AutoZone, GTx Trailblazer Pitt Hyde Shares Secrets to Industry Success

Innovation. Quality. Consistency. Those three ingredients are the key to succeeding in any business or medical endeavor, J. R. “Pitt” Hyde, founder of AutoZone and board chairman of Memphis-based drug developer GTx, Inc., is an expert at merging those ingredients into a customer service setting. He shared his life story and advice with students and faculty at UTHSC as the keynote speaker at the Invention to Venture entrepreneurial workshop held in November.

Like many teenagers today, Hyde got his start in retail, working at his family’s grocery wholesale store Malone and Hyde. At the age of 26, he took leadership of the company. By 1979, inspired by the success of Wal-Mart and its “culture of thrift,” Hyde opened the first uzone in Forrest City, Ark. In 1991, the company went public on the New York Stock Exchange, and now, there are more than 4,000 AutoZone stores across the United States.

According to Hyde, leading by example is critical to success; corporate managers often go into AutoZone stores in the work uniform to check up on the team, and when customers ask them for help, they help.

Hyde credits the company’s emphasis on customer service as the difference between the many “zone clones” out there.

Knights Templar Awards $40,000 for Pediatric Eye Research

On November 1, David White, representative for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, presented Mallika Palamoor, PhD, postdoc in the Department of Ophthalmology, with $40,000 for her study “Glycan Therapy: An Alternative to Gene Therapy to Treat LCA.”

“Dr. Palamoor’s study to develop a new drug is very exciting and novel work that has the potential to move forward the entire field of ocular drug delivery,” stated Monica Jablonski, PhD, professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, and the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. She is also Dr. Palamoor’s mentor.

The objective of the study is to create a drug delivery system through the eyeball in order to test a proposed drug for the treatment of certain types of Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA). The gene-related condition occurs when mutations in CRB1 cause severe visual loss in children from birth. Intravitreal injection directly into the inner cavity of the eye provides a direct route of delivery of the drug. However, due to potential complications that may ensue from repeated dosing, a sustained-release drug delivery system is highly desirable.

“Based on long-term controlled-release data, safety studies and in vitro efficacy evaluations, we are confident that one injection per year of drug-loaded nanoparticles will be sufficient to treat the children with LCA due to CRB1 mutations,” stated Dr. Palamoor.

To date, there is no treatment for children with this form of LCA, which occurs in approximately one in 80,000 births.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is a nonprofit that provides funds for research, surgical treatment and hospitalization to those who suffer from diseases or injury to the eyes. Since its inception, the foundation has spent more than $95 million to help provide medical treatment for those unable to afford it.
50 Years Celebration Focuses on the Future with Diversity Day

Fifty years ago, UTHSC opened its doors to African-American pioneers in the medical field, including Alvin Crawford, MD, and Earline Houston, MD, graduates from the College of Medicine. On Saturday, November 12, UTHSC welcomed more than 60 future pioneers from across the state, who attended the first-ever Diversity Day on campus.

Those in attendance included high school and college students, and recent college graduates interested in pursuing their education further at UTHSC. Tours of the different colleges, as well as information about admissions, student services, and financial aid were provided by UTHSC student volunteers.

Representatives from the different colleges hosted a question and answer forum for the attendees. The visiting students asked questions such as, “If you were in the ninth grade, what would you do to prepare for a career?” and “How did you decide on your area of study?”

“Diversity Day for prospective students was the culminating event in the University of Tennessee system’s celebration of 50 Years of African-American Achievement for UTHSC,” said Michael Alston, EdD, director of the Office of Equity and Diversity. “All attendees really seemed to enjoy the tours and the student panel discussion that provided reflective responses.”

The representatives spoke about their individual experiences and how they found their chosen paths. Most of all they advocated for the prospective students to plan ahead and to surround themselves with people in the fields they wish to pursue.

