Morris & Laura Dee Robbins

Making a Difference in the College’s Past, Present and Future

Thomas B. Carter Named Orban Finalist

George Huang Receives $1.8 Million Root Canal Grant

Liang Hong Conducts Cutting-Edge Plasma Study
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To help protect the teeth and health of Tennessee’s youth, Delta Dental has distributed more than 62,700 mouth guards to youth athletes across the state since 2006.

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over the past 12 years, Delta Dental has donated more than $5.5 million to the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry for building renovations and equipment upgrades.

Marshall Molar, Delta Dental’s Ambassador of Smiles, is often seen in the community spreading good oral health tips and knowledge.

At Delta Dental, we’re all about healthy smiles. We work hard to promote oral health, and to increase awareness of the benefits of preventive dental care throughout the community.

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Happy New Year! As we move ahead into 2013, I want to thank each of you for your support and contributions to the College of Dentistry. You have much to be proud of, and as always, I want to personally invite each of you to visit the Dunn Building and see the results of what your donations are doing for the college. Because of what you do, we are able to provide an excellent education to our future colleagues, and the best service to our patients.

We continue to attract many new highly qualified faculty members in a time when all dental schools, including many new ones, are actively recruiting. In the following pages, you will get a brief glimpse of the “new additions” at the college and the overall quality they bring to the dental school.

Once again, we are starting the renovation of many additional areas in the Dunn Building. Currently, the following projects are under way: second floor – clinical and financial affairs; third floor – PG orthodontic area; fifth floor – PG endodontics, AEGD and dental hygiene. In the near future, we plan to renovate the lobbies on the second, third and fifth floors to provide more pleasant waiting areas for our valued patients.

As you will see in this issue, with the start of our Clinical Group Leader program on July 1, 2012, our students are now being trained in a private practice-like setting. This is a fantastic new program that provides our graduates the benefits of additional clinical experience and hands-on skills necessary to go out into the real world and be successful!

None of this would be possible without the support of our beloved alumni and friends, who have and continue to unselfishly give to help make the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry one of the best dental colleges in the nation. This issue contains a special feature about the distinguished life of one of our own, Morris Robbins. He and Laura Dee have made a very generous bequest to the College of Dentistry, in the form of an Endowed Professorship, and a scholarship in the Robbins name! This is the type of commitment that allows us to continue to build one of the country’s finest dental colleges and continue to graduate highly qualified dentists to carry on the long and outstanding reputation of your dental college.

Thank you!

Timothy L. Hottel, DDS, MS, MBA
Dean, UT College of Dentistry
thottel@uthsc.edu
It is a pleasure to begin this letter with heartfelt thanks to you, our incredibly generous and dedicated dental alumni and friends. You’ve done it again, answering the dean’s call with the financial support required to renovate outdated space in the Dunn Dental Building. Early in January, the project team began the work to upgrade roughly 12,120-square-feet of existing space on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the building. When the work is completed in mid-April, the third floor PG orthodontic clinic will be refurbished. On the fifth floor, we will have renewed the dental hygiene clinic and added a PG endodontic clinic, to augment the growth of this new program, which previously had no clinic space. We will have also refreshed the fifth floor AEGD clinic (Advanced Education in General Dentistry), as well as updating some cubicles on the fourth floor.

We are grateful for your confidence in Dean Hottel’s ability to properly steward your resources for the betterment of the college and its students. We know your faith is well placed. As the funding model for our institution continues to evolve, philanthropic gifts from our stalwart alumni and industry partners will remain critical elements in our ability to meet the needs of today and plan for the challenges of tomorrow.

One of the dean’s other areas of focus, to bolster research in the college, has helped lead to a $1.8 million grant for a study with potential to change the way root canals are performed throughout the industry. Read more about this grant funding on page 22.

In December, we revisited our long-range plans for the campus renovation, and presented an updated outline for the campus master plan. During the next five years, this comprehensive, strategic effort will change the face of our campus, aligning our academic focus with our emphasis on training students for a more team-oriented health care environment. We invite you to review our most recent campus updates on construction/renovation, research and finances at www.uthsc.edu/chancellor/messages.

To one degree or another, we are all experiencing the furious pace of change determined by modern technology. Higher education and health care are equally enmeshed in the digital, Internet age. In late September, our organization welcomed Johannes van der Aa as vice chancellor for Information Technology and chief information officer. His depth of knowledge and experience are evident in his biographical sketch on page 6. We are already deriving benefit from his innovative leadership and project management skills.

I’d like to close with a special note of thanks to Morris Robbins and his wife, Laura Dee. They have made an exemplary bequest to the college in the form of an eponymous Endowed Professorship and scholarship. Tremendous gifts of this nature that live in perpetuity are renewing, self-sustaining forces that drive this college forward. We thankfully applaud the vision, open-heartedness and unswerving loyalty of the Robbins family. Alumni and their families of this caliber truly make this institution what we are today and shape tomorrow.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor
UTHSC welcomed the Rev. Jesse Jackson to the campus this past spring. The civil rights leader and Baptist minister was in town to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to replace the wreath on the balcony outside of the room at the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King stayed and was killed.

Jackson sat down with African-American students representing each of UTHSC’s six colleges, as well as campus administrators, to discuss the serious challenges present in the African-American community including health disparities, guns, crime and drugs.

Challenging the UTHSC students as they move forward in their health professions, Jackson stressed, “Nurturing and mentoring matter. ... Seize this unusual moment in your lives and apply it. You have a long time to apply it. Our children need more exposure to young people like you because usually you do what you know. Our children have limited dreams because they haven’t had the exposure to know what vast possibilities are out there. You can help our children dream bigger dreams.”

