The University of Tennessee president’s annual campus tour began at UTHSC on September 2.

Throughout the month of September, Interim President Jan Simek, PhD, and members of his staff spent a day at each of the UT system’s campuses. In addition, there was a Nashville stop at which President Simek met with employees based in Middle Tennessee.

During the visits, President Simek talked with campus administrators, faculty, staff, students, public officials and community leaders.

“In these tough economic times, it is important to reassure everyone that the university is continuing to move forward and that improving our quality remains the paramount goal,” President Simek said.

The tour provided the campuses with an opportunity to highlight their achievements and goals. Employees also had a chance to voice their concerns and ask questions in a face-to-face setting.

There were two new features introduced during this year’s tour – a special Web site and Twitter.

You can find tour updates from each stop by visiting http://www.tennessee.edu/campustour/ or by following President Simek on Twitter at http://twitter.com/ut-president.

Wall Steps Down as Chancellor, Schwab Is Interim

On September 2, Chancellor Hershel P. Wall, MD, announced that he plans to step down from his position on September 30. Dr. Wall has been a member of the Health Science Center team since he began medical school on the Memphis campus more than 52 years ago.

Steve J. Schwab, MD, was named UTHSC interim chancellor by UT Interim President Jan Simek. Dr. Schwab’s appointment becomes effective on October 1. The search for the permanent Health Science Center chancellor will begin immediately.

“Pat Wall is an incredibly dedicated member of the university family,” said President Simek. “We are grateful for the many contributions he has made to
H1N1 Update

Novel Influenza A/H1N1 (swine origin) is a serious concern this fall flu season. The virus, which first surfaced in Mexico, has now spread to the United States, Shelby County and around the world.

Although the number of cases in the U.S. is still small, health officials are monitoring the situation to keep the public informed so that the virus does not spread further. Preparation and common sense are primary during this time.

Dr. Mack Land, an infectious disease specialist with UT Medical Group and professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, stresses that the most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves from Novel Influenza A/H1N1 and other viral illnesses, is to use good hygiene habits. These include:

* Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly.
* Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough. Dispose of the tissue and wash your hands.
* If you feel sick, stay home and minimize your contact with others.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Novel Influenza A/H1N1 is spread person to person. You cannot get Novel Influenza A/H1N1 from eating pork products or other foods. Symptoms may include the following:

* Fever
* Coughing
* Fatigue
* Runny nose
* Sore throat
* Lack of appetite
* Body aches
* Diarrhea
* Nausea

“You should contact your health care provider if you experience these or other flu-like symptoms,” says Dr. Land. However, be sure to tell the appointment desk staff that you might have the flu so they can separate you from other patients in the waiting area.

Neuroscience Institute Fellowships

The UT Neuroscience Institute awarded the 2009-2010 Merit Fellowships for Undergraduate Neuroscience Research to three area students, who will work in UTHSC labs next summer. Cameron Kasmai of Christian Brothers University, Danielle Helton of Baylor University, and Leslie Baker of Rhodes College were selected by a committee at their respective institutions based on their academic excellence and strong interest in neuroscience.

Cameron will work with Detlef Heck, PhD, Anatomy and Neurobiology, who studies the structure and function of the cerebellar cortical network. Danielle will work with John Boughter, PhD, Anatomy and Neurobiology, who studies genes that influence ingestive behaviors, including taste sensitivity, solution intake and licking in mice. Leslie will work with Fu-Ming Zhou, PhD, Pharmacology, who studies the molecular, cellular, and neuropharmacological mechanisms of the brain monoamine systems.

For more information, please visit http://www.utmem.edu/neuroscience/news.php.

UTHSC Hosts Health Care Forum

UTHSC shares a common bond with the Memphis community – concern about health care reform. On August 22, the Health Science Center held a local Health Care Reform Town Hall Meeting sponsored by State Representative G.A. Hardaway and other members of the Shelby County Legislative Delegation. More than 200 citizens gathered in the Student-Alumni Center to meet legislators, communicate their views and receive answers to questions about the health care reform proposals being discussed at state and federal levels.
Many law enforcement officers began their careers as campus police officers. That is exactly how My Harrison, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Memphis Field Office, started her career. She told her story to more than 40 employees who were recognized on July 17 at the Campus Police Appreciation Luncheon organized by the Campus Police Department. Family, friends, faculty and staff gathered at the Student-Alumni Center to honor these employees.

Agent Harrison, introduced by Shelby County Sheriff Mark A. Luttrell, Jr., served as keynote speaker. Sheriff Luttrell shared his sentiments and respect towards UTHSC campus police before giving a brief bio of his friend, Agent Harrison. “With the badge comes a significant responsibility that you all display,” expressed Sheriff Luttrell.

After taking the podium, Agent Harrison thanked the audience for coming and Chief Lue Ida Walls-Upchurch, chief of Police and Parking Services, for extending the invitation. Descending from a family of law enforcement officers, Agent Harrison knew she wanted to become an officer at the age of 10. She shared her stories as an officer with the crowd as she related to the things campus police endure on a daily basis.

“I never had an appreciation luncheon like this when I was a campus police officer,” she stated. “We know what we want to do at an early age and we engage ourselves in that manner. We serve a vast population who need us. That is very important,” she added.

Honorees included security officer Terrance Benton who was named Employee of the Year, as well as Katrina Burgess, Mary Knowles and Officer Shawn Phillips. Officer Bruce Holden received the Outstanding Leadership Award. A parting gift was also presented to Detective Thaddeus Johnson who will be moving to Puerto Rico very soon.

Before the conclusion of the program, Chief Upchurch presented Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, with a plaque recognizing him for his support and encouragement of the Campus Police Department.

Save The Date
Employee Service Recognition Luncheon,
Thomas C. Lichterman Employee of the Year Award
and
Chancellor’s Exempt Staff Award Program
Wednesday, December 2, 2009
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Student-Alumni Center, O.D. Larry Dining Hall

Domain Name Change: UTHSC.EDU On the Way

It’s official. UTHSC has received approval to change our domain name to uthsc.edu. Over the next few months all electronic addresses for our organization will be altered to reflect the change. Everyone with a utmem.edu address will be part of the project.

What does that mean for you? Plenty, but with the support of Information Technology Services, the infrastructure required to make the change as smooth as possible will be rapidly put in place. Until March 1, 2010, utmem.edu will still be operational, as we phase in the new electronic address. As of March 1, we are uthsc.edu and none of the utmem.edu connections will function.

Watch for announcements on the step-by-step progression to uthsc.edu. ITS has posted a schedule for the project at www.uthsc.edu/domainchange. ITS will notify team members as functionality for the new address is phased in.

Soon our electronic address will be in alignment with our overall identity. UTHSC.EDU here we come!

UTHSC Featured on “Definitely Downtown” TV Show

In June, the local entertainment and news features program “Definitely Downtown” aired a special nine-minute segment on the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The segment debuted on WJKT-TV (FOX 16) in Jackson, Tenn., on WLMT-TV (channel 30) and WPTY-TV (ABC 24) in Memphis.

The segment is included in the “Best of Definitely Downtown” program, which aired on Comcast Cable channel 17. In addition, WYPL-TV Channel 18 (The Library Channel) broadcasted the program repeatedly for several months after the initial showing.

Schwab cont. from page 1

the Memphis community and to our UT family in his roles as physician, teacher and administrator.

During his long and distinguished tenure, Dr. Wall held a series of positions with increasing levels of responsibility in the UT College of Medicine, including serving as interim dean for the Memphis campus. He accepted the appointment as interim chancellor in April 2007, with the interim designation being removed in January 2008. Dr. Wall will continue to teach in the College of Medicine and serve UTHSC as a Special Assistant to the President in support of Alumni Affairs and Development. His responsibilities will include fundraising, capital development and alumni relations.

Dr. Schwab joined UTHSC as the first-ever executive dean for the UT College of Medicine in July 2006 to lead the center’s largest college. In this role he has assumed all administrative responsibility for the Health Science Center’s College of Medicine campus locations in Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga. In 2007, he absorbed direct responsibility for the College of Medicine Memphis campus due to a vacancy in the Memphis dean’s office.

“I am honored to accept this appointment and I look forward to continued strong collaboration with the leadership, faculty and staff of this vital health care institution,” said Dr. Schwab.

“Dr. Schwab has exhibited a serious commitment to excellence, a sound ability to lead and an affinity for building symbiotic strategic partnerships. Those traits are pivotal to success in the chancellor’s office,” said President Simek. “His vision of moving the College of Medicine into the top quartile of academic medical institutions is being translated into reality by a team of excited and accomplished professionals.”

The search for a permanent UTHSC chancellor was suspended in January 2008 and the interim designation was removed from Chancellor Wall’s title. A new search committee will undertake the national search and make recommendations to President Simek on possible candidates. The search committee will include leaders from partner organizations in the Memphis health care community; UTHSC faculty and student representatives from among its six colleges; non-exempt staff, and team members who represent the other two major UTHSC campuses in Knoxville and Chattanooga.