Tyler Simpson, a freshman at Motlow State Community College in Fayetteville, Tenn., stated that the day had been a great experience. “My uncle went here, so it’s good to see what he went through.”

Recent University of Memphis graduate in finance William Nguyen echoed the positive experience of Diversity Day, saying, “I’m changing my career path and am planning to go into nursing because of the stability and personal growth. Today answered a lot of my questions and gave me a better understanding of what I need to do.”

Diversity Day was sponsored by the UTHSC Office of Equity and Diversity. A special thanks to the student volunteers and staff for making the event such a success.

New Cancer Research Partnership Forms

On October 28, David Stern, MD, executive dean for the College of Medicine, vice chancellor for Health Affairs, and interim vice chancellor of Research, accepted a donation to commemorate a new cancer research partnership with The West Clinic and Methodist University Hospital (MUH).

“Cancer is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in our region. However, there is no comprehensive cancer center in the Mid-South. With the announcement of the formation of a cancer initiative between UTHSC, The West Clinic and Methodist-Le Bonheur Healthcare … it is my belief that we are positioned to develop a comprehensive cancer center with a major academic component,” stated Dr. Stern.

As part of this new partnership, Methodist has agreed to provide the College of Medicine with a minimum of $5 million annually over seven years, for a total of $35 million. On the part of UTHSC, the Oncology Fellowship Program, based at MUH, will eventually be under faculty supervision by cancer physicians from The West Clinic.

The new partnership officially took effect on January 1, 2012. The new venture is a major accomplishment. UTHSC will continue to pursue new partnerships in the community with affiliated hospitals in the area.
Hyde, cont. from page 1

“When we went public, everyone started copying us, but the one thing they can’t copy is our culture of customer service,” stated Hyde.

Hyde explained to the audience the connection between succeeding in the auto parts industry and the biomedical field by emphasizing that enthusiasm and dedication are needed in any endeavor. There must be a focus on your objective 100 percent of the time. He also recommended surrounding oneself with positive and outgoing people in order to succeed, especially in a laboratory environment.

With the advice of Pitt Hyde and the other speakers at Invention to Venture, including Ken Woody, president of Innova; Patrick Wilson, vice president of Global Cervical Spine Therapies at Medtronic, and Susan Fentress, attorney specializing in intellectual property at Harris Shelton Hanover Walsh, the day proved to be a success.

“It was truly exciting to bring together so many different entrepreneurs — with such a variety of expertise and experience — and watch as networking opportunities emerged and ideas were exchanged,” said Dee Helton, president of the Student Government Association Executive Council, who helped organize the day-long event.

The UT Research Foundation and the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance hosted Invention to Venture in order to inspire university entrepreneurs and support them in creating endeavors that have a social benefit.

UTHSC Celebrates Commitment with Lichterman, Chancellor Awards

On December 1, employees with more than 25 years of service to UTHSC attended the year-end Employee Recognition Luncheon in the Student-Alumni Center. Additionally, two very committed employees received the highest recognition of service to the university.

Mike Smith, manager, UTHSC surplus warehouse, was named the 2011 Thomas C. Lichterman Employee of the Year. Smith has been an employee for three years. On a daily basis, he is responsible for receiving surplus items from campus offices and determining what can be sold, auctioned, and what items cannot be used. Staff members described visiting the surplus facility like visiting a store, with Smith being very attentive to their needs.

The Lichterman Award is given to a deserving, non-exempt, full-time employee annually. The prize includes a $1,500 check and plaque for the person who has gone out of his or her way to show commitment and dedication to the university.

Like the Lichterman Award, the Chancellor’s Exempt Staff Award honors an employee for going above and beyond the call of duty, but it is presented to non-faculty exempt employees. This year’s winner was Pam Houston, director of Special Events, Community Affairs, and Student Life.

Although Houston has been with the university in various departments for the past 13 years, her biggest challenge and accomplishment was coordinating the Centennial Gala in September.