Johannes J. van der Aa Named Vice Chancellor for IT, Chief Information Officer at UTHSC

UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, announced the appointment of Johannes “Jan” J. van der Aa, PhD, as vice chancellor for Information Technology (IT) and chief information officer. Dr. van der Aa was the assistant vice president or Health Affairs and director of Educational Technologies for the UF&Shands, the University of Florida (UF) Academic Health Center. At UF, he was responsible for coordinating IT services and resources in support of six health sciences colleges, and five multi-disciplinary research institutes.

In his new role, Dr. van der Aa is responsible for collaborating with the constituents of the six UTHSC colleges, associated research entities, and campus administration to direct and manage IT systems and services. He also leads and coordinates UTHSC IT operations with the University of Tennessee System IT initiatives. He arrived on the Memphis campus full time in September.

“Dr. van der Aa brings a tremendous amount of experience and insight to our organization,” Chancellor Schwab observed. “He understands the special IT needs and requirements of complex health sciences institutions. Jan also has a proven ability to build strong, positive relationships. Those relationships are an integral element in supporting IT governance and in the efficient implementation of rapidly changing IT systems and processes. We welcome Jan to our statewide campus community,” he added.

Born in the Netherlands, Dr. van der Aa grew up in the city of Eindhoven. He earned a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology in 1978. He moved to Gainesville, Fla., in 1980 and joined the Department of Anesthesiology, College of Medicine at UF. There he became part of a multifaceted group of physicians, engineers, students, and staff known as Florida Anesthesia Computer and Engineering Team. The group was involved in interdisciplinary research in biomedical and health care technology, clinical and basic research, and education. Dr. van der Aa also managed departmental IT services and staff. In 1987, he earned a master’s degree from the UF College of Engineering. Awarded in 1990, his PhD is in medical electrical engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology.
The University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro recently named Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, Chancellor Emeritus for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The appointment reflects unparalleled service and dedication to UTHSC during a professional career that spans more than 52 years.

“It is a truly humbling experience to be named Chancellor Emeritus,” said Dr. Wall. “It continues to be a great honor and pleasure to teach medical students, meet with donors and alumni, and serve the institution at which I have spent nearly my entire professional life.” Outside of military assignments in Europe, Dr. Wall has been part of the UTHSC community since he enrolled in medical school some 55 years ago. As Chancellor Emeritus, he will continue to support development and alumni relations initiatives for UTHSC.

A UTHSC alumnus who graduated from the College of Medicine in 1960, Dr. Wall has served the Health Science Center in a wide variety of roles. For the past three years, he focused on fundraising, capital development and alumni relations, with one year as a special assistant to the UTHSC chancellor, and two years as a special assistant to the UT president (2009 to 2011). A longtime UTHSC faculty member and administrator, Dr. Wall has served as UTHSC chancellor (April 2007 through September 2009), interim dean for the UT College of Medicine, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, and division chief of General Pediatrics. In September 2008, UTHSC established the Hershel P. Wall, M.D., Legacy Society to honor the distinguished alumni and special friends who have made a commitment to the UT Health Science Center through a planned gift arrangement.

“Pat Wall embodies the spirit of the UT Health Science Center in its education, research and outreach capacities,” said President DiPietro. “As a proud graduate of the UT College of Medicine, he is as passionate today about the work of the Health Science Center, its faculty, students and alumni as the day he became a pediatrician and taught his first students.”

Speaker Beth Harwell Visits Campus

This fall, UT President Joe DiPietro and UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD (right) welcomed Beth Harwell (second from right), Speaker of the House of Representatives – Tennessee General Assembly, for a tour of the Memphis campus.

As she toured the campus, she mingled with fourth-year dental student John Adams (left) and Alka Cohen, DDS. During a meeting held on campus, UTHSC’s mission and impact on education, research and outreach was discussed, as well as the university’s statewide economic contribution, estimated to be more than $2.3 billion annually. Of that amount, 73.8 percent was generated at the Memphis campus. UTHSC also created 21,096 jobs across the state, with wages averaging $38,140 per worker.
**UTHSC Campus Hosts ‘Race for the Summitt’**

The Race for the Summitt 4 mile running race will be Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 9 a.m., starting at the UTHSC College of Pharmacy Building and finishing at Forrest Park. The race – the first of its kind – will benefit the Pat Summitt Foundation and UTHSC chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP).

The goal of the race is to raise funds for the Pat Summitt Foundation. Its mission is to make grants to nonprofits, which provide education about, and awareness of, Alzheimer’s, its onset and treatment; support services to patients, their families and caregivers; and research to treat, prevent, cure, and ultimately eradicate this disease.

In addition, a portion of the proceeds will go toward the UTHSC College of Pharmacy’s APhA-ASP chapter. These funds will be used to help offset the costs associated with the provision of free patient care services to the Memphis and Knoxville communities and other important chapter initiatives. Please visit the official race Web site at www.raceforthesummitt.racesonline.com.

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**Minority Participants Sought for Aspirin Study**

The Department of Preventive Medicine at UTHSC seeks 200 minority senior citizens’ as participants for a study on aspirin. The study, referred to as ASPREE (ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly), is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, a subsidiary of the National Institutes of Health. The research will assess whether aspirin can not only prolong life, but support a life free of physical disability and/or dementia for healthy, older people.

