Schwab Appointed UTHSC Chancellor

On June 24, the UT Board of Trustees approved Interim UT President Jan Simek’s recommendation that Steve J. Schwab, MD, be named chancellor for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

The day before, Dr. Simek had recommended Dr. Schwab at a meeting of the Executive and Compensation Committee in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the UT Board of Trustees in Knoxville.

Dr. Schwab has served as UTHSC’s interim chancellor since Oct. 1, 2009. He simultaneously served as executive dean for the UTHSC College of Medicine, largest of the Health Science Center’s six colleges, and chair of UTMG, the largest of the UTHSC faculty practice plans. A national search was conducted.

Scheid Named Permanent Dean

On Aug. 19, Steve J. Schwab, MD, chancellor, announced that Cheryl Scheid, PhD, has been appointed permanent dean for the College of Graduate Health Sciences. She has served as interim dean of the college since February 2009. Dr. Scheid will continue to serve as vice chancellor of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs and the UTHSC chief academic officer.

“We have formally consolidated the positions of dean for Graduate Health Sciences and the vice chancellor of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs since there is a natural alignment in the roles,” UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab said. “Dr. Scheid has served in an outstanding manner, fulfilling the responsibilities of both roles for more than 16 months.

Combining the positions under her leadership allows considerable streamlining by consolidating administrative staffs from the two organizations,” he observed. “The merged structure also allows enhanced administrative support for the College of Graduate Health Sciences without increasing costs.”

Founded in 1928, the UTHSC College of Graduate Health Sciences continues to offer a variety of advanced degrees, preparing students for careers in academia, industry and government. The college has nine areas of study: biomedical engineering and imaging; dental science; epidemiology; health outcomes and policy research; integrated program in biomedical sciences; nursing; pharmaceutical sciences; pharmacology; and speech and hearing science.

Currently these programs are providing research training for approximately 300 students, and have produced more than 1,200 graduates with Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science and Master of Dental Science degrees.
As I complete my first year as interim dean, I am pleased to report that the College of Graduate Health Sciences (CGHS) has had another busy, productive year. Our nine graduate programs – biomedical engineering and imaging, dental science, epidemiology, health outcomes and policy research, the integrated program in biomedical science (IPBS), nursing, pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences and speech and hearing science provide a variety of academic offerings leading to the Master of Science, Master of Dental Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Graduates from these programs are moving on to exciting careers in academics, industry, patient care and public service; and we are confident of their future success.

I would like to highlight several changes that have taken place in the past year. Our new Master’s of Pharmacology program graduated its first group of students from this intensive one-year graduate program. Early reports from students indicate that this degree has indeed proven useful for enhancing their career goals.

The Speech and Hearing Science doctoral program, physically located in Knoxville, Tenn., has been incorporated into the UTHSC graduate school. Frequent communication and occasional campus visits have been important for this assimilation process and we hope to be even more engaged in the days and months ahead.

Mitchell Watsky, PhD, the new associate dean for Graduate Studies for the College of Medicine, has spearheaded efforts to redesign the IPBS (now the IBS) program. This will better meet the needs of students and to better engage our faculty.

Our partnership with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital continues to evolve and strengthen, with faculty from St. Jude contributing to coursework, serving as research mentors and collaborating with UTHSC faculty.

Additionally, our graduate students have become more engaged in community service this year, participating in a number of outreach programs and special events.

Fiscal challenges remain a topic of concern for the college and the campus, but the college has been spared any additional budgetary reductions during the past year. Moreover, our faculty have been extremely successful at competing for stimulus grants. These new grants have infused a new air of excitement for research, and our students have benefited from the additional resources to support their work.

Faculty and the administration has also been successful at establishing new partnerships in the community that may provide some additional resources. Funding will become more difficult as stimulus funds run out and we desire that some of you, our successful alumni, will consider giving back to the graduate school. Your donations would help enhance our recruitment and retention efforts and provide additional enrichment opportunities. Our students are our future.

Best wishes for a healthy and productive year. Please come back for a visit if your travel plans permit. The College of Graduate Health Sciences has lovely office space in the Madison complex (920 Madison Ave., Suite 407). We would enjoy seeing you again.

Cheryl Scheid, PhD
Dean
College of Graduate Health Sciences
Message from the Chancellor

UTHSC is approaching its centennial year. A Gala to celebrate this event will be held on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, in Memphis. As arrangements are finalized for the gala, we will disseminate details and invitations to alumni, partners, friends and community leaders.

Our Centennial Anniversary Book titled, “The Legacy -- The Future,” is already on its way to press and will be delivered in the next few months. The book serves as a snapshot of the depth and breadth of all six UTHSC colleges on all three campuses, as well as a glance at our robust research, clinical and education enterprises. The centennial book also reflects the interwoven relationship of our organization with our health care partners, and the extensive impact of UTHSC on the communities where our team members live and work. We hope you will visit our bookstore Website (www.uthsc.bncollege.com) to purchase copies of our centennial book for your coffee table, personal library or as special gifts.

UTHSC investigators continue to forge ahead with awards in a wide variety of areas, supporting a broad range of research across the state. In fact, research and other externally sponsored projects at UTHSC brought in $106 million in fiscal year 2010 (ended June 30).

While we have every reason to be proud of our noteworthy accomplishments and of our rich legacy -- including educating and training more than 53,000 health care professionals over the past 99 years -- it is equally important to look ahead and to establish a well-developed plan for the future of our institution. Working with the current leadership team, we have done just that.