In one of the recommendation letters, Houston was described as “a perfect example for us to follow. Sometimes we are given unreasonable tasks; tasks that appear so overwhelming, we ask ourselves if they can even be accomplished. Pam and her work ethic are a perfect example to us that if you dig in and really work hard, you can reach goals that you never thought you could.”

Like Smith, Houston received a $1,500 check, plaque, and a heartfelt standing ovation from the crowd at the luncheon.

2011 Lichterman Finalists

Patricia Hill
Kudura Ajené
Myra McGarrity-Randolph
Allen Raimey (UTMG)
George “Mike” Smith
Reneé Niter
Lara Nichols
C. J. Ehrentraut (UTMG)

2011 Chancellor’s Award Finalists

Ruby Bland
Pamela Houston
Patricia Page
Joan Porter (Jackson Family Practice)

View UTHSC News Notes

Catch up on all the good news about UTHSC from 2011 by visiting http://www.uthsc.edu/news/newsnotes/. News Notes provides a brief summary of media exposure that faculty, staff and students have received, as well as links to more information (when available).
The Communications and Marketing Department is among the winners of the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals’ 2011 MarCom Awards. The department received a Platinum MarCom Award for the UTHSC Centennial Campaign in the Marketing/Promotion Campaign/Materials category and a Gold MarCom Award for the Plough Donation Announcement in the Media Response category.

“Our department submitted only two MarCom entries,” said Sheila Champlian, director of UTHSC Communications and Marketing. “We were thrilled to learn that our work earned recognition both at the highest level – Platinum – and at the second-highest level – Gold – especially since this year’s MarCom Awards drew more than 6,000 entries in upwards of 200 categories from throughout the United States, Canada and several other countries.”

The MarCom Awards is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communications professionals from advertising agencies, PR firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers.

Submitted in the form of a booklet, the Centennial Campaign entry provided clear insight to the planning performed and materials assembled by the Communications and Marketing team to effectively promote UTHSC’s 100th anniversary celebration, including everything from fliers and brochures to centennial-focused activities.

In March 2010, the Plough Foundation awarded a grant of $4.5 million to the UTHSC College of Pharmacy to establish the Plough Center for Sterile Drug Delivery Systems. The media interest made the donation announcement one of UTHSC’s most-covered events to date, bringing coverage from media outlets across the world.

Dial 8-4444
For Emergencies

With spring semester in full swing, Campus Police would like to remind students and staff about how to make emergency calls on the UT campus.

When you are on UT campus property, call Dispatch 448-4444 for emergency situations. All 9-1-1 calls from your office, building or cell phone go to a central site in one of the buildings, and it does not matter which building you call from — 9-1-1 operators will not be able to pinpoint your location. Because UT dispatchers will know the source of the calls, and thus the destination for emergency vehicles, they can respond quickly.

If you are off of the UT campus, please dial 9-1-1 from whatever phone you have available; however, be sure to give the address you are calling from because some cell phones do not assist with locations. All campus safety procedures can be found on the UTHSC Web site at http://www.uthsc.edu/campuspolice/.

Health Careers Gears Up for Summer Programs

The Department of Health Career Programs (HCP) at UTHSC is committed to contributing to a diverse workforce by nurturing and supporting students’ interests in the health professions.

In an effort to prepare more underrepresented minorities for careers in the health professions, HCP is happy to announce several 2012 summer programs for high school students in the undergraduate levels. The applications for all summer programs are available now at http://www.uthsc.edu/HCP/descriptions.php.

The deadline for all programs listed below is February 28, 2012, and they will kick-off in June. Apply now!

Tennessee Institutes for Pre-Professionals

The Tennessee Institutes for Pre-Professionals (TIP) offer year-round advice, support and activities designed to assist students in realizing their career goals. This opportunity is available to residents of Tennessee who wish to pursue a career in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy or allied health. TIP’s ultimate goal is to increase the representation and active participation of groups underrepresented in health professions training and practice. Students who are interested in pharmacy but are not residents of Tennessee are encouraged to apply.