Aspirin may help older individuals to live well longer by delaying the onset of illness. In fact, previous studies indicate that low-dose aspirin reduces the risk of heart attack, stroke and vascular events in middle-aged people. Low-dose aspirin may also help with preventing cognitive decline and specific types of cancer, such as bowel cancer.

While aspirin can thwart cardiovascular attacks and stroke in individuals with established heart disease, the effect of aspirin for elderly people without a history of cardiovascular disease is less certain, and will be determined by this research.

ASPREE is being conducted in cities across our nation, and the world. The study will enroll a total of 6,500 healthy citizens age 65 and older in the United States and another 12,500 in Australia. Since enrollment goals for Caucasian Americans have been met, only minority citizens are eligible to participate. In Memphis, study coordinators will recruit 200 minorities of African-American, Asian or Latino descent.

“The ASPREE trial may provide important information regarding the benefits and risks of aspirin, a low-cost, easily available medication for older, healthy individuals,” says Suzanne Satterfield, MD, DPH, associate professor in the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine and principal investigator for the Memphis study.

Participants in the study will be randomly assigned to take either a low-dose aspirin or placebo (a pill containing no medicine) daily for about five years. Study pills and medical exams are free.

Patients will receive initial reports on specific health markers, including their functional and cognitive ability. Any changes will be monitored throughout the study. Once enrolled, participants will be seen annually.

Those interested should call the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine at (901) 448-8400.
UTHSC Reactivates Bachelor of Science in Nursing

In November, the Tennessee Board of Nursing approved a proposal from UTHSC to reactivate its baccalaureate program – the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). “With this final approval, we can now move forward to recruit outstanding students for our renewed BSN program,” stated Laura A. Talbot, PhD, EdD, RN, dean for the UTHSC College of Nursing. The college plans to enroll 70 students for the BSN class that will begin matriculating August 1, 2013. The BSN application submission deadline is April 1.

UTHSC suspended its BSN program in December 2009 when its last BSN class graduated. “The reactivation of our BSN program is a response to the health care needs of our city, state and region,” said Dean Talbot.

The dean observed, “With health care needs expanding among nearly every population group, more highly skilled nurses are definitely needed to fill the gaps in our health care system. Our BSN graduates have always received the rigorous classroom training and immersive clinical experiences that prepare them to make a strong, positive difference for their patients and their employers as soon as they begin their careers. We are committed to maintaining these same standards of excellence in both the academic and clinical arenas as we restart the BSN program.”

“As changes in health care unfold, we need to sharpen our focus and emulate successful models of care, with special emphasis on providing primary care,” said Steve J. Schwab, MD, UTHSC chancellor. “Delivering cost-effective, high-quality team health care requires that we develop cohorts of collaborative nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and physicians,” he observed.

“The need for nurses in our state and region is huge, especially in West Tennessee where we have a slightly higher indigent population. The reactivation of our BSN program will help us and our health care partners serve the rising number of patients who need primary care,” Chancellor Schwab added.

Since December 2009, the UTHSC College of Nursing has focused entirely on graduate programs that include a master’s degree (MSN-Clinical Nurse Leader), PhD in Nursing and a clinical doctorate. The college graduated 95 nurses with advanced degrees in spring 2012, and 85 in spring 2011. Dean Talbot noted all of the current advanced nursing degree programs at UTHSC will continue.

The UT College of Nursing is the leading producer of nursing faculty and graduate nurses in the Mid-South. With nearly 5,200 alumni, the college is consistently cited on the U.S. News & World Report annual list of America’s Best Graduate Schools.

Holiday Food Drive Yields 4,800 Meals

Campus-wide donations to the holiday food drive that ended Dec. 5, yielded 2,922 pounds of food and $1,240 in monetary donations. This resulted in more than three tons of food, providing more than 4,800 meals for families in need through the Mid-South Food Bank.

During the summer, the UTHSC campus took part in a community outreach initiative by giving pocket change (pennies, nickels, dimes and dollars) for a total of $2,000 in monetary donations. This was called “Packing the Orange Piggy Banks With Our Pocket Change” and yielded more than 2.5 tons of food, providing 4,000 meals for families in need.

UTHSC’s total contribution to the Mid-South Food Bank for 2012 was more than 8,800 meals.
Where would you be without UTHSC?

Tell Us Your Story

The story of UTHSC is more than just facts and dates - it is a collection of your memories and stories.

Visit uthscalumni.com/yourstory to share your unique story. We can’t wait to hear from you.
2013 Continuing Education Opportunities

For registration and additional information please call (901) 448-5386 or visit www.uthsc.edu/dentistry/CE/2013calendar.php

February
February 22-23 Administering Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Sedation for the Dental Hygienist in Memphis, Tenn.
February 23 Monitoring Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Sedation for the Dental Assistant in Memphis, Tenn. (teleconferenced to Kingsport, Tenn.)

March
March 2-3 Coronal Polishing in Johnson City, Tenn.
March 8-10 MidSouth Dental Congress in Memphis, Tenn.
March 26 Certification in Sealant Application for the Dental Assistant in Memphis, Tenn.

April
April 5 A Comprehensive Review of Oral Sedation in Memphis, Tenn.
April 6 CBCT: Understanding its Place in Modern Dentistry in Nashville, Tenn.
April 8 Expanded Functions for Dental Auxiliary 2013-Prosthetic in Memphis, Tenn.

May
May 17-18 Radiology for Dental Assistants in Memphis, Tenn.