A central element of our plan involves aligning our institution more closely with our hospital partners. To that end, we recently announced the formation of two new faculty practice groups created as joint ventures with partner teaching hospitals in Memphis and Chattanooga. Both of these ventures establish new practice expansion opportunities, generate new lines of revenue for the Health Science Center, and will enhance the teaching environment. These types of ventures are essential to drive the university’s go-forward expansion strategy.

In Memphis, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and UTHSC are launching a new pediatric specialty faculty group practice. The increased focus on alignment between hospital and university will allow cooperation in clinical care, research and teaching.

The new physician group, UT Le Bonheur Pediatric Specialists (ULPS), will initially include more than 100 pediatric subspecialists who are currently members of UT Medical Group, Inc. (UTMG). These physicians practice at Le Bonheur and have academic appointments at UTHSC. They represent pediatric medical areas, ranging from pediatric heart surgery to pediatric neonatology. ULPS will be the Mid-South’s only multi-specialty pediatric group practice solely focused on children’s health.

In Chattanooga, the Erlanger Health System, in partnership with UTHSC, is creating a new physician practice plan called the UT-Erlanger Medical Group. The formation of this multi-specialty physician group, approved by Erlanger trustees, will include more than 150 physicians and mid-level providers.

We see closer alignments with our health care partners across the state as an essential element in our ability to expand our educational offerings and increase our ability to serve the state and region. UT Health Science Center is already the state’s leading educator of health care trainees in a variety of fields – medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, doctoral-level nursing, and allied health professions. To expand our educational capacity and improve the opportunities for health care trainees at partner institutions, we will work in close collaboration with our partners.

In the College of Medicine, we have started the search for a forward-looking executive dean to whom all three College of Medicine campuses will report. For the College of Pharmacy, we wait with much excitement for the opening of the new more than $65 million building, to be opened in 2011 on the UT-Baptist Research Park. Our College of Nursing recently celebrated a 100% pass rate on initial licensure and certification boards for our 2010 graduates. In past years, we have consistently recorded extremely high pass rates for certification of students from our other colleges as well.

The relatively new permanent leaders of our Colleges of Allied Health Sciences and Graduate Health Sciences, Dr. Noma Bennett Anderson and Dr. Cheryl Scheid, respectively, are focused on assessment, optimal alignment and expanding opportunities for all of their students, fellows and postdoctoral candidates. While the College of Dentistry (fresh off a very successful accreditation visit) is focused on building its research portfolio and completing the $15 million renovation to the Dunn Dental Building, so generously funded by Dentistry alumni and health care partners.

The challenge as we move forward is all about funding. We must raise the revenues to get where we have to go through a combination of clinical practices and alignment with hospitals as well as philanthropy. We need you -- our alumni -- to recognize the importance of your role in moving us forward.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor
The UT Health Science Center
It all began in 1911 with the merger of several Tennessee medical units into the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. Now, almost 100 years later, UTHSC continues our commitment to research, education, clinical care and public service.

As UTHSC approaches our centennial in 2011, the university has planned a series of celebrations for this momentous occasion. To ignite excitement for the coming year, a kickoff event took place on April 9 at the Madison Hotel, in conjunction with the Development Council meeting. The council rotates between all campuses and convenes in Memphis every four years.

The theme of the event, “Celebrate the Past and Move Ahead to a Bright Future,” showcased attendees in their best period dress from 1911 to the 1970s, including clothing from flapper dresses, top hats and feather boas, to pillbox hats, go-go boots and poodle skirts. Food, fun, photographs and dancing marked an atmosphere that all were able to enjoy.

Top donors, faculty and attendees watched the sunset on the rooftop of the hotel while enjoying three floors of live music: songstress Joyce Cobb, saxophonist Mark Baker and the tinkling tones of a well-versed pianist. Health care memorabilia such as sepia-tone photos and small equipment from yesteryear was also strategically located for guests to peruse.

Now through 2011, UTHSC will salute past events and celebrate a promising future through a variety of centennial activities and events for students, alumni, faculty and staff. In addition, a centennial coffee table book that showcases our people, campuses and pivotal role in the health care fabric of our communities will also be available for purchase.

Become a part by contributing any historical photos, personal reflections, or artifacts that you may have from your time at UTHSC. For more information, please contact Richard Nollan in the Health Sciences Historical Collections at (901) 448-6053, rnollan@uthsc.edu.

Executive dean role, and a national search will be conducted for his successor in that post.

“It is an honor to be selected to serve as the leader for the UT Health Science Center team,” Dr. Schwab said. “Our faculty, staff and students have many reasons to be proud of our legacy and optimistic about our future as we move forward to fulfill our mission in education, research, clinical care and public service.”

Prior to joining UTHSC, Dr. Schwab served as interim dean and chief clinical officer of the Medical College of Georgia, where he was also a Regents Professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine. Before that, from 1985 to 2003, he was at Duke University where he rose to become professor and vice chairman of medicine, as well as holding seats on the hospital and practice plan boards. He has held national board positions in both the private and public sectors and has been extensively funded by the NIH as a principal investigator. Dr. Schwab is internationally recognized in the field of renal disease with more than 150 refereed publications and five books to his credit.
Dr. Oz Brings Health Care Wizardry to Memphis

Through the joint partnership between Methodist Healthcare, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and Columbia University Medical Center, Mehmet Oz, MD, professor of cardiac surgery at Columbia University Hospital and host of “The Dr. Oz Show,” brought his message of community and personal health and wellness to the Memphis Botanic Garden. On June 10, nearly 200 health care providers, community leaders and special guests gathered in Hardin Hall for the early morning, invitation-only event.

