. Fleming recognized Barrett Haik, MD, chair of the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology, for his developmental role in the Hamilton Eye Institute.

In addition to internationally recognized surgeons who will be working in the center, it will be home to residents, whose impact on health care is also envisioned to have a worldwide effect.

Applauding the community members and ophthalmologists who made the surgery center a reality, Dr. Haik noted that the “number of people who will have their vision restored at this center is inestimable.”

Peter Netland, MD, PhD, Siegal Professor of Ophthalmology at UTHSC, said, “We are grateful to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Without university support – the support of Dean Schwab and Dr. Wall – we couldn’t have achieved this project. As a department we pledge our support to our partners – we will give 100 percent to help serve.”
UTRF Awards Funds to Drive Development of Technologies

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) has selected six UT Health Science Center researchers or research teams to receive technology development grants for 2008. Grant funds will allow researchers to further develop or “mature” their technologies so that they are better positioned for licensing and commercialization.

Researchers were invited to propose further work on inventions and discoveries that either had been previously disclosed to UT and assigned to UTRF or to propose new disclosures with a development plan. Forty-four proposals were received from the five campuses and four institutes that make up the University of Tennessee. A total of 11 proposals were funded, and six of those were from UTHSC.

The six awards for UTHSC totaled $105,000 and included a $15,000 matching grant from Nashville-based Cumberland Emerging Technologies for one of the proposals.

Hematologist’s Map of Human Blood Cells in Continued Use

Blood is a powerful substance. People swear oaths by it, save lives by donating it, and wear gloves to protect themselves from it. If it’s in the blood, it’s serious business.

Ann Bell, a retired UTHSC hematology technologist (SH ASCP) and assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, is an expert on blood cells and she has the literary credits to prove it. “The Morphology of Human Blood Cells,” the atlas that she helped to develop in collaboration with L. W. Diggs, MD, and Dorothy Sturm, is currently in its seventh edition.

Dr. Diggs was a UTHSC professor of medicine and director of medical laboratories. Sturm was an instructor at the Memphis Academy of Arts, who originally illustrated the book with handmade watercolors.

Because of her contributions, Bell, who is also an emeritus professor of clinical laboratory sciences in the College of Allied Health Sciences, was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree at the UT Health Science Center’s graduation on December 7.

“Our book has been used for years to teach hematology to medical students, interns, residents and medical technologists in most of the larger laboratories across the United States,” Bell observed. “In one of the earlier editions of the book, we added a few photomicrographs to show the irregularities that appear in the blood when different types of blood diseases are present,” she said. A photomicrograph is simply a photograph of an object or cell seen under a microscope, which is usually viewed with a lens that magnifies the object from 100 to 1,000 times. The larger images made the book a valuable visual reference tool.

In 2000, Walter Diggs, whose father was one of the textbook’s original authors, noticed that the publication needed updating. “We wanted to find a way to improve the book,” Diggs said, “to make it even more useful.”

“I woke up one night worrying about it,” Bell
recalled. “Then it came to me. Why can’t I use my Kodachromes?” Prior to the digital age, Kodachrome photography was the gold standard. The large, vivid transparencies were the best images available for projection and reproduction in books and magazines.

“I have an extensive file of hematology Kodachromes,” she said, “and probably more than anybody at UT. I matched the drawings in the book to my Kodachromes and selected the best ones.”

“Originally published in 1956, the book was only drawings for the first six editions,” said Diggs. “This seventh edition is the first time it has been re-written in more than 20 years, and the addition of Ann’s images adds more force and vibrancy to the book. This is really Ann’s edition.”

“Anyone who has studied hematology and the morphology of blood cells is familiar with the atlas that Ann co-authored. It has always been a major resource,” stated Bette Jamieson, MA, SH, (ASCP) [American Society for Clinical Pathology], educational coordinator at Children’s Hospital in Denver, Colo. “I teach medical technologists, residents and hematology fellows, and we always go to the microscope with this atlas by our side.”

In 2005, Jamieson became part of an ASCP initiative – the Outreach Program to Improve Laboratory Medicine in HIV/AIDS-ravaged countries. ASCP Outreach grew out of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in developing nations around the world. PEPFAR is a $15 billion international relief effort, and Jamieson is a member of its Advisory Committee. A central objective of the ASCP Outreach project is to educate laboratory and health care workers in poor African nations, including Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland. This month the outreach effort will expand to Guyana, South America.

“We always take Ann’s atlas with us,” Jamieson stated emphatically. Since January 2005, more than 500 copies of the morphology book by Diggs, Sturm and Bell have been distributed to African nations. The oversized, crisp color images of the blood are effective teaching guides in countries where books are a scarcity.

“ASCP began sending this atlas to the students we were teaching in Africa. Once this started, the atlases were welcomed so warmly and the demand was so great that we had to take names so we could forward the books later,” Jamieson explained. “One of the reasons this atlas works so well is the size. It is quite compact and efficient to carry and the pictures — with the original drawings and the added Kodachrome images — are simply outstanding. In addition, the text that accompanies the pictures is very concise, accurate and up-to-date,” she observed.

“This type of reference for the laboratory workers is simply wonderful,” Jamieson continued. “The physicians that attended some of the sessions were very encouraged that the technologists now doing the microscope work were able to have these atlases to confirm their observations,” she added.

“Every time I talk about Ann’s career, I move into hyperbole because truly her contribution has been enormous,” said Jamieson, who has known Bell for two decades. “She has been an icon for so many years and to think that she and her colleagues assembled this atlas when there were very few resources of this nature is simply amazing. She is tireless in her pursuit of keeping this atlas current and with the best possible images. The number of medical technologists and doctors that have benefited from this atlas is well into the thousands. To think that Abbott Labs has continued to produce this atlas after so many years and distributed it so widely testifies to its importance to hematology.”

Jamieson concluded, “Not only has Ann helped educate an innumerable group of medical professionals, her contributions extend to the diagnosis and treatment of thousands of patients. What can you say about a career like this — it’s all been so positive and truly remarkable.”

Ann Bell received an honorary Doctor of Science degree at UTHSC’s December graduation.
Joseph Parker, MD, Class of June 1950: Patron of the Arts
by Gloria Greiner-Callihan

Joe Parker, MD, the favorite pediatrician of several generations of Memphis children, is now a medal-wearing patron of the arts. On November 9, 2007, Joe joined the ranks of Maggi Vaughn (the poet laureate of the state of Tennessee), Michael Stern, (son of virtuoso violinist Isaac Stern, and conductor of the IRIS Chamber Orchestra), and Steve Yee, a well-known local painter. All were honored by the Germantown Arts Alliance for their contributions to the arts.

One might ask how a pediatrician fits in with this picture. The answer is really simple. Joe Parker is an extraordinary individual, who approaches everything in his life with passion, understanding and integrity.

Joe was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., the son of Polish immigrants who owned a grocery store. He never played an instrument as a child, but his family surrounded him with classical music, and it became one of his lifelong passions. Just barely 16 years old, he graduated from high school, and immediately entered what is now UT Chattanooga. He amassed an incredible 96 credit hours in a mere 18 months. World War II was ending, but Joe did his duty and joined the U.S. Navy. While doing his tour, he applied and was accepted to medical school.

Joe Parker graduated from the UT College of Medicine in June of 1950, and did a pediatric residency at the old St. Joseph’s hospital (now gone, and a part of the St. Jude campus). Dr. Jacob Danciger, then head of pediatrics, recruited Joe and fellow pediatrician Jack Segal to join his growing practice. This was the start of what would become the longest lasting medical partnership in Memphis to date. During his 53 years as a practicing physician, Joe handled more than 100,000 appointments, treated thousands of patients, and made an average of five to six house calls a day in the early years of his practice.

Joe said something once that really resonates with all who know him. He practiced medicine like following the Golden Rule. He said, “I put myself in the shoes of the parents who had probably been up all night with their child—their most precious bundle—and the main thing I wanted to do was to assure them that we were going to change the negatives into positives.”

Joe Parker was heavily involved with starting the Church Health Center and the Get Ready for School Program. He has been an annual presenter of the Mickey O’Brien award for UT, recognizing the student athlete overcoming the greatest physical obstacle during football season, and was president of numerous medical societies. As if that wasn’t enough for community service, Joe went back to the passion of his youth for the work that inspired his most recent honor—music.

