Mission Statement

The Health Science Center aims to improve human health through education, research, clinical care and public service. The UT Health Science Center campuses include colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy.

The Memphis Scottish Rite building, at the corner of Dunlap and Union Avenue, creates a shadow that creeps across four lanes of traffic toward the Hyman Administration Building. Its brick and stone exterior adorned with massive Ionic pilasters framing a two headed eagle, the building is far from ordinary. Although the structure has been UTHSC’s Union Avenue neighbor since 1909, the edifice and the fraternal group housed inside are enshrouded in mystery. Many UTHSC employees and students have no idea of the work Scottish Rite members do to benefit the Health Science Center. The Freemasons, the Shriners, secret passwords and handshakes; the more one researches the Scottish Rite, the more it becomes cloaked in the mists of speculation.

As you enter the imposing building, home of the Memphis Scottish Rite, the main foyer echoes with every word. Men from decades past stare down from enormous portraits in gilded frames. Wood stairs disappear into dark, shadowy passages. Glen Pitts, general secretary since 1997, met with visitors to unearth the many.

See SCOTTISH RITE, pg. 15

Ann Bell, retired UTHSC hematology technologist (SH, ASCP), is co-author of “The Morphology of Human Blood Cells.”

ASCP USING HEMATOLOGIST’S WORK IN AFRICA

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

- story, page 2
ann bell, a retired uthsc hematology technologist sh ascp and assistant professor in the department of medicine, is an expert on blood cells and she has the literary credits to prove it. “the morphology of human blood cells,” the atlas that she helped to develop in collaboration with l. w. diggs, md, and dorothea sturm, is currently in its seventh edition. dr. diggs was a uthsc professor of medicine and director of medical laboratories. sturm was an instructor at the memphis academy of arts, who originally illustrated the book with hand made watercolors.

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

in 2000, walter diggs, whose father was one of the textbook's original authors, noticed that the publication needed updating. “we wanted to find a way to improve the book,” diggs said, “to make it even more useful.”

“ann bell is tireless in her pursuit of keeping this atlas current and with the best possible images. the number of medical technologists and doctors that have benefited from this atlas is well into the thousands.” — bette jamieson, ma, sh, (ascp)

“i woke up one night worrying about it,” bell recalled. “then it came to me. why can't i use my kodachromes?”

prior to the digital age, kodachrome photography was the gold standard. the large, vivid transparencies were the best images available for projection and reproduction in books and magazines.

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

“originally published in 1956, the book was only drawings for the first six editions,” said diggs. “this seventh edition is the first time it has been rewritten in more than 20 years, and the addition of ann's images adds more force and vibrancy to the book. this is really ann's edition.”

“anyone who has studied hematology and the morphology of blood cells is familiar with the atlas that ann co authored. it has always been a major resource,” stated bette jamieson, ma, sh, (ascp) american society for clinical pathology, educational coordinator at children's hospital in denver, colo. “i teach medical technologists, residents and hematology fellows and we always go to the microscope with this atlas by our side.”

in 2005, jamieson became part of an ascp initiative – the outreach pro

continued on next page
ANN BELL continued

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

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

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


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

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

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

Molecular Sciences Graduate Student Receives Travel Award

Karthik Shanmuganatham received a welcome award on May 18 at the conclusion of his public PhD dissertation seminar. Karthik, a student in the UT Health Science Center Molecular Sciences Department, was presented with the Rizzo Travel Award, a $500 award allocated for travel to attend and present his work at the General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology. Karthik’s mentor, Martha Howe, PhD, Van Vleet Professor of Virology at UTHSC, explained that Karthik received the award for his work studying the mechanism of cell lysis by their virus, bacteriophage Mu. This research could lead to the development of an antibiotic based on the ability of the lysis proteins to kill bacterial cells and could have implications for human health.

The Rizzo Travel Award was established in memory of Robert and Richard Rizzo, who both died as young adults. Antonio “Nino” Incardona, PhD, emeritus professor of microbiology and immunology at UTHSC, decided to set up an award in honor of his nephews with money remaining in a fund that had been established years earlier to support his research. The award has now been in place for four years and should last seven or eight more years. “At this point, I’m considering funding the award on my own, after the money runs out,” said Dr. Incardona.

As former director of the graduate program in the previous Department of Microbiology and Immunology that was merged with the Department of Biochemistry to form the Molecular Sciences Department, he said, “I was aware that there were times when students at the end of their graduate career would want to present nationally, which meant travel.” Attending meetings such as the General Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology can cost up to $1,500 for airfare, hotel and food. The Rizzo Memorial Fund is making such travel possible for its awardees.
Lofton K. Stuart Jr., has been named executive director of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association and assistant to the president, UT President John Petersen, announced in May.

Stuart has been executive assistant to the president throughout Petersen’s tenure and served in the same role beginning in September 2003 for former UT President Joe Johnson. In his new role, Stuart will continue to report to the president and remain a member of the president’s staff.

He will have overall responsibility for the UT National Alumni Association and the System wide office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving. Stuart will work closely in a dotted-line relation ship with Henry Nemcik, UT vice president for alumni and development.

“I have truly enjoyed and appreciated having the opportunity to serve in this role for two outstanding men, both Dr. Johnson and Dr. Petersen,” Stuart said. “I’ve had a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the overall mission and scope of the university, and now I plan to take some of that knowledge and use it for more effective alumni involvement.

“I am extremely honored to be offered this new assignment, and I look forward to returning to an office where I have spent almost 30 years of my career with the university.”

Stuart said he also looks forward to working with the UT National Alumni Association on developing a strategic plan patterned after and complementary to the recently developed UT System strategic plan.

Stuart began his UT career in 1972 and since then has served as assistant director of annual giving, director of alumni programs, director of alumni affairs and assistant to the recently developed UT System strategic plan.

To have this deferral reflected in your July paycheck, your enrollment or salary reduction form must be in the Office of Benefits and Retirement Services, 115 Conference Center Building, no later than July 10.

The General Assembly of the state of Tennessee, through the appropriations bill, increased the amount the state will match in the 401(k) deferred compensation program from 40 to 50 per month. The minimum deferral to a 401k remains at $20 per month $10 per biweekly pay period.

In order to receive the full match, you should defer a minimum of $20 per month or $25 per biweekly pay period. If you wish to have your contributions deferred from your longevity pay instead of your paycheck, you should defer at least $600 from this check to receive the full match.

To have this deferral reflected in your July paycheck, your enrollment or salary reduction form must be in the Office of Benefits and Retirement Services, 115 Conference Center Building, no later than July 10. To enroll or increase your deferrals, please complete the forms that can be found at: http://www.tennessee.edu/retirement. If needed, these forms can be mailed to employees. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Office of Benefits and Retirement Services, 974-4341, or benefits@tennessee.edu.