“A long-term permanent chancellor is critical to the future of the UT Health Science Center and the pursuit of our goal to increase its research capacity, outreach in the community and commitment to providing the best possible education for the future health care workers in our state,” President Simek said.

In addition to serving as interim chancellor, Dr. Schwab will continue in his role as chair of the UT Medical Group Board of Directors, a position he has held for three years. UT Medical Group (UTMG) is the private group practice affiliated with the UT Health Science Center College of Medicine faculty. A not-for-profit, non-tax-supported group practice, UTMG is dedicated to quality patient care, medical education, and medical research. With more than 350 clinicians, UTMG is the largest physician group in the region. Currently, Dr. Smith serves as the associate dean of Clinical Affairs for the College of Medicine, and the chief medical officer and executive vice-president for the UT Medical Group, Inc. Prior to assuming those duties, from 2006 to 2008, Dr. Smith ably served as the interim chairman of the Department of Medicine for the College of Medicine in Memphis. He is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology, and came to UTHSC in 1989 from Baylor University.

Dr. Schwab noted that throughout his years at UTHSC, Dr. Smith has contributed greatly to sustaining the quality and excellence that the college embraces through clinical care, education and research.

“I am honored to accept the responsibilities of the interim position,” Dr. Smith said. “I am also aware of the challenges facing the College of Medicine and its individual faculty, but I fully expect the enthusiastic drive and responsiveness of the college to continue.”

UTHSC Faculty Member Offers Expertise

UTHSC pharmacy associate professor Lawrence Brown (third from right), PharmD, PhD, joins other health care and community leaders as Mayor Pro Tem Myron Lowery (fourth from right) announces a new City of Memphis card that allows discounts on prescription drugs not covered by insurance. The cards may be picked up at local, major pharmacies. Some are included on displays around this campus in limited supply.

For more details, visit www.caremark.com/nlc.

J. Lacey Smith, MD, Named Interim Dean

Steve J. Schwab, MD, executive dean of the College of Medicine for UTHSC, announced the appointment of J. Lacey Smith, MD, as interim dean for the College of Medicine, Memphis campus. Dr. Smith will assume the duties of interim dean effective October 1 as Dr. Schwab transitions to become interim chancellor of UTHSC.

“Dr. Smith is the ideal candidate to fill this interim position because of the depth and breadth of his experience, and the respect he has earned from the faculty and administration on this campus,” stated Dr. Schwab.

Currently, Dr. Smith serves as the associate dean of Clinical Affairs for the College of Medicine, and the chief medical officer and executive vice-president for the UT Medical Group, Inc. Prior to assuming those duties, from 2006 to 2008, Dr. Smith ably served as the interim chairman of the Department of Medicine for the College of Medicine in Memphis. He is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology, and came to UTHSC in 1989 from Baylor University.

Dr. Schwab noted that throughout his years at UTHSC, Dr. Smith has contributed greatly to sustaining the quality and excellence that the college embraces through clinical care, education and research.

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Employee Appreciation Day 2009

Theme: “UT’s People, Talent, Strength”

When: Thursday, October 22

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Forrest Park

Dr. Jan Simek, UT interim president, will attend between 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Retiree Association Establishes Academic Support Fund

The effectiveness and success of tutoring on the achievement of college and post-secondary students can make a positive impact on today's retention and graduation rate. The late William (Bill) C. Robinson, Emeritus Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, firmly believed in student success that leads to matriculation.

In honor of Dr. Robinson’s beliefs, the Executive Board of the UTHSC Retiree Association has established the William (Bill) C. Robinson Academic Support Fund. The fund will be maintained in the Student Academic Support Services (SASS) and administered by the director, Kathy Gibbs. This fund will be used to benefit all students who need extra academic support through tutoring. It also provides access to distance learning tools.

“I can think of no better way to honor Bill’s memory than the establishment of this fund,” said Peter Jones, MD, president of the UTHSC Retiree Association. Dr. Jones recently donated the initial gift of $1,000 to the fund.

The fund’s resources may come from private donations, legacies and bequests. Moreover, other sources of income may include cultural, social and other events of the university.

The primary function of the fund is to pay for peer tutoring. The SASS coordinates confidential peer tutoring programs for the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the free tutoring services. A current list of approved tutors as well as the policies and procedures for use of the SASS tutoring program can be found on the SASS Blackboard site.

Student Academic Support Services has a primary goal of promoting student progress in the various programs offered at UTHSC. SASS offers a variety of services to facilitate learning and enhance student performance.

Individual and group coaching and consultations with SASS staff are completely confidential and free of charge to students.

Neuroscience Institute’s Annual Brain Awareness

University of Tennessee Health Science Center Neuroscience Institute will host the Annual Brain Awareness Week on March 15-21, 2010. The program, opened to the general public, features presentations by internationally known scientists.

This year’s lecture was held on March 13 at the Urban Child Institute. The two-hour event featured presentations on the importance of diet for brain development and the maintenance and enrichment of a healthy brain in adulthood. Patricia Wainwright, PhD, a neuroscientist at the University of Waterloo in Canada, lectured on the various ways that proper diet is necessary for the early critical periods of a developing brain and how dietary supplementation might improve brain functioning. Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, PhD, a neuroscientist at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) who has said, “food is like a pharmaceutical compound that affects the brain,” spoke about how food affects the brain and how to utilize diet to enhance mental function. William E. Armstrong, PhD, director of the University of Tennessee Neuroscience Institute, moderated the program.

For more information, please visit http://www.utmem.edu/neuroscience/news.php.

Bluff City Memorial Lecture

On October 2, the Bluff City Medical Society and UTHSC organized the Sixth Annual Bluff City Memorial Lecture, “The President’s Cancer Panel - Role and Impact,” at the Peabody Hotel. The featured lecturer was LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., MD, FACS.

Dr. Leffall is the Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine and he is on staff at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC.

Dr. Leffall has worked to focus attention on the problem of high cancer death rates among minorities, especially African-Americans. As the first black president of the American Cancer Society and as an educator at Howard University, Dr. Leffall has dedicated his career to educating others about cancer risks for minorities.

Born in Tallahassee, Fla., on May 22, 1930, he attended public school and was the valedictorian of his high school class, graduating in 1945. In 1948, he received a BS, summa cum laude, from Florida A&M University. From there, Dr. Leffall enrolled in Howard University College of Medicine. Again, he achieved academic excellence, graduating first in his class, and received his MD degree in 1952.

With careers in medicine and education, Dr. Leffall has led an active professional life. He has focused on clinical studies of cancer of the breast, colorectum, head and neck. He also published more than 116 articles in various professional journals and forums, as well as lectured extensively, serving as a visiting professor at more than 200 medical institutions.

For additional information, please call (901) 344-8010.
### Building a Disaster-Resistant UTHSC: Part 1 – Hazard Mitigation

Educators and students are acutely aware of the risks colleges and universities face today, ranging from revenge attacks, drugs, sexual predators, and other criminal threats, to the catastrophic potential for natural and man-made disasters, terrorism, and pandemic diseases. In the last decade, disasters have affected university and college campuses with disturbing frequency, sometimes causing death and injury.

These disasters can create damage. Damage to buildings and infrastructure, and interruption to the institutional mission result in significant losses that can be measured by faculty and student departures, decreases in research funding and increases in insurance premiums. The first, and most important step in building a disaster-resistant campus is to have prevention and mitigation plans and procedures in place that greatly reduce the risks faced.

Hazard mitigation is universally accepted as good emergency management practice. Administrators, faculty and staff must realize that improving our campus’ resistance to disaster will not only protect their own lives and those of their students. It will also safeguard the campus’ instruction, research and public service.

**Phase 1 – Organize Resources** - addresses the initial step of identifying the resources available and necessary to complete the effort. Interested and necessary parties join to form advisory committees. An inventory of available planning documents is performed and existing plans and documents are collected.

**Phase 2 – Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment** - covers the identification of hazards that present risks to the campus and the assets that are vulnerable to those hazards. Higher education institutions must assess the risks and their vulnerability.

**Phase 3 – Developing the Mitigation Plan** - an integral part of many higher education institutions. The development of a comprehensive hazard-mitigation plan should take the information from the hazardous identification and risk assessment and enact action items to mitigate, or reduce, the risks associated with identified hazards. The plan should be updated regularly and implemented across all levels of the institution.

**Phase 4 – Adoption and Implementation** - follows the mitigation plan through the adoption and implementation stages. Once the plan has been written, the focus shifts to adoption by appropriate administrative and instructional units and the implementation of its objectives.

Even the best plans are inadequate if they are not implemented with vigor and aligned with the campus strategic or master plan. Experience has shown that this can be difficult as institutions face the consequences of having to change their operations and make adjustments to their culture in an effort to become more disaster resistant. For more information, please call (901) 448-4873.