“I’m here to discuss how you as health care providers can partner with the media to promote better health,” Dr. Oz noted. “I want to share the lessons I’ve learned and the mistakes I’ve made in getting people to talk about health.

“One the most important lessons is people don’t change because of what they know. They change based on what they feel,” he stressed. “We have to drive change in our patients not by giving them information that may or may not be new to them. We have to get patients to care about themselves as much as their doctors and their families care about them. Then we can give them the information that heads them in the right direction.”

Dr. Oz said talk-show maven and business mogul Oprah Winfrey taught him, “Emotion drives 90 percent of change. If we can get patients to care, we can provide them with upbeat messages, engaging factoids and news they can use to drive transformation in how they take care of their own health. That’s powerful change.”

“Improving the health and well-being of our patients is part of our DNA,” said Gary Shorb, president and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. “As a faith-based institution, we have an unconditional concern and care for the population we serve.

“We are pleased to have Dr. Oz bring his expertise in health education and disease prevention to our community,” Shorb continued. “And we are especially pleased with our partners at Methodist and the University of Tennessee for providing such tremendous value.”

“We are partners with the Methodist Healthcare System and with Columbia University Medical Center because we are committed to dramatically improving the quality of cardiovascular care and education for this region,” observed Chancellor Schwab. “We know that is an achievable goal because it is through this kind of partnership that Methodist and UT have built a Transplant Institute that is one of the top 10 solid organ transplant units in the U.S. We want to bring that same high level of care to cardiovascular patients in the Mid-South.”

Plans for Translational Science Research Building

The UT Health Science Center has plans for a new $49 million Translational Science Research Building, and the State Building Commission has already approved the request.

“No state funds will be used to construct the new facility,” stated Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief of staff for UTHSC, of the building to be situated on the northwest corner of Manassas and Union at the main campus in Memphis. “We plan to institutionally fund the project, issuing bonds to cover the construction costs and populating the building with federally funded researchers and scientists. A portion of their funding will naturally be used to pay for the new laboratory space they will enjoy.”

The new structure has been dubbed the Translational Science Research Building since the plan is to fill the building with investigators from a number of UTHSC’s six colleges. “Our goal is to bring together investigators from different colleges and disciplines who have varying areas of specialty and a wide range of expertise. That’s a focal point of translational research, to break down the silos and barriers to encourage cross-pollination of disciplines and ideas,” Dr. Brown stated.
**GEB Renovation**

The GEB (General Education Building) – a place many students refer to as their second home – has recently undergone renovations. Improvements include new flooring, furniture, flat screen televisions and the addition of the GEB Cafe, which provides a convenient place for students to purchase food and take a quick break between class and study sessions.

The popular amphitheater, an area often used for study and lunch, has also been updated to include flat screens, padded seating, and entrance doors.

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**UTHSC Raises $17,000 for Haiti Relief Efforts**

The UT Health Science Center has raised nearly $17,000 for earthquake relief efforts in Haiti earlier this year. More than $10,100 was raised during a one-day fund-raising drive on the main campus. Faculty, staff and students brought cash and checks to three different campus locations between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. UT Cancer Institute (UTCI) raised nearly $6,900 for Haiti relief efforts over the course of two days, most through payroll deductions.

“The faculty, students and staff of the Health Science Center have truly shown, once again, the difference that each of us can make when we work together,” said UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab.

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**Web and E-Mail Addresses Change to UTHSC.EDU**

The UT Health Science Center has completed the transition to its new domain name – uthsc.edu. A domain name is essentially the electronic address that identifies an organization throughout the Internet. The most commonly known uses for a domain name are for Web page and e-mail addresses.

“The change to uthsc.edu synchronizes our electronic identity with the official name of our institution,” stated Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief of staff at UTHSC.
Family Donates More Than 600 Artifacts

The Cleo W. Stevenson Collection – now proudly displayed in the Health Sciences Library – allows visitors to step back in medical history to view more than 100 artifacts, bringing both amusement and admiration for work that paved the way for modern health science.

Dr. Stevenson’s family actually donated more than 600 medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and pharmaceutical artifacts from the 19th and early 20th centuries; the Health Sciences Library has plans to periodically rotate these items on exhibit. The first 100 pieces on display represent the fields of medicine and pharmacy, and their debut in the library was celebrated on April 30 at a reception in honor of Cleo W. Stevenson, MD, and his family for their generous gift.

“I’d like to talk about the objects and tell you what they were used for and what we wouldn’t dare use them for today,” shared Jean Stevenson, wife of the late Dr. Stevenson, who enjoyed excursions helping her husband hunt for his medical treasures.

During the reception, she spoke of fumigators that were thought to eliminate the “bad air” during the yellow fever epidemic, hollow walking canes used to carry vials of medicine, portable amputation kits, and leech jars, among other things. Mrs. Stevenson reminisced of how Dr. Stevenson’s interest was piqued when a pair of medical saddlebags owned by her grandfather (Dr. John Washington McCarley) was found in her parent’s attic in the 1940s. From there, his quest began.