401(K) STATE COMPENSATION INCREASES BY $600 ANNUALLY

Biomedical Instrumentation Provides Another Valuable Campus Service

July 1 marked the beginning of a new service provided to UTHSC by Biomedical Instrumentation BMI. The current five year contract with Steris Corporation for preventive and corrective maintenance on sterilizers, glassware washers and glassware dryers will expire June 30. BMI will assume the role as provider of those services on July 1. Three BMI employees have been trained at the Steris Training Center in Erie, Pa., to ensure the same high level of service now received from Steris’s own technicians.

BMI will provide four preventive maintenance inspections per year on each piece of equipment and 24/7 corrective maintenance support in accordance with the fiscal 2008 contract proposal. The equipment will be maintained in conformance with the manufacturers’ performance standards. Preventive maintenance inspections will be performed during normal working hours and approximately 90 days apart. BMI will maintain detailed documentation on all work performed.

The Biomedical Instrumentation Division has served the extended UT Health Science Center campus since 1948. It offers a broad range of specialized services including computer repair, electronic fabrication, equipment design and repair, mechanical design and fabrication, microscope repair and rehabilitation engineering services. Visit the Web site at www.utmem.edu/BMI or call (901) 448-5652 for more information.

STUART NAMED UT NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Biomedical Instrumentation Provides Another Valuable Campus Service

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New Technology Comes to UTHSC Student Recreation Center Cardio Room

That monotonous daily cardiovascular workout just received a shot of adrenaline. Innovative technology was applied to classic cardio equipment: treadmills advertising “a surface so smooth you can actually run barefoot,” elliptical machines that adjust to stride length, and a treadmill climber that makes walking the new running, are now available to members at the UTHSC Fitness Center. The Office of Campus Recreation purchased the equipment in May with the help of campus improvement funds distributed by the Student Government Association Executive Council (SGAEC).

Dan Houlden, director of the Student Recreation Center, said the three new treadmills were badly needed because of the volume of users on these machines. “The Woodway is the Cadillac of treadmills and well known in the fitness industry,” stated Houlden, who researched the equipment prior to the purchase. They also added five new Nautilus EVX elliptical machines. “These new elliptical machines differ from your standard elliptical because they have a variable stride length, which simulates going from a walk to a run,” Houlden explained.

Another new cardio machine, the Nautilus TreadClimber, is on loan from Nautilus. If the recreation center receives enough positive feedback and the funds are available, they plan on buying a couple of these machines. “The treadmill climber is unique because it is a crossover between a treadmill and an elliptical machine. It simulates walking up a hill rather than a flat surface,” said Houlden. Physical fitness programs across the country are using these machines, advertised as giving the user “a runner’s workout at a walker’s pace.”

“We are very grateful to the SGAEC for financing this new equipment,” noted Houlden, who welcomes feedback on the treadmill climber, as well as the other new machines and any Campus Recreation and Fitness Center matters. Contact Houlden at 448-5643 or dhoulden@utmem.edu.

UTHSC COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBLE EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL

The myth was that the elephant’s graveyard was littered with a fortune in ivory tusks. Is the computer graveyard littered with a fortune in microchips? Not exactly. The flaw in this idealistic vision includes HIPPA standards that protect privacy of personal health information necessitating the restriction of selling or disposing of hard drives with sensitive material and EPA regulations making the items unsuitable for landfills.

Unwelcome byproducts of the technology explosion, the bulky systems of yesterday are being replaced with sleeker, faster systems at an alarming rate, which adds to the challenge of discarding these old machines.

During the summer of 2005, UTHSC Purchasing Services/Surplus Property was running out of space for obsolete electronic equipment that had been stacking up for years. “We had two large areas in the Beale building literally filled to the top with obsolete and dinosaur electronic equipment that had long reached their end of life,” said Jim Randolph, purchasing agent for Purchasing Services/Surplus Property. These were primarily computers, monitors, scanners, fax machines and printers. Something needed to be done fast. “We cannot sell electronic equipment with hard drives in them, and if we were to try to sell them without the hard drives, their value would be a lot less. It would take personnel, time, money and other resources to test equipment and remove the drives to sell the equipment,” explained Randolph. “This is not worth the economic return at this time.”

The “graveyard” on Beale consists of computers and monitors that will either be sorted and redistributed to other departments on campus or disposed of eventually. “Biomedical Instrumentation agreed to take on the responsibility of performing the testing of the computers and monitors to determine if their condition met the criteria for redistribution,” said Randolph.

The equipment that cannot be redistributed is now sent to 5R Processors, Ltd., an electronic recycling vendor with a collecting and sorting facility in Memphis and processing facility in Clinton, Tenn. “They comply with all applicable environmental, health and safety regulations and recycle equipment through a process of dismantling devices into component materials to be reclaimed for new manufacturing,” Randolph stated. The program that this campus began in August 2005 has recycled 130,604 pounds or approximately 65.3 tons. “We recycle about 15,000 to 16,000 pounds every two months or so,” said Randolph. He added that 5R Processors, Ltd., reports that UTHSC has contributed to Green House Gas Emissions reduction equal to the annual energy consumption of 690 households, 22,518 barrels of oil and 1,044,235 gallons of gasoline.

Not exactly a fortune in microchips, but the significance to the environment is priceless.

To schedule pick up of old equipment, fill out the form under the Surplus Property link at the following Web site: http://www.utmem.edu/purchasing/ and fax to 448-8028.)
ENERGY UPDATE

“Turn your lights out before you leave the room!” These words are reminiscent of those you may have heard as a child. Yet, with summer months being prime periods for the over-use of electricity, the UTHSC electric bills are at their highest levels in June, July and August.

This year, the energy management area in the Department of Facilities asks each employee to take action to save energy and decrease the campus electric bill. Take time to shut down your computer, turn off your office lights and click your copier to hibernate before you leave for the day. Every little bit will help to reduce wasted energy and conserve university funds.

Emile David, energy manager at the Health Science Center, said that since housekeeping does not come to clean the offices until the early morning hours, office lights left on for 10 hours can add up to wasted energy.

Besides saving money for the campus, small lifestyle changes can have a big impact on carbon dioxide emissions into our atmosphere.

MICROBIOLOGY PROFESSOR SEES MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS NIH SUPPORT

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

Dr. Cooper’s research program studies baker’s yeast in order to understand how a cascade of specific proteins switches genes on and off, causing cell division. Like dominoes, the proteins are lined up in a row, one potentially influencing the next, and, working like the domino effect, they eventually cause the cell to divide or not. Proteins at the front of the line are prompted to function by signals from the cell’s environment. Modifying a protein or domino anywhere along the path can inhibit its function and stop cell division.

