The mission of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is to improve human health through education, research and public service, with an emphasis on improving the health of Tennesseans.

New College of Health Science Engineering established at UT

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) Interim Chancellor Jim Gibb Johnson, MD, announced the changing of the School of Biomedical Engineering to the College of Health Science Engineering, effective June 24.

UTHSC’s seventh college will house the department of biomedical engineering and the department of health informatics and clinical engineering.

“Having health science engineers work collaboratively with other medical scientists is going to be more and more important in the 21st Century as we continue to improve human health,” said Dr. Johnson. “The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is positioning itself to become an even greater research university, and this new college will help all of our other colleges in this effort.

“All across this nation, academic

(See College, page 2)

UTHSC joins in Memphis area “Heart Walk”

UTHSC will partner with the American Heart Association (AHA) in hosting the Ninth Annual American Heart Walk in Memphis, Saturday, Sept. 13.

The walk benefits both research and education. Currently, the American Heart Association is investing over $127 million in valuable biomedical research at institutions around the United States.

“Our own university directly benefits from all of the vast work that AHA is doing in our community,” said Jim Gibb Johnson, MD, interim chancellor. “Twenty-one investigators are currently working at the university under AHA-funded grants totalling over $2 million dollars.”

The walk is being held in downtown Memphis. There will be a pet corner, a youth corner with face painting, balloon art, a health screening and refreshments. Players from the Memphis Grizzlies and Memphis Redbirds will also be making an appearance.

The goal is to raise $84,000. However, participants raising $1,000 will automatically win a 4-day, 3-night cruise for two. Participants raising $2,000 will win a 5-day, 4-night cruise for two. (At least one guest per cabin must be 21, travel requests must be made 90 days prior to the requested date, and guests are responsible for air fare and port taxes. Participants have a 12-month redemption period for both incentives.)

Cruises are donated by Royal Caribbean and Carnival.

Marshal Elam, III, MD, PhD, one of

(See Heart, page 2)
health centers are working to translate discoveries into useful diagnostic and therapeutic products. Engineering skills are greatly facilitating these efforts.”

Frank DiBianca, PhD, who served as professor and director of the school for six years, was named dean (see story right). “We are truly excited to see the development of a new college,” said Dr. DiBianca, who has been with UT for 14 years. “This is a compliment to the shared vision of making the UT Health Science Center one of the top healthcare institutions in the United States.

“This could not have been possible without the support of former chancellors James Hunt and Bill Rice, and especially, Jim Gibb Johnson,” he said.

The biomedical engineering program was established in 1989, with its graduate degree housed in the College of Graduate Health Sciences.

It became the School of Biomedical Engineering in 1996 when the proposed joint educational degree with the University of Memphis was approved by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The College of Health Science Engineering will continue to support the joint program and to award master and PhD level degrees to its approximately 90 students.

“Visionaries understood how important it was to build this program,” said Dr. DiBianca. “Most of what goes on in a traditional health science center comes from biology; but here is a growing need for engineering applications.”

Steve Bares, PhD, director, Memphis Biotech Foundation, said, “The establishment of the new college represents an important contribution to the growth of the bioscience initiative in the Memphis region.”

Some of the advances UTHSC has developed include an ultrahigh resolution CT scanner for clinical diagnosis and animal research, an optical device that enhances visibility of veins for hypodermic injections, and a spinal implant testing machine.

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer E07-0401 (0092-04) Vol XLI, No. 13

The Record is published by the office of communications & marketing bimonthly for faculty, staff and students of the UT Health Science Center. Send all communications to: 320 Hyman. Phone: 448-5115 or Fax: 448-8640.
Fast Facts

Lisa Jennings, PhD, professor and director of the Vascular Biology Center of Excellence, has been named president of the American Heart Association (AHA), Memphis division, this past June. The American Heart Association spent about $382,000 million during fiscal year 2000-2001 on research support, public and professional education, and community programs.

“This is an honor and quite exciting considering more and more of our researchers and faculty are recipients of their grants,” said Jennings. “I am looking forward to working with the chair to help further the mission of the AHA in education and patient care.”

Jennings has been a member of AHA since 1983 and credits the foundation as her first source of income.

In 2001, she became a Fellow in the American Heart Association of the Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology.

Susan Appling, PT, MS, was recertified for an additional 10 years as an orthopaedic clinical specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. She was the first individual to be named an orthopaedic clinical specialist in the state of Tennessee in 1993. There are currently 31 orthopaedic clinical specialists in the state and 2,137 nationwide. Appling, who received her physical therapy degree from the University of Central Arkansas, is currently a PhD candidate in educational research at the University of Memphis.

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) has awarded a grant of $110,000 to the department of ophthalmology. The research will be directed by Barrett G. Haik, MD, chairman.

The ongoing support of RPB to ophthalmology has been integral.

To date, RPB support totals $890,000, having been awarded $310,000 in 2002. The funding has been essential in developing laboratory space at the new University of Tennessee Hamilton Eye Institute. Since it was founded in 1960, RPB has channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to medical institutions throughout the United States for research into all sight-threatening diseases.

Student News

Doors of opportunity have continued to open for Antwon Robinson, M-3, since he first began to work with Karl T. Weber, MD, the Neuton S. Stern Professor in Cardiovascular Diseases. Robinson served a summer fellowship with Dr. Weber in 2001 through the National Institutes of Health.

Earlier this year, Robinson was presented the Bristol-Myers Squibb Academic Medicine Fellowship and a $6,000 award that will enable him to continue working under the tutelage of Dr. Weber.

Only 35 Academic Medicine Fellows representing 26 medical schools were selected in 2003.