Age Range: College Freshmen to Seniors

Summer Research Scholars

The College of Graduate Health Sciences and the College of Pharmacy sponsor the Summer Research Scholars Program to provide research experience to exceptionally well-qualified undergraduate students. Students spend eight weeks with an investigator in one of the UTHSC graduate programs. Through this experience, students gain hands-on training and exposure to research as a postbaccalaureate career option. The program culminates with presentations by the students. Selected students are provided a stipend for the eight-week period.

Age Range: College Freshmen to Seniors

Summer Science Institute

The Summer Science Institute is a two-week program for incoming junior and senior high school students. Outstanding students with strong academics, citizenship, community involvement, and commitment to pursuing a career in the sciences are invited to apply. Classroom lectures, experiential learning activities and exposure to academic programs at UTHSC will be provided. Students will participate in a variety of activities, including dissections, medical tours of local centers, career development workshops, a community service project, and an introduction to research. Scholarships are available for interested participants. This highly competitive program will allow students to demonstrate an understanding of professional attributes, attire and communication skills (verbal and written) that contribute to academic and career success.

Age Range: High School Juniors and Seniors

Communications and Marketing – Winners at MarCom

UTHSC College of
Blindfolds, Wheelchairs, Speakers Impart Disability Awareness

In October, UTHSC celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) with several activities around the topic of disability in order to increase campus awareness of the issue.

To kick off the activities for the month, the Office of Equity and Diversity, the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee, and the Department of Occupational Therapy hosted “Disabled for a Day” — an ice cream social with a twist. In order to enjoy ice cream with a variety of toppings, participants had to complete a short obstacle course — using either a wheelchair, crutches or a cane — and perform moderate to difficult everyday tasks — such as picking up papers and putting on T-shirts. Participants also had the option of performing the tasks as if they were visually impaired or limb-deprived.

“NDEAM has been an eye-opening experience that has continuously brought awareness to everyday challenges faced by people with disabilities,” said Marian Harris, employee relations and ADA liaison in the Office of Equity and Diversity, who served as co-chairman of NDEAM. “It was a privilege to be part of a profound commemorative event that embraced the diversity of our campus.”

On October 22, UTHSC departments participated in VisionWalk Memphis, a 5K race that serves as a fundraising tool for the Foundation Fighting Blindness in hopes of finding cures for the visually impaired. The race raised more than $50,000.

NDEAM brings light not only physical disabilities but mental disabilities as well. A disability awareness class took place in the Madison Plaza conference room to give insight into visible disabilities, such as mobile impairment, and non-visible disabilities, such as mental limitations. Class participants also watched a documentary on Nick Vujicic, a captivating motivational speaker who was born without arms and legs.

To conclude the month’s events, a reception with the theme, “America’s People, America’s Talent, America’s Strength” was held in the O.D. Larry Dining Hall in the Student-Alumni Center. Attendees heard from Sandra Armstrong, volunteer coordinator of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Memphis and Gordon Brigman, regional coordinator of AMBUCS, a national agency that specializes in creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities.

Since 1988, the U.S. Department of Labor has promoted nationwide recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. This has been accomplished by assisting employer and advocacy groups to plan events that highlight the skilled abilities of job seekers and working Americans with disabilities.

Training Department Expands – New Programs on Horizon

In an effort to promote training and development opportunities to UTHSC employees, the Human Resources Office has expanded its training efforts and staff to create the new Training Advisory Committee (TAC).

The initial purpose of TAC is to:

- Investigate training needs on campus;
- Collectively promote and market training opportunities for employees;
- Identify ways to leverage resources in order to maximize training for employees; and
- Develop and propose annual training efforts for employees on campus and at remote sites.