In 1966, Joe got an idea to start a musical series at Baron Hirsch Synagogue that would provide a warm performance venue for artists who were just beginning their careers. His vision was to find artists younger than, or not much past, their 20th birthday. He called it the “Artists Ascending Series.” His inaugural season included Itzhak Perlman, Misha Dichter, and Daniel Barenboim. In 1966 these names were mere blips on the classical music radar. With 40-plus years of history behind the series, these names are now synonymous with world-renowned performers in violin, piano, and the pianist/conductor/music director of the Chicago Symphony. In 1985, he joined forces with the Belz family, which has helped underwrite the series the last 22 years.

The Germantown Arts Alliance, an advocacy and funding organization with the mission to promote, enrich and celebrate the community’s cultural arts environment, recognized Joe Parker for providing 42 years of the world’s best young artists through “Artists Ascending,” and for:

- his outstanding achievements in the support of cultural enrichment for the Memphis area.
- his devotion of time, talent, and/or financial commitment that has promoted, encouraged, stimulated and preserved a creative environment in our area.

Editor’s note: Shortly before printing this magazine, the UT Health Science Center learned of Dr. Parker’s passing on March 3. He left a wonderful legacy for the love of music and medicine. He will be missed.
The Most Unselfish Gift

“The most unselfish and unique gift one can give higher education is to donate your body to medical science,” said Randall J. Nelson, PhD, professor and director of the Anatomy Bequest Program at the UT Health Science Center.

Dr. Nelson, who has taught gross anatomy to first-year medical and physical therapy students and now teaches dental students, explained, “The human body can’t really be replicated in plastic or even on the computer.” Part of what students learn in the process of dissecting a human body is that each has very subtle, some not-so-subtle differences. “Realizing that the actual human body does not necessarily fit the textbook description is the best educational experience for treating real-world patients,” Dr. Nelson added.

Todd Smith, DDS, now an instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry of the College of Dentistry, had this to say about his experience as a dental student in gross anatomy: “It’s of paramount importance to get hands-on experience. Books can only do so much and the fact is, not all are textbook bodies. For example everybody’s nerves don’t run in the same places.”

“The gross anatomy class is one of the first chances students have to be clinicians,” noted Dr. Nelson. “This class sets students apart from every other discipline.”

People who have ever considered donating their body to science might also consider that it is one gift that does, quite literally, keep on giving. “Each student can play a role in saving lives. If each saves just 10 lives in his or her career or trains 10 students, they have parlayed one donation into impacting hundreds of lives,” Dr. Nelson conjectured.

“The wonder in students is incredible,” added Dr. Nelson, pointing out that students of the health care professions have been learning directly from the human body for more than 100 years.

“The students’ relationship with the cadaver is an intimate one,” recalled Dr. Smith. “We’re with the body every day, and we learn from day one to respect the person who gave their body so we can learn.”

“Most students refer to the cadavers as ‘patients,’ ” said Dr. Nelson. “In the past, some students have given their patient a memorial service and are very sad to finish the course.”

In the fall approximately 155 medical students are in the gross anatomy class. Spring semester finds 80 dental students, as well as 55 to 70 physical therapy, occupational therapy students and nursing students in the labs. In total, six gross anatomy labs can accommodate eight cadavers each.

With the growing need for health care professionals, larger classes in most of the UT Health Science Center colleges are planned. “We would like to be able to offer more students in more disciplines the experience of the gross anatomy lab today,” noted Dr. Nelson. “The greater challenge will be in the future.”

All of the literature on donating one’s body for medical teaching and research encourages the donor to give the idea a great deal of thought. Discussion with family members, clergy, the family physician and an attorney is encouraged.

The UT Health Science Center operates within the framework of Tennessee laws, which provide for and clarify the rights of those who wish to donate all or parts of their bodies after death to medical science. The administrator of the anatomical bequest program is a licensed funeral director and embalmer. An anatomical diener maintains the lab in appropriate order.

Persons wishing to find out more about donating their bodies to the UT Health Science Center can contact: Anatomy Bequest Program, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, 855 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, TN 38163, or call (901) 448-5978 before 5 p.m. or after 5 p.m., page a Bequest Program representative at (901) 448-2640. Information is online at: http://www.utmem.edu/anatomy-neurobiology/index.php?doc=ABP.htm.
Best Doctors in America® Names UT Medical Group Physicians to 2007-2008 Database

The 2007-2008 listing of Best Doctors in America® names more than 90 physicians affiliated with UT Medical Group, Inc. as best in their fields. UT Medical Group is the Memphis area’s largest physician practice with more than 340 providers, all of whom are qualified to teach on the faculty of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine.

The Best Doctors in America® database is widely regarded as a high-quality reference guide to the medical profession. The list is based on an exhaustive survey of currently listed Best Doctors specialists who are asked to rate the clinical abilities of their peers. Participants are asked, “If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?” Specialists complete ballots on other doctors in their own and in related specialties. They may also nominate other physicians who they think should be included in the review process.

Best Doctors, Inc. does not accept compensation from physicians or hospitals in return for listing doctors in its database, nor does it pay doctors to participate in the survey.

The following UT Medical Group doctors are included in the 2007-2008 Best Doctors in America® database:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Names UT Medical Group Physicians to 2007-2008 Database</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allergy &amp; Immunology</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Conley, D. Betty Lew</td>
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<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>John Zanella, Jr.</td>
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<td>Cardiovascular Disease</td>
<td>Howard R. Horn, Kevin P. Newman</td>
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<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>Ronald Rasberry, Robert B. Skinner Jr.</td>
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<td>Samuel Dagogo-Jack, Beverly Williams-Cleaves</td>
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<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>Kerry O. Cleveland, Michael S. Gelfand, Mack Land</td>
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<td>James E. Bailey, James B. Lewis, Jr., Robert E. Morrison, Kathryn M. Ryder, Natascha S. Thompson, Catherine Womack</td>
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<td>J. Daniel Massie</td>
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<td>Vanessa Givens, Daniel C. Martin, Norman L. Meyer, Owen P. Phillips, Claudette J. Shephard</td>
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<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>James C. Fleming, Barrett G. Haik, Mary Ellen Hoehn, Natalie C. Kerr, Peter A. Netland, Matthew W. Wilson</td>
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<td>Otolaryngology</td>
<td>C. Bruce Macdonald, Jerome W. Thompson</td>
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<td>Bruce S. Alpert, Sandra Arnold</td>
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<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>Edward Luce, Robert D. Wallace</td>
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<td>James A. Greene, Kenneth M. Sakauye</td>
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<td>Radiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rheumatology</td>
<td>Andrew Kang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Martin Croce, Timothy C. Fabian, F. Elizabeth Pritchard, Michael J. Rohrer, Guy R. Voeller</td>
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Two New Pharmacy Buildings

On December 7, the UT College of Pharmacy began what one alumnus called “another chapter in the continuation of a dream” as ground was broken for the new pharmacy building on the Memphis campus.

The six-story, 191,000-square-foot building is one of the new facilities under construction on the grounds of the UT-Baptist Research Park. Slated for completion in fall 2009, the new building will consolidate pharmacy faculty and staff who are currently housed in six different buildings on the Memphis campus.

College of Pharmacy officials also gathered in August to witness the opening of the new building in Knoxville. This new option for second- to fourth-year pharmacy students to study in Knoxville is designed to help head off the statewide shortage of pharmacists. The 15,000-square-foot Knoxville building will increase the number of qualified pharmacists entering the job market in East Tennessee.

Memphis Mental Health Institute

The new Memphis Mental Health Institute (right) stands at the apex of Court Street, where the UT-Bowld Hospital and Dobbs building used to be. The official opening was September 24, and the first patients were admitted October 1.

The new 100,000-square-foot, three-story building features a layout with 75 beds. A corridor connects the Regional Medical Center (The MED) and MMHI. The project is the result of collaboration among the state of Tennessee/MMHI, Methodist Healthcare System, The MED, UTHSC and Shelby County government.