How do these individual “switches” and their influence on cell division affect health care? Stopping division of tumor cells can prevent cancer from spreading; controlling the division of immune system cells can prevent the body from rejecting a newly transplanted organ.

Because of its rapid reproduction, Dr. Cooper studies the factors affecting gene expression and cell division in yeast, stating, “It divides in two hours instead of two days. Manipulating the yeast genome is much easier and faster than with animals.” The data from his studies with yeast can be applied to animals and humans.

Considering the many hours of tedious research, all for the hope of a successful end result, Dr. Cooper was reflective. “You get small pieces of the puzzle every day. If a big discovery happens once a year, it’s special. For many, a truly big discovery may happen only once in a career of hard work,” he said.

“The idea of discovery – the big and little ones; we need them both.” Dr. Cooper credits his many accomplishments to others, saying, “It is the dedicated and creative hard work of over a hundred technicians, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty associates. I have had the good fortune of being their coach and cheerleader.”

He compared the feeling he gets when he makes a discovery to “a runner’s high,” remarking, “Discovery begins by asking an impertinent question.” Dr. Cooper was awarded the Gold Medal of Science in 2001 by Charles University in Prague for his contributions to the field of nitrogen regulation in yeast.

In addition to authoring over 200 papers on metabolic regulation in yeast and a textbook, he has also contributed heavily to the Association of American Medical Colleges Council of Academic Societies. In 2004, he received the AAMC Distinguished Service Award, and he has been a member of study sections for the American Cancer Society and NIH, where he chaired the Biochemistry Study Section. While chair of the UTHSC Department of Microbiology and Immunology, he also established and was director of the Molecular Resource Center of Excellence. Dr. Cooper is currently Secretary of the International Conference of Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology.

On the future of his research he stated, “It’s not only the science, but the art of being observant of looking at what others have looked at before and seeing the things they didn’t see.” That imperious questioning which Cooper says is the essence of science, that sense of never being content to rely on his past achievements but always looking to the future, could be the secret to his long and successful support by NIH.

Carbon Emissions Savings

Shut down and turn off your computer at night.

Saves an average of 137 pounds of carbon dioxide each year!

Turn off all lights that are not being used.

Up to 376 pounds per year may be wasted this way.

Unplug your cell phone charger when not using it.

About 100 pounds of carbon dioxide are emitted when you aren’t actually charging.
In August, roughly two million business and leisure travelers will have a chance to learn a little about the UT Health Science Center through this full page, color ad in NWA World Traveler magazine. The publication will feature a 32 page special editorial section titled, “Spotlight on Memphis,” developed to showcase the city as an exceptional place to work, live and visit. The Bluff City is ranked 7th among “America’s 50 Hottest Cities” for business relocations and expansions by Expansion Management magazine. Entrepreneur magazine ranks Memphis #10 out of 50 large metro areas to start and grow a company.

This year, UTHSC placed a similar full page color ad in both the spring and fall issues of Bioworks magazine. Published as an insert in Memphis Business Quarterly, each issue of Bioworks is circulated to an audience of 38,500. Readers include chief financial officers of all Fortune 1,000 companies, members and friends of the Memphis Bioworks Foundation, Memphis Logistics Council, Memphis Regional Chamber and Memphis Technology Council, plus national site selectors and consultants.

Steve J. Schwab, MD, executive dean of the College of Medicine for the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC), has announced the appointment of David C. Seaberg, MD, CPE, FACEP, as dean for the College of Medicine, Chattanooga, one of three College of Medicine campuses that are part of UTHSC.

“The national search conducted for this position by the Chattanooga campus of the College of Medicine and Parker Executive Search identified a group of outstanding medical leaders,” Executive Dean Schwab stated. “The search committee, ably lead by Phillip Burns, MD, chair of Surgery at the Chattanooga campus and out going Chattanooga Dean B.W. Ruffner, Jr., MD, selected a group of exceptional candidates who made several visits to Chattanooga. This search process revealed that Dr. Seaberg possessed the strongest combination of skills and practical experience to meet the needs of the Chattanooga campus community,” Executive Dean Schwab said.

“We are very pleased with the appointment of Dr. Seaberg. He has been a national figure in emergency medicine in the United States, with extensive experience in clinical trials as well as graduate medical education,” Dr. Schwab observed. “Dr. Seaberg is well positioned to lead our Chattanooga campus.”

All three UTHSC College of Medicine campuses — Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis — report to the executive dean.

“It speaks to the academic excellence of the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga that Dr. Seaberg, who comes from a nationally recognized program, has chosen to accept this position. We are excited about his joining us, and look forward to continuing to grow our partnership,” said Jim Brexler, president and CEO, Erlanger Health System.

Dr. Seaberg is a professor and chairman for the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Florida, Gainesville. He attended medical school at the University of Minnesota and completed his residency training in Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He is certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine and the Certifying Commission in Medical Management. Dr. Seaberg has authored more than 125 publications, book chapters and abstracts. He has also received numerous teaching and research awards.

In addition to his University of Florida role, Dr. Seaberg has served as president of the Florida College of Emergency Physicians and serves on the Board of Directors for the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. He has been a leader in Florida with regard to medical and hospital aspects of domestic security. Also, he founded the University Alliance for Weapons of Mass Destruction Education and served as co chair of the Health/Medical/Hospital/EMS Committee of the State Work Group for Domestic Security.

“I’m looking forward to further developing the academic medical linkage between the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Erlanger Hospital and the Chattanooga community,” Dr. Seaberg said. “The UT Erlanger academic medical center not only provides state of the art care for our patients today; but we are conducting cutting edge research, as well as training new physicians for the future care of our patients in middle Tennessee.”
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Jeff Smith Brings Wartime Leadership Skills to Classroom

To say Major William Jeffery Jeff Smith, a full time graduate student in the Clinical Laboratory Science Laboratory Management track, received “on the job” training would be an understatement. Receiving his BS in medical technology in 1995, he trained in the lab at Walter Reed in 2000 after he spent time as a platoon leader with the 2nd Armored Calvalry Regiment. From the lab at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Jeff went to Fort Rucker, Ala., and deployed to from Iraq in 2004.

For eleven months, Jeff supervised the performance of over 110,000 laboratory procedures and transfusion of over 17,000 units of blood products in Baghdad. “We transfused more blood in my one combat support hospital than 99 of the hospitals in the U.S.,” he said, observing, “I learned a lot about myself, as well as dealing with subordinates and leaders while under immense pressure. The experience I received by being deployed is an experience very few people have because of the patients you see and life learning experience.”