The Training Department within HR has also expanded its staff in order to keep up with the new endeavors. Darnita Brassel was promoted to training administrator. She will lead the process of identifying campus training needs and working to meet those needs in addition to proposing new initiatives that will support the ongoing development of staff.

Additionally, Monica Fleming joined the training staff as the training coordinator. She is currently responsible for coordinating the Certified Administrative Professional exam review classes, as well as the GED program and Star Achievement levels I, II and III. Fleming will also facilitate new employee orientation.

These changes convey the support of university and HR leadership for training and professional development of our most valuable resources — faculty and staff. TAC is planning a training launch event on Friday, February 17, 2012, in the SAC dining hall from 10 a.m. to noon. This event promises to be an exciting time filled with fun, learning, door prizes, refreshments and much more!
UT College of Medicine - Chattanooga

Dr. James Creel Recognized at International Conference

In October, James H. Creel, Jr., MD, FACEP, director of the Emergency Medical Residency Program, was awarded Medical Director of the Year at the International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) Conference in Nashville, Tenn. The award was presented by John Campbell, MD, who started the program in 1982. He was joined on the podium by Ray Fowler, MD, another Georgia pioneer responsible for initiating a program in metropolitan Atlanta. Dr. Creel brought ITLS to the Chattanooga area in 1984. Prior to joining the staff at UTCOMC, he started the first EMS program in Georgia and went on to form the Tennessee/Georgia consortium, the first trauma services consortium in the nation. The Consortium relies on the instructional support of EMS services and instructors, keeping costs low and the quality of instruction high for all students, whether from pre-hospital or in-hospital professions.

Dr. Thomas Sweets Receives Award

Thomas M. Sweets (PGY2), MBA, MD, resident in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, received the Sumner Koch, MD Award from the Chicago Society for Surgery of the Hand. The award was given for a paper presented at the 2010 American Society for Surgery of the Hand Annual Meeting, which was voted by the membership as the most clinically relevant paper for the future. The paper, co-authored with Peter J. Stern, MD, is titled, “Pyrolytic Carbon Resurfacing Arthroplasty for Osteoarthritis of the Proximal Interphalangeal Joint of the Finger.” Dr. Stern accepted the award on behalf of both authors at this year’s annual meeting in Las Vegas. In addition, the paper was published in the August issue of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery.

UT Health Science Center - Knoxville

Medical Explorations: Transforming High School Students for 20 Years

Medical Explorations, a program for high school students to shadow University of Tennessee Medical Center and UT Graduate School of Medicine medical staff, celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011. Among the attendees at the celebration were Mitchell Goldman, MD, chairman of Surgery and assistant dean of Research, who created the program, and his former mentee who inspired the idea for Medical Explorations, Brooks Davis Hagee, MD, pediatrician at Northeast Pediatric Associates in Schertz, Texas.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Hagee, then a high school sophomore, approached Dr. Goldman following a presentation at West High School and said, “Will you be my mentor?”

After considering the request, Dr. Goldman convinced himself and hospital leadership of the potential positive impact of having high school students accompany medical staff to see all aspects of their jobs. As a result, the Medical Explorations Program was born.

“The way I see it, there’s no way the program can’t be a success,” Dr. Goldman said. “If kids come in and realize they truly do want to go into medicine, we’ve helped them. Likewise, if they determine medicine isn’t for them, we’ve helped them as well. As long as the students buy in to the program and are willing to learn, we achieve success.”

Following Dr. Hagee, more than 400 Knoxville-area high school students have completed the program, including another student, Abigail Cacace, whom Dr. Goldman has also mentored.

“I asked Dr. Goldman to give me advice about classes to take, and Dr. Goldman said, ‘You’re 14, You need to be swimming.’” Cacace said. “He said to come back and see him my senior year of high school.”

Cacace began volunteering at UT Medical Center in 2010, before beginning her senior year in the Berean Christian School Independent Study Program. Two weeks into her volunteer position, she met Dr. Goldman again and applied to Medical Explorations.