June
June 6-7 Wilderness at the Smokies Course in Sevierville, Tenn.
June 7-8 Meeting of the Minds: Bridging the Gap Between Dentistry and Medicine In Memphis, Tenn.
June 21 Lecture Course: Esthetic Materials Update in Franklin, Tenn.
June 21 Hands-On Course: Esthetic Materials Update, in Franklin Tenn.
June 21 Monitoring Nitrous Oxide Sedation for the Dental Assistant in Franklin, Tenn.
June 29 - July 6 Hawaiian Cruise

July
July 14-16 Hands On Guided Implant Surgery Course in Memphis, Tenn.
July 26-27 Coronal Polishing in Memphis, Tenn.

August
August 12 Local Anesthesia in Memphis, Tenn.
August 31 CBCT: Understanding its Place in Modern Dentistry in Memphis, Tenn.

September
September 2-6 Annual End of Summer Meeting: Hot Topics at the Beach in Destin, Fla.

October
October 4 J. Joe Littlejohn Lectureship on Implants in Memphis, Tenn.
October 25 Medically Compromised Patients in Knoxville, Tenn.
October 25 Laser Integration in Dental Hygiene in Memphis, Tenn.

November
November 22-23 Administering Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Sedation for the Dental Hygienist in Memphis, Tenn.
November 23 Monitoring Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Sedation for the Dental Assistant in Memphis, Tenn. (teleconferenced to Kingsport, Tenn.)

December
December 6 Chemical Dependency in Memphis, Tenn. (teleconferenced to Kingsport, Tenn.)
December 6 OSHA in Memphis, Tenn. (teleconferenced to Kingsport, Tenn.)
December 7-8 Coronal Polishing in Nashville, Tenn.

www.uthsc.edu/dentistry/CE/2013calendar.php
Looking back on a wonderful 54 years of marriage, Morris and Laura Dee Robbins felt it was time to give back to the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry, which has given so much to them.

Growing up in Cookeville, Tenn., Morris had a unique opportunity to have grade school, high school and college all within a walk or bike ride from home. He recounts his first job at Ideal Grocery in Cookeville, where the owner would walk up behind the new hires and pour an ice cold Coca-Cola down their pant leg as a “welcome.” It was just a small touch of adversity, but looking back, it gave Morris the lesson that he would have to deal with the good and bad in life and make the best of both. He spent his two-year pre-doctoral education at Tennessee Tech, where his organic chemistry professor told him he would never make it in Memphis. Undeterred, Morris received his DDS degree from the UT College of Dentistry only five years from high school graduation. And did dental school ever change his life!

Morris was a typical dental student until one fateful day during his junior year when he had a broken appointment and thought he would see if he could get a new patient. Sometimes, sports and education can mix to create marvelous outcomes. Morris loved golf and even won the UT Student Championship in 1957. He was part of what was called the “semi-pro golf team” in the college whose members played practice rounds with golfers at local colleges. He said at least we got to play Memphis’ country club courses.

The diagnosis instructor assigning cases was the “golf coach” and, after seeing a beautiful girl in the waiting room, Morris decided to see if she could be assigned to him. His request was initially turned down, but after a little more golf talk, the instructor pulled out a record and told Morris that he could only assign patients in order. The instructor was holding the record that said Laura Dee Roop on it. Laura Dee was the very patient he had seen in the waiting room, so that was a home run!

Little did Morris know that Laura Dee’s aunt was the reason they were at the college. She wanted some crowns done by Dr. Harold Thomas and had asked Laura Dee if she wanted to go. Laura Dee had a dentist, but agreed to go. As fate would have it, her aunt was assigned to a married dental student, while Laura Dee was assigned to Morris. Later, he discovered that Laura Dee had told her aunt, “I got a single student who talked my head off!”

Laura Dee wanted to be an American Airlines stewardess, but Morris grounded her. Soon they were engaged to be married. Morris recounts that while in dental school, he did not have a car, but was given one by his uncle, who used it in his funeral business in East Tennessee. Laura Dee’s brothers always liked to kid him about the car, a Dodge with a Plymouth motor, or a “Plodge” they called it. When Morris cut the motor off, he always stepped down on the accelerator to rev the engine up. Everyone always knew when the “Plodge” had arrived.

Tragically, Laura Dee lost her father to a sudden heart attack at 56 and the marriage had to be postponed several months. But two years after they met, Morris and Laura Dee were married and their walk through life and dentistry began.

After a year in public health dentistry in Florida highlighted by taking (and passing) the Florida Board Exam in the ballroom of the Seminole Hotel in Jacksonville (quite a story, ask Morris sometime), the Robbins moved back to Memphis where Laura Dee had grown up.

Back in Memphis, Morris went into practice with Dr. Charles Kyle for two years while Laura Dee worked [continued on next page]
at the Memphis Chamber of Commerce. He then decided to go into periodontics. UT was planning on a graduate periodontics program and Morris was told it would be okay to start a U.S. Public Health Service Fellowship in Pathology and the credits would apply. The periodontics program did not materialize. After completing the fellowship in 1963, Dr. Roy Smith asked Morris to become a faculty member in the Department of Oral Diagnosis and teach pathology.

Morris worked up to the position of assistant chair of Oral Diagnosis and soon thereafter was asked to chair the Department of Dental Hygiene. During this time, Laura Dee saw an advertisement for the Dale Carnegie courses in effective speaking and human relations, and encouraged Morris to take the course. Morris did take the course and became a graduate assistant for three years and then served as a Dale Carnegie instructor at night for 15 years.