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### Summer Intern Program a Success

On Friday, June 26, UTHSC hosted the CHILI (Careers in Health Information Librarianship) Forum Finale at the Student-Alumni Center, where four summer interns presented projects on their experience.

The CHILI program offered students the opportunity to learn about the field of Librarianship in Health Science Information. Funded by the Department of Education Institute for Museum and Library Services, the program allowed participation from eight different universities that hosted interns this year including Yale, Johns Hopkins, Howard and Washington University in St. Louis.

This internship has increased in popularity among local high school students. Hundreds of telephone calls and e-mails were received and more than 150 applications were submitted. The students were selected to participate in the summer program upon recommendations from a review panel of distinguished librarians and library faculty.

During the month-long internship, the interns were able to host several ‘Friday Forums.’ These forums provided opportunities for coordination, leadership, logistics, problem-solving and interpersonal communication. Special guests from different libraries were invited to the forums to discuss their educational background, experiences, and outlook on the future for the next generation of librarians. The “Friday Forum Finale” was officially the last day of work for the interns, who devoted a whole month of their summer expanding their horizons to include a possible future in health information, librarianship or informatics.

For the past three years Brenda Green, PhD, coordinator of Instructional Services in the Library, and TaJuana Redmond, program coordinator and co-director, Office of Medical Education, College of Medicine, have hosted two local high school students as summer interns with the goal of exposing them to careers in health informatics and librarianship. This past June, Dr. Green and Redmond were privileged to expand the number of interns to four.

The internship included aiding in the development of instructional materials that are used in library workshops, the preparation and coordination of library workshops, and the development of a podcast to be used in library orientations. The interns were also exposed to different aspects of an academic health science center campus. Through these interactions, which included participating in a pharmacy lab, learning about the campus Blackboard system, and shadowing Redmond in the College of Medicine, the students were more apt to understand how the library interacts with faculty, staff, students and other patrons at a health science center.
On July 9, the State Building Commission approved the request for UTHSC to move forward with its new research building. The new facility will be constructed on the UTHSC main campus in Memphis and will be situated on the northwest corner of Manassas and Union. The commission approved the proposed project cost of $49 million.

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

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

The NIH (National Institutes of Health) is engaged in a series of initiatives, collectively known as the “NIH Roadmap for Medical Research,” which promote clinical and translational investigation designed to improve health and prevent disease. One of the NIH program goals is to transform the local, regional and national environment for clinical and translational science by increasing the efficiency and speed of the research process. Through Clinical and Translational Science Institutes around the country the NIH aims to break down the barriers that exist on campuses to facilitate interdisciplinary team science. Such efforts are designed to bring new therapeutics, vaccines and other treatments from “bench to bedside” (laboratory to community) at a much faster rate.

“The Health Science Center’s new Translational Science Research Building will position us on the leading edge and totally in synchronization with the scientific approach of the NIH,” observed UTHSC Chancellor Hershel P. Wall. “We will begin the design process for the new facility as soon as possible.” The new facility will be designed to connect, via an elevated walkway, with the existing UTHSC Cancer Research Building.

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UTHSC Offers Support to Students at Local Charter School

Many students require personal attention with their college goals during middle and high school. A new charter school in Whitehaven that opened this fall is helping to pave the way for more than 108 sixth graders through a highly structured college preparatory program.

On August 13, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, delivered T-shirts to the staff of the Freedom Academy. Dr. Brown wants students to know that there is a local institution that welcomes students who are interested in pursuing a career in health sciences. Dr. Brown also wants to encourage students to enter into the health sciences field due to the expanding jobs and the increased need for health care professionals. He would like for them to consider UTHSC as one of their options when thinking about their college goals.

The Freedom Preparatory Academy prepares students in grades 6 to 12 to excel in college and in life. This year’s beginning sixth graders will be the first graduating class from the Freedom Preparatory Academy. Their goal is to make sure they have 100 percent graduation rate and college entrance.

They accomplish their mission of college preparation through an academically rigorous environment where students master the core subjects, develop advanced academic skills and demonstrate the school’s core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, excellence and community.

“Our main focus is to set a clear, strategic and direct path to college for every student that enters our doors,” said Director Roblin Webb. The staff believes that all students deserve a high quality public education that prepares them for the rigorous demands of college and the professional world beyond.

“We have worked extremely hard throughout the year to formulate an action plan that will strategically form individualized objectives for each student,” Webb added.

The Freedom Academy offers direct exposure to a diverse array of enrichment opportunities and experiences. They also expose the students to outside endeavors that provide them with the self-confidence and social knowledge needed to be competitive in the world.

For more information on the Freedom Preparatory Academy, please visit http://www.freedomprep.org/.

Special Lunch Series by OHSP

On July 30, the Office of Human Subjects Protection offered a special “Lunch with a Compliance Punch.”

July’s lecture was presented by two IRB administrators: Bonnie Binkley, MA, CIM, CIP, and Kim Prachniak, MS, CIM, discussing the “10 Most Common Problem Areas in the Integrated Medical Research Informations System (iMedRIS).”

The forum was part of the OHSP “Summer in the SAC” series. HR 128 credit was given for those in attendance.

If interested in OHSP upcoming events please register at the UTHSC HR 128 Board or at http://www.utmem.edu/research/research_compliance/OHSP/events.php.

For additional information, please contact Patricia Kerby, Office of Human Subjects Protection compliance officer at (901) 448-1869 or pkbery@utmem.edu.
UTHSC Hosts Pigment Cell Research Conference

Steve Schwab, MD, executive dean of the College of Medicine presents the overview for this year’s Pigment Cell Research Conference at the Hamilton Eye Institute.

For all too many Americans talking openly about skin color is still an uncomfortable subject. In early September, 150 scientists talked frankly and in depth about skin pigmentation for four days straight. From September 4 to 7, Hamilton Eye Institute and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UTHSC hosted the 15th Pan American Society for Pigment Cell Research (PASPCR) conference.

The PASPCR conference theme was, “The Pigmentary System: Securing a Place Under the Sun,” and the program represented a unique blend of basic, translational and clinical science. The event was open to dermatologists, pathologists, ophthalmologists, basic science researchers from both academic and industrial backgrounds, plus residents and students interested in current problems in pigment cell research.

Topics during the conference included melanin pigmentation in humans and the animal kingdom, pigmentary disorders, melanoma biology, and clinic, cutaneous and systemic effects of solar radiation. The conference provided an opportunity for physicians and scientists, as well as specialists from related health care fields, to learn about new advances in pigment cell biology within such areas as neurobiology, endocrinology, immunology, photobiology and cancer research. The central objective of the PASPCR conference was to provide a forum for researchers and clinicians to share information on skin pigmentation. The conference will update investigators on the most novel findings in the field of pigment cell research and the clinical advances in skin disease treatment.

“Within the vast field of medicine and science, pigmentation is a growing area of interest.

See Pigment, pg. 10

Knoxville Stroke Symposium Presents Guidelines

The Second Annual Stroke Symposium, “Continuum of Care: Impacting Management, Improving Outcomes,” October 22, University of Tennessee Conference Center, Knoxville, will present information for health care professionals who work to prevent and treat stroke. Presented by the University of Tennessee Medical Center Brain and Spine Institute and UT Graduate School of Medicine, the symposium will offer seven CME credits through AMA, AAPA, ACPE and TPTA as well as CEUs.

Stroke is the third leading cause of mortality in Tennessee, yet stroke patients’ care differs across the state. The Tennessee Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Plan outlines objectives to prevent stroke, improve access to care and emergent treatment, and ensure that all Tennesseans diagnosed with stroke receive aggressive treatment to prevent mortality and associated complications or disabilities.

The Second Annual Stroke Symposium will provide education to improve the health care provider’s knowledge of these guidelines, which is critical to improving outcomes for these patients.

Participants will learn about evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of stroke; interventional management of cerebral aneurysms; strategies for primary and secondary prevention of stroke; post-stroke rehabilitation priorities and innovations; evaluation and triage of patient problems; and drug therapies for stroke patients.

To register by October 16, for this CME event, please visit, www.tennessee.edu/cme/Stroke2009. For more information, contact UT Graduate School of Medicine at (865) 305-9190 or CME@utmck.edu.

For more information, about UT Graduate School of Medicine, visit http://gsm.utmck.edu.

Study for Urinary Urge Incontinence in Women

The Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center is conducting a research study on urinary urge incontinence in women over the age of 18. The research, referred to as the “Bridges” study, could mean that help is on the way for a distressing problem impacting a wide range of women.

Nearly 35 percent of women over the age of 40 experience urinary incontinence, which is associated with increased social isolation, falls and fractures. Women report that urinary incontinence is uncomfortable and embarrassing, and the inconvenience prompts them to seek treatment from their primary health care provider.