The program includes six weeks of rotations during the summer, each week shadowing medical staff in a different field. Cacace said students really get to know the physicians because mentees spend a week at their sides going everywhere they go, whether it be the operating room or conferences.

Medical Explorations also includes a weekly ethics class and a group research project. Students use Preston Medical Library and its resources for their research. Staff provide training, support, and evaluate the research papers and presentations, which are then scored. Awards are given to the top three scores.

Thanks to generous donations through the Cole Foundation and other private individuals, the program provides stipends for students, allowing many to participate in the program who would have otherwise had to work during the summer to pay for college or other living expenses. For more information about Medical Explorations or to make a donation, call (865) 305-9244.
RxBio, Inc. Receives $15 Million Grant – Main Project Led by UTHSC Professors

RxBio, Inc., an early stage biopharmaceutical company that spun out of UTHSC, has been awarded a $15 million federal contract. The contract will fund the further development of Rx100, the company’s potent radiomitigant countermeasure drug, which may protect against the potentially lethal effects of radiation exposure. To date, no such drug has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) contract is valued at up to $24 million ($15 million in the base contract; $9 million in options) over the next two years.

“As part of a national preparedness effort, we are pleased to work locally to develop a radiation countermeasure that could save the lives of countless Americans, as well as citizens around the world who are exposed to lethal levels of radiation,” said W. Shannon McCool, DPh, chairman and chief executive officer of RxBio.

Rx100 is unique in that it is a small molecule that has shown a significant survival benefit whether administered 24 hours before or up to 72 hours after exposure to radiation at levels several times lethal. Another unique characteristic, Rx100 is effective against the higher levels of radiation that affect the gastrointestinal tract. Development of the drug to date has been funded by a combination of private equity and federal funding. The drug has been a sponsored project of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the division of the National Institutes of Health charged with the identification and early development of radiation countermeasures.

Rx100 resulted from pioneering collaboration among three UTHSC scientists: Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, chair and professor in the Department of Physiology; Duane Miller, PhD, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences; and Leonard R. Johnson, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology. Dr. Tigyi serves as chief scientific officer for RxBio. Ryan Yates, PharmD, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, serves as project chief for the BARDA initiative, as well as vice president of Research and Development for RxBio.

UTHSC Staff Join Together for Safety Certification

In November, College of Pharmacy students and faculty coordinated the first annual CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) certification training for UTHSC staff.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), approximately 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. Providing high quality chest compressions and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on a victim can substantially increase his or her chance of survival. After concerned faculty noticed the need for more AED machines on campus, they urged Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer, to invest in the life-saving equipment. He got on board swiftly, and there are now more than 30 AED machines installed in buildings across campus.

“The UTHSC campus has made a significant investment for its employees and visitors by purchasing and installing AEDs all across campus and supporting CPR and AED training. The AHA Basic Life Support Instructors from across campus trained 250 people in the life-saving skills. My goal is for every employee of UTHSC to learn how to do CPR and use an AED,” stated Kelly Rogers, PharmD, professor of Clinical Pharmacy and AED program coordinator.

The training consisted of a step-by-step video demonstrating the proper technique for CPR. The AED training showed proper set-up of the electrical patches and how to integrate AED-use with CPR compressions.

New Workout Room Unveiled at SAC

On October 28, the Campus Recreation Facility got a new edition: a renovated workout room filled with state-of-the-art treadmills, weight training machines and exercise bikes.

When you walk into the workout room, take note of the pink treadmills. They are sponsored by exercise company Cybex, in collaboration with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Until October 2012, for every pink mile run during designated weeks, ten cents will be donated to aid breast cancer research. During the month of October, five cents will be donated for every mile run.