Morris said the instructor training was the most intense training he had ever seen, but was very beneficial to his personality and speaking ability. Dr. Herbert Butts, former dean at Southern Illinois and former editor of the Journal of The American Dental Association and an instructor of Morris at UT, told Laura Dee that after the training he could see a complete and positive personality change in Morris. Although Laura Dee was grounded from being a stewardess, she encouraged Morris to take pilot training and he became an instrument-rated pilot with his own stewardess in the right seat. So she did take to the air after all!

After chairing the Dental Hygiene Department in the College of Allied Health for six years, Morris found out that the newly appointed dean of the College of Dentistry, Bill Slagle, DDS, MEd, BS, was looking for an assistant dean for Clinical Affairs. He applied and, after an intense search, was named to the position. Morris was Dr. Slagle’s first appointment as dean.

Morris has been very active in organized dentistry during his career, serving as president of the Memphis Dental Society, the Tennessee Dental Association and the College of Dentistry faculty. In 2004, he was appointed to the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation. He was elected chair of the Commission for two consecutive years. Laura Dee has also been active in organized dentistry on the state and local levels, serving as historian for both the Memphis Dental Society and Tennessee Dental Association auxiliaries.

During his 19 years of service as the associate dean for Clinical Affairs in the College of Dentistry, Morris became interested in safety and health and, in particular, the issue of Occupational Safety and Health Administration compliance and infection control. He became a much-sought-after speaker on OSHA and infection control and continues to speak on these topics and chair the TDA Committee on the Environment and Infection Control.

In addition to dentistry, Dale Carnegie and flying, Morris saw patients after school hours in the College of Dentistry and began working with the American Cancer Society, eventually serving as president-elect of the Tennessee Division of the American Cancer Society and on the board of the ACS Mid-South Division. Dr. Robbins has also been active with the American Heart Association continuing to serve as a CPR instructor since 1966 and serving as a regional faculty member. He is a long-standing member of the Memphis Rotary Club as well.

He has received numerous awards for his service such as the 2000 Jack E. Wells Dedication to Dentistry Award, which is the highest award presented by the Tennessee Dental Association, the 2002 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the UT College of Dentistry, the Humanitarian Award from the Memphis Dental Society and the St. George’s Medal from the American Cancer Society. He also received the UT National Alumni Association Public Service Award in 1991 for his work with the American Cancer Society.

Morris and Laura Dee have dedicated their lives to helping others in many ways. After “retiring” from the College of Dentistry in 2001, Morris has

For us it is comforting to know that quality dental care and dental education in Tennessee will be helped by our commitment to the College of Dentistry and we hope others will follow.

- Morris Robbins
continued serving as an Emeritus Professor and special assistant to the dean. Laura Dee thought when he retired she would see much more of him but, as she says, “He loves dental education and the students, so it’s hard for him to slow down.” Morris says she is right, explaining, “I have enjoyed every minute that I have given to dental education and look forward to even more.” He now is the director of the courses for Expanded Duties for Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants. Recently, Laura Dee had a full mouth makeover in UT’s Graduate Prosthodontics Department and now has that “Hollywood” smile.

The Robbins are always looking forward to more time together, not only to further decorate their house with the many antiques they have acquired over the years, but just to have the time together. It’s been a long and wonderful journey that is not over, although punctuated during the last 10 years in serving as caregivers for Laura Dee’s mother who had Alzheimer’s disease. Morris and Laura Dee lost their mothers in 2010 and 2011, respectively; Laura Dee’s at almost 103 and Morris’ at 102. Both had profound influences on their lives.

Morris and Laura Dee have included the college in their estate plans with a bequest to fund a professorship and a scholarship in the Robbins name as a way to give back to the institution that has meant so much to them. “For us it is comforting to know that quality dental care and dental education in Tennessee will be helped by our commitment to the College of Dentistry and we hope others will follow.”
The Tennessee Dental Association Foundation (TDAF) has been a great supporter of the UT College of Dentistry for many years, providing funding for student research, faculty enrichment and many other needs. The TDAF’s mission is to support dental research and promote dental education.

The TDAF presented a $25,000 check to Dean Tim Hottel during the 2012 Music City Dental Conference in Nashville. This donation will be used to establish a scholarship endowment in the college, which will provide annual awards for deserving students. “We are pleased to partner with the UT College of Dentistry and support the next generation of dentists through this scholarship,” says Dr. Steve Sawrie, TDAF President.

An endowment may be created in the college with a commitment of $25,000 or more through an outright gift, multi-year pledge or planned gift. If you are interested in establishing a new endowment or supporting an existing fund, please contact Tim Lanier, Director of Development, at 800-733-0482 or tlanier@tennessee.edu.

TDA Foundation Funds Scholarship Endowment

“Scholarship endowments provide ongoing support for our students,” explains Dean Hottel. “As the cost of a dental education continues to rise, scholarships are becoming more and more important. Thanks to the TDAF, much-needed student support will be available on an annual basis.”

J. Kendall Dillehay, DDS, MSD, (’79) an orthodontist in Wichita, Kan., has been elected to represent the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists (SWSO) on the Board of Trustees of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).

The AAO is the world’s oldest and largest dental specialty organization. The SWSO is one of eight constituent organizations that make up the AAO, and serves member orthodontists practicing in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, west of the Mississippi River.

The announcement of Dr. Dillehay’s election as the new SWSO trustee was made recently during the AAO’s 112th Annual Session in Honolulu. Dr. Dillehay will become president of the AAO in 2021.