However, primary care providers often have difficulty accurately diagnosing the specific type of urinary incontinence experienced by a woman. If this common condition could be precisely diagnosed and treated by the primary care provider, the advancement would mean a considerable public health benefit for women.

The Bridges study’s purpose is to determine if answers to a simple questionnaire can provide an accurate diagnosis of urinary urge incontinence that could be used by primary care providers. To treat women diagnosed with this problem, Bridges is using an FDA-approved medicine for urge incontinence called “fesoterodine” (Toviaz®).

Bridges participants are asked to make a total of four clinic visits and one phone visit during the first stage of the study, which takes place over a three-month period. Study visits take place at the Department of Preventive Medicine’s East Memphis clinic located at 756 Ridge Lake Blvd. After the initial three-month period, study volunteers will have the option to continue in Bridges for nine additional months.

There is no cost to participate in the study and the medication is provided. Compensation is offered for a volunteer’s time and travel expenses.

Karen C. Johnson, MD, UTHSC professor of preventive medicine, is the principal investigator for the Bridges study. For more information about Bridges or to become a study volunteer, please contact the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine at (901) 448-8400.
UT Names Diacon Executive Director

On July 15, Todd Diacon, PhD was named executive director for Academic Assessment and Program Support for the University of Tennessee system. Prior to this appointment, he served as vice provost for academic operations at UT Knoxville.

“Dr. Diacon’s 20-year career with the university coupled with his experience in strengthening academic offerings and improving student success made him a clear choice for this role,” said Bonnie Yegidis, UT vice president for academic affairs and student success.

In his new position, Dr. Diacon directs academic program development, review and assessment. He oversees transfer and articulation agreements for pre-major curricula and general education requirements in accordance with the state mandate for all two-and four-year institutions as well as accreditation activities at UT. He also has administrative oversight for system-wide student service and success initiatives. This position was previously titled associate vice president for academic affairs and student success and has been vacant since August 2008.

Dr. Diacon, who first joined the UT Knoxville faculty in 1989 as an assistant professor of history, was the director of the university’s Brazil Summer Study-Abroad Program and the director of UT’s Latin American Studies Program. He served as head of the History Department and also as the university’s NCAA faculty athletics representative.

“I am committed to helping students succeed in the classroom and beyond, and I believe any step we can take to do that ultimately improves their quality of life and is a sound investment in the state’s future,” said Dr. Diacon.

View UTHSC News Notes

Catch up on UTHSC media coverage by visiting http://www.utmem.edu/news/news-notes/. News Notes is a periodic e-mail that shares good news coverage of the Health Science Center. These e-mail updates provide a brief summary of media exposure that faculty, staff and students have received, as well as providing links (when available) for more information.
UTHSC Awarded for EAP Participation

For the fourth consecutive year, UTHSC received the Outstanding Participation Award during Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Awareness Month.

The awards ceremony, held in Nashville, Tenn., recognized institutions that promoted EAP Awareness during the month of March. UTHSC joined in the awareness campaign by hosting a health fair as well as EAP awareness activities, booths and displays on campus for UTHSC employees. The activities were coordinated by Felecia Shaw, along with Lindsay Brassel, Tiffany Trice and Cynthia Tooley from the Office of Equity and Diversity. Students from the College of Medicine volunteered to give blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) and glucose checks at the health fair.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Equity and Diversity at (901) 448-2112.

CHILI cont. from page 6

The interns were not just relegated to the campus library, they were given opportunities to visit local area libraries and understand the differences between an academic health sciences library and other libraries.

These field trips included the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Southwest Tennessee Community College Library at Macon Cove and the library expo held at the University of Memphis. During these trips, interns were able to see first hand new trends in libraries, experience the architectural planning of library spaces and meet area librarians.

Currently, nine percent of medical librarians are minorities. One of CHILI’s goals is to show more minority students the opportunities in the field of informatics.

“The experience helped my leadership skills a lot," said Terrance Taylor, a senior at Harding Academy, who gave the opening remarks of the ceremony. Yolanda Qin, a sophomore at Houston High School said “Balancing projects and activities helped my time management skills a lot.”

The four students are all in their fourth year as interns. The university was granted three years of support for the program but had extra money left for the fourth year.

The field of informatics involves finding data and explaining it to doctors and patients. Working in informatics requires a background in computers and biology.

The computer aspect of libraries was new to intern Jahleel Nelson of Central High School. "There is much more to a library than checking out books.” Jahleel’s presentation was on the Southwest Library visit and vision of the future. Houston High School sophomore Yolanda Qin’s presentation was a Pharmacy podcast and East High Senior Minnie Pruitt did a CHILI video.

For more information about the CHILI Program, please contact TaJuana Redmond at (901) 448-1488.

SASS cont. from page 5

students. Counselors assist students with developing individualized learning strategies to meet their academic goals.

SASS has two small computer labs, as well as laptops available for student use on a first-come, first-served basis. Students should bring a jump drive or disk for saving their documents. The SASS computer lab does not allow printing. Students will need their driver’s license in order to check out laptops.

SASS has access to various types of software to assist in student learning. Students are encouraged to visit the SASS to learn about the software that is offered including subjects such as: Anatomy, Physiology, Board Prep, Critical Thinking, Reading Rate and Comprehension.

BEFORE meeting with your tutor, please print the Student Assistant Payroll Verification form, then sign and return it to the SASS to ensure that your tutor is paid for their services.

If you are interested in tutoring or to donate to the fund, please contact the SASS office at (901) 448-5056. In order to be a SASS tutor, students must receive approval from their individual course directors.

Pigment cont. from page 8

The theme of this meeting, therefore, touches on unique facets of life sciences and health care, from the environmental effects of solar radiation, health disparities and pigmented disorders, to the inheritance of skin coloration and sociobiology," said Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD, professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the UT Health Science Center. “These topics share conjoined areas of interest that allow basic researchers and clinicians to communicate novel and unpublished data, and treatment outcomes. Importantly, realizing that pigmentation is also linked with the racial and ethnic background, the PASPCR conference opens the necessary space for discussion on health and social issues.”

Dr. Slominski observed, “It is a genuine privilege for Hamilton Eye Institute and UTHSC to host this meeting, which will attract distinguished scientists and clinicians who are leaders in their corresponding fields of science and medicine.” The conference drew participants from across the United States and Canada, as well as from Japan, Europe and Asia.

Conference speakers included presenters from several prestigious health care and academic institutions including the University of Alabama; Boston University; University of California Irvine; Emory University; University of Pennsylvania; Stanford University, University of Texas; Yale University, and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, in addition to several UTHSC researchers. The event was sponsored by Johnson and Johnson, Unilever, the Amway Corporation, L’Oreal, Memphis Dermatology Clinic, Proctor and Gamble, Avon Products, Inc., and Baptist Memorial Health Care Corp. Methodist Healthcare designates this educational activity for a maximum of 26 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. For more details, visit http://paspcr.med.umn.edu/PASPCR-2009meeting.pdf.

Campus Food Drive

UTHSC will hold its annual Campus Food Drive benefiting the Mid-South Food Bank on November 13 – 17. Drop off boxes will be strategically located throughout the campus.

For more information, please call (901) 448-2741.
**UTHSC Recognizes Employees**

On July 24, the Office of Equity and Diversity hosted the Employee Service Recognition Luncheon, honoring employees who have dedicated more than 25 years of service to UTHSC.

Chancellor Hershel P. Wall, MD, and Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, joined department heads in presenting the employees with a plaque recognizing their hard work and dedication.

"Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be with us today. This small ceremony can in no way communicate some of the depth of that appreciation," said Dr. Brown.

Dr. Wall added, "We are living in interesting and challenging times. During a period like this one, we are fortunate this recognition luncheon today helps to communicate some of the depth of that appreciation," said Dr. Brown.

The following employees were recognized:

- John Angel, MD
- David Armbruster, PhD
- Toni Baker
- Bradley Boucher, PharmD
- Kenneth Bradshaw
- Richard Brown, PharmD
- James Corrigan
- Marion Cox
- Willie Eldridge
- Cheryl Knight Gaul
- Teresa Glaser
- Sharon Gooch
- Cassander Renee Green
- Janice Green
- Joyce Holland
- Sherri Jackson
- Robert Kirkpatrick, MD
- Helen Lambeth
- Marilyn Lee, PharmD
- Annie Lewis
- Mary Ann Morgan
- Mary Murphy
- Teresa Pugh
- Gienda Rhea
- Kathryn Richards
- Elizabeth Roemer
- Barbara Ryan
- Mary Scallions
- Ralph Scott
- Thomas Singarella, PhD
- Brenda Smith
- Neva Strickland
- John Stuart, MD
- Page Whitworth Sutton
- Nancy Turner
- Jewell Ward, MD, PhD
- Mary Watson
- Renay Williams-Parker
- Emma Yates

**UTHSC Bookstore Hosts Grand Opening**

Faculty, staff, students and friends gather in the front of the newly remodeled bookstore for the reopening. There were 10 $400 scholarships awarded to several students throughout different colleges at UTHSC.