Dr. Stevenson, who was a 1943 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine, began to display collected items in his office at Methodist Hospital, where he served as medical director of the Nursing School for almost 40 years. An internist, Dr. Stevenson also practiced with his two older brothers in a clinic at 1469 Poplar, which stayed in operation until the late 1970s. Dr. Stevenson continued to work and make house calls until his retirement in 1990. He died in September 1995 at age 74.

Mrs. Stevenson shared how over the years they searched and searched for medical items, and even had friends helping them find pieces. After much searching, a friend – Ruth Crenshaw – called to tell them that she had found a leech jar with a leech still inside. “They were dead, but that’s all the better,” said Mrs. Stevenson with a laugh.

As the collection grew, patients urged him to display the items, and Methodist Hospital constructed the first cabinets for the collection in the early 1970s. When the family recently donated the artifacts to the Health Sciences Library, UTHSC administrators used funds from the Simon R. Bruesch Endowment to purchase the seven display cases for the collection.

During remarks at the reception, Richard Nollan, associate professor in the Health Sciences Historical Collections, explained that Dr. Bruesch was a UTHSC neuroanatomist who had a deep interest in history and who helped create a strong paper collection at the library. Though after Dr. Bruesch’s death, due to space limitations, much of the collection was put into storage until Tom Singarella, PhD, became the director.

Now UTHSC’s Historical Collection has a large, well-cared-for paper collection and is the only health sciences special collection in the Mid-South.

The Health Sciences Library has made these items available in display cases on the third floor of the library in the Lamar Alexander Building. Images can also be seen in the online exhibit at http://library.uthsc.edu/history/stevenson-collection/.
Join Our 2011 Centennial Celebration

As UTHSC approaches its centennial anniversary in 2011, the university is planning a variety of special activities and items including a lecture series, Web site, coffee table book, commemorative gala on Friday, September 16, 2011, and a 5-K run-walk on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011.

By January, the centennial book will arrive in the UTHSC Bookstore on the Memphis campus (930 Madison Avenue, Plaza Level). It can also be purchased through the bookstore Web site – www.uthsc.bncollege.com. The beautifully photographed, oversized coffee table book is priced at $60, but the advance, discount price is $50 (plus applicable taxes and shipping [$6.95 for the first book, $1.95 for each additional book shipped to the same address).

Be part of the centennial celebration by contributing historical photos, personal reflections, or artifacts you may have from your time at UTHSC for inclusion on the Web site or in special campus displays. Please contact Richard Nollan in the Health Sciences Historical Collections at (901) 448-6053, rnollan@uthsc.edu.

UTHSC’s Heroes Recognized

Real heroes – the kind that not only save lives, but also make the quality of life better for the citizens of their city and beyond – were the focus of the 12th Annual Health Care Heroes Awards ceremony on Sept. 2.

Most of these heroes, including the Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Andrew Kang, MD, were health care professionals from the UT Health Science Center.

Dr. Kang, Emeritus Goodman Chair of Medicine, has a career in medical research that spans almost 50 years. He came to UTHSC from Harvard Medical School in 1970 to continue his research in rheumatology, mentor rising medical professionals, and treat patients at the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

“Whatever I have been able to do is because of the enthusiastic support of colleagues, fellows and trainees who have joined me in this search for a treatment of arthritis,” Dr. Kang stated with appreciation. “I would also like to thank UT and the VA for providing a place for me to do research.”

Many other UTHSC heroes received recognition as both finalists and winners in the local awards program, which is organized by the Memphis Business Journal.

Finalists nominated by UTHSC included: Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief of staff, for Administrative Excellence; Christopher Knott-Craig, MD, professor and chief of pediatric cardiovascular surgery at UTHSC and co-director of the Pediatric Cardiovascular Institute at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, for Health Care Innovations; and Kimberly Lamar, PhD, MPH, assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and coordinator of The Blues Project, for Health Care Provider Non-Physician. Lacey Smith, MD, interim dean of the College of Medicine, Memphis, was also a finalist for the Administrative Excellence award for his work as chief medical officer and executive vice president at UT Medical Group, Inc.

Health Care Heroes award winners that have affiliation with UTHSC, as well as with the partner institutions, which nominated them, included: Sarwat Salim, MD, who is the director of glaucoma service at UTMG and an associate professor in the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology, won for Community Outreach for her efforts to treat and prevent blindness caused by glaucoma.

The Health Care Innovations award winner was William Cushman, MD, chief of preventive medicine at the VA and professor in the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine. Dr. Cushman was recognized for his extensive research for treating hypertension and diabetes.

B. Keith English, MD, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and professor of Pediatrics at UTHSC, was the winner of the Health Care Provider Physician award. The pediatric infectious disease doctor was noted for his expertise that helped both physicians and citizens during the H1N1 influenza epidemic in 2009.
BGSA Brings Hip-Hop Health Care to Campus

The UTHSC Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), in conjunction with the Consortium for Health Education, Economic Empowerment and Research (CHEER), hosted a symposium that featured Rani Whitfield, MD, a board-certified family physician in Baton Rouge, La., committed to advancing innovative methods for improving minority health.

Dr. Whitfield presented “H2D and Health Disparities,” a discussion on how he uses hip hop music to reach minority citizens for the purpose of explaining health disparities and communicating culturally appropriate health messages. The highly sought-after lecturer considers hip hop music a global language and has become nationally known as “Tha Hip-Hop Doc” or “H2D.”