“It is a privilege to be called upon to serve the specialty of orthodontics and the millions of patients who benefit from AAO-member orthodontists’ care,” said Dr. Dillehay. “Our priority is ensuring that the care patients receive is of the highest quality.”

Dillehay Elected to Board of American Association of Orthodontists

Dr. Dillehay is president of the UT College of Dentistry Alumni Association, and a member of the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry’s Dean’s Advisory Board. He served as chair of the UTHSC’s Mid-South Dental Conference.

Dr. Dillehay is the orthodontic specialty examiner for the Kansas Dental Board. He shares his expertise as a member of the Wichita Cleft Palate Team. He is a founding member of the Wichita Sleep Apnea Team, and co-founder of the Mid-America Dental Study Group.

In addition to his busy private orthodontic practice and activities in professional and civic organizations, Dr. Dillehay lectures frequently at orthodontic residency programs, and to health care professionals such as dentists, dental hygienists and school nurses.
Barton (‘84) Named Outstanding Alumna

The notion of going to pharmacy school for five years seemed much too long for Becky Barton, DDS, “because I was in love,” she says with a chuckle.

She followed her heart and married John Vernon Barton after graduating in three-and-half years with a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education from Slippery Rock Rock State University. Her husband went on to pilot training with the Air Force and, while he was in Southeast Asia, Dr. Barton pursued a master’s degree in educational psychology from Edinboro State University. She raised two children and taught high school psychology, sociology, economics, and geography before making the decision to become a dentist.

“How funny it is to think that I was the same young woman who didn’t want to spend five years in school to begin with. In the end, I was in the academic world for a very long time in pursuit of my final goal,” says Dr. Barton. “A roundabout journey, for sure, but I wouldn't change it if I had to do it all over again.”

“My proudest accomplishment is my family,” she says. Dr. Barton and her husband have been married 45 years. They have two children, John V. Barton II, a law graduate from Washington and Lee University, who is the vice president of an Atlanta real estate investment firm, and Susan H. Barton, a gastroenterologist, who is a UT College of Medicine graduate. They also have two grandchildren.

“A good day is hearing from my grandchildren,” she says. “A bad day is not getting anything accomplished.”

She lives her life inspired by the words of Mother Teresa: “The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace.”

“One thing that life has taught me is that everyone is carrying a burden of some kind,” Dr. Barton says. “Always treat everyone with kindness and compassion.”
The Earl Henry Committee, the philanthropic arm of the Second District Dental Society, located in Knoxville, recently committed $75,000 to the College of Dentistry to support ongoing renovations to the Dunn Building. The donation funded two operatories in the name of the Second District and one operatory in the name of Earl O. Henry, DDS, a 1935 UT College of Dentistry graduate and the only Tennessee dentist to die on active duty during World War II. He was stationed on the USS Indianapolis when two direct hits from a Japanese submarine sank the cruiser on July 30, 1945.

The Second District Dental Society hosts an annual continuing education program, the Earl Henry Memorial Clinic, in honor of Dr. Henry. Members of the Earl Henry Committee presented two checks totaling $75,000 to Dean Tim Hottel at the annual clinic in Knoxville in October, bringing their total support for the Dunn Building to $100,000. In 2008, the Second District donated $75,000 to establish two scholarship endowments, which are named in honor of the Second District and in memory of Dr. Henry.

“We appreciate what the UT College of Dentistry means to dental education in the state of Tennessee and want to do our part to provide students with the best possible facility in which to train,” says Dr. Nadim Jubran, a 1987 UT dental graduate and chair of the Earl Henry Committee. “What is good for the college is good for the Second District. We hope this donation will encourage other dental societies to do likewise.”
In Memoriam

1950s
Richard Hugh Hawkins ('57)
Robert T. Sohn ('56)

1960s
Jack T. Herd ('62)

1970s
Harry Michael Baddour ('76)
Nicholas William Showalter ('72)

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Carter Named Finalist in Orban Competition

Thomas B. Carter, DDS, (‘12) graduate of the Periodontology residency program in the College of Dentistry, was named a finalist in the 2012 Balint Orban Memorial Competition, for his master’s research project entitled, “Inhibition of IL-1β-stimulated IL-6 Production by Cranberry Components in Human Gingival Epithelial Cells: Effects on NF-κB and AP-1 Activation Pathways.” This work was funded by the UT College of Dentistry Alumni Endowment Fund and the TDA Foundation.

The Orban Competition is sponsored annually by the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP). It is named in honor of Dr. Balint Orban, a member of the AAP, who was influential in developing the scientific foundations of contemporary periodontology. For more than 40 years, this highly regarded competition has unveiled many of the future leaders in periodontology, whether in academia or private practice. It is open to students currently enrolled in accredited periodontology residency programs in the United States and Canada, and those who graduated within 18 months of the annual meeting of the AAP.

This competition provides a forum for presentation of clinical and basic science research completed by students during their residencies. Eight finalists (four in clinical research and four in basic science research) are selected on the basis of written abstracts of their work. The finalists are invited to give oral presentations at the AAP annual meeting where two winners are named, one in each research category. Dr. Carter was a basic science research finalist and delivered his presentation at the 2012 AAP annual meeting in Los Angeles.

Dr. Carter’s mentor for this project and master’s committee chair was David A. Tipton, DDS, PhD, of the Department of Bioscience Research. Drs. Jegdish Babu, Department of Bioscience Research, Anastasios Karydis, Department of Periodontology, and Sidney Stein, Department of Periodontology, also served on Dr. Carter’s master’s committee.