The only laboratory officer in the hospital, Jeff received red blood cells from the states with an average shelf life of 14 to 21 days left on them by the time they arrived. They also handled fresh frozen plasma, which keep for up to one year at 20 F or lower. “One thing you can’t get from the states,” Jeff said, “is platelets.” He explained that platelets have a five day shelf life and must be kept at room temperature and agitated. The platelets assist in the clotting in a patient with a major wound. “If a patient has bleeding and is losing a limb, they can dump blood in minutes,” he said. “Previously, the only way was to draw whole blood from soldiers, which was a lot of work, and there was the time factor,” said Jeff.

The military now draws platelets in theater, which means the platelets are taken out of the donor’s blood to be used on the wounded, and the blood minus the platelets goes back into the donor. When he first arrived in Iraq, Jeff dealt with a shortage of equipment, but they ordered and eventually got what they needed. Although the lab they used was cramped, he said that the Army’s small field equipment is made for that purpose. Jeff, who worked 12 to 16 hour days, said, “I relied heavily on my sergeants and soldiers to perform complex tests, draw platelets and issue blood, all of which is normally only done by medical technologists with BS degrees in civilian hospitals.”

“All I did was lead an extraordinary team of soldiers,” observed Jeff, who received the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. “They are the ones who made me successful through their hard work and day to day diligence.”

Since returning to the states, Jeff’s unit has been portrayed in an HBO documentary, “Baghdad ER.” In June 2006, Jeff was promoted to major and reported to the UT Health Science Center. He searched for the right program because he knew what he needed to learn from being in Iraq. “I looked hard for programs,” he said, adding, “I chose UTHSC because of what they had to offer.”

Linda Ross, MS, MT ASCST, CLS NCA, chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and program director of the Medical Technology program, stated, “Jeff has added a dimension to our program that isn’t measurable.” She explained that his lab management experience a real battle field situation is unique. “The other students in the program have gained such insight from him. He’s really enriched our program.”

Since returning, Jeff has also been sought after as a speaker, at the Greater Memphis Area Blood Bank and in May at the Tennessee Association Blood Bank Meeting in Knoxville. “People just gravitate to him,” Ross remarked. “He shows us the medical, the human side of the war.”

Jeff, who plans to graduate in May 2008, is accompanied by Christie, his wife of 11 years, and their three children, Ellen, Elijah, and Gabriel. His future military assignments will be “based on the needs of the Army” but he remarks that the graduate program at UTHSC is the first stepping stone to his future as an instructor in the military.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER...

Extension cords are designed to be used on a temporary basis, and stationary equipment should be connected to a permanent electrical outlet. Each year, more than 4,000 people are treated in emergency rooms for injuries as a result of the improper use of extension cords. Half of these injuries are fractures, lacerations, contusions and sprains resulting from tripping over extension cords. In residential accidents, 13 percent of the victims are children less than 5 years old, and half of those injuries are electrical burns to the mouth resulting from young children biting into extension cords. Extension cords further result in more than 3,300 fires each year causing more than 50 deaths and several hundred injuries.

The electrical surge suppression strips with six outlets routinely used on campus for computers and related small office equipment are approved by the National Electrical Code for permanent use but they should be placed where they will not present a tripping hazard, and they should never be positioned so that a chair could roll over the cord.

Freezers or other lab or office equipment should not be operating off extension cords; this is not an approved means of permanent wiring by the Memphis and Shelby County Code or the National Electrical Code. Please consider installing a permanent receptacle for stationary lab and office equipment. For further information or an assessment of your particular electrical needs by a UTHSC electrician, please contact Facilities Services at 448-7661.
Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD, was recruited to the UT Health Science Center Department of Pathology in 2000 for his clinical expertise in dermatopathology. In 2002, he was promoted to professor, and in 2006 he was awarded a five year grant with direct costs of 1.9 million from the National Institutes of Health.

His grant, titled “Novel Biosynthetic Pathway for Secosteroids and the Skin” is intimidating to the nonscientific audience. The research will study altered chains of vitamin D and their affects on the skin and the rest of the body.

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

It helps to know that vitamin D is not really a vitamin at all, but a hormone. Dr. Slominski explained that the secosteroids of their study have a section of vitamin D that has been altered or reduced. It also helps to understand that vitamin D is largely absent from the food supply except for fish liver oils; think cod liver oil for rickets. However, large amounts of vitamin D taken orally can be harmful because it can raise calcium in the blood too high. The body’s major source for vitamin D, sunlight, will not cause this same increase in blood calcium level. The body will produce vitamin D when the skin is exposed to sunlight ultraviolet B UVB radiation.

Dr. Slominski has assembled experts in various fields to work on the study. One member of his team, Michael Holick, MD, PhD, professor of medicine and physiology at Boston University, has attained celebrity status for his vitamin D research. “Michael is one of the top people in his field and was interviewed recently on NBC,” said Dr. Slominski. Besides the NBC documentary, “Are Americans Getting Too Little Sun,” Dr. Holick was recently interviewed in The New York Times. The consensus of both doctors is that exposure to sunlight in moderation is actually good for the body.

Dr. Slominski’s local research team consists of postdoctoral fellows Michal Zmijewski and Zorica Janjetovic and student lab assistant Damon Alexander Deleon. He is also collaborating with UTHSC researcher Trevor Sweatman, PhD, in the Pharmacology Department. Researchers on the project in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences include Jianjun Chen, doctoral student; Wei Li, PhD, assistant professor and director of the NMR facility; and Duane Miller, PhD, chair of the department. Jordan Zjawiony, PhD, from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Mississippi serves as a consultant.

New Certificate in Clinical Research Program

The Department of Preventive Medicine is pleased to announce a new Certificate in Clinical Research program at UT Health Science Center. The new program aims to enhance the education and skills of clinical researchers by offering online, introductory graduate courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, clinical research design, ethics and other disciplines related to the effective, efficient conduct of clinical research. The 12 credit hour nondegree program, leading to an awarded certificate, is designed primarily for junior faculty, fellows, and other health care professionals who seek initial training in the methods and skills to conduct clinical research but whose schedules may not accommodate traditional, classroom based courses. For the fall 2007 semester, the program will offer two online courses on the fundamentals of clinical investigation and biostatistics, followed in spring 2008 by two additional online courses on epidemiology methods and ethical/legal issues in clinical research. More details and a downloadable application form are posted at http://www.utmem.edu/prevmed link to the Certificate in Clinical Research program . The Department of Preventive Medicine will be coordinating the new program along with the current graduate program in epidemiology. Both programs are chaired by Andrew J. Bush, PhD, and directed by Pamela D. Connor, PhD.

