One hundred and seven graduates lined up for commencement on Friday, Dec. 2 at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in the Cook Convention Center.

Degrees were presented to graduates in the Colleges of Graduate Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences and Social Work.

Virginia Trotter Betts, commissioner of the State of Tennessee’s Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, spoke at the ceremony.

Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD, presided at graduation, and UT President John Petersen conferred the degrees.

Lichterman Award Winner

Christa Deiss, who works in Student Health Services, was named the 2005 Thomas Connell Lichterman Employee of the Year. John Lichterman, right, presented the award to Christa on Monday, Dec. 5.

To honor the memory of Thomas “Tommy” Lichterman and in celebration of his dedicated service to the UT Health Science, the Lichterman family established the outstanding employee award.

In addition to the plaque, Christa received a $1,500 check.

Inclement Weather Closing Policy

Since this is the time of year when we can expect winter weather events, it is important for everyone to know the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) policy and procedure regarding inclement weather conditions. The policy is covered in detail in Section 320 of the human resources procedures manual and may be accessed by going to: http://www.utmem.edu/policies/w932_document_show.php?p=421 on the Internet.

The Health Science Center will close only in the most severe weather conditions.

UT personnel housed in facilities not operated by UT will be subject to the policy and procedure of the facility in which they are housed. UT Medical Group is not covered by the Health Science Center procedures. UT patient care programs will close only if adequate notice can be provided to all scheduled patients.

The Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities is subject to UTHSC procedures, except for closings during regular hours. In the event the Health Science Center closes during regular hours, the Day Care Center will remain open until arrangements have been made to secure the safety of each child.

If UTHSC is closed, essential services will remain open. These activities include those that maintain the campus environment, ensure its safety, and provide patient services, as well as those that operate critical research resources.

Students, faculty and staff will be informed of the campus’ status in several ways: (1) a telephone “hot” line with up-to-the-minute information - 44UT ICE (448-8423), (2) the UTHSC web site - www.utmem.edu, (3) WREG Channel 3 television station, and (4) FM 100 radio station. Please note: since the hot line can provide the most up-to-date information, it will be the official source.
PharmD Faculty and Students Provide Health Information and Screenings

Forty PharmD students volunteered at the American Heart Association’s 8th Annual Women’s Heart Conference at the Memphis Hilton Hotel on Saturday, Nov. 19.

More than 300 women were instructed on diet, exercise and medication. Sahar Rashed, PharmD, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacy, led the screening program as patients received blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index (BMI) assessments.

PharmD students provided drug and health information to the attendees along with the evaluation of the screening tests. This initiative was led by Naseem Amarshi, PharmD, director of UT Drug Information, Brenda Green, assistant professor in the library, and Dr. Camille Pemberton, drug information resident.

The students assisting in this project were provided PDAs through two grants: the National Library of Medicine’s grant and the Center of Excellence Minority Grant, which was awarded to the College of Pharmacy.

Also, databases of the National Library of Medicine were electronically accessed to show the patients how to use MedLine Plus, a patient-friendly database. Seventy-five participants were shown how to access health-related information on the Internet and were counseled about their medications.

UTNAA Accepting Nominations for Public Service Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Public Service Award. The award recognizes a full-time faculty or professional-exempt staff member who has made significant contributions to the university’s public service role and includes a $2,000 stipend.

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2006

Nominations should be made to:
UT Office of Alumni Affairs
520 Hyman
bmcadams@utmem.edu

For more information contact:
Barbara McAdams
448-5516

The chancellor and deans are not eligible.
UT Health Science Center has been selected to host Fulbright Visiting Scholar Mark Joseph Walker, PhD, from the University of Wollongong, Australia, for part of the 2005-2006 academic year.

Dr. Walker is one of approximately 850 outstanding foreign faculty and professionals the Fulbright Scholar Program is bringing to the U.S. to teach and do research. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program’s purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Dr. Walker, a professor in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Wollongong, is collaborating with Malak Y. S. Kotb, PhD, A. C. Mullins Professor in Research (UTHSC). He is investigating how Group A streptococcus causes invasive disease.

Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, professor of physiology, has been inducted into the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest and presented his inaugural address on Nov. 15.

Dr. Tigyi, a native of Hungary, was elected from among seven U.S. scientists last year to the status of Foreign Member by the 173th General Assembly of the Academy.

Alex Dopico, MD, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology in the College of Medicine, recently had a manuscript published online in Nature Neuroscience.

The article, “CaM Kinase II Phosphorylation of Slo Thr107 Regulates Activity and Ethanol Responses of BK Channels,” was published on Sunday, Dec. 11. Jianxi Liu, Maria Asuncion-Chin and Pengchong Liu, who were part of the research group with Dr. Dopico, also contributed to the manuscript.

Dominic M. Desiderio, PhD, professor in the Departments of Neurology and Molecular Science, presented a plenary lecture on Nov. 22 at the First Brazilian Mass Spectrometry Society meeting in Campinas, Brazil.

As an invited lecturer, Dr. Desiderio spoke on “The Use of Mass Spectrometry to Study the Proteome of the Human Brain.”

Teresa Cutts, PhD, associate director in UTHSC’s Office of Community Affairs, was elected to the Girl Scout Council of the Mid-South board of directors on Dec. 1.

The board is responsible for managing the affairs of the council in order to ensure quality girl scouting for all girls in the council’s jurisdiction.

David S. Tichansky, MD, was among 1,336 initiates from around the world who became fellows of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) during recent convocation ceremonies at the college’s 91st annual Clinical Congress in San Francisco.

To be named a fellow of the ACS, Dr. Tichansky had to meet stringent membership requirements and have his acceptance approved by three-fourths of the college’s board of regents.

Kevin Foley, MD, professor of neurosurgery, travelled to the Chinese University of Hong Kong on Nov. 16 for the 15th International Surgical Symposium and Minimal Access Spinal Technologies Hands-On Workshop.

Dr. Foley was the guest of honor for the opening ceremony, as well as the keynote speaker.

A three-year $150,000 grant from the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation will allow UTHSC’s Hamilton Eye Institute to develop a program to help patients who suffer from diabetic retinopathy.

The gift was contributed in honor of Herbert Rhea for his longtime interest and role in the foundation.
The UT Health Science Center recently welcomed a number of new faculty and staff members to the following positions and departments.

**Faculty**
- Richard L. Gibson, MD  
  Associate Professor  
  College of Medicine-Knoxville
- Sabrina A. Hanna, MD  
  Instructor  
  Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Daniel C. Schubert, MD  
  Assistant Professor  
  Clinical Ed-Chattanooga
- James M. Sizemore, MD  
  Assistant Professor  
  Clinical Ed-Chattanooga
- Jeremy L. Thomas, PharmD  
  Assistant Professor  
  Department of Pharmacy
- Juli D. Williams, MD  
  Assistant Professor  
  College of Medicine-Knoxville
- Gregory Bartram  
  Sr. General Main Skilled Craft Worker  
  Mechanical Services
- Percy Beard  
  Senior Power Plant Operator  
  Mechanical Services
- Trimika Bowdre  
  Program Coordinator  
  Nursing-Academic Programs
- Angela Earhart  
  Research Assistant  
  Medicine-Vascular Biology
- Martin Fletcher  
  Senior Special Order Clerk  
  General Stores
- Heather Greenway  
  Administrative Coordinator  
  Family Practice - Jackson
- Melissa Hayes  
  Program/Research Specialist  
  Medicine-Internal Medicine
- Carolyn Hedgepeth  
  Clinical Dental Assistant  
  Private Practice Dentistry
- Jean Hough  
  Research Nurse  
  Medicine-Hematology
- Shailly Mehrota  
  Research Assistant  
  Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Yaojin Shin  
  Research Assistant  
  Neurology
- Philip Showalter  
  IT Specialist I  
  OIT Customer Support
- Sandra Smith  
  Data Control Specialist  
  Medicine-Hematology
- Gail Spake  
  Technical Writer  
  Nursing-Research Program
- Leslie Terrell  
  Sr. Administrative Services Assistant  
  Physiology
- Tiffany Trice  
  Administrative Aide  
  Equity & Diversity
- Stephanie Weathers  
  Program Coordinator  
  Pharmacy
- Deborah Webb  
  Security Officer  
  Campus Police
- Clinton West  
  Sr. Power Plant Operator  
  Mechanical Services
- Zheng Zhao  
  Research Assistant  
  Molecular Sciences