From left to right: Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD; Nadine Marino, regional manager for Barnes and Noble; Steve Rowland, vice chancellor of Business; Bobby Baldwin, bookstore manager; Tony Ferrara, vice chancellor of Finance and Operations, and Melaina Perry, P3 Pharmacy student and president of the SGAEC start off the gathering by cutting the ribbon noting the official opening of the new and improved store.

After only a few short weeks of renovation, UTHSC Bookstore reopened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 17 in front of the bookstore in the Madison Plaza. The ceremony sparked a week of celebration and sales. The new store has many new features including more merchandise and the expansion benefits students and visitors. Please visit the bookstore at 920 Madison in the plaza.

**HEI Researchers Help Teen with Bloody Tears**

A medical mystery has landed UTHSC in the news. A 16-year-old from Rockwood, Tenn., stepped out of the shower one day and faced his mirror to see tears of blood streaming down his face.

After a plea for help, UT Hamilton Eye Institute Director, Barrett G. Haik, MD, and James Fleming, MD, ophthalmologist, having done studies on the bloody tears condition responded.

On September 3, teen Calvino Inman, his mother and Dr. Haik appeared on CNN to discuss this rare condition, haemolacria. Haemolacria is a physical condition whereby a person produces tears, which are partially composed of blood. This can manifest as anything from red-tinged tears to those appearing to be entirely blood.

After the interview Dr. Haik and Dr. Fleming carefully reviewed Calvino’s medical records and scheduled an appointment for him to be seen at the UT Hamilton Eye Institute where his condition is being evaluated.

According to Dr. Haik, haemolacria is common in people who have experienced extreme trauma or who have recently had a serious head injury. But a case such as Inman’s is still a medical mystery. "What’s really rare is to have a child like this," Dr. Haik said. “Only once every several years do you see someone with no obvious cause.”

In 2004, Dr. Haik and a team of researchers published a finding from a study that examined children who developed unexplained, spontaneous episodes of bloody tears between February 1992 and January 2003. Only four cases were recorded. This information can be found in the Journal of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

"In the common medical practice it’s a relatively rare symptom to have. We see a number of people who have been through other exams and they were very difficult to diagnose, which is usually why they are sent to us," said Dr. Fleming.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Earns Awards for Medicare

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare has been named a top performer in a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Premier Health Care Alliance value-based purchasing (VBP) project that rewards hospitals for delivering high-quality care in five clinical areas. Methodist’s adult hospitals in Memphis and Methodist Fayette Hospital in Somerville are the recipients of nine out of a total of 10 possible awards for performance in year four of the project. Methodist will be receiving a bonus of $235,107.

Based on fourth-year results from the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration (HQID) project, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare received the following awards: Three for Top Improvement for the clinical areas of AMI (heart attack), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement and six for attainment in the clinical areas of AMI (heart attack), CABG (heart bypass surgery), heart failure, hip and knee replacement and pneumonia.

“Providing outstanding patient care has always been our top priority,” said Jerry Malliot, MD, chief quality officer, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. “Our successes in this project are a testament to our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of care we offer our patients.

“Achieving high quality is not something that just happens, it takes dedicated, focused work by the leadership and frontline caregivers at each of our hospitals, and I am very proud that these awards reflect the work they have done.”

“The successes of the hospitals – small and large, urban and rural, teaching and non-teaching – in the HQID project have led to its consideration as the basis for key national health reforms,” said Susan DeVore, Premier president and CEO. “As the proposal of a national value-based purchasing program becomes a reality, hospitals participating in HQID will have six years experience with such a model.”

The HQID is the first national project of its kind, designed to determine if economic incentives to hospitals are effective at improving the quality of inpatient care. Through the project, which has been extended by CMS for an additional three years, Premier collects a set of more than 30 evidence-based clinical quality measures from almost 250 hospitals across the country. The quality measures were developed by government and private organizations (for more information on the indicators, visit: www.qualitydemo.com).

Improvements in quality of care saved an estimated 4,700 acute myocardial infarction (AMI/heart attack) patients across the first four years of the project, according to an analysis of mortality rates at hospitals participating in the project. In addition, patients received approximately 500,000 additional recommended evidence-based clinical quality measures, such as smoking cessation, discharge instructions and pneumococcal vaccination, during that same time frame.

For hospitals participating in the HQID project, the average Composite Quality Score (CQS), an aggregate of all quality measures within each clinical area, improved by 2.2 percent between the project’s third and fourth year for total gains of 17.2 percent.

Additional research by Premier showed that, by March 2008, HQID participants scored on average 6.9 percentage points higher (94.64 percent to 87.36 percent) than non-participants when evaluating 19 common measures.

The Premier Healthcare Alliance is more than 2,200 U.S. hospitals and 58,000-plus other health care sites working together to improve health care quality and affordability.

New Chairman of Radiology Named

On August 26, Steve J. Schwab, MD, executive dean of the College of Medicine announced the appointment of Harris L. Cohen, MD, as professor and chairman of the Department of Radiology in the College of Medicine. The appointment became effective July 1.

Dr. Cohen was named executive vice chairman for the Department of Radiology and chief of Radiology at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center in November 2008. His scheduled advancement to the chairman’s position follows the planned retirement of Barry Gerald, MD, outgoing, long-term Radiology chair.

A 1976 graduate of the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center, Dr. Cohen trained in radiology at SUNY Downstate, completing a fellowship in pediatric radiology at Children’s National Medical Center from 1980 to 1981. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Radiology, Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound, and American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine. He served as vice chair/associate chair of Research, professor of Radiology, director of Body Imaging, as well as chief of Pediatric Body Imaging, and chief of Ultrasound for SUNY Health Science Center at Stony Brook prior to joining the faculty at UTHSC.

Dr. Cohen has made a significant impact at both the UT Health Science Center and Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. Under his leadership, the pediatric radiology fellowship program received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education with a maximum five-year cycle and no citations.

“My goal is to build a strong academic program at UTHSC and strengthen our clinical radiology practice at UT Medical Group and other affiliated sites to take advantage of the talent we have and be able to recruit new talent to enrich the practice of diagnostic and therapeutic imaging in Memphis,” Dr. Cohen stated.

“The College of Medicine is indebted to Dr. Gerald for his extended and laudable services to the college and the Department of Radiology,” noted Executive Dean Schwab. “We are also excited to have Dr. Cohen assume the duties of professor and chairman. We believe Dr. Cohen will continue the department’s commitment to excellence and will introduce our trainees to novel ideologies in the field of radiologic education.”
Two physicians at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine were the first in Tennessee to perform procedures to ablate liver tumors using microwave ablation technology.

Keith D. Gray, MD, assistant professor, Surgery, and chief, Division of Surgical Oncology, recently performed open hepatic (liver) microwave ablation, and J. Mark McKinney, MD, chair, Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, performed percutaneous hepatic microwave ablation.

Microwave (MW) ablation, a relatively new hepatic ablation technique in the United States, uses probe-directed microwave energy to ablate tumors. MW ablation uses targeted microwave energy to agitate water molecules in cells causing high frictional heat - up to 150 degrees Celsius, thus killing the cells in the tumor. In short, the technology kills the cancerous cells by boiling them.

“In surgery, this technique offers the advantages of killing tumors situated close to blood vessels and ablating larger tumors,” said Dr. Gray. He emphasizes that MW ablation does not replace surgical resection, but the procedure can be used as an adjunct to surgery and with patients who are not good surgical candidates.

MW ablation also can be performed as a minimally invasive procedure. In the percutaneous procedure, Dr. McKinney used a needle as the probe and imaging technology for guidance.

“Percutaneous microwave ablation is ideal for patients with few, small cancerous lesions and who are not candidates for surgery,” said Dr. McKinney. Patients who have been treated with percutaneous MW ablation have minimal recovery time.

Hepatic MW ablation expands the options available for patients with primary and metastatic liver tumors. It can be used for palliative (disease control) or for curative (removal of tumors) treatment. Currently this procedure is used for treating tumors in solid organs including kidney and liver, and use in other organs is being investigated.

For more information about the UT Graduate School of Medicine, visit http://gsm.utmck.edu.
Dr. Charles R. Handorf, MD, PhD, professor and chair in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, has been awarded the Method- ist Healthcare Living Award. Dr. Handorf was a co-winner in the Physician Inspiration in Faith and Health category.

The award is presented to physicians who have distinguished themselves by leadership and commitment to the faith and health mission of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and to those whose faith-based initiatives have had a profound impact on health care locally, nationally and globally, and the importance of prioritizing. He praised his staff for their dedication to each patient no matter the race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and the cause of their injury. He expressed that their main focus is top patient care and knowing the importance of the “Golden Hour” to promise the best chance of survival when dealing with the most significant injuries.