Card Reader Update

Sergeant Beverly Avis of the Campus Police would like to inform the campus about some card reader details that may improve their parking experience. To obtain or replace an ID, contact Campus Police. There are posted times in which people can get new ID cards. If unable to make the regularly scheduled times, call for an appointment. Everyone needs to call 448-6705 prior to going to Campus Police for ID cards; this is to ensure that they are in the computer system. Additional details are as follows:

- Individuals must swipe their cards and wait for the light to turn green to open the doors.
- The doors will not open by themselves unless they are handicap accessible entrances.
- Individuals need to pull on or open the door closest to the card reader to gain access.
- If the door fails to open, call 448-4444.
Memphis City Schools Teachers Learn New Techniques
Thanks to UTHSC Grant

"Business wants people who are team players — people who can problem solve, think critically and are self-motivated," said Ann Lambros, PhD, director of the Center for Excellence for Research, Teaching and Learning at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Dr. Lambros was in Memphis in early June to work with 14 Memphis City Schools MCS teachers. A full week of intensive workshop training on problem-based learning PBL techniques armed the K through 12 teachers with a proven technique to help motivate their students to better understand the process of science, be more involved with their science lessons and become lifelong learners.

The PBL workshop was hosted by the Office of Medical Education in the UT Health Science Center College of Medicine as part of the Science Education Partnership Award SEPA program. The SEPA program is funded through the National Center for Research Resources, part of the National Institutes of Health. Several MCS teachers attended the PBL workshop last summer in Winston-Salem, N.C., thanks to this same grant. Vivian Garrett, a teacher at Georgia Avenue Elementary who participated in the workshop last summer, used several PBL techniques with her fifth grade students this past year. Garrett noted she could see a big difference in the children's ability to work through science problems.

According to Larry Tague, research associate at UTHSC, co-investigator on the NIH grant, and director of its PBL components, participants in the workshop collaborate in small groups to develop "real-world" scenarios that align with curriculum standards. Using these problem scenarios, the students then identify facts they already know or can extract from the scenario, determine what they need to know about the situation presented, and decide what resources they will need to solve the problem. The next step is to map out a plan to find the resources required to determine the hypothesis or best possible solution, map out an action plan, and then report and defend their results.

Dr. Lambros pointed out that because learning occurs in teams, "other noncognitive skills such as negotiation, mediation and respect for diversity are learned as well."

"Our program is offering the training and support for the science teachers to be able to implement PBL in their classrooms. We provide them with the initial workshop and will follow up with half day programs during the school year, as well as multiple site visits to their schools to give additional support," said Missy Robinson, a UTHSC education specialist on the grant. In addition to Robinson, Tajuana Redmond, UTHSC program coordinator, provides additional external teacher support. Robert Shreve, PhD, associate dean in the UT Health Science Center College of Medicine, is the principal investigator of this grant, and Vicki Park, PhD, is the second co-investigator.

The opening and closing days of the weeklong PBL program were held on the UTHSC campus. Two days of workshops were held at the Memphis Academy of Health Sciences charter school. In addition, a one day session titled, "Putting Science in the Classrooms" was held at the Pink Palace Museum.
NEW ASSISTANT LABORATORY ANIMAL TECHNICIAN VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

The UT Health Science Center Health Works program and the Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM) have joined to train students for careers as assistant laboratory animal care technicians.

Four Health Works students were selected to be part of a small training team that will complete a 12-month course led by American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)-certified technician, Earnestine Hayes and Muriel Rice, PhD, APRN, BC, facilitator and supervisor in the DCM.

Dr. Rice explained that one of the major challenges confronting the state of Tennessee is to identify ways to effectively respond to social and economic challenges. These challenges include moving Families First recipients from the welfare roll into long-term jobs paying livable wages. A key undertaking of the university is to partner with communities to provide educational, technical and cultural support to increase the viability of those communities. UTHSC also strives to partner with industry and government to improve the quality of the workplace and to serve as an engine for economic and cultural development.

The Laboratory Animal Care Technician program will include coursework and practical experience in a research animal facility environment. Basic research training will also be provided with classes that include small, group workshops designed to enhance computer literacy and proficiency in the operation of laboratory equipment such as the compound microscope, scales and centrifuge.

Cognitive behavioral therapeutic counseling sessions—INSIGHT therapy and coping strategies have been designed to help students’ self-esteem, self-efficacy, positive thinking, as well as depressive symptoms and negative lifestyle behaviors.

These therapeutic group sessions have been shown to improve the physical and mental health of participants, eliminating reported work barriers and increasing students’ chance of long-term job success.

In addition, within the academic functions of the DCM is the provision of AALAS technician training. “The training involves classroom and hands-on experience. They are in class five days a week and three of those days consist of laboratory experience,” stated Hayes. Students also go through an extensive entrance process, which includes interviews with DCM staff and a written essay of interest. All of the sponsoring entities are committed to helping welfare recipients achieve economic independence.

The UTHSC Department of Comparative Medicine successfully prepares animal care technicians for the ALAT certification examination. “Students must have at least one year of experience in research laboratory to be eligible for certification,” explained Dr. Rice. The DCM currently employs 29 laboratory animal care technicians, and 48 percent (14) of these individuals have completed the departmental animal care training program and are currently certified by AALAS.

AHA Start! Program Promotes Physical Activity, Wellness

A journey of a thousand miles always begins with the first step. That’s what the American Heart Association (AHA) wants millions of Americans to do—Start! Take that first step. This year the AHA’s annual three-mile promenade through downtown Memphis has been renamed the Start! Heart Walk. Start! Is the AHA’s new national movement that calls on all Americans and their employers to be catalysts for change by creating a culture of physical activity and wellness in order to live longer, healthier lives.

Set for September 15, this heart healthy event turns out thousands of Mid South strollers every year. In 2006, 340 UT Health Science Center team members registered for the walk. Together they raised $34,543 to support the AHA’s fight against heart disease and stroke, which take more than 900,000 lives each year. Of the 32 local organizations that participated in the 2006 Heart Walk, UTHSC ranked third in funds raised, behind Nike ($66,516) and FedEx ($63,994).

“All of us should be serious about heart health,” said Acting Chancellor Hershel P. Wall. “I look forward to joining with members of our Health Science Center family in this year’s Start! Heart Walk. The walk is a great opportunity for us to come together in support of a very important and worthy cause. I encourage everyone to join us for the walk or, if you can’t be there, please make a donation or support a Health Science Center team member who is walking.”
PEOPLE

Martha M. Howe, PhD, Van Vleet Professor of Virology, UTHSC Department of Molecular Sciences, was honored in May with the Alice C. Evans Award for her contributions to the advancement and full participation of women in microbiology. Established by the American Society for Microbiology ASM Committee on the Status of Women in Microbiology and supported by Roche Diagnostics Corporation, the award is presented in memory of Alice C. Evans, the first woman to be elected president of ASM.