A ceremonial three-ton wrecking ball collided into the old MMHI (left) in November, signaling the demolition of the old building and the construction phase of the new hospital at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. The new hospital should take 30 months to construct; the grand opening is scheduled for summer 2010. The new Le Bonheur will encompass a 1-million-square-foot campus with 12 floors containing large, single-patient rooms, family lounges and natural light, all focused on family-centered care.
Cancer Research Building

The Cancer Research Building, which houses labs for three UTHSC colleges to focus on different types of cancer research, was officially opened in late September.

Cutting the ribbon (left to right): Leonard R. Johnson, PhD, vice chancellor for research; Vicki Antwine, cancer survivor and accounting assistant in the UTHSC Office of Finance and Operations; Lawrence M. Pfeffer, PhD, scientific director of the Cancer Research Building; John Petersen, PhD, president of UT; Hershel P. Wall, MD, chancellor of the UTHSC; and Tiffany Seagroves, PhD, a cancer researcher from the College of Medicine.

RBL Leaders Continue to Communicate Efforts and Gain Support

Although the UTHSC Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL) won’t open until fall 2008, Health Science Center leaders continue to engage in dialogue about the facility. Thanks to Congressman Steve Cohen’s support, in November President Bush signed H.R. 3222, the Department of Defense Appropriations conference report for FY2008. The report included $4 million in funding for UTHSC.

The resources will be used to underwrite basic research of emerging infectious diseases such as streptococcus, multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, and francisella. UTHSC plans to purchase high technology pathogen detection equipment for use in the RBL, where biomedical and biodefense research and training will take place.

More than four years ago, UTHSC began publicizing its intent to build the RBL and since that time, leaders have communicated progress of the project.

Most recent RBL communication efforts included an October 29 town hall meeting in Memphis that provided an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to learn more about the new facility.

A video and floor plans of the building were presented to help the audience visualize the Biocontainment Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) lab. Although smaller BSL-3 labs have been on campus for years, the RBL will have an NIH affiliation, which will reveal new opportunities for collaboration and funding. This affiliation also mandates strict regulation and operating procedures.

For example, the building plans for the RBL went through three separate reviews with the NIH. The building began with the construction of 18-inch-thick concrete walls. The RBL is designed with a redundancy, building two of everything to allow for backup of all major systems.

The most modern electronic security measures, such as card readers and metal detectors, will supplement the 24-hour manpower that guards the facility. Written standard operating procedures that meet federal regulations will be located in the labs. The RBL will be used to conduct experiments on an as-needed basis but researchers will not maintain permanent offices at the site.

Once the structure of the RBL is in place, the facility will go through a rigorous commissioning process, which involves an independent, third-party evaluation of every aspect of the RBL.

The RBL team leaders are making themselves available to attend campus staff meetings, as well as meet with community organizations, to address any questions about the RBL. For a full description of the project, visit http://www.utmem.edu/research/rbl.
Taking Time to Tutor

When most people think of medical students, they imagine a rigorous curriculum with study requirements that leave time for little else. The image of an intense schedule is accurate; however, UTHSC medical students have been able to break the stereotype and find time to give of themselves by tutoring at a local elementary school.

Each week 15 to 20 M1s and M2s devote an hour on Tuesday afternoons to children at Downtown Elementary. The tutoring initiative began in the fall of 2006 and has been going strong for more than a year.

“There are definitely weeks where I feel like I can’t possibly spare that one hour of my day,” said Brooke Warren, an M2 who began tutoring last year. “But all I have to do is think about how excited the kids are when we walk in and remind myself that we will be letting those precious children down if we don’t come.”

These kindergarten through fifth-grade students keep medical students motivated to make tutoring a part of their weekly routine. Alan Haney, another M2 tutor, explained, “Finding time to help the kids is not really difficult at all. Since we’ve been tutoring at the school, I’ve just considered it as a part of my regular schedule instead of something that I add on when convenient. Seeing continued improvement each week in the students’ academics, as well as growing confidence in themselves, is priceless.”

The feeling is mutual.

Shauna Adair, coordinator for the before- and after-school program at Downtown Elementary, said, “I just can’t tell you how much we love having them come. They make a big impact. The kids, the ones who really struggle, look so forward to Tuesdays when they [the tutors] come.”

She elaborated further on the change she has seen in the elementary students – now they work hard; they are excited to learn; and they don’t forget their materials. After a session with a UTHSC College of Medicine volunteer, the students can even get a little possessive if “their” tutor has been assigned to a classmate the next time they come. “They really like to please the tutors and report back on the assignment they worked on the week before,” Adair explained.

The tutoring initiative began when a representative from the UTHSC Office of Medical Education spoke to the Medical School Executive Council about a grant that would help fund after-school science clubs and tutoring at local Memphis city schools. The medical fraternity, Phi Chi, took charge of the science club, and volunteers from the M1 class stepped in to tutor. Last year volunteers from the M2 through M4 classes also joined in. This year the M2 class has continued what it started and has received great support from the new first-year medical students.

Tutoring continued on Page 35
During the First Dynasty of ancient Egypt, medical institutes emerged amidst a renaissance of learning. Given the name Peri Ankh, meaning “temple of life,” they were established to train individuals from among the empire’s brightest citizens to become physicians who would care for the ill. The most prestigious Peri Ankh was Imhotep in Memphis, an institution which gained worldwide renown for its superior education and inquisitive ethic in the medical sciences.

Modeling this same spirit of medical excellence from Egyptian antiquity, students from the Class of 2004 pursued a vision to transform the College of Medicine in Memphis, Tenn., into a leading center for the advancement of human health. Their vision was fulfilled in the establishment of the Peri Ankh Student Endowment Fund.

Peri Ankh was created for two main purposes: to provide funds designated solely to improve the medical school education, and to create a reputable mechanism through which UT COM students, alumni residents and all other alumni would give back to UT — an institution that continues to provide the foundation upon which professional and financial success in medicine ultimately occurs.

The energy and initiative first demonstrated by these few medical students has since been embraced by all subsequent medical school classes, student leadership and administration. During the past four years, the Peri Ankh fund has gained momentum, and the fund continues to grow with the full force of the College of Medicine behind it. Our student body so fervently embraces the goals of this endowment that we have willingly donated a portion of our annual class budgets, supported entirely by class dues, to Peri Ankh. As residents, young alumni from the UT COM have begun to donate to Peri Ankh in an effort to give back to the university as their careers begin to blossom.

An initial $100,000 must be raised before proceeds from the fund can be used to enhance the medical student experience. Currently, we are more than one-third of the way to reaching this first milestone, and we need your help as we continue to venture together toward this goal.

Appropriated by a board of alumni, deans, housestaff and active students, the interest drawn from the funds is to be directed each year to areas of the medical school in which the board specifically identifies as needing improvement. Possible allocations might include improved technology for basic science lectures, endowment for faculty chairs, performance incentives for instructors in the basic and clinical sciences and merit-based tuition scholarships.

There are several ways in which you as an alumnus or alumna can become actively involved in this challenge to drive the College of Medicine to the forefront of academic medicine. You might consider volunteering for a three-year term as an alumni representative on our board of advisors. We now seek six more alumni willing to join a dean, two alumni housestaff, and three medical students to complete this board. You might also consider a financial donation to the endowment. Peri Ankh is a unique endowment in that your peers — graduates of the college — will decide on how best to designate funds for the betterment of current and future medical students, and your gift will permanently enhance this tradition of excellence in clinical training.

“After comparing experiences with students from other medical schools and hearing glowing feedback from residency program directors working with UT graduates, I am confident that our clinical education here at UT cannot be beat,” said Van Morris, UT COM class of 2008. “Whether it’s working incessantly on the front line in one of the nation’s busiest trauma centers or the

Peri Ankh continued on Page 35
Medical History Author Speaks at White Coat Ceremony

Molly Crosby, a journalist and author with a special interest in medical history, was featured as keynote speaker at the College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony in August. A Texas native, Crosby wrote “The American Plague: The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, the Epidemic that Shaped Our History,” published in 2006. The book has been nominated for several awards and is based on Crosby’s extensive historical research about a disease that profoundly influenced our history and still threatens us today.

Crosby, who lives in Memphis, traveled to Washington, D.C., New York and Cuba to gather information and photograph historical sites for her book.