Results of Dr. Carter’s study suggest that the NF-κB and AP-1 signaling pathways regulate production of IL-1β-stimulated IL-6 (which stimulates bone loss) in human gingival epithelial cells. Cranberry components (polyphenols) inhibit IL-6 production and activation of both pathways in these cells, but lack of inhibition of specific intermediates in the pathways suggests cranberry polyphenols may affect them downstream from those points. Defining the precise IL-1 signaling cascades regulating IL-6 production and the effects of cranberry polyphenols may help identify molecular targets and contribute to development of adjunctive cranberry-based host modulatory agents to prevent/treat periodontitis.

The Master of Dental Science program in Periodontology at UT awarded its first degrees in 2002. Since then, four graduates of the program have been named as finalists in the Orban Competition (all were supported by the Alumni Endowment Fund): Dr. Carter; Todd Rosenzweig, DDS, MDS, (mentored by Edwin Thomas, PhD, Department of Bioscience Research (in 2004); David Pond, DDS, MDS, (mentored by Dr. Tipton) in 2006; and Brett Seshul, DDS, MDS, (mentored by Dr. Tipton) in 2008. In addition to the residents’ successes in this competition, Mark Patters, DDS, PhD, associate dean for Academic and Institutional Affairs in the College of Dentistry and former chair of the Department of Periodontology, won the Orban Competition earlier in his career.
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Amy Morgan
Dr. Dwight D. Duckworth
Dr. David Rubin

Saturday, March 9, 2013
Dr. Roger Levin
Dr. Ken Parrish
Dr. Michael R. Sesemann
Provisional Crowns for Immediate Placement Implants
Rebecca Wilder
Dental Hygiene Update

Sunday, March 10, 2013
Dr. Jeff Brooks
Larry Oxenham
Dr. Morris Robbins
Dr. Nancy Williams

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Huang Continues Research for Root Canal Treatment with $1.8 Million Grant Funding

Four years ago, George Huang, DDS, began a study to determine the feasibility of taking tissue from a healthy tooth and placing it in a diseased root canal. He began the research at Boston University but, in May 2012, Dr. Huang joined the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry. If this research is successful, it could change the way root canals are performed.

“We are trying to revolutionize endodontics,” said Dr. Huang, who is director of the college’s Department of Bioscience Research. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research recently awarded $1.8 million in funding to Dr. Huang, extending a grant originally received in 2008. The new award funds will be distributed during the next three years.

The concept of trying to regenerate growth of a tooth by inserting stem cell tissue has been around since the 60s, but little progress has been made. Dr. Huang attributes the standstill to the lack of technology available at that time. Research on tissue engineering, as this type of science is known, has progressed considerably with the advancement of technology, including robotics. “In the past decade or so, the discipline of modern tissue engineering has become more advanced,” Dr. Huang said. “Coupled with a better understanding of stem cells, the science has given rise to a new field of study, regenerative medicine.”

Traditionally, a root canal involves removing decayed root tissue, or dental pulp, from the tooth’s canal and filling that space with an artificial rubber-like substance. If Dr. Huang’s research is successful, the canals that have been cleared would be injected with stem cell tissue. Not only would this technique avoid the need for the rubber-like filling, it could actually stimulate healthy tissue growth, essentially rebuilding the tooth.

“We isolate the stem cells, grow them and insert them back into the tooth. Eventually, the root will regenerate.” – George Huang

Thus far, similar research in other countries has been successful. A veteran endodontist, Dr. Huang said that perfecting this method would offer patients a choice. His research also examines the harvesting of the stem cells from a person other than the patient. Clinical trials on humans could begin in the next 10 years.

[Research reported was supported by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under award No. R01DE019156. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of NIH.]
The new Group Leader program kicked off in July. We have changed from a discipline-based clinic to a private practice-type clinical model. Some variation of this clinical model is used in many of the dental schools around the country. We currently have seven groups of 22 to 23 students each. Each group is composed of half junior and half senior students. Two group leaders, who have a minimum of five years private practice experience, lead each group. Most of our current group leaders each have more than 20 years of private practice experience. Students and patients are assigned to a particular group and remain attached to that group indefinitely.

The group leaders oversee the comprehensive assessment and diagnosis of all patients seen by the undergraduates. They are ultimately responsible for the acceptance of all new patients; authorization of all treatment plans, as well as ensuring continuity of care for their patients. Group leaders provide direction, support, clinical assistance, and the evaluation of the clinical and professional development of students in almost all areas of contemporary clinical dentistry. Group leaders provide administrative and managerial support for faculty and staff consistent with responsibilities of a director of a group dental practice.

Departmental faculty from Operative, Periodontology, and Prosthodontics assist the groups during each clinical period by providing additional faculty coverage. Treatment for Oral Diagnosis, Endodontic, Pediatric and Oral Surgery patients currently remain in their respective clinics. By having Operative, Periodontology, and Prosthodontic departmental faculties available, the students are exposed to more than just their clinical experience. The model was developed to replace the previous programs where the student’s entire clinical instruction is derived from one or two faculty members.

With the previous discipline-based clinical model, the student’s ability to complete more than one procedure in a clinical period was infrequent. Students were rarely allowed to provide treatment in more than one department. The fact that students remain in one area of the clinic benefits them by making it a very common occurrence to not only complete more than one procedure, but also schedule more than one patient during a clinical period. Students have mandatory attendance, which means students who do not have a patient, or complete their treatment early in the clinical period, provide assistance to the remaining students. This model increases clinical utilization and will result in students having more clinical experiences prior to graduation.