Dr. Howe received the award for her mentoring efforts for women in science through her functions as a professor, lecturer, graduate student trainer, seminar speaker, presubmission grant reviewer and former president of the ASM. At UTHSC she helped establish a Committee on the Status of Women and continues to serve as co chair of the Mentoring Subcommittee of that group. As the chair for the ASM Task Force for Reorganization of National Institutes of Health NIH Study Sections, she promoted the inclusion of accomplished women scientists among those nominated by ASM to serve on the NIH panels that reorganized various microbiology associated study sections.

Dominic M. Desiderio, PhD, professor of neurology and molecular science, presented the lecture “The Ni troproteome of the Human Pituitary” at the Discussion Group in Mass Spectrometry in Palermo, Italy, on March 30, 2006.

William Brescia, PhD, director of UTHSC Instructional Technology Academic and Faculty Affairs, was recently published with Tony Daly in The American Indian Quarterly for their article, “Economic Development and Technology Skill Needs.” Dr. Brescia has authored and co authored numerous publications on American Indian issues, aging, non profit education and instructional technology. His research interests include American Indian workforce development, strategies for improving online interaction, mentoring, distance learning and technology training and use by elders.

Carlton V. Horbelt, DDS, associate professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry and Community Oral Health at the UTHSC College of Dentistry, has been elected president of the Special Care Dentistry Association SCDA, an international organization of dental professionals and others who are dedicated to promoting oral health and well being for people with special needs. The SCDA unites health care professionals from American Association of Hospital Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities and the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry.

Dr. Horbelt is a diplomate of the American Board of Special Care Dentistry, a fellow of the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities, a fellow of the American College of Dentists, a distinguished practitioner in the National Academy of Practice in Dentistry, a member of the National Dental Honor Society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon, and a member of the Richard Doggett Dean and Marguerite Taylor Dean Honorary Odontological Society.

Surya Shah, OTD, PhD, MED, OTR, FAOTA, professor of Occupational Therapy and Neurology in collaboration with Michael Holms, PhD, in Leeds, UK, and Gerry Leisman, MD, PhD, from New York has published their research in the May issue of International Journal of Neuroscience: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Brain Behavior Research.

The authors examined the performance on figure ground perception following stroke induced hemiplegia in 212 patients and compared their pre and post rehabilitation with 321 neurologically unimpaired persons. Nine hypotheses were tested.

FAMILY NOTES

Keyana Renee Mitchell Washington, the daughter of Macretta Booker, coor director sponsored projects accounting, in the UTHSC Finance and Operations Department, was awarded the degrees of Doctor of Medicine and Master’s of Public Health during the Emory University School of Medicine diploma ceremony in May. She will begin postgraduate training as a first year resident with the Emory University Department of Pediatrics in Atlanta, Ga., in July. She was also the first Af rican American from the University of Mississippi to receive the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship for Service.

Amy Hall, educational coordinator in Graduate Medical Education, and her husband David recently adopted a son from Kazakhstan. They traveled to Kazakhstan in April and returned to Memphis on June 18 with 22-month old William Rama Hall. Both of William’s new grandmothers, Claudia Mannon, administrative assistant in the Department of Otolaryngology, and Janie Hall, administrative specialist III in Graduate Medical Education, work at UTHSC.

Michelle Lester, administrative specialist I in the Physiology Department, is the proud mom of Celie Lester. Celie was born on November 30, 2006.

Keyana Mitchell Washington

From left: David, William and Amy Hall in Kazakhstan.
Steve J Kennel, Jonathan S Wall, Tina Richey and James Avenell of the UTHSC College of Medicine co-authored and published a paper in the IOP Publishing journal, Nanotechnology. The paper, "In Vivo SPECT/CT Imaging and Biodistribution Using Radioactive Cd125mTe/ZnS Nanoparticles," appears in the current online edition and is freely available. The paper was also featured in the May 2007 print version of Nanotechnology.

Peter A. Netland, MD, PhD, Siegal Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center UTHSC, will receive the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology AAO at its annual conference in New Orleans this fall.

With more than 7,000 international members, the AAO is the largest national professional association of ophthalmologists. The organization’s Achievement Award program encompasses more than 25 categories of contribution to the academy.

Dr. Netland is also director of the Glaucoma Service and vice chair for Academic Affairs for the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology. An advocate at both the local and state levels for early glaucoma screening, Dr. Netland has actively reached out to senior centers, churches, and community centers to identify individuals with early vision loss. Dr. Netland is the site leader in Memphis for the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, which provides equipment and guidelines for community screening.

Georgette Sevier, MD, assistant professor of Pediatrics at UTHSC and a board certified general pediatrics doctor at Le Bonheur and UT Medical Group, was featured in a June article in The Commercial Appeal and on their “Healthy Memphis Blog,” as an expert on children’s checkups. Dr. Sevier is the fifth UTHSC faculty member to be featured as an expert on The Commercial Appeal blog in the last six months.

David Townsend, PhD, director of the Molecular Imaging and Translational Research Program at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, was chosen to speak at the May 2007 Nobel Conference, “Watching Life Through Molecular Imaging,” in Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr. Townsend presented information from his research in designing and developing advanced Positron Emission Tomography PET scanning instrumentation, which enhances physicians’ ability to diagnose and stage cancer and potentially offers an earlier diagnosis of cancer before advanced symptoms of a disease appear. In particular, he discussed the combination of molecular imaging technology PET with the study of the structure of organs computed tomography to gain improved results from PET scanning. He joined 30 other scientists from around the world in presenting advances in molecular imaging.

“It was an honor to be invited to speak at this forum and to have the opportunity to present the work of our UT program to such a distinguished scientific group,” Dr. Townsend said.

Brett Seshul, DDS, third year resident in periodontology, was awarded third place, category II basic science research in the 2007 Pen nel Research Competition, from the Southern Academy of Periodontology. Dr. Seshul’s research project "Effect of Bisphosphonates on the Production of Mediators of Osteoclastogenesis RANKL, OPG, and IL 6 by Human Gingival Fibroblasts" is being funded by a grant from the UT College of Dentistry Alumni Endowment Fund. His research mentor and chair of his master’s committee is David A. Tip ton, DDS, PhD, associate professor in the UTHSC Dental Research Center and Department of Periodontology.