Students from 71 colleges attended the ceremony. One hundred and fifty new enrollees were admitted out of 488 applicants interviewed.

Peri Ankh
Continued from Page 34

autonomy of delivering dozens of babies nightly in The MED, our clinical exposure as medical students will prepare us to excel as housestaff, but more importantly as superior clinicians throughout our careers.”

As Peri Ankh advocates, we give not because we will receive direct benefit of this fund as medical students; rather, we understand and identify with the mission of the College of Medicine and Peri Ankh. We want to participate actively in this long-term vision of excellence, ushering our medical institution into the prominence of elite training centers and thus becoming a symbol of excellence in our time, much as Imhotep was for ancient Egypt.

Please contact any member of the board below in order to become involved:

• Nelson Strother, UT COM, assistant dean of admissions, (estrothe@utmem.edu)
• Regan Williams, MD, UT COM Class of 2004, (rfwillia@utmem.edu)
• Chuck Gilliland, MD, UT COM Class of 2005, (cagilliland@yahoo.com)
• Paul Tennant, M4, UT COM Class of 2008, (ptellular@utmem.edu)
• Jaclyn Bergeron, M3, UT COM Class of 2009, (jbeaghan@utmem.edu)
• Benton Pitkanen, M2, UT COM Class of 2010, (rpitkane@utmem.edu)
• Gloria Greiner-Callihan, JD, assistant vice chancellor, Office of Development, (ggreiner@utmem.edu), (901) 448-6532

Tutoring
Continued from Page 33

UTHSC medical students began with about 20 children who were initially scheduled for tutoring; but because of the excitement that their visits brought to other elementary students, it is not uncommon to have several additions each session. Each tutor typically takes two students and works on any subject with which the children may need assistance.

“Our tutors provide the children with their undivided attention, giving them encouragement and praise,” said Warren. But the children are not the only ones who benefit. “I know that we are doing this for the kids, but I have found that each time I make the decision to sacrifice my time for them, I leave there feeling renewed. The kids are such a reminder to me of what life is about,” she continued.

“I think all who participate in this ongoing project are hoping to make a difference in the lives of each student that we come in contact with,” Haney added.
Four UTHSC alumni received the 2007 College of Medicine Outstanding Alumni Award. Garland Douglas Anderson, MD; Rufus R. Clifford, Jr., MD; John McIver Hodges, MD; and Labe C. Scheinberg, MD, (posthumously) were feted at the Alumni Awards Luncheon on October 12 at the Peabody Hotel.

“These alumni have distinguished themselves and the UT Health Science Center in all areas of our mission: education, research, patient care and community service. We salute Drs. Anderson, Clifford, Hodges and Scheinberg as role models for our colleagues, as well as our students who are our future physicians,” said Steve J. Schwab, MD, executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine.

Garland Douglas Anderson, MD

Garland Douglas Anderson, MD, (Class of 1970) has distinguished himself as a leader in academic medicine, as well as in regional and international outreach efforts. He was appointed dean of the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine in October 2006. Prior to that he served for 17 years as the Jennie Sealy Smith Distinguished Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the same university.

In April 2007, Dr. Anderson received the Baden-Gibbs Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology for outstanding leadership in medicine in the state of Texas.

He spearheaded the expansion of a 12-clinic satellite program into the university’s highly successful Regional Maternal and Child Health Program. Today this network of 30 clinics provides nearly 350,000 patient visits annually to women and children from more than 123 counties in medically underserved parts of Texas. He is internationally recognized for his accomplishments in maternal-fetal medicine and the promotion of women’s health programs.

Rufus R. Clifford, Jr., MD

Rufus R. Clifford, Jr., MD, (Class of 1959) epitomizes the practice of primary care medicine, a high priority mission of the UT Health Science Center. A pediatrician in Columbia, Tenn., since 1964, he is the senior and founding member of Columbia Pediatrics, a 30-plus employee practice. Named Tennessee Pediatrician of the Year in 1997, Dr. Clifford’s career has been dedicated to the belief that every child deserves access to quality medical care.

A strong commitment to service is reflected in his involvement in community work throughout the years. Dr. Clifford served as a board member of the Columbia Boys and Girls Club, as Rotary president, and as a veteran Sunday school teacher. Most Columbians probably think of him in the context of team doctor and a faithful fan of the local high school basketball team.

John McIver Hodges, MD

John McIver Hodges, MD, (Class of 1963) has devoted his career to academic medicine as both a professor and administrator. He has worked tirelessly to support the UTHSC Department of Otolaryngology, serving as acting chair on numerous
occasions. In 1978, he was appointed chair of the Otolaryngology Teaching Program at Methodist University Hospital, a position he holds to this day. Dr. Hodges is also chief of the Otolaryngology Section of Surgical Services with the VA Medical Center in Memphis.

Dr. Hodges initiated seminars for teaching his surgical skills in facial plastic surgery at both hospitals and at UTHSC. Perhaps he is best known for sharing his knowledge on numerous medical mission trips to China, Egypt, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Labe C. Scheinberg, MD
Labe C. Scheinberg, MD, (Class of 1948) is being honored posthumously for his extensive contributions to the study and treatment of neurological diseases. Widely published, he investigated new treatments for multiple sclerosis (MS) and is recognized today for developing the concept of a comprehensive care center for patients with chronic neurological disease.

Dr. Scheinberg’s original MS Care Center became a prototype for similar centers around the world. He later organized the nationwide Consortium of MS Centers.

From 1956 to 1995, Dr. Scheinberg served on the faculty of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, New York City, where he was named the Distinguished University Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry and Rehabilitative Medicine.

The UTHSC Outstanding Alumni Award caps a multitude of earlier awards for Dr. Scheinberg, including the Silver Medal Award from Columbia University and the Appreciation Award from the New York City Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. In 2000 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National MS Society.
Golden Grad Classes – Alumni Weekend 2007

March ’57

Front row, left to right: Drs. Lawrence Crowson, John Hardiman, Sue Atwood, Mitch Burford and Jack Alperin
Back row, left to right: Drs. Winston Williams, Donald Vaughn, Philip Deer and Harry Peeler

June ’57

Front row, left to right: Drs. Harry Burrow, Joe Hughes, Floyd Cooper, Roy Waltrip, John Gilliland and Irvin Kalb
Back row, left to right: Drs. Ron Jones, Winsor Morrison, Calvin Martin, Jack Hamman, David O’Neal and Robert Howe

September ’57

Front row, left to right: Drs. Richard Grossman, Michael Maddalena, James Feild, Marianna McAllister LaRue, Patsy Koepp, Joe Anderson and Jerry Deaton
Back row, left to right: Drs. Robert Moffatt, Ivars Sprogis, John Meeks, Ben McCarty, Brown Brooks, John Ragsdale, James Wise, James Carico, Norman Sims and Sam Tickle

December ’57

Front row, left to right: Drs. Allan Adeeb, Anna Blenke, James Anaker, Ethel Ashton Harrell, John O’Rear, Ann Robins Poindexter, Howard Kimball, James Limbaugh – Class of 1956 and John Covington
Back row, left to right: Drs. Paul Teague, Paul Dodd, Larry Dorsey, Doug Poindexter, Samuel Powers, Joseph Willoughby, James Holmes, Jim Gibson, Leroy Howell, J.T. Hamrick, Joe Black and William Gentry

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Chattanooga, TN (deceased)

Retiring Council Members

Executive Dean Steve Schwab (far left) and Alumni Council President William Sims (second from left) stand with retiring alumni council members (from left to right) Charles Parkin, Ron Jones, Robert Kerlan, Bruce Bullwinkel and James Killeffer.
Mario E. Ramirez, MD, is part of UTHSC history: a medical student in the 1940s, he fondly recalls Ma Hamilton’s boarding house on South Pauline, a place where you could dance to a nickelodeon and drink a beer. Dr. Ramirez is also a Texan, and, as he likes to say, “from the best of both worlds: orange and white UTHSC in Memphis and orange and white UTHSC in Austin, Texas, where the T stands for Texas.” Now 81 years old, he remembers his journey away from – and back to – his Texas home. His journey is one of inspiration and love.