Dr. Croce discussed the extensive medical treatment that the center provides and the importance of prioritizing. He praised his staff for their dedication to each patient no matter the race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and the cause of their injury. He expressed that their main focus is top patient care and knowing the importance of the “Golden Hour” to promise the best chance of survival when dealing with the most significant injuries. Dr. Croce has been with The Med for 20 years serving in several positions as mentor, administrator, surgeon, professor, prognosticator and devil’s advocate, when necessary. His staff treats more than 17,000 people annually, which places The Med among the busiest trauma centers in the nation.

Charles R. Handorf, MD, PhD, associate professor of pharmacy and director of UT Center for Medication Therapy Management and Graduate Studies in Health Outcomes and Policy Research, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees for the American Pharmacists Association (APhA).

Dr. Handorf will begin serving on the board in March 2010. Previously, he served as speaker of the APhA-ASP House of Delegates and speaker of the APhA House and trustee. He is also a co-chair of the Pharmacy Quality Alliance Quality Metrics Workgroup.

Dr. Ghanshyam D. Heda, PhD, professor of gastroenterology, won the 2008 William J. Stickel Award for Research in Pediatric Medicine from the American Pediatric Medical Association (APMA).

The award is a retrospective honor that, each year, recognizes the best original research paper published in the Journal of the APMA during the preceding calendar year. Dr. Heda co-authored with Dr. Lee Roberts the winning paper, titled “Role of Tissue-Type Plasminogen Activator in Sialic Acid-Induced Sloughing of Human Corn Tissue.” The paper was published in the September/October 2008 issue.

Vanessa Herring, research specialist in clinical pharmacy, was recognized by the Department of Safety Affairs for exemplifying safe practices at work. Herring supports the department chair and faculty in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. She also maintains material safety data sheets, chemical inventory lists, chemical hygiene plans, and provides training for lab personnel to meet safety regulations and guidelines. Among other various duties, she plays an integral part in training pharmacy students and research fellows in laboratory skills. Herring has been employed with the university for 22 years.

Eldridge F. Johnson, PhD, professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology and director of Prescience Program, was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation and honor for Outstanding Laboratory Instruction in Dentistry-I Gross Anatomy from the D-1 class of 2008-2009. In the past, Dr. Johnson has been recognized for providing and maintaining a level of achievement in human gross anatomy didactics from other colleges at UTHSC.

Karen C. Johnson, MD, assistant chair and professor of Preventive Medicine, has been appointed to the UT Board of Trustees by Governor Phil Bredesen.

Bredesen announced his appreciation to Dr. Johnson and other appointees, expressing confidence that each member possesses the skills, experience and knowledge necessary to become valuable members of their designated boards and commissions.

Natalie Kerr, MD, a professor of Ophthalmology, has been honored for her outstanding work with the Lions Club, other pediatric patients and the resident program. She received the first Mid-South Lions Medical Professional of the Year Award, during its “Give the Gifts XVII” dinner and auction.

Dr. Kerr was presented her award by Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton and members of the Mid-South Lions executive committee and staff.

Max Langham, MD, professor of Surgery and Pediatrics and chief of Pediatric Surgery, was recently elected as the secretary/treasurer for the American Pediatric Surgery Training Program Directors.

Dr. Langham will serve in this position for at two-year term, beginning this fall.

Peter Netland, MD, PhD, professor of Ophthalmology, was recently elected to the American Ophthalmological Society (AOS). He was one of six American ophthalmologists elected.

The AOS was established in 1864 and members serve to influence every facet of American ophthalmology, furthering the society’s original purpose—“the advancement of ophthalmic science and art.”

Jerome Thompson, MD, professor and chair of Otolaryngology, co-hosted an informal breakfast in July with members of the Memphis Medical Society board and legislative committee, along with Congressman Steve Cohen and his aide, Travis Green.
UTHSC Biggest Loser: Personal Testimony

Christa Deiss, certified medical office manager, University Health Services, recently won the Biggest Loser Bootcamp Challenge. The 12-week program was organized by the UTHSC Fitness Center as a way to promote healthy weight-loss initiatives. Christa has taken the time out to share her personal weight-loss journey.

“I have had a long struggle with years of losing and gaining weight. I was looking to permanently change my lifestyle to finally get off the yo-yo rollercoaster.

“Joining the Biggest Loser Bootcamp taught me many things. First, group support – it is so helpful to have others who wrestle with the same weight issues as you do. Through pain, sweat, and also laughter, the support of those people make it easier. Next is commitment – when you sign up for a program like this, you don’t want to let your classmates or instructors down, so you commit to attend and then form a new habit of exercising daily. And finally, there is success – if you make exercise and your health a priority, you will achieve your weight loss goals. You actually feel better, feel stronger, and can physically see your body change.

“Along with Bootcamp, I have been attending Weight Watchers meetings (the campus at-work program sponsored by University Health Services). Since Weight Watchers is about healthy eating and not dieting, you learn to make permanent changes.”

Christa’s Tips:

1. Keep a Food Journal – You’ve got to know what you are eating, without guessing and lying to yourself. It’s okay to enjoy any food, just understand how it fits into the grand scheme of a healthy lifestyle.

2. Plan Ahead – If you don’t have dinner planned and you’re hungry, you can’t make rational decisions when you pass a McDonald’s on your way home. Plan your meals for the entire day, including snacks.

3. Set Small Goals – They are easier to reach.

4. Take Pictures of Your Progress – Sometimes you don’t realize how far you’ve come until you actually see it.

5. Get Support – find someone who offers you the motivation and education you need.

Your past does not matter. Focus on the present and what can happen in the future.

Babies Attend ‘Happy Birthday Blues Party’

On September 18, parents, relatives and friends gathered to celebrate the births of more than 792 healthy one-year-old babies born with the support of The Blues Project, an initiative to reduce infant deaths in Shelby County. UT Health Science Center expert Kimberly Lamar, PhD, Blues Project coordinator and assistant professor in Preventive Medicine, organized the event held at the Hope and Healing Center.

About 185 babies and their families were treated to cupcakes, healthy party food, balloons, presents, and a birthday song by “Freckles,” a very large computer animated Dalmatian that walks and talks.

The party was also a way to recognize National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, which occurs annually in September.

Coverage of the event was featured in The Commercial Appeal and aired on nightly television news broadcasts on FOX 13, WMC-TV Channel 5 and Eyewitness News 24.

The Blues Project is administered by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and funded by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

GRANTS

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

Ronald Atkins, PhD
NIH-National Institute Child Health & Human Development
“ARRA-Genomics and Epigenomics of Fetal Growth Regulation” $839,525

John Buolamwini, PhD
NIH-National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
“Inhibitors of the ENA-4 Adenosine Transporter for Cardioprotection” $222,000

Ann Cashion, PhD, NIH-National Institute of Nursing Research
“ARRA-Genetics, Environment and Weight Gain Post-transplant” $35,527

Hongwei Dong, PhD
NIH-National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disease
“ARRA-Activity-Dependent Plasticity of Sensory Synapses in the Olfactory Bulb” $36,600

Veronica Engle, PhD
Methodist Healthcare Foundation Nursing Excellence and Education
“Evaluation of the Methodist University Hospital DEU” $20,093

Franklin Garcia-Godoy, DDS, MS
NIH-National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research
“The Biocompatibility Screening of Restorative Materials” $87,153

Kristin Hamre, PhD
NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
“ARRA-Analysis of Surviving Math 1-null Hair Cells in the Inner Ear of Chimeric Mice” $81,400

David Hasty, PhD
NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
“ARRA-Activation of Macrophages by Lipoteichoic Acid” $307,382

Alessandro Iannaccone, MD
NIH-National Eye Institute
“ARRA-Auto-Antibodies as Serum Biomarkers for Age-Related Macular Degeneration” $218,880

Johathan Jaggar, PhD
NIH-National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
“Calcium Channels in Arterial Smooth Muscle Cells” $370,000

Karen Johnson, MD
NIH-National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
“Targeted Approaches to Weight Control for Young Adults Grant with RCU Proposal” $739,932

Andrew Kang, MD
NIH-National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease
“ARRA-Suppression of Collagen Induced Arthritis with Altered Peptide Ligands” $370,000

See Grants, pg. 17
UT Professor Named Fulbright Scholar

Lorraine Wallace, PhD, education and research director, associate professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant. The grant will allow her to lecture and conduct research at Moldova State University College of Medicine and Pharmacy in Chisinau, Moldova, located between Romania and the Ukraine. She will participate in the program August 2009 to January 2010.

Dr. Wallace will teach undergraduate and graduate students subjects including writing for publications in English, epidemiology and health-related statistics. She will also help the university develop curriculum for its newly established School of Public Health and assist in establishing a national health-related tracking system.