“Antwon has received high marks for excellent basic science knowledge,” said Dr. Weber. “And he has shown exceptional clinical skills.”

Robinson is serving as regional parliamentarian in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), and helped UT win SNMA’s Region 10 Chapter of the Year award. He has served on the governmental affairs committee of the Medical Student Executive Counsel; president of the UTHSC Health Policy Interest Group, and vice president of his class.

Robinson graduated magna cum laude from Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Miss., and made the National Dean’s List there. He is expected to graduate from the UT College of Medicine in May 2004 and plans to pursue a career in cardiology.

Christie Robinson, a 2003 graduate of the College of Pharmacy, is representing all U.S. pharmacy students at the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation World Congress this year in Singapore. She was elected National Liaison for the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Students of Pharmacy.

Andrea Morton, a dental hygiene student in the College of Allied Health Sciences, received the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society award. The dean or director of each school selects recipients based on academic performance.

The Society has been promoting continuing education since 1912, and awards scholarships to dental, hygiene and laboratory technician students at 39 colleges and universities in the U.S.

* Christie Robinson, a 2003 graduate of the College of Pharmacy, is representing all U.S. pharmacy students at the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation World Congress this year in Singapore. She was elected National Liaison for the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Students of Pharmacy.

* Andrea Morton, a dental hygiene student in the College of Allied Health Sciences, received the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society with Andrea Morton.
Campus says good-bye to dedicated employees

The campus hosted several retirement parties in June.

Although Lt. Lonnie Batts will be sorely missed on campus, he is leaving a legacy to carry on.

There are 15 other Batts family members that are employed at UT and service years range from three to 20. Lonnie is retiring after 31 years of service to Campus Police.

Quenella Burkins retired after 22 years. She worked at the chancellor’s residence for 11 years, and finished out her career in the Hyman building. She can now enjoy the company of her six children and 15 grandchildren.

Linda Gibson retired after 28 years. Most know her smiling face as employment assistant in human resources. She has two children and seven grandchildren.

See the next edition of The Record for more retirement photos.

If you have any photos or know of someone who may be retiring in your area, please contact Nancy Bailey at 8-5115.
UTHSC is seeking nominations for the L.M. Graves Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Health.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, Sept. 8. Nominations should include a letter, a copy of the nominee’s resume, or a copy of his or her curriculum vitae.

The L.M. Graves Award was established in 1965 by the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department to honor Dr. Lloyd Meyers Graves, a distinguished Memphis physician. He served as director of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department from 1942-1964. In 1970, the award was sponsored by the Mid-South Medical Center Council, and later the Sam Haspel family. In 1990, the Award became part of the Norfleet Forum.

Nominations and information can be obtained in the office of special events. Call 8-6354.

* Michael Bleich, PhD, RN is the 2003 Elinor F. Reed Distinguished Visiting Professor. He will present, “Emerging Models for Advancing Faculty Practice in the Academic Health Center,” at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 24, in A102 of the GEB. Dr. Bleich is associate dean of clinical and community affairs for the University of Kansas School of Nursing and executive director/chief operating officer for the University of Kansas HealthPartners, a joint non-profit corporation between the KU Schools of Nursing and Allied Health.

He was one of 15 nursing leaders selected for the 2000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows Program. As the first man to ever receive this three-year fellowship, Dr. Bleich joins an elite group of nursing professionals from institutions across the country.

Nurses attending the DVP lecture can earn 1.8 continuing education contact hours. The cost is $5 for nursing students and $10 for all others requesting credit.

For more information, contact Missy Robinson in the UTHSC College of Nursing at mrobinson@utmem.edu or 8-6407.

* Nomination forms for the 16th Annual Thomas Connell Lichterman Outstanding Employee Award are available on-line at http://www.utmem.edu/lichterman_award

The award was established by friends and family of the late Tommy Lichterman, a UT Medical Group Inc. employee. Tommy refused to be limited by health problems and reached beyond the scope of his job duties to achieve excellence.

By placing a nomination, you can give recognition to someone who deserves special accolades for a job well done and whose efforts have made the university a better institution.

Employees eligible must be non-exempt, full-time employees of UTHSC, Bowld Hospital and UT Medical Group Inc., as well as family medicine employees of the Healthplex, St. Francis, and Jackson and Tipton sites.

Nominees must have completed three years of service. Self nominations, anonymous nominations and previous winners are not eligible.

Call 8-7622 for more information.

* University surplus property must be disposed of in accordance with Fiscal Procedure 055.

The link for the surplus pickup form is http://www.utmem.edu/policies/fiscal/surplus.PDF. For more information, contact Steve Rowland at 8-7269.

Gerald J. Presbury, MD

Gerald J. Presbury, MD, associate professor in the department of pediatrics, has been appointed minority affairs officer in the College of Medicine at UTHSC.

As minority affairs officer, Dr. Presbury will represent UT at meetings of the Minority Affairs Section of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

As a long-time member of the College of Medicine clinical faculty and member of the committee on admissions, Dr. Presbury is uniquely qualified to help facilitate the recruitment, admission, retention, guidance and counseling of minority students.

“I am very excited about the challenges ahead,” said Dr. Presbury. “UT has made great strides in the past 10 years in terms of minority recruitment and graduating minority students.”

Dr. Presbury is a native of Baltimore, Md., and a graduate of Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. He completed his training in pediatrics in Washington, D.C. before entering a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, where he remained as a research associate until 1986.

Additionally, Dr. Presbury is on staff at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, where he serves as co-chair of the joint practice committee. He served for six years on the Black Health Task Force with the Tennessee State Department of Health and Environment.

Dr. Presbury has been recognized by both medical students and pediatric residents for excellence in teaching.