Right Here In Memphis

The “Right Here In Memphis” marketing campaign continues to successfully promote awareness of the university’s presence in and impact on the Memphis community with the addition six of highly produced television commercials and various strategically placed billboards.

To view the television commercials and various elements of the campaign, please visit www.uthsc.edu/news/righthereinmemphis.php

(From left) Brandi Franklin, PhD, CHEER staff member and CGHS alumna; Shelley White-Means, PhD, professor in Health Outcomes and Policy Research, CGHS/BGSA members Lawrence Brown and Enitra Jones; with “Tha Hip-Hop Doc” Rani Whitfield.

“Tha Hip-Hop Doc” Rani Whitfield pumps up the UTHSC crowd.
On Friday, May 28, UTHSC graduated 700 health care professionals. The spring graduation ceremony was held at the FedEx Forum. Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, presided over the ceremony. Jan Simek, PhD, interim president of the University of Tennessee, conferred the degrees.

Harry Jacobson, MD, former Vanderbilt vice chancellor for Health Affairs and former CEO of the Vanderbilt Health System, delivered the commencement address to the graduates and their families. His remarks were titled, “Health Care is a Team Sport.” Dr. Jacobson, a nephrologist and health care entrepreneur, retired from Vanderbilt in 2009 after more than 12 years as CEO. He has been described as an out-of-the-box thinker, an inspiring leader with the ability to energize people, and a visionary physician-scientist who is as comfortable in the corporate boardroom as he is in the laboratory.

In his remarks, Dr. Jacobson congratulated the graduates and then delved into a brief historical sketch of health care in the past 100 years, in the process outlining the challenges that today’s health care professionals face. He discussed the myriad scientific advances that have affected the application of medicine, the dynamic growth of the health care industry, the costs of health care and impact of those costs on various groups, and the variability of practice learned in academic institutions.

“Delivery of the social impact of medicine – to improve health – has evolved into the single largest segment of the U.S. economy. Today, in this country, we spend more than $2.5 trillion on health care,” he said. “It is not just the explosive growth of science and its application to health care that challenges providers, but it is also the challenge of health care as service. It is the use of knowledge born of the union of science and medicine to improve health outcomes at affordable costs. The promise of the union of science and medicine is a promise that is incompletely fulfilled.”

Quoting Albert Einstein, Dr. Jacobson remarked on the physicist’s brilliance, noting that “in his ability to succinctly characterize the human condition, [Einstein] said something very appropriate about how we should approach the stubborn problems we face in health care. He said, ‘The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the levels of thinking we were at when we created them’.”

Dr. Jacobson challenged the graduates to look for the new level of thinking that could serve to transform health care to a consistent, high-quality service that maintains the health and restores the health of the people it serves and does so at a cost that is reasonable.

“The here we are in 2010, a decade into the 21st Century and a decade after the landmark Institute of Medicine Report entitled To Err is Human, a report that focused national attention on our challenges in the delivery of safe and effective care. Just a few weeks ago a press release by the National Patient Safety foundation called for immediate corrective action because academic health centers have, ‘not trained physicians to work collaboratively in “teams” to redesign care processes.’ So if health care today suffers a cardinal sin of omission, the way it trains and organizes talent to achieve its mission is it.”

The College of Graduate Health Sciences held its traditional graduation luncheon for families and friends at the Doubletree Hotel, just a few blocks from the Forum.

The college was proud to hood 29 PhD graduates, eight MDS graduates, and 20 MS graduates. This year, the college has an outstanding group of 75 students for the 2010 entering class. The MS in Pharmacology and MDS students began classes July 6. All 2010 entering GHS students had their orientation and registration in August.
When Student Academic Support Services (SASS) welcomed guests to its open house, Kimberly Quiney began a tour by saying “Everything’s changed – from the door to the floor.” Though catchy, she wasn’t kidding.

The SASS, an academic support service located in the General Education Building (GEB) to facilitate and enhance student learning, had undergone a five-month-long renovation. The remodeling project did begin with new carpet and doors but continued with new bookshelves, tables and office furniture. New lounge furniture to give a homey feel was also added, as well as two new refrigerators and microwaves. Computer donations from Information Technology Services and the Student Government Association Executive Council were made, and more cubicles for testing and studying were added. A conference room for student groups to meet and practice presentations is now a part of the SASS. Little things such as painting the concrete walls to brighten the basement area, installing blinds and clocks in study rooms, and adding white boards for group study sessions were not overlooked – and the list could go on.

“Essentially we really wanted students to have a comfortable and inviting place to study and learn,” stated Quiney, who was instrumental in coordinating the efforts. Emphasizing that the renovations were about the students and their needs, Quiney explained that none of the existing staff received new furniture. Instead the focus was on how the UTHSC administration and SASS could serve the students better.

New computer software is also being purchased, which will enable students to check-in when they come to the SASS. This will allow staff to more efficiently track how the center is being used and to identify students’ needs within the different programs and colleges.

Kathy Gibbs, director of the SASS, explained that the impetus for the renovations was to enhance the environment for students, and the directive and budget capability to do so came from the administration.

Each month the SASS receives about 1,000 visits from students. The UTHSC administration wanted to make these visits more meaningful, as well as to have a place in which students could take pride.

“As hard as they work and as much time as they spend studying on campus, they deserve a pleasant place to learn,” Gibbs said. “We are glad the SASS is part of the campus effort to provide more attractive space, including more study space.”