Dr. Wallace is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program this year. The Fulbright program, America’s flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program operates in more than 155 countries.

Recipients of the Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievements, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

UT Faculty Honored by Alumni Association

Three faculty members from UTHSC recently received special recognition from the University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA). Elizabeth Bowman, MPA, RHIA, a professor of Health Informatics and Information Management in the College of Allied Health Sciences, and Andrew S. Pierce, MD, an assistant professor who specializes in emergency medicine in the College of Medicine, were each presented with a UTAA Outstanding Teacher Award.

Carolyn Graff, PhD, RN, FAANID, associate professor and director of the Primary/Public Health Department in the College of Nursing, received a UTAA Public Service Award.

On June 19, the 78-member UTAA Board of Governors held its annual banquet in Knoxville. During the event, the board honored all three UTHSC faculty members, along with this year’s UTAA award winners from other campuses, for their exceptional efforts during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Students described Bowman as a “person you can go to for anything” and someone who is “great at communication.” Dr. Pierce was praised for his “excellent work with students and residents” and for his “ability to share his real-world experience” to help train young physicians.

Dr. Graff was introduced as someone who is “known locally, regionally and nationally for her substantive personal and professional contributions to the community.” She works largely to address the needs of families of those with mental and physical disabilities, and has “increased awareness of the needs of siblings in these families.”

With more than 300,000 members residing in all 50 states and in more than 130 countries, the UTAA is dedicated to serving former students from the four major UT campuses and three institutes that comprise the University of Tennessee.

This year UTAA presented 11 teaching and public service awards to exemplary faculty members throughout the UT system. Along with a commemorative plaque, each award recipient was also presented with a monetary award.

Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowships

Giancarlo Mari, MD, interim chairman for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and co-director of the Maternal and Fetal Medicine Institute at UTHSC, announced the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) has given approval to begin a fellowship training program in maternal fetal medicine. Additionally, Edward Stanford, MD, gynecology division chief, announced that the Board of the Fellowship in Gynecologic Endoscopy has given approval for the Division of Gynecologic Specialties at UTHSC to serve as a fellowship preceptor site for minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

“The University of Tennessee has a legacy of leading the country in innovative and practice-changing research in high-risk pregnancy care and gynecologic procedures,” observed Veronica Mallett, MD, medical director of health care excellence for the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, and director of the Tennessee Centering Pregnancy Program at UTHSC. “These two fellowship training programs will enhance care opportunities for women in Memphis, Shelby County and the region.”

The Maternal Fetal Medicine Program will accept one fellow per year, for a total of three. The training program is currently reviewing applications for its first fellow who will begin training in the fall. “We are excited because finally the state of Tennessee will be able to train its own maternal-fetal medicine doctors,” stated Dr. Mari. The program will be reviewed in approximately three years for continuation.

The Gynecologic Specialties Program is a two-year fellowship, which accepted its first fellow for the 2009-2011 cycle.

“We are one of only 22 centers in the U.S. to currently have such a fellowship program accredited by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists and the American Society of Reproductive Medicine,” stated Dr. Stanford. “The training will emphasize research, education and hands-on advanced vaginal, laparoscopic – traditional and robotic – and hysteroscopic surgery. This program will distinguish UT as a leading academic and clinical site, both nationally and internationally, for excellence in gynecologic surgery.”
UTHSC Researchers Begin Parkinson’s Study

Researchers at UTHSC are recruiting participants for a national clinical study of medication that could slow the progression of Parkinson’s disease.

The study, referred to as “QE3,” will examine the effectiveness of the research medication Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ). During the study, investigators will administer high doses of CoQ to participants 30 years of age or older with early stage Parkinson’s disease to reduce the speed of their physical decline.

The research is sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and will be conducted by the Parkinson Study Group, an international council of physicians and researchers experienced in caring for Parkinson’s patients and studying the disease.

In Memphis, Ronald Pfeiffer, MD, a neurologist at UTHSC and a member of the Parkinson Study Group, will lead the local effort of this phase III clinical trial.

“Memphians who have been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease within the last five years and are not receiving treatment for their symptoms may be eligible for the study,” said Dr. Pfeiffer. Assigned physicians will examine study volunteers every four months during a 16-month period.

Participants will be randomly assigned to receive treatment with either active CoQ (which will also contain vitamin E) or a matching placebo. Investigators at 60 clinical sites in the United States and Canada will enroll about 600 participants 30 years old and above with early stage Parkinson’s disease.

Each site will enroll approximately 10 individuals. There is no cost to participate in the study.

In Parkinson’s disease, the brain cells that produce a chemical called dopamine are gradually lost, resulting in a decrease in dopamine levels. Without enough dopamine, patients experience symptoms such as tremors, muscle rigidity, balance problems and slow movement.

Currently, doctors can treat these symptoms with drugs that boost dopamine levels. However, there are no available treatments to reduce the rate of clinical decline. “A medication that could slow the progression of Parkinson’s disease would be a major breakthrough for patients living with the disease,” said Walter Koroshetz, MD, deputy director, NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Adults 30 years old and above with early stage Parkinson’s disease who wish to participate in the study should contact Brenda Pfeiffer, UTHSC research nurse coordinator, at (901) 271-5966.

Cohen Reads to UT Patients

U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen visited UT Medical Group, the private practice arm of UTHSC College of Medicine faculty, to read to young patients as part of the Reach Out and Read national children’s literacy program.

Grants cont. from page 15

| Name                      | Institution                                   | Project Title                                                        | Amount         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|                                                                    |                |
| Alie Kanu, PhD            | NIH-National Heart Lung and Blood Institute   | “Eicosanoids and Carbon Monoxide in Neonatal Cerebral Microcirculation” | $107,534       |
| Seema Khurana, PhD        | NIH-National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease | “ARRA-Regulation of Epithelial Cell Homeostasis by Actin Microfilaments” | $372,259       |
| Charles Mansbach, MD      | NIH-National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease | “A Cell Biological Approach to Lipid Absorption”                     | $49,903        |
| Isao Miyairi, MD          | NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | “ARRA-System Genetics of Immune Pathways Induced by Cytomegavirus” | $214,800       |
| Diedra Mountain           | American Heart Association                     | “Hormone Replacement Therapy: Modulation of Vascular Wall Structure and Remodeling Post-Injury” | $77,000        |
| Anjaparavanda Naren, PhD  | NIH-National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease | “ARRA-Inhibition of an Apical cAMP Transporter (MRP4) in the Gut Induces Diarrhea” | $71,755        |
| Christopher Nosrat, PhD   | NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | “ARRA-UV-Light Regulation of Skin Absorption”                          | $498,424       |
| Gabor Tigi, MD, PhD       | NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | “ARRA-Development of a Novel Gastrointestinal Radioimmunogent”      | $449,896       |
| Charles Mansbach, MD      | NIH-National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease | “ARRA-System Genetics of Immune Pathways Induced by Cytomegavirus” | $214,800       |
| Andrezj Tadeusz Sloominski, MD | National Science Foundation | “ARRA-Ub-Light Regulation of Skin Endocrine Function: POMC System” | $498,424       |
| Anjaparavanda Naren, PhD  | NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | “ARRA-Inhibition of an Apical cAMP Transporter (MRP4) in the Gut Induces Diarrhea” | $71,755        |
| Christopher Nosrat, PhD   | NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | “ARRA-UV-Light Regulation of Skin Absorption”                          | $498,424       |
| Christopher Nosrat, PhD   | NIH-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | “ARRA-Development of a Novel Gastrointestinal Radioimmunogent”      | $449,896       |
| UTHSC                     | NIH-National Institute of Arthritis Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease | “The Pigmentary System: Securing a Place in the sun” | $17,000        |
| Zhaohui Wu, MD, PhD       | Leukemia Research Foundation                  | “TAKI function in NF-kB Signaling by Cancer Therapeutic Agents”       | $100,000       |
| Fu-Ming Zhou, MD, PhD     | NIH-National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke | “Regulation of Basal Ganglia Output Neurons”                        | $270,765       |
STUDENTS

Mexican Exchange Student at UTHSC

Graduates from UTHSC are known for their health care contributions all across the state, but exchange student Mercedes Gutierrez will take what she learns and return home to Mexico.

Since her arrival on January 26 in her first trip to Memphis, Mercedes has become part of the UT family. She is scheduled to graduate from the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon in July of 2010 with a doctorate.

After graduating from the University of Nuevo Leon with a MS in Nursing Science and from the University of Mexico City with a BSN, she is now working on her Doctorate in Nursing with her mentor Ester Gallegos, PhD at Nuevo Leon.

She is studying Construction and Quantitative Research Methodology and researching weight gain in transplant patients. Mercedes is also studying type 2 diabetes with Dr. Gallegos who is currently working on the H1N1 virus. Her stay at UTHSC is funded by the National Council on Science of Technology. The UTHSC research teams have enjoyed working with Mercedes because she has given meaning to the cultural components of research findings. Mercedes is also very excited about all the interesting avenues available to explore research in America. She is also very appreciative for such a great research opportunity.