Born in 1926, Dr. Ramirez grew up in Roma – population 1,000 – a small West Texas town in Starr County on the Rio Grande. He is often asked what inspired him to become a physician and return home to practice.

“Physicians were extremely scarce in our community,” he said, “and it is possible that my mother planted the seed. I was also influenced by an uncle, who had a drugstore and sometimes out of necessity acted as the town’s only physician. My brother became violently ill at the age of 7. He was initially misdiagnosed as having tetanus, and subsequently was found to have osteomyelitis. Septicemia and a renal shutdown followed, and he died shortly thereafter. This undoubtedly reinforced my desire to study medicine.”

Graduating from high school at age 16, the precocious youngster enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin, and then graduated from medical school at UTHSC in Memphis. While doing his internship at Shreveport Charity Hospital in Louisiana, he met a young nurse, Sarah Aycock, who became his wife in 1949. The couple moved back to Roma where Dr. Ramirez began practice. He recalled,
“We opened our office on April 21, 1950, exactly, to the day, 10 years after my brother’s death.”

**Roma, Texas, 1950**

“What was Roma like in 1950?” asked Dr. Ramirez. “I am told that the population 100 years prior was approximately 1,000. It did not change in 100 years.” Returning to a community where 98 percent of the population was Hispanic, the culture shock for his new wife was evident. For many years, Dr. Ramirez was the only physician in town, making house calls and delivering babies at home. “My wife helped a lot. My dad used to help me sterilize instruments and gloves at home in their pressure cooker. Few families had a telephone, and communication from one rural area to another was difficult. The obstetrical practice became more and more problematic.” Dr. Ramirez recalled renting an old house in Roma, which they furnished with used hospital beds and an old surgical table.

**Roma Gets a New Hospital**

Dr. Ramirez served from 1955 to 1957 at a U.S. Air Force base hospital in Japan. He returned to Roma to find a much larger practice and decided they needed a much larger hospital. He negotiated with one of the founding families to buy and remodel an old building that left much to be desired. “Can you imagine literally carrying a 200-plus pound lady in labor down a narrow, steep stairway to the X-ray room?” he laughed. As the practice grew, partners came and went, but Dr. Ramirez continued. As the only hospital in the county, serving counties to the west and north, they needed a modern operating room. “Reaccreditation of our hospital building by Medicare became more and more problematic, and more difficult with each visit,” he remembered.

At about that time the county judge resigned, and Dr. Ramirez was invited to replace him. “I realized that this would be my opportunity to build a new county hospital, and I accepted the position,” he said. As judge, he applied for and received financial approval, building a new hospital, recruiting more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

**Family Doctor of the Year**

Dr. Ramirez continued as judge for nine years until 1969, when he ran for president of the Texas Medical Association. He was the first Hispanic ever to do so — and he won. On the eve of the election, he received a phone call saying he had been elected Family Doctor of the Year. Active in the American Medical Association, Dr. Ramirez served as vice president of their committee on Health Care of the Poor. In 1985, he was appointed by President Reagan to serve as a regent to the Military Medical School in Bethesda. He also served a six-year term as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System.

**Retirement from Practice**

In 1992, a routine exam diagnosed the dedicated physician with an aggressive cancer of the prostate, and two weeks later he underwent radical surgery. Unable to keep up the old pace, he retired from his practice in Starr County and moved. “To leave Roma was one of the most difficult decisions that I have ever made,” said Dr. Ramirez. “Practicing there was never a sacrifice. It was an honor.”

Now with five grown children – two doctors, two lawyers, and one teacher – and 16 grandchildren, the couple moved to McAllen, Texas. “I was offered the position of vice president for South Texas Border Health Educational Initiatives,” said Dr. Ramirez. “My office would be in McAllen, and I would only need to go to San Antonio one to two times a month.”

Looking back on his 43 years as a physician in Starr County, Dr. Ramirez is not regretful, saying, “If I had to do it over again I certainly would make the same decision. I hope that maybe, in a small way, I may have contributed toward making South Texas a little bit healthier and happier.”

And what about Starr County? Does Dr. Ramirez ever return?

“Even now, 10 years after retiring from practice, when my wife and I go to Luby’s cafeteria at noon, we will run into some of our old patients from Starr County. It’s a time for ‘besos, abrazos, y lagrimas’ (hugs, kisses, and, yes, tears).”
Smeltzer Donates Native American Artifacts to UT

Charles “Clark” Smeltzer, Jr., MD, a medical graduate from the UT medical units in 1971, has donated his collection of Native American artifacts to the McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

At UTK, the collection will be available for study by future generations of archeologists. His collection includes an impressive and vast assortment of bowls, pipes, chisels and fish hooks, with more than 100,000 artifacts.

Raised in Knoxville, the UTHSC medical school graduate found his first arrowhead when he was about 5 or 6 years old. But he didn’t really get hooked on collecting Native American artifacts until the ‘50s, when he was 12 years old. “My father was an avid outdoorsman,” recalled Dr. Smeltzer. “And one of my dad’s friends took us to Chickamauga Lake in Tennessee to hunt goose. My dad’s friend said, ‘The Indians used to live around here. There are arrowheads all over the place.’ I said, ‘You can have my gun. I’m going to look for artifacts.’”

With this find, the young boy was captivated. “The romance of being the first to see an artifact after hundreds or even thousands of years was an awesome experience,” said Dr. Smeltzer. His search for artifacts led him and his father to the banks of lakes in Tennessee and Kentucky. “The water erodes the bank and exposes the artifacts. This means you can only hunt them in the wintertime. The lure was the ‘thrill of the hunt,’ the solitude of searching for arrowheads on a lake in subfreezing weather, lost in your own thoughts, imagining the previous cultures that walked and lived on the same banks and made the artifacts you were seeking.” he remembered.

So began a father-son pastime that spanned more than 25 years, finding arrowheads and much more. (Continuing the UT tradition, Dr. Smeltzer’s daughter Amanda Smeltzer Gibson also plans to receive her doctorate in pharmacy in 2008 from the UT College of Pharmacy.) The incredible collection of artifacts was moved with Dr. Smeltzer and his wife and filled a storage room at his daughter’s house with shelves stacked 10 feet high and more than 10 feet wide.

Last year, Dr. Smeltzer decided to donate his collection to the UT McClung Museum so that it would be available for study and enjoyment by future generations. As Beth and local avocational archeologist Joe Wright helped him inventory his collection, Wright noticed a significant number of Paleo-Indian artifacts. They contacted Mark Norton and John Broster, archeologists from the Tennessee Division of Archeology and specialists in Paleo-Indian studies, to visit the Smeltzers for a day and examine the collection. “We were overwhelmed with the size of this collection and quickly realized that a second or even third day was needed to see everything,” said Norton. “It was on our second visit that we stumbled upon this very dark, glassy artifact that appeared to be obsidian,” he added.

“In the early ‘50s it was legal to dig or pick them up,” recalled Dr. Smeltzer. Did he ever find any bones? “It was illegal to take remains,” he said, “but yes, we did see some bones.”

About half of his findings have come from East Tennessee and half from Kentucky and Barkley lakes in West Tennessee. Dr. Smeltzer and his dad, also an alumnus from the UT medical units (class of ’35), joined the Tennessee archeologist society in Knoxville.

After retirement, Dr. Smeltzer and his wife Beth moved in with his daughter Drenda Smeltzer Pullen. Drenda is also a UTHSC alumna who received her nursing degree in 1985. (Continuing the UT tradition, Dr. Smeltzer’s daughter Amanda Smeltzer Gibson also plans to receive her doctorate in pharmacy in 2008 from the UT College of Pharmacy.)
What Norton had found was indeed an obsidian artifact – one in only five to have been documented from Tennessee. This was a rare discovery because obsidian is formed from lava. “There have been no volcanoes in Tennessee,” said Dr. Smeltzer. The obsidian artifact was verified to have originated near what is now Flagstaff, Ariz. The lab also dated the artifact’s age as 6,000 years. “We knew exactly the site on Kentucky Lake where this was found,” said Dr. Smeltzer.

Through the years, the Smeltzers have learned more about how some of the artifacts were made. “We went to a re-enactment at Ames Plantation where we got to watch a man ‘knapping’ a tool,” said Beth. Knapping is the process that the Native Americans used to make stone tools.