SASS Remodeling At A Glance:
- 25 computers
- 10 laptops available for student check-out
- Nearly doubled cubicle space
- Two additional group study rooms
- Card readers for 24-hour access to secure study areas.
Graduate Research Day

The annual Graduate Research Day was another success. On May 3, more than 39 students displayed posters in the General Education Building lobby to showcase their outstanding research.

Students also participated in career development workshops presented by Kathy Gibbs, director of Student Academic Support Services. A screening of the film “Naturally Obsessed,” a documentary about the trials of being a graduate student in the biomedical sciences field, was available for viewing as well.

Posters were judged by faculty volunteers and cash awards were made to students at different levels in their studies. This year’s awardees were: first and second year - Kishore Devisetti (BMEI), Ashley Miller (Epi) and Danielle Peacock (IPBS); third year - Susu Duan (IPBS) and Gabriela Maron (Epi); fourth year and above - Enitra Jones (IPBS) and Damodaran Narayanon (IPBS). Congratulations to all of the participants!

Student Notes

The students of the College of Graduate Health Sciences recognized Patricia Cowan, PhD, RN, in the College of Nursing, with the Outstanding Research Advisor award. The award, presented at the graduation luncheon, is an opportunity for the students to recognize the commitment of faculty to graduate education. Always a difficult decision by the students, one of the comments made about Dr. Cowan was her selfless commitment to all students in the program, not just her own.

Enitra Jones, graduate student in the Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences, received third place honors for her oral presentation, “Chlamydial Arrested Immunity and Persistence: Murine Models of Genital Tract Infection,” at the 67th Joint Annual Meeting of the National Institute of Science/Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society in New Orleans, La.

Nursing graduate student Elizabeth Lee received a first place award in the minority health category for her poster presented at the 24th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in Austin, Texas.

Ji Young Lee, graduate student in the speech and hearing science program, received the prestigious (only two awarded world-wide) American Academy of Audiology 2010 Summer Research Fellowship Award. The Department of Speech and Hearing Science PhD program became part of the College of Graduate Health Sciences last year when the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology was integrated into the UT Health Science Center.
Travel Awards

Our students are the best representatives of the outstanding research that is done as part of their education. In addition, UTHSC recognizes that presentation at scientific meetings is an important part of a student’s education and being part of the scientific community. To help defray the cost of meeting attendance, CGHS grants travel awards of $500 each to degree candidates who have had a paper accepted for presentation at a scientific meeting. From July 2009 to June 2010, students receiving travel awards were:

Hossam Abdelsamed, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences (IPBS)
Sonia Bedi, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Kelly Caudle, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Jianjun Chen, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Li Chen, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Stephen Crawcour, Speech and Hearing Science
Connie Cupples, Nursing
Cecile Evans, Nursing
Rebecca Glatt, IPBS
Enitra Jones, IPBS
Ji Young Lee, Speech and Hearing Science
Damodaran Narayanan, IPBS

Ravikiran Panakanti, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Rhonda Perciavalle, IPBS
Ethel Pereira, IPBS
Tim Sullivan, IPBS
Reba Umberger, Nursing
Zhao Wang, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Sandra Williams, Nursing
Ningning Yang, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Hyo Jin Yoon, Speech and Hearing Science
Yi Zhang, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Kui Zheng, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Guo Zhu, IPBS
Lin Zhu, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Give Me a Break!

UTHSC students enjoy a wild ride down an inflatable slide during this year’s Student Appreciation Day.
Mitchell Watsky, PhD, has been appointed associate dean for the College of Graduate Health Sciences in the College of Medicine, Memphis campus. Dr. Watsky assumed his new duties effective Oct. 1. This appointment reflects the cooperation and interdependence of the College of Medicine and the CGHS in the vital task of advanced health science education.

Dr. Watsky obtained his PhD in 1989 from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship in physiology and biophysics with the Mayo Foundation under the tutelage of James Rae, PhD. Dr. Watsky joined UTHSC in 1992 as an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology and has since been awarded tenure as full professor within the department.

He has garnered numerous awards and honors throughout his career. With more than 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals, he has served as principal investigator on numerous current and past grant awards. Dr. Watsky chaired the Physiology Department Graduate Committee from 1995 to present, and has had significant involvement in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program as a track director and member of various advisory committees.

The search committee for the associate dean’s position was led by Charles Handorf, MD, PhD, chair for the UTHSC Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. The search committee also included chairs from all four basic science departments along with representation from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Graduate Student Executive Committee.

Dr. Watsky emerged as an ideal candidate to lead graduate studies in the College of Medicine.

“Dr Watsky has demonstrated his dedication to graduate education and trainees in the College of Medicine, and has exceptional and innovative ideas on how to make our program better,” noted UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab.

“I am happy to be able to continue my work with the graduate programs at UTHSC, and look forward to working with the students, faculty and leadership of the colleges of Medicine and Graduate Health Sciences,” stated Dr. Watsky.

Racial Disparity Study Gains Attention

UTHSC scientists are often used as references for their research. Recently, Junling Wang, PhD, MS, a Health Outcomes and Policy Research faculty member, was interviewed for a study she led regarding minorities and their ability to qualify for Medicare prescription help.

Dr. Wang and her colleagues found that African-Americans would be 34 percent less likely to meet Medicare Therapy Management’s (MTM) eligibility than whites and that Hispanics would be up to 38 percent less prone to meet eligibility requirements, according to Katherine Kahn, contributing writer for Health Behavior News Service (HBNS).