Mercedes has been studying research applications of genetic methodologies and will use them to study diabetes in the Mexican population. She hopes to apply her knowledge to the Monterrey community.

The NIH has been funding studies on obesity and are trying to determine how much of a factor genetics play in obesity and diabetes. At UTHSC she is working with Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, whose work is internationally known.

Mercedes is from a country with limited health care resources. Thirty-five of every 1,000 people in Mexico compared to 2.3 in the United States and 5.9 in Cuba.

A native of Collierville, Tenn., and a graduate from Louisiana State University with a bachelor’s in kinesiology, McIvor is looking forward to a rewarding career in pediatric physical therapy. She is a member of the College of Allied Health Sciences for her success at UTHSC. “The faculty and staff of the College of Allied Health Sciences for her success at UTHSC. “The faculty and staff are awesome. They are always willing to help and encourage you with a smile,” she said. The faculty also encouraged McIvor and other students to stay active in the community and provide service whenever time permits.

As a third-year student, McIvor shares some advice to incoming students: “Get involved, network and utilize the expertise of your faculty members. Remember to always strive for excellence in patient care, because you may touch someone’s life without being aware.”

UTHSC Hosts Student Appreciation Day

To kick off the fall semester, UTHSC welcomed students back to school by hosting Student Appreciation Day. On September 10 more than 300 students enjoyed food, fun and games at the Student Alumni Center. Student Appreciation Day, held once a year, and it gives students the opportunity to mix, mingle and enjoy the collegial atmosphere before they begin a rigorous study session.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Shannon McIvor

Determination in Physical Therapy

Shannon McIvor, a UTHSC third-year physical therapy student, is looking forward to a rewarding career in pediatric physical therapy. She is a native of Collierville, Tenn., and a graduate from Louisiana State University with a bachelor’s in kinesiology.

Since her collegiate career began as a physical therapy student, McIvor has exhibited her abilities as a well-rounded student. Her team player attitude and public service initiatives demonstrate the spirit that UTHSC strives to instill in every student. She has served in a number of positions within the College of Allied Health Sciences, such as community service representative and honor code representative.

Her varied community service involvement includes Habitat for Humanity, the St. Jude Marathon and Mid-South Adaptive Sports & Recreations, where she helps in the providing ways for their patients and the positive difference they can make.

McIvor also credits her professors and the staff of the College of Allied Health Sciences for her success at UTHSC. “The faculty and staff are awesome. They are always willing to help and encourage you with a smile,” she said. The faculty also encouraged McIvor and other students to stand up for the things they believe in. McIvor is very proud of her studies of physical therapy and hopes to be employed at a pediatric hospital in the Mid-South. Her main focus is to provide outstanding patient care. Her interest in physical therapy was sparked from seeing her grandmother suffer from rheumatoid arthritis. The battle with the arthritis and the encouragement that a physical therapist gave to her grandmother showed her the power physical therapists have working with their patients and the positive difference they can make.

McIvor plans to pursue a career in pediatric physical therapy and hopes to travel to Panama to provide service whenever time permits.

As a third-year student, McIvor shares some advice to incoming students: “Get involved, network and utilize the expertise of your faculty members. Remember to always strive for excellent patient care, because you may touch someone’s life without being aware.”

Several students enjoy festivities during the 2009 Student Appreciation Day, welcoming students back to school.
College of Nursing Awarded Scholarships for Nursing Students

In August, the College of Nursing announced that for the second year in a row, it has received funding to award 20 scholarships from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) through the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. Grants provided through this competitive program will build upon the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s previous efforts to increase the number of students enrolled in its accelerated, entry-level master’s degree Clinical Nurse Leader nursing program and to diversify its student base.

This significant national initiative, launched in 2008 by RWJF and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), aims to help alleviate the nation’s nursing shortage by dramatically expanding the pipeline of students in accelerated nursing programs.

In addition to financial support provided by the RWJF scholarships, students participate in weekly mentoring, leadership and academic support activities to facilitate success in the program. Retention rates are 100 percent. Fifty percent of RWJF scholarship recipients serve in leadership roles within the college and university, and 90 percent of these students indicated a desire to go to graduate school within five years of completing the entry-level nursing program. Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Systems has provided clinical faculty and collaborated on the development of a Dedicated Education Unit to provide quality clinical experiences and facilitate increased enrollment in the accelerated, entry-level nursing program at the UTHSC’s College of Nursing.

Through the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program, scholarships in the amount of $10,000 each will be distributed to entry-level, second-degree nursing students in accelerated programs during the 2009-2010 academic year. Award preference is given to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds. Grant funding will be used by schools to help leverage support for new faculty resources and provide mentoring and leadership development resources to ensure successful program completion by scholarship recipients.

“New Careers in Nursing aims to safeguard the health of the nation by helping to ease the nurse and nurse faculty shortage. Nurses are critical to delivering health care that is effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable,” said RWJF Senior Adviser for Nursing Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN. “This important initiative will also advance the foundation’s strategic goal of promoting a health professional workforce that reflects the diversity of the American public.”

The RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program supports accelerated programs, which offer the most efficient route to licensure as a registered nurse for adults who have already completed a baccalaureate or graduate degree in a discipline other than nursing. Although enrollment in these programs has steadily increased over the past few years, many potential students are unable to enroll since already having a college degree disqualifies them from receiving most federal financial aid programs for entry-level students. The New Careers in Nursing scholarships address this problem and will also alleviate the overall nursing shortage by enabling hundreds of students to launch their nursing careers through accelerated education not otherwise possible without scholarships.

Additionally, the program targets the need to recruit students from groups underrepresented in nursing or disadvantaged backgrounds. According to the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, diversifying the nursing profession is essential to meeting the health care needs of the nation and reducing health disparities that exist among many underserved populations. Data from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration also show that nurses entering the profession at the baccalaureate level are four times more likely than other nurses to pursue a graduate degree in nursing, which is the required credential to teach.

Newly admitted students in the entry-level MSN-CNL program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center are eligible to apply for the scholarships if they are from an underrepresented group (minority or males) or are economically disadvantaged. Students will participate in weekly leadership and retention sessions with faculty and doctoral students. Our goal is to achieve 100 percent retention and 100 percent passage on the NCLEX licensing examination for the RWJF scholars, with at least 50 percent of the scholarship recipients involved in leadership activities within the college, university or community. As part of this initiative, the UTHSC College of Nursing has increased minority enrollment to 50 percent in the entry-level nursing program.

For more information about this program, see http://www.newcareersinnursing.org.
Right Here in Memphis

In February, UTHSC launched its "Right Here in Memphis" ad campaign, which has generated more than 3.7 million impressions and significantly increased traffic to the UTHSC home page. This most recent billboard, produced in honor of the MUH – UTHSC Transplant Institute, is currently located at the southwest corner of Union and Manassas.

No Good Deed Unnoticed

On August 18, faculty members of the Cancer Research Center honored the late members of the Van Vleet Family during a rehanging portrait ceremony. Two portraits were placed on the south wall of the lobby in the Cancer Research Building - one of Peter P. Van Vleet and the other of McKay Van Vleet, as a reflection of the generosity from the family in the area of cancer research. The portraits of the father and son were previously on display in the lower level of the Van Vleet Building.

In November 1984, the Van Vleet Foundation of Memphis awarded the University of Tennessee Health Science Center a gift of $3 million to support research and education in pharmacy and biomedical sciences related to cancer, representing the largest single outright bequest in the history of the University of Tennessee at that time. These funds became available, pursuant to the wishes in her will, following the death of Mrs. Harriet Smith Van Vleet in 1984. Mrs. Van Vleet was the widow of McKay Van Vleet, who in conjunction with his father, Peter P. Van Vleet, established the pharmaceutical manufacturing firm known today as McKesson Drug Company.

Wharton and Bredesen Read

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen (right) and Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton (left) read to nearly 20 children in the UT Child Care Program during a special event hosted by the Shelby County Books from Birth Program, an initiative providing free books to children from birth to 5 years of age. The officials read and distributed children’s books to the kids after an announcement about a new partnership between the Volunteer State Health Plan, Shelby County Books from Birth, Imagination Library Program and the Gov.’s Books from Birth Foundation. The purpose of the partnership is to invest in early childhood literacy.

Medicine White Coat Ceremony

On August 14, more than 160 students in the College of Medicine took the Oath of Hippocrates at the White Coat Ceremony and Reception at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. The Class of 2013 received their white coats signifying the culmination of the orientation to medical school. The tradition of coating at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine began with the entering class of 1996 and was one of the first established in U.S. medical schools. This year’s guest speaker was Roberto C. Heros, MD, professor, co-chairman and program director at the University of Miami Department of Neurosurgery.