Dr. Seshul, who is performing this research in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Dental Science, made a poster presentation and received his award at the Southern Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting, in Florida in June.

Thank You for Your Support

“I would like to take a moment to thank the entire UT community for your thoughts and prayers during an intense and difficult period. I greatly appreciate each member of our campus family who took time to extend positive words of support over the past few months.”

Sergeant Gene Ballard, UT Campus Police

IN MEMORIAM

Rachel J. Welton, who retired in 2006 after 37 years of dedicated service to the UT College of Pharmacy, passed away in June. For almost four decades, Rachel affectionately called thousands of UT pharmacy students “my children.” The Class of 1983 awarded her an honorary PharmD degree, and she was honored as Woman of the Year by the American Business Women’s Association.

Two of Rachel’s closest associates from the college were asked to speak at her funeral. Peter Chyka, PhD, associate dean, stated that he recalled the lines of the old spiritual, “Sometimes I feel like a motherless child.” He added that, with Rachel, no one was a motherless child. “She made all of us her children. Her children are here in this church, in pharmacies, in pharmaceutical industry, in universities, throughout this nation and around the world.”

Bobby Thomas, assistant dean, recalled that Rachel had unique ways to get financial items for the Drug Information Center and Southern Poison Center approved in a quick manner that sometimes included Rachel literally standing on his desk! Rachel leaves two brothers, a sister, and many nieces and nephews.

Rachel Welton
UTHSC Network Services Introduces Wi-Fi Guest Registration

Billy Hatcher, Manager, Network Services

For the past few years, the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) Network Services has provided a Wi-Fi Guest Network for non-UTHSC colleagues, sales representatives and visitors. The Wi-Fi Guest Network provided these individuals Internet access for e-mail and web applications, while maintaining the IT security measures currently deployed.

On May 14, UTHSC became compliant with new and stricter Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) requirements intended to assist law enforcement agencies in obtaining digital communication information in the case of criminal or terrorist activity, particularly identification of the user. While many universities are exempt per the existing CALEA terminology, the terminology fails to be explicit, leaving many such institutions unsure of their requirements. Although most experts believe the requirements will become more distinct over the next year, UTHSC currently falls into the grey area between compliance and exemption. This, in conjunction with the sensitivity of much of the data stored on campus, forces UTHSC to assure we are meeting the current CALEA requirements.

As a result of these requirements, faculty and staff will be required to register all guest Wi-Fi users, providing the guest with a Wi-Fi guest ID and password. The Wi-Fi guest ID and password registration process will be available via the UTHSC website, with a clickable link on the HelpDesk homepage (http://www.utmem.edu/helpdesk/). The registration is only good for up to 30 days, but allows the faculty/staff member to manage any necessary extension of the Wi-Fi guest access.

A quick click on the Wi-Fi guest ID and password link on the UTHSC HelpDesk homepage will prompt you for your NetID and password. You must then enter the guest Wi-Fi user’s first and last name, followed by the starting and ending dates for Wi-Fi guest access. At this time, a Wi-Fi guest ID and password will be generated for the guest Wi-Fi user. The guest Wi-Fi user will then be prompted to review and accept the UTHSC guest access policy, before authenticating Wi-Fi guest access by entering their Wi-Fi guest ID and password.

*Please note that this is not a substitute for the sponsored NetID utilized for contracted employees & other short-term personnel.

A CALL FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

During three separate orientation programs during the first week of June, 130 future health professionals stepped on campus to pursue their interest in health careers. For up to nine weeks, students at varying stages of educational training—from high school to college graduates—were engaged in internships, skills development, motivational and preparation activities.

Seven enrichment programs, funded by local, state, and federal sources, allow UTHSC to translate the term “opportunity” into true meaningful access to its programs. As such, the university serves as a portal through which students pass on their way to becoming health professionals. Students who are underrepresented in the research and health care communities will be exposed to internships, health practitioners as role models, workshops on post-baccalaureate admission and financial aid, standardized test preparation, and UTHSC first-year curricula.

The importance of the enrichment programs cannot be overstated, as they contribute to a diverse workforce. As noted in the 2004 Sullivan Commission, “Excellence in health professions education is difficult to achieve in a culturally limited environment. Missing the experience of cultural diversity diminishes the overall quality of health professions education and adversely affects the health status of minority populations.”

Sincere thanks are extended to the numerous faculty and staff who graciously contribute their time and effort to the participating students and to the success of these programs. The outstanding resources and opportunities at this institution provide students an ideal setting in which to become familiar with health care careers, to be immersed in the climate in which research takes place and to be in contact with role models employed in these fields.

### 2007 Summer Enrichment Programs

**Health Disparities International Research Training**
Malinda Fitzgerald, director; seven students

**Institutes of Museum and Library Services**
Brenda Green, director; two students

**Memphis Challenge**
Leroy Moore, director; 13 students

**Memphis McNair Program**
Deborah Northcross, director; 21 students

**Pre-Science**
Eldridge Johnson, director; 44 students

**Rotary**
Leroy Moore and Carol Barnett, directors; four students

**Tennessee Institutes for Pre-Professionals**
Leroy Moore, director; 40 students

Dwight Fryer, author of “The Legend of Quite Road,” encouraged students about destination and route planning.
IRE cont. from pg. 1

mysteries. A green glass bottle sits on the office desk, a wooden arrow affixed impossibly through its two small holes. “My dad made those,” Pitts said, explaining nothing. “The Scottish Rite is for members with degrees 4 through 33,” he said, becoming even more puzzling. He recalled how some members didn’t like coming to the building because “Forrest rode his horse around upstairs.” Nathan Bedford Forrest’s ghost? Bottles pierced with wooden arrows? Pitts handed out a pamphlet, saying, “This will explain more about what we do.” Reading the title, any hopes of secret passages and mysteries vanished: Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program: at the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, University of Tennessee Health Science Center. “We’ve been working with the UT Boling Center since 1975,” Pitts said. The pamphlet explained how the program, serving children with language disorders, provides speech evaluations and therapy, working closely with the Boling Center’s teams in evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and follow up of a wide range of developmental disorders. “Since 1993, more than 4,100 children have received services,” added Pitts. The Memphis Scottish Rite, now 3,500 members strong, began their bond with UTHSC when several men in the chapter decided to sponsor a grant for the Childhood Aphasia Program in what was then the Childhood Development Center. Gwen Ennis, a retired speech pathologist, was the program’s first operating director, from 1975 79. “Dr. Bill Collins was head of speech pathology at UTHSC,” said Ennis. “He contacted the Scottish Rite about sponsoring a grant. He was the managing director of the program. I was the operating director. I supervised two interns per year but he was crucial to the program’s development.” Pitts recalled Joseph and Everett Mobley, UTHSC alumni, as well as Dr. William Klotz all deceased, as Scottish Rite members who helped develop the program. Said Pitts, “The clinic grew quicker than the money came in. I think it’s up to around 70 thousand a year now.” In addition to their work with children, the Memphis Scottish Rite funds a Clinical Fellowship Year for a UTHSC speech pathology graduate with a master’s degree. The fellowship offers an exemplary student the opportunity to work in a team setting under close supervision. The program has trained more than 40 fellows. “The Scottish Rite focuses on language disorders; the Knights Templar Eye Foundation focuses on people who need eye operations and treatment of that sort,” explained Pitts.