The artifacts that Dr. Smeltzer has found can be divided into four categories, from oldest to most recent: Paleo, Archaic, Woodland and Mississippi. Each artifact is also identified and coded with the site number corresponding with the area where it was found. “The artifacts will be used by the graduate students who are identifying artifacts from these periods,” said Beth.

The articles in their collection are varied, including nut stones, which were used as primitive nutcrackers, gaming stones used to play games, grinding stones, chisels, a bone awl to puncture holes, a Paleo spear point that is 12,000 to 15,000 years old, and a bone fish hook. In addition, there is a clay pipe made by early American settlers and traded to the Native Americans.

“It was not until Joe Wright and I were cataloging the collection that I realized my dad and I had amassed a collection that archaeologists would consider a valuable addition to their understanding of the Native American cultures. This too was an awesome realization,” said Dr. Smeltzer.

Dr. Smeltzer offered the last lines of “Spell of the Yukon,” a poem about prospecting for gold, to describe what drove him in his search for artifacts:

Yet it isn’t the gold that I’m wanting
So much as just finding the gold.
It’s the great, big, broad land ‘way up yonder,
It’s the forests where silence has lease;
It’s the beauty that thrills me with wonder,
It’s the stillness that fills me with peace.

The Smeltzers - A UT Family
• Charles Clark Smeltzer, Sr. - UT medical school 1935
• Charles Clark Smeltzer, Jr. - UTK 1965, UT medical school 1971
• Drenda Smeltzer Pullen (Jr.’s daughter) - UT School of Nursing 1985
• Amanda Smeltzer Gibson (Jr.’s third daughter) - to graduate 2008 UT College of Pharmacy
Healthy Cities Under the Tuscan Sun

Gently rolling hills covered with vineyards and splashed by the sun. Ancient Medieval villages dot the landscape. These are the romantic images evoked by mention of Tuscany, one of Italy’s most storied regions. Birthplace of the Renaissance with a rich heritage in the arts, Tuscany played a particularly fascinating role in medical history as well.

“The oldest and most important medical schools were in Italy. Up through the 18th and 19th centuries, even the English went there to study,” explained Professor James E. Bailey, Jr., MD, MPH. He organized a group of UT Health Science Center alumni and planned the curriculum for a study tour titled, “Search for the Healthy City.” Designed to involve participants in experiential learning through on-site education, the agenda took the group to some of the less-traveled places tucked in the Tuscan hills.

Guided tours and discussions led by faculty from London and Italy were highlights of the seminar, of course; but healthy living was woven throughout the 10-day excursion. As Dr. Bailey pointed out, “We walked our socks off. This was not a whistle-stop tour; we tried to practice what we preached.

‘People in the Mediterranean region live longer, so one of the aspects we studied was the ‘slow food movement,’ the practice of taking one’s time while eating locally grown food prepared by hand.” Many of the participants took cooking classes to learn techniques for healthy food preparation, and meals prepared for the group reflected the slow food approach.

“Positive lifestyle changes and options were reiterated throughout the courses,” noted participants Alison and Ed Franklin, MD, (UT COM ’60) adding, “Dr. Bailey must be a great teacher for med students because the agenda was so well and carefully prepared.” Dr. Franklin also mentioned how much he enjoyed hearing various viewpoints on the wide range of topics covered in the seminar presentations and discussions.

Mary Stuart David, MD, (UT COM ’79) commented that this was one of the best meetings she’s ever attended. “It was as if all the attendees were speakers, and we had a wonderful group to learn from.” One of the reoccurring lessons learned was how often communities throughout the past thousand years faced the same sorts of problems and found similar solutions to what we experience today. In Padua, the group toured the oldest medical school in Europe and discussed the first book ever written on medical errors by one of the school’s professors in the 1500s. Dr. David observed, “We are still doing so much that has been done for the last 600 years. So many modern improvements make so little difference compared to just being able to do those same things better.

Dr. Bailey is seeking a spectrum of attendees for this year’s Tuscan search scheduled for September 4 to 13. “We’re trying to involve leaders from a variety of disciplines related to health care: church leaders, architects, insurance executives, as well as physicians, nurses and other health care professionals,” he said. “Anyone who wants to learn from history and the classics in health services research about how to build healthier cities and more effective health systems is welcome to attend.”

For more information about the next “Search for the Healthy City Tour” please contact: Catherine Lewis at (901) 448-2561; clewis22@utmem.edu or Dr. Bailey at (901) 448-5186; jeb@utmem.edu.
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Dr. Jack McConnell was featured on national television when he appeared on the “Today Show” on July 4, 2007, for his work in getting health care to the working poor at Hilton Head, S.C. Although the program did not formally mention the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic, it covered his efforts to waive licensing fees and get reduced liability. Dr. McConnell said he has 330 doctors, nurses, etc., who volunteer in the program at Hilton Head.

Allen S. Edmonson, MD, was one of the recipients of the Outstanding Physician Award presented annually by the Tennessee Medical Association House of Delegates. He was nominated for the Outstanding Physician Award by the Memphis Medical Society for his leadership and dedication to organized medicine. A retired orthopedic surgeon from Campbell Clinic, Dr. Edmonson is a current member of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners, a Paul Harris Fellow, and editor of Campbell Clinic’s Operative Orthopedics.

George W. Brasher, MD, of Temple, Texas, writes, “I retired from the Scott and White Clinic on July 1, 2007, after 41 years. I served as director of the Division of Allergy-Immunology from 1976 to 2006.”

Dr. Harold James, writes, “Have been trying to locate an acquaintance of my wife. She died in 1986, left behind some photos of friends and colleagues, one of who was named Robert M. B. I believe Robert was at UT med units in Memphis in the mid-1970s. …Please get in touch with me if you can fill in the ‘M. B.’ and if you know his status or whereabouts.” halleejames@yahoo.com

David K. Garriott, a retired Kingsport, Tenn., neurologist, was one of the recipients of the Outstanding Physician Award presented annually by the Tennessee Medical Association House of Delegates. Dr. Garriott was nominated by the Sullivan County Medical Society. He is a past-president of both TMA and SCMS.

Rick Elmore, of Fresno, Calif., has been a full-time vein specialist (phlebologist) for the last 17 years. He is doing research in endovenous laser treatment of varicose veins. Happily married to Debra for 22 years, he has two children at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif. In 2006, he helped start a small Christian Church in Clovis, Calif.

Joseph B. Cofer, MD, received the Distinguished Service Award presented annually by the Tennessee Medical Association Board of Trustees for his notable achievements this past year. A general surgeon from Chattanooga, Tenn., Dr. Cofer was nominated by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society for his vision and leadership in creating and directing the Hamilton County Project Access Community Health Partnership to provide health care for the working poor.

James King, MD, a family physician in Selmer, Tenn., assumed the role of president of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) in October 2007. Previously, he served three years as a member of the AAFP board of directors. Dr. King is in private practice in the rural community of Selmer and serves as volunteer faculty at UTHSC. He is also on the medical staff of the McNairy Regional Hospital in Selmer and serves as medical director of Chester County Healthcare Services.

Gazi B. Zibari, MD, FACS, FICS, of Shreveport, La., was awarded the Ellis Island Gold Medal Award in May 2007. He was also elected as the president of the American Foundation for Donation and Transplantation. Dr. Zibari has served on the executive council of the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA) and completed a two-year term as president of the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency. He also serves as vice president of the International College of Surgeons U.S. Section, where he chaired the scientific programs. Every year since 1992, Dr. Zibari spends one month of annual vacation in Kurdistan of Iraq were he successfully built a renal transplant unit.

John Scott recently accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, located in Knoxville. His wife, Jean, and two daughters, Addison and Caroline, will be moving with him where he will join the Department of Surgery.
Trey Carr, MD, is serving as the chief resident for the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program at the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, Va. He wrote, “It is an honor for me to have this opportunity to serve my co-residents and my residency program in this role.”