**Staff**
- Derric Allen  
  Research Specialist  
  Psychiatry
- Lakshini Avanigadda  
  Research Assistant  
  Molecular Sciences
- Derric Allen  
  Research Specialist  
  Psychiatry
- Lakshini Avanigadda  
  Research Assistant  
  Molecular Sciences

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**UT Biomedical Instrumentation**

Meeting Your Service Needs

448-5652 / 141 Beale Bldg. / utmem.edu/BMI

- Computer repair
- Microscope repair
- Lab Equipment repair
- Mechanical design & repair
- Rehab Engineering services
December 2005

15
ANGELS High Risk OB Conference: “Neonatal Polycythemia”
Robert Arrington, MD
7-8 a.m., LeBonheur POB, P-210 Conference
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu

“Public Health and the Uninsured”
Robert Fullilove, EdD
8-9 a.m., Coleman Building, Room A-140
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu

“DNAzymes: A Novel Therapeutic Strategy in Glioma Treatment”
Tayebeh (Fruz) Pourmotabbed, PhD
3:30-4:30 p.m., 516 Nash Building
More info: dnutting@physio1.utmem.edu

19
“TBA”
Thomas Sutter, PhD, University of Memphis
4 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: rhori@utmem.edu

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5
“The Role of Villin in Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition”
Leon Chatman 2006, graduate research assistant, Department of Physiology
3:30-4:30 p.m., 516 Nash Building
More info: dnutting@physio1.utmem.edu

“Reliability of Statistical Associations Between Genes and Disease”
University of Tennessee Cancer Institute
Kenneth F. Manly, PhD, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine,
Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology
Noon - 1 p.m., GEB A-202
More info: djames8@utmem.edu

9
“Transcriptional Regulation of Glucose and Fatty Acid Oxidation”
Ed Park, PhD, UTHSC’s Department of Pharmacology
4 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: rhori@utmem.edu

11
“The What, Why and How of Diastolic Heart Failure”
Medicine Grand Rounds
Arsalan Shirwany, MD
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium
More info: bedman@utmem.edu

12
“Animal Models of Fibrosis”
Yao Sun, MD, PhD, associate professor, Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine
3:30-4:30 p.m., 516 Nash Building
More info: dnutting@physio1.utmem.edu

18
“Clinical Significance of Microalbuminuria”
Medicine Grand Rounds
Barry Wall, MD
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium
More info: bedman@utmem.edu

19
“Regulation of Retinal Development”
Dianna A. Johnson, PhD, Department of Ophthalmology
3:30-4:30 p.m., 516 Nash Building
More info: dnutting@physio1.utmem.edu

23
“Vaccine Development”
Julia Hurwitz, PhD,
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
4 p.m. Link Auditorium
More info: rhori@utmem.edu

25
“Approach to the Dizzy Patient”
Medicine Grand Rounds
Michael Jacewicz, MD
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium
More info: bedman@utmem.edu

26
“Systems Biology of Mice Developing Autoimmune Diseases”
Ivan C. Gerling, PhD, associate professor, Division of Endocrinology, Dept. of Medicine
3:30-4:30 p.m., 516 Nash Building
More info: dnutting@physio1.utmem.edu

“Advances in the Treatment of High Risk and Advanced Prostate Cancer”
Michael Kosty, MD
6:30 p.m., Ronnie Grisanti’s 2855 Poplar Ave.
More Info : jsteuber@utcancer.com