MTM is Medicare’s prescription management program. Kahn reported that in 2010, to be eligible for the program, a person must be enrolled in the Medicare Part D drug program, have at least three chronic health conditions, take eight or more medications covered by Part D and spend at least $3,000 per year on the medications.

The study, which can be found in the journal Health Services Research (HSR), is important because health agencies and private insurance companies often adopt Medicare policies.

“We suspected there might be potential problems related to eligibility criteria for minorities since historically racial and ethnic minorities tend to use fewer medications and they tend to incur lower prescription drug costs,” Dr. Wang said.

Kahn wrote that the recent changes in policies to improve health care quality have not been very effective in reducing racial ethnic disparities according to Dr. Wang.

“In fact, sometimes these policies have really widened the disparity gap. If we don’t take those differences into consideration, minorities will lag behind,” Dr. Wang said.

HBNS is part of the Center for Advancing Health. It disseminates news stories on the latest findings from peer-reviewed research journals.

HSR is Health Research and Educational Trust’s flagship publication and an official journal of Academy Health. Rated as one of the top journals in the field, HSR publishes outstanding articles reporting the findings of original investigations that expand understanding of the wide-ranging field of health care and help improve the health of individuals and communities.
CGHS Mourns Loss of Shukla, Share

Atul J. Shukla, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, passed away on Oct. 28, 2009. Born in Tanzania in 1957, Dr. Shukla received his PhD in Pharmaceutics from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Georgia. He accepted an assistant professor position at the Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. In 1989, he joined the faculty of the College of Pharmacy at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Dr. Shukla was an extremely knowledgeable and productive scholar. He had numerous publications, including four issued U. S. patents, eight patent applications, 24 papers, six book chapters, and many invited presentations. As a research advisor, Dr. Shukla was outstanding, evidenced not only by his technical and scientific knowledge, but perhaps most importantly by his devotion to his students and their personal and professional development.

Dr. James Johnson, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, said, “these students became part of his extended family while they were here and after they left, and they often called for advice and counsel.”

Dr. Shukla was also a contributor to the community. During the past three years. He played a vital role in helping organize volunteers for “Playing for a Cure,” an event to raise funds for the LUNGevity Foundation, the foundation helps educate the community about lung cancer and funds cancer research. The event is an invitational Middle and High School concert band competition combined with a solo and ensemble event. Dr. Shukla, his family, and his volunteers helped to manage the event.

Leonard Share, PhD, University Distinguished Professor of Physiology, passed away June 17. Born in Detroit in 1927, Dr. Share received a bachelor’s degree in Biology from Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1947 and a master’s degree in Zoology the next year from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. Dr. Share earned his PhD in Physiology in 1951 at Yale University. Following postdoctoral research at Western Reserve University School of Medicine, he was appointed as an instructor there in 1952 and subsequently rose to the rank of full professor in 1968.

In 1969, Dr. Share was recruited to chair in the Department of Physiology at The University of Tennessee College of Medicine, a position he held for 17 years. He stepped down as chairman in 1986 and remained active in the department until his retirement in 1999 when he was honored as a University Distinguished Professor. As chairman, he recruited outstanding faculty and the department became recognized for its cardiovascular, renal, and neurophysiology research.

During his career, Dr. Share and his colleagues published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts in outstanding journals. He was active as a member of many scientific societies and received considerable recognition as both scientist and an academician. He was a part of a study section for the National Institutes of Health and was a member of the editorial boards of Endocrinology and the American Journal of Physiology. He was also honored at home in 1997 when his colleagues elected him president of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center Faculty Senate. He ended his career as a member of the UT Board of Trustees.

SGAEC Excellence in Teaching Awards

J. Carolyn Graff, PhD, and Elizabeth A. Tolley, PhD, were chosen by the CGHS students to receive this year’s SGAEC Excellence in Teaching Award. The award symbolizes the exceptional commitment and excellent teaching skills of faculty members from each of the colleges and are presented at the annual SGAEC Awards Banquet.

CGHS SGAEC representative Alyssa Bollen presents awards to Elizabeth A. Tolley (left) and J. Carolyn Graff (right).
Warm Welcome Set Out for Chancellor

On Thursday, Sept. 9, approximately 50 alumni, special friends of UTHSC and leaders from the Memphis business community joined a celebratory reception for new UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD. UT Interim President Jan Simek also participated in the early evening event, held at Windyke Country Club in East Memphis.

“I wanted very much to come and officially welcome Steve into the position he has been in for a good period of time,” President Simek said. “The national search that we initiated for the UTHSC chancellor’s position, while Steve was acting in the interim role, brought in a number of well-qualified candidates from across the country, and in the end, the very best candidate was Steve Schwab – the person who was already in the position. He demonstrated incredible devotion and commitment as the interim chancellor during a time when higher education across the state has worked through one of the most difficult times in its history.

“The choices Steve has had to make were very difficult but they were exactly the right choices to make,” President Simek continued. “His approach to the chancellor’s role has shown a great deal of integrity and it’s clear he has a grand vision for the Health Science Center both here in Memphis and across the state. His leadership and impressive work with health care partners across the state confirms that he is clearly the right choice for the job. I know we all wish him many years of great success.”

Stay Connected

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Want to find a classmate? Share news?