Dr. Carr also provided an update on his fellow classmates: “At our department’s recent end-of-the-year banquet, Asim Choudhri (‘04) was recognized for his outstanding work in research in our department with the Department of Radiology Resident Research Award. Matt Whitehead (‘04) was also recognized at our department’s end-of-the-year banquet for his outstanding work in medical student teaching and received the Department of Radiology Resident Education Award. Both awards are well deserved by their recipients, and I think they reflect positively on UT and speak to the caliber of physicians produced by the UT system.”

In Memoriam

Joseph Audrey Hull, MD, 93, died Aug. 5, 2007, at the St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital in Jackson, Miss. Dr. Hull was a native of DeKalb. He received his medical degree at the University of Tennessee and his residency in pathology at Ohio State University. He served in the Army Medical Corps during WWII for four and a half years, and was discharged with the rank of major. He returned to Indianola where he co-founded Hull Brothers Clinic. He practiced medicine for 40 years until his retirement in 1985. He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances Archer Hull in 1997, and leaves three daughters, a son, four granddaughters and two grandsons.

Marcus Jefferson Stewart, MD, 96, died from complications of leukemia in August 2007 at his Memphis home. Dr. Stewart literally wrote the book on sports and orthopedic medicine, and never began a day without completing his own 45-minute exercise routine. Born in Whiteville, Tenn., he graduated from UT. Dr. Stewart served during WWII in London helping repair the limbs of wounded soldiers. He received the Legion of Merit for his work and retired from the Army Reserves as a colonel. He became a world-renowned orthopedic surgeon after serving as the 13th resident to study under Dr. Willis Campbell, founder of the Campbell Clinic. From 1955 to 1975 he also served as the team doctor for Ole Miss. Dr. Stewart, the widower of Mariette Stewart and the husband of Fay Stewart, also leaves two daughters and nine grandchildren.

James T. Debbery, MD, of Cookeville, Tenn.

Edgar Lee Etier, Jr., MD, 88, died peacefully Sept. 27, 2007, at home surrounded by his family. He was born on Aug. 20, 1919, in Fort Worth, Texas, and held a deep and abiding love for his hometown. While in medical school, he spent a three-month sabbatical as a U.S. Public Health Service first aid attendant during construction of the Alaska-Canada (Alcan) Highway. He was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in March 1945. In 1958 he joined the Fifth Avenue Clinic in Fort Worth where he practiced internal medicine until it closed in 1983. He returned to private practice and in 1986, welcomed his son, Dr. Lee Etier, into the practice. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Patricia Nesrsta Etier of Fort Worth; three daughters and son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Herbert Pitner Whittle, Jr., MD, 86, passed away on Dec. 3, 2007, at his home in Shannondale of Maryville, Tenn. He was a member of Tellico Village Community Church. Following graduation from UT Knoxville, and its College of Medicine in Memphis, he served his internship at old Knox General Hospital. Returning from the Army Medical Corps in 1948, he completed his residency in pediatrics at Knox General before entering private practice for 27 years in Etowah and Athens. He then went into industrial medicine as Olin Chemical’s medical director based in Charleston, Tenn., for 13 years. Retiring from practice in 1987, he continued his medical services part-time at Olin and Bowater Paper Corporation of Calhoun, Tenn. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Rita Cockrell Whittle, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Floyd N. Bankston, MD, 85, of Knoxville, passed away Nov. 29, 2007, at Parkwest Medical Center. Dr. Bankston grew up in the same home as his father did on McCalla Avenue, a neighborhood that he always loved. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, and a retired longtime Knoxville physician. His specialty was OB-GYN, a field of endeavor he loved. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Charlotte Hamlet Bankston, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

John M. Wall, MD, of Boone, Iowa.

Walter Lee Bourland, MD, 82, died on Nov. 8, 2007. A native of Amory, Miss., he graduated from Amory High School in 1942 and enrolled at Mississippi State University. At the age of 18, Dr. Bourland entered the UT medical school and received his medical degree in September 1947, when he was 22 years old. He served in the U.S. Navy for two years as a medical officer assigned to the 6th fleet, during the Korean conflict. Upon discharge from the navy in 1953, he entered a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Vanderbilt University Hospital, which he completed in June 1956. In July of that year he moved to Tupelo, Miss., and joined Dr. P. K. Thomas in practice, which in 1972, became Obstetrics-Gynecology Associates, P.A. He retired in 1989, after 33 years. Survivors include his wife, Martha W. “Tommie” Bourland, four children, a sister and 12 grandchildren.

Carl A. Nelson, Jr., MD, 83, of Palm City, Fla., died on June 16, 2007, at Martin Memorial Hospital after a long illness. He was born in Knoxville, Tenn., and served in the U.S. Navy at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md., until 1955. While in Maryland, he founded the Plasma Alliance and was the medical director until the business was sold to Revlon in 1978. He returned to Knoxville and was the head of the Department of Anesthesiology at Fort Sanders Hospital from 1955 to 1964. In 1958, he established MEDIC, a nonprofit community blood bank, which provides blood and blood products to 28 hospitals in 21 counties in Tennessee and Kentucky. He served as the medical director until 2000 and was chairman of the board until his death. Survivors include his wife, Judy, and three daughters.

Warner Lee Clark, MD, of Church Hill, Tenn.

Foy B. Mitchell, Sr., MD, 88, of Knoxville, died Sept. 26, 2007. Dr. Mitchell served as chief of staff at East Tennessee Children’s Hospital and associate professor of pediatrics at UT. Dr. Mitchell was one of the Pioneer Teaching Physicians of the UT Medical Center Physicians Health Study since 1982. He is a veteran of WWII where he served as bombardier in the U.S. Air Force and flew in 55 combat missions in the southwest Pacific. He received the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters. He retired in 1991 after 39 years of practice in pediatrics in Knoxville. Survivors include his wife, Frances Mashburn Mitchell, a daughter and two sons, his sister and seven grandchildren.

Fred M. Valentine, Jr., MD, 79, of Newport, died suddenly Nov. 20, 2007, at his home. He graduated from Cocke County High School in 1945 and the UT College of Medicine in 1950. For many years, he was associated with Valentine-Shults Hospital and Cocke County Memorial Hospital, serving as chairman of the board. He served as mayor of Newport for 16 years. During his tenure, the Newport/Cocke County Community Center was built, as well as several government housing projects. Preceding him in death were his parents and wife of 49 years, Wanda (Martin) Valentine. He is survived by his wife, Christine Gorman Valentine, as well as his daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

C. Thomas Hill, Jr., MD, of Clovis, N.M.

David H. Turner, MD, 80, peacefully departed this stage of life Nov. 25, 2007. He died at his home after a brief illness, in the embrace of his loving wife and
children. Dr. Turner of Chattanooga was born in Jasper, Tenn. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Europe in 1945 to 1946. He graduated from Vanderbilt University, married Mary Kathryn Shook, and graduated from medical school in Memphis. After four years of general medical practice in Jasper, he completed a residency in ophthalmology at Emory University in Atlanta and returned to Chattanooga to practice. During an illustrious career, he held numerous leadership positions with local, state and national medical and ophthalmologic associations. He was also a founding member of the UT College of Medicine Alumni Council. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, as well as their daughter and sons.

Rocco Anthony Calandruccio, MD, 84, of Germantown, Tenn., died on July 28, 2007. He was born in White Plains, N.Y. Dr. Calandruccio was the youngest of six children and was born to Vincenza and Natale Calandruccio of Calabria, Italy. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., and then from Yale Medical School. He completed his residency at Campbells Clinic in Memphis where he practiced orthopaedic surgery for 36 years. Dr. Calandruccio went on to serve as chief of staff at the Campbell Clinic, professor of orthopaedic surgery at UT and also served as head of the department of orthopaedics. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Betty, and also leaves three children and six grandchildren.

William Edgar “Bill” Metzger, Jr., MD, 76, family physician of Memphis, died on Nov. 2, 2007. A native Memphian, Dr. Metzger received his undergraduate degree from Southwestern (Rhodes College). He graduated from UT medical school and served a rotating internship in Shreveport, La., and began practice in Hamilton, Ala. Dr. Metzger moved to Memphis in 1966 and, along with Dr. James Moore, formed the practice now known as The Family Physicians Group, P.C. He is survived by his bride of 52 years, Ann Garrecht Metzger, their son and two daughters, 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Loys W. Willey, Jr., MD, of Fayetteville, Ga.