The faculty and students are very excited about this program. Although there has been an adjustment period for all involved, the overall feedback from faculty, patients, and students has been overwhelmingly favorable. Students love the fact that they can use their clinical period to the fullest extent. Faculty like the model because they are able to become more familiar with their students and patients. This increase in familiarity allows group leaders to identify those students who need additional assistance in their education, and those who can be allowed to progress at a more advanced rate. Patients prefer this model too because they also will develop a close working relationship with the faculty and feel more secure about the management of their treatment. Students graduating from the Group Leader program will be better prepared to enter private practice or a graduate program than those graduating from a discipline-based program.
Hong Conducts Cutting-Edge Plasma Study

In August, Liang Hong, DDS, PhD, professor in the College of Dentistry, fired the world’s first cold plasma beam into a patient’s mouth. Sounds scary? It shouldn’t. Plasma is a state of matter found in places such as the surface of the sun, a lightning bolt, and yes, even a plasma TV.

Plasma technology has been used in industrial applications for many years, however, the recent development of low-temperature cold plasma has made its possible use in direct biomedical application. Dr. Hong’s clinical trial is designed to test plasma use for two primary purposes: to disinfect and clean out cavities for fillings, and to kill bacteria, break up plaque, and change the characteristic of tooth surface as a method for cavity prevention. “Cold plasmas combine exceptional chemical activity with relatively mild, non-destructive characteristics, due to the near room temperature gas phase, thus making it particularly suitable for biomedical uses, including treating dental diseases,” said Dr. Hong.

The cold plasma beam was developed by Nanova Inc., in collaboration with the University of Missouri, and UTHSC College of Dentistry. The study is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health for more than $1.5 million over a four-year period.
Proudly Donning the White Coat

From left, Tiffany Stuart, Tara Clements, Dory Sellers and Stefanie Meek celebrate receiving white coats for their Commencement to Clinical Practice Ceremony. The achievement celebrates completion of the first two years of dental school and the beginning of clinical rotations.

This photo features students from Florida, Tennessee and Arkansas who will soon be proud Tennessee Alumni.
A new class of the College of Dentistry students were inducted into the national dental honor society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU). Each of the students elected into OKU must come from the top 20 percent of the class. No more than 12 percent of the class may be inducted into OKU. In addition to scholarships, the new members must have demonstrated exemplary traits of ethical character and have potential qualities of future professional growth.

(Front row, from left) Adam Griffith, Britney Sykes Taylor, Sarah Walker, Brittany Carpenter and Mattson Thompson.
(Back row, from left) Jordan Tortorich, Timothy Pfountz, Josh O’Dell and Randy Hartman.

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The One Stop Shop is the new student services center on the first floor at 910 Madison Ave. As its name implies, its student services – Admissions, Registrar, Financial Aid, Bursar and even Parking – are located in one convenient location. It may be the first such facility in a health science center. Staff from the Student Affairs office on the fifth floor of 910 Madison will rotate working downstairs in the One Stop Shop.

UTHSC student Adam Kessler receives assistance at the new One Stop Shop from Nikki Williams, financial aid counselor.
During the holiday season, the UT Chapter of the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) collected toys for the Christmas Store at Bellevue Baptist Church. The Christmas Store is a ministry that helps parents in low-income communities purchase toys for their children by selling them at one-third of the retail price. The chapter organized a toy drive during the months of November and December and then delivered the toys to the church. AAWD provided a variety of toys from Barbie dolls to puzzles and even a Wii gaming system thanks to the generosity and participation of the members.

Students Hold Screenings for Hispanic Community

During a recent event at a Hispanic church community, students of the UT College of Dentistry provided screenings and encouraged participants to practice good oral health.

Halloween Candy Sale

During the week of Halloween, the College of Dentistry Student National Dental Association members held a candy and bake sale. They sold quite a bit of candy and encouraged everyone to brush their teeth once they finished enjoying the sweet treats.

AWWD Delivers During Holidays

During the holiday season, the UT Chapter of the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) collected toys for the Christmas Store at Bellevue Baptist Church. The Christmas Store is a ministry that helps parents in low-income communities purchase toys for their children by selling them at one-third of the retail price. The chapter organized a toy drive during the months of November and December and then delivered the toys to the church. AAWD provided a variety of toys from Barbie dolls to puzzles and even a Wii gaming system thanks to the generosity and participation of the members.

AAWD chapter members (from left) are Tiffany Stuart, Leslie Milton, Stefanie Meek, Anne Marie Cason, Allyn Johnson, Laura Matthews and Qian Liu.

Student Government Executives Elected

The student body elected its Student Government Executives for 2012/2013. From left are Blake Bowman, treasurer; Anne Marie Cason, secretary; Tyler Allen, president; and Peter Stanley, vice president.
Dusting Off the Medical Emergency Kit
Speaker: Dr. Steven Filler

Course Overview:
Dental teams recognize the importance of proper office & staff preparation for the occasional medical emergency. This topic need not be complex or intimidating for the dental team to provide excellent, responsive and supportive care. An informative and low-stress presentation filled with stories and humor to illustrate the points. Refresh yourself and your approach to office medical emergencies by joining us for an updated look into this vital subject.

Educational Objectives:
By the end of the week, presentation participants should be able to:
1. Describe basic techniques for preventing medical emergencies
2. Discuss appropriate roles for staff members during a medical emergency
3. Discuss general procedures required for common medical emergencies
4. Prepare a list of emergency medicines and equipment
5. Review and/or prepare a dental office for treating medical emergencies

Itinerary:

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