Staying connected couldn’t be easier. Go to http://alumni.tennessee.edu and click on the link “Get Connected!”
Phillips Named Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni and Annual Giving

Keith Carver, PhD, interim vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs at UTHSC announced that Kris Phillips has been named associate vice chancellor for Alumni and Annual Giving. Phillips’ appointment became effective on Aug. 9.

“We are excited to have someone of Kris’s ability to lead our alumni efforts at UT Health Science Center,” Dr. Carver said. “Kris is a nationally recognized expert in alumni relations, and we are eager to have him join our advancement team.”

A UT system veteran, Phillips served for 10 years as director of Alumni Programs for the UT Alumni Association based in Knoxville. His primary responsibilities included managing all affinity marketing programs for UTAA including the Affinity Card Program, Tennessee Travelers (international tours), Traveling Vols (athletic tours), alumni directory (print/CD Rom and online), and the alumni discount insurance program. Phillips also managed sponsorships for the UTAA, and the Big Orange Tailgate Tour, a pre-game tailgate program for football and men’s and women’s basketball. From 2008 to 2009, he served a dual role with the UTAA and as interim assistant vice chancellor for Alumni Affairs at UTHSC.

A 1991 graduate of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., Phillips served his alma mater in various positions in the admissions and alumni/development offices including director of Alumni and Annual Giving prior to joining the UT staff. He is an active member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, serving on the group’s District III (Southeast) board of directors. Phillips and his wife Tammy have been married for 17 years and have two teenage sons.
UT Reaches $1 Billion Campaign for Tennessee Goal Ahead of Schedule

The Campaign for Tennessee, the most ambitious fundraising effort in the 216-year history of the University of Tennessee, has reached its $1-billion goal 18 months ahead of schedule. While the campaign’s official end is not until December 2011, a total of $1,023,331,880 already has been committed.

“This monumental success of reaching our goal early is a grand statement by our alumni and friends that they believe in the work of our faculty and leadership as well as the importance of the University of Tennessee in their lives and in the future of our state,” said UT Interim President Jan Simek.

The campaign’s success places UT among an elite group of only 28 public universities that have successfully completed fundraising campaigns of at least $1 billion, according to the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

The gift that put the campaign over the top came from the family of UT Board of Trustees member Charles C. Anderson Jr., CEO of Anderson Media Corp., and his wife, Moll, an author, lifestyle, marketing and communications expert, and TV host. They live in Knoxville.

“Moll and I considered how we could best make a positive impact on this state and region. The University was the obvious answer,” said Charlie Anderson, who graduated from UT Knoxville with a marketing degree.

“The University has already given so much to our family, it was just natural that we would want to give back,” Moll Anderson said.

In recognizing the Andersons’ generosity, the University is naming the College of Business Administration’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in their honor. The newly-named Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation will further enable faculty to teach students and develop their entrepreneurial talent to start businesses or contribute to the success of existing technology-driven businesses.

The gift also has established the Moll R. Anderson Scholarship Endowment to provide scholarships for single parents.

So far, more than 98,000 donors have given to the Campaign for Tennessee. More than 11,000 current and retired faculty and staff have donated $70.5 million as part of the family campaign led by UT President Emeritus Joe Johnson.

Campaign for Tennessee co-chairs Jim and Natalie Haslam of Knoxville and Brenda Lawson of Cleveland say they are excited by the opportunities made possible by the campaign’s success.

“The Campaign for Tennessee is not about numbers; it is about people. But the amount of money given and pledged allows the University to take the lead in being the engine of economic success for our state,” Jim Haslam said.

Lawson added, “We have worked to make sure the University has what it needs, whether it is support to keep our outstanding professors or scholarships to ensure that financial need is not a barrier to access for students who want to attend any of UT’s campuses.”

Typical of public university fundraising, most donors designate the use of their gifts. About 98 percent of all Campaign for Tennessee gifts are allocated for a specific scholarship, professorship, program or other objective of the donor’s choosing. These gifts cannot be used to offset the University’s operating costs.

Thirty-seven percent of the campaign total consists of deferred gifts that include bequests, charitable trusts and gift annuities which, by their nature, will not be realized for many years. Another third of the total consists of pledges to be paid over a period of years. The remainder is made up of gifts already received.

While the $1 billion goal has been met 18 months early, the campaign will continue until its scheduled completion date of December 2011. Fundraising remains critical to the University’s future, said Simek.

“Even though we have reached our overall goal for the Campaign for Tennessee, we are not finished,” he said. “Campuses and colleges are striving to achieve their individual goals, and the University is continuing to reshape its strategic plans.”

For more information about the Campaign for Tennessee, please visit http://development.tennessee.edu/campaign.
Dr. Hershel “Pat” Wall, a 1960 graduate of the UT College of Medicine, has served his alma mater – Right Here in Memphis – in a variety of roles during the past 50 years, including his current position as a special assistant to the UT president. To affirm his lifelong commitment to health care and education, he has made the UT Health Science Center a beneficiary of his retirement plan. Dr. Wall’s gift is a simple, tax-wise strategy to strengthen the university he loves.

Support the Campaign for Tennessee by including UTHSC in your estate plans. By sharing your plans with us, you will automatically become a member of the Hershel P. Wall, M.D., Legacy Society. Visit www.plannedgiving.tennessee.edu or call Bethany Goolsby at (901) 448-4941 for more information.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

– Sir Winston Churchill

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