Royce M. Williams, MD, 80, passed away Nov. 20, 2007. He was born in Jacksonville, Fla., and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. Dr. Williams was a caring physician who held medical practices in both Tampa and Lake City, Fla. Dr. Williams was a lifelong member of the Riverside Primitive Baptist Church, as well as a pilot and accomplished world traveler. Survivors include: his son, three daughters and two grandchildren.

Joseph Campbell Knight, MD, died peacefully June 26, 2007, surrounded by his family and friends. He was born at Rutherford Hospital, Murfreesboro, Tenn., along with his twin brother, Robert, on Feb. 7, 1936.

He graduated second in his class and received the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Award in 1959. His internship was at John Gaston Hospital in Memphis followed by a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. He then moved home to Murfreesboro to begin his practice, but after two years was drafted during the Vietnam War. During this time in the military, he served as captain, USMC, and chief of cardiovascular disease. He returned to Murfreesboro after two years of service and began his practice, serving as a loving and caring physician for 32 years.

He retired from his practice in 1996 and after a short retirement he began working with Middle Tennessee Medical Center as vice president of medical affairs for six years. In 2006 he was honored with the Olin Williams MD Distinguished Service Award.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 49 years, Glendel Bryson Knight, a daughter and son and their families. Dr. Knight loved his family and friends; his courage and strength throughout his fight with cancer and other illnesses is an example of his Christian faith.

Roy Lee Seals, MD, of West Knoxville, departed this life Nov. 18, 2007, from complications of Lou Gehrig’s Disease. He was a member of West Park Baptist Church. Roy graduated from West High School where he played football and basketball and earned college scholarships in both sports. After graduation from medical school in 1961, he did an internship at Confederate Memorial Hospital in Shreveport, La., and upon finishing, did a surgical residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. He then returned to Memphis for his otolaryngology residency and in 1967 started private practice. He was in the U.S. Army Reserves for 12 years and retired as a major. Dr. Seals leaves behind his loving wife, Susan, and former wife, Mary Seals, who is the mother of his three sons. He also leaves behind five grandchildren.
R. Lee Forshay, MD, 68, passed away on Feb. 26, 2007, of cancer. Dr. Forshay was born in Knoxville, Tenn., and grew up in Chattanooga. After attending Emory University, Dr. Forshay graduated from medical school at UT in 1963. After his internship at John Peter Smith Hospital, he completed a residency and a fellowship at Kansas University Medical Center. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force for two years. Dr. Forshay began his private practice in 1970 as the first endocrinologist in Fort Worth. He was a partner in Diabetes and Endocrine Associates of Tarrant County. When he retired, he sent letters to more than 1,400 patients.

Dr. Forshay loved being with his family and playing with his grandchildren. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Mary-Charles Forshay, two children and four grandchildren.

Arvell Stanley Luttrell, MD, 68, of Farragut, died Nov. 24, 2007, at Parkwest Hospital. He practiced since 1971 as a psychiatrist in Knoxville. He counseled many veterans of past and present wars and conflicts who suffered post-traumatic stress disorders and other issues. He graduated from South High School and UT Knoxville. He then went on to medical school in Memphis, served an internship at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta and a three-year residency at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville. Afterward, he was a captain in the Air Force serving as a psychiatrist at Andrews Air Force Base. Upon discharge, he started a private practice in Knoxville. He was devoted to his family, friends and patients. He was also an avid hiker and photographer. Survivors include his loving and devoted wife of 42 years, Kay Luttrell, and their sons and daughter and grandchildren.

A. Lee Gordon, III, MD, 61, died on Aug. 16, 2007, in Loveland, Colo., from complications of glioblastoma. He was born Jan. 15, 1946, in Houston, Texas. His undergraduate degree was completed at the University of Virginia. He attended medical school at UT and completed his residency at the Campbell Clinic in Memphis. His fellowship in hand surgery was completed with Harvard University at Massachusetts General Hospital. Much of Dr. Gordon’s adult life was dedicated to serving others, and his volunteer work with Hand Surgery Overseas took him to Uganda, Nepal, Honduras and Peru. He also had a passion for the outdoors, which led him to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro and scuba dive the Great Barrier Reef. Survivors include wife, Rita; children Brittney (and Ryan) Murray, Brooke, Blake and Ashlee Gordon; stepchildren, Ben and Kate Anastasio; granddaughters, Jayden and Taylor; mother, Helen; siblings, Malcolm (and Janice), Gordon and Sharon Stoakes.

John T. Murphy, Jr., MD, was born Feb. 17, 1956, in Jackson, Tenn., and died Oct. 23, 2007, in Nashville. He was a graduate of Jackson Central Merry High School in 1974, University of Tennessee in 1978 with a BA in zoology, and the UT medical school in 1984. Dr. Murphy performed his internship in orthopaedic surgery from 1987 to 1989 at Methodist Hospital in Memphis. His private practice began in 1990 at the Florence Clinic in Florence, Ala., and his most recent position was at Innovative Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine. Dr. Murphy is survived by his wife, Teresa Shannon Murphy, and three children.

Bill Sims, Jr., son of UT College of Medicine Alumni Council President Bill Sims, made his escape from his ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) paralyzed body on July 13, 2007. President Sims wrote of his son, “He ran a good race and finally made it to his Heavenly Father’s house. Bill appreciated all your thoughts and prayers. He knew that no one recovers from ALS and therefore believed that God must have a special purpose or job for people afflicted with ALS. Bill’s motto was ‘never give up.’ He was a good Christian believing ‘you can cripple my body but not my spirit.’ Bill lived what he ‘preached.’ ”

Billy Ray Jennings, PhD, died on Oct. 11, 2007, at Saint Francis Hospital. During more than 45 years as a member of the Department of Pathology at UTHSC, he was director of medical microbiology at the Regional Medical Center and assistant vice chancellor of hospital information systems, director of information systems, Regional Medical Center, and director of computing and telecommunications, UTHSC. He was a member of the American Society of Microbiology, Sigma XI, and a fellow of the Tennessee Academy of Science. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Lawrence Jennings, two children and four grandchildren.
Mark Your Calendars Now!

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
College of Medicine ∆ Alumni Weekend

September 25-26, 2008
The Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee

Thursday, September 25
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council Meeting
Golden Grad Dinner for Classes of 1958

Friday, September 26
☐ A Continuing Education Program
☐ Alumni Awards & Reunion Luncheon
☐ Bus Tour of UT Health Science Center Campus
☐ Alumni Reception & Class Reunion Dinners

Also, watch for more information to follow if you graduated in 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998. You won’t want to miss the opportunity of reacquainting with some of your former classmates so we will be planning individual class dinners for Friday or Saturday evenings.

Contact us with questions: UT Alumni Office, (800) 733-0482, (901) 448-4974, uthscalumni@utmem.edu

Hotel Reservations
Reserve your hotel accommodations at the Peabody Hotel by calling 800 - PEABODY (732-2639) or (901) 529-4000 and asking for the UT Medicine Alumni room block.
Room rates of $179 single/double.

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Our staff is available to answer any questions and provide projected results for your specific situation, in confidence and with no obligation. For more information, please contact Bethany Goolsby, JD, at (901) 448-4941 or at bgoolsby@utmem.edu.
The University of Tennessee College of Medicine

Outstanding Alumnus Award

Send Your Nominations Now

Up to four Outstanding Alumni Awards will be presented each year based upon recommendations from UT College of Medicine alumni, faculty or other UT College of Medicine constituents; and upon approval by the Awards Committee of the UT College of Medicine Alumni Council, on behalf of the UT College of Medicine Alumni Association.

Criteria:

The Outstanding Alumnus Award will not be limited to those in active medical practice, and will recognize a member of the medical profession who has distinguished himself/herself in the areas of:

- Community service
- Leadership in local, state or national health professional organizations
- Teaching and/or research activities or any other area or areas of performance or accomplishment for which the Medicine Alumni Council determines a candidate to be worthy

A letter of nomination and curriculum vitae should be mailed to:
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council c/o UT Office of Alumni Affairs, 62 South Dunlap, Suite 520, Memphis, Tennessee 38163; e-mail: uthscalumni@utmem.edu; fax: (901) 448-5906.