SCOTTISH RITE FACTS

What is the Scottish Rite?
The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization that continues a Master Mason’s education of the first three degrees. Other examples of Masonic affiliated organizations are The Shrine, Shriners; York Rite; Grotto; Eastern Star, DeMolay International, Job’s Daughters’, International Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. The Scottish Rite consists of the 4th through 32nd degree and an honorary 33rd, which is awarded for exceptional service.

Is Freemasonry a religion?
No. While it is a requirement that each member believe in a Supreme Being, it is not important how one expresses that very personal belief.

Is Freemasonry or the Scottish Rite a secret society?
Absolutely not. They operate very much in the open with many events open to the public. There are “modes of recognition” passwords and handshakes that represent a Mason’s ability to keep a promise.

How can I join? Do I have to be invited?
Freemasonry is a fraternity for men whose membership must be sought by the candidate. So, in other words, to be a Mason, ask a Mason how to become a member.

What are the caps for?
It is part of the uniform and the different colors indicate the degree of the wearer.

In the United States, the Freemasons donate more than 2 million a day to health care, education and other causes. They are thought to have originated from a 15th century medieval guild of master cathedral builders in Europe, which explains the compass and surveyor’s square common among their many symbols.

Despite their reputation for philanthropy, the misconceptions about the Masons persist.

“The only things secret are part of the plays,” said Pitts, who gladly presented a photo album of the backdrops used in the plays performed when the members attain a higher degree. “Each play represents some moral lesson,” he stated. The Scottish Rite Creed sums it up best: “Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.” What a good neighbor to have.
### GRANTS

Congratulations to the following UTHSC team members who have recently received grants totaling more than $5,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Elam, MD, PhD</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>&quot;Regulation of SREBP 1c Processing by Insulin and Cyclic AMP&quot;</td>
<td>$268,330</td>
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<td>Terrance Cooper, PhD</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>&quot;Regulation of Nitrogen Catabolic Gene Expression in S Cerevisiae&quot;</td>
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<td>Charles Leffler, PhD</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>&quot;Control of Neonatal Circulation&quot;</td>
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<td>Gadiparthi Rao, PhD</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>&quot;NFATs and Vascular Injury&quot;</td>
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<td>Robert Waters, PhD</td>
<td>National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke</td>
<td>&quot;Mechanisms of Large Scale Reorganization in Rat Forepaw Barrel Subfield Cortex&quot;</td>
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<td>Jonathan Jaggar, PhD</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>&quot;Solarmre OLC100 Nipkow Spinning Disk Contol Unit&quot;</td>
<td>$344,880</td>
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<td>Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>&quot;Novel Biosynthetic Pathway for Secoste roids and the Skin&quot;</td>
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<td>Chunying Li, PhD</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
<td>&quot;Macromolecular Complex of IL8RB, NHERFI, and PLC beta3 regulates&quot;</td>
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<td>Calcium Signals in Inflammatory Cardiovascular Diseases&quot;</td>
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<td>Sandra Arnold, MD</td>
<td>Le Bonheur</td>
<td>&quot;SWAN Study Staphylococcus in Women and Children&quot;</td>
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<td>Katherine Barker, PhD</td>
<td>Le Bonheur</td>
<td>&quot;Analysis of PDR1 in Candida Glabrata Clinical Isolates&quot;</td>
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<td>Martin Blakely, MD</td>
<td>Le Bonheur</td>
<td>&quot;Treatment of Ruptured Appendicitis in Children&quot;</td>
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<td>Monica Brown, DO</td>
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<td>&quot;Cytokine Regulation of MMP 1 in Scleroderma&quot;</td>
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<td>Archana Dhar, MD</td>
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<td>&quot;Bacterial DNA in Macrophage Responses to Staphylococci&quot;</td>
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<td>Xiaobin Han, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Le Bonheur</td>
<td>&quot;Role of TauT in Protecting against Drug Induced AKI&quot;</td>
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<td>Christopher Hoehamer, PhD</td>
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<td>&quot;Identification of Drug Induced Proteins in Candida Albicans&quot;</td>
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<td>Deborah Jones, MD</td>
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<td>&quot;Modification of Cardiovascular Risk in Youth&quot;</td>
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<td>Young Kim, PhD</td>
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<td>&quot;Study of Molecular Mechanisms of IRAK M Expression by TLR Ligands&quot;</td>
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<td>Kenneth Knecht, MD</td>
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<td>&quot;Action of ANG II in Newborn Cerebrovascular Circulation&quot;</td>
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<td>Anna-Kathryn Rye, MD</td>
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<td>&quot;Host Inflammatory Response to Antibiotic-Killed GAS&quot;</td>
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<td>Robert Wyatt, MD</td>
<td>Le Bonheur</td>
<td>&quot;Development of a Diagnostic Test for IGA Neuphropathy&quot;</td>
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<td>Shadab Siddiqi, PhD</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
<td>&quot;Regulation In Intracellular Lipid Transport in Liver Cells&quot;</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<td>Daniel Osborne, PhD</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
<td>&quot;Molecular Characterization of the S1P2 Agonist Binding Pocket&quot;</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<td>George Cook, PhD</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
<td>&quot;Fatty Acid Oxidation Control in the Heart&quot;</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<td>Alexander P. Auchus, MD</td>
<td>Eisai Pfizer Investigator Initiated Studies Program</td>
<td>&quot;Novel Neuroimaging Markers for Preclinical Dementia&quot;</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Compliance Corner by Carolyn Moffitt**

The Clinical Practices billing compliance/patient privacy officer of the UT Health Science Center is responsible for receiving and investigating all complaints regarding the university’s policies for billing and patient privacy compliance. Complaints can be provided the following ways:

- Call Carolyn Moffitt, clinical practices billing compliance/patient privacy officer at 448-1672.
- Call the hotline numbers: 448-4900 or 448-1700.
- Access the Compliance Web site at www.utmem.edu/compliance to complete a complaint form and forward to cmoffitt@utmem.edu.