For those who shy away from exercise, most of the new machines come fully equipped with televisions and connections to plug in an iPod. Just don’t forget to bring your headphones! The Campus Recreation Center is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. If exercising with a group is more your style, check out the new group fitness class schedule at http://www.uthsc.edu/campusrec/pdf/fitnessclasses.pdf.
Human Resources is offering a prep course for the Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) exam. The purpose of this certification is to help administrative professionals become more knowledgeable and informed regarding best practices in the workplace and in the profession.

Although the CAP review course officially began in August, employees are still able (and encouraged) to enroll. Chandra Alston, assistant dean in administration in the College of Allied Health Sciences, teaches the course, which takes place on campus each Monday evening. Attendees are taken through all of the 300 questions in the exam and are able to discuss any issues or concerns. For those who miss a class or those just signing up, each class session is recorded and available on Blackboard.

“It’s been a while since I’ve studied for an exam like this, and I’ve had to learn the best study methods for me. I am very appreciative of the tools that are provided for us,” said Terry Ferguson, administrative aide and residency coordinator in the Department of Ophthalmology.

The CAP exam covers human resources, financial functions, document production, physical information resources, records management, information distribution, organization planning, and communication — areas the excelling administrative professional should master.

The exam is administered by the International Association of Administrative Professionals only twice per year. The next exam date is May 5, 2012, with a payment deadline date in February. Upon successful completion of the exam, non-exempt employees (EEO code 41 & 42) will be awarded a 9 percent increase in salary. To find out if you qualify for the salary increase, go to http://www.uthsc.edu/hrtraining/pdfs/cps-eligible.pdf.

For more information regarding eligibility, course registration and certification details, contact Monica Fleming at (901) 448-7493 or mflemin2@uthsc.edu.
Thirty-seven years ago, Robert Macklin dropped out of high school in the 10th grade. In October of 2011, he received his GED, thanks in part to the new UTHSC GED program in collaboration with HopeWorks.

In 2010, Macklin noticed a job opening for supervisor in his department, Carpentry. He applied for the position, but was reluctantly turned down because he didn’t possess a GED, a fact he had been hiding. With the encouragement of the HR staff and Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer, Macklin enrolled in the HopeWorks GED program in April 2010.

It took some time for Macklin to get acquainted with the classroom environment at HopeWorks. However, Dr. Brown encouraged him to get his GED, and helped to arrange tutoring sessions with Monica Fleming, HR training coordinator, in language arts to assist further.

Under Dr. Brown’s watchful eye, after students complete their GEDs, they become eligible to apply for promotional opportunities and advancement.

The first UTHSC official GED class began with six employees. Fleming currently tutors language arts on campus in tandem with Susan Rubio, educational director of HopeWorks, who focuses primarily on the math tutoring at HopeWorks. Students are required to attend HopeWorks and UTHSC one day per week for tutoring.

Macklin began to succeed in the prep course and started to encourage others to pursue their education as well.

After a year of hard work, Macklin passed the GED exam.

“I was so elated the day I received it,” stated Macklin with a smile. “Once you attain it, you have that ‘I can do’ attitude, which really does build confidence.”

Now, Macklin’s looking into taking some undergraduate college courses, and perhaps even attending vocational school.

Since the start of the program, a second student in the course, Ricky Howell, a temporary painter, also received his GED.

Howell stated that the toughest part about going back for your GED is relearning and restudying information that had been forgotten. However, he stated, “Don’t be afraid. Jump in because it takes determination.”

Howell earned his GED in November 2011 and has since been hired full time by UTHSC.

“This is truly an exciting opportunity for employees,” stated Fleming. “We are excited about their enthusiasm for learning and the collaborative efforts available to meet their needs at the university. Earning a GED creates endless possibilities, and we are eager about the possibilities for these employees. The program is continuing to emerge and progress rapidly, and this would not be possible without the support of the administration.”

The remaining four enrolled employees are going through the practice test process in preparation for taking the official test by the end of January. Several other employees have also expressed interest in joining the next class.

The organization that helped to make Dr. Brown’s vision become a reality was HopeWorks, a not-for-profit community organization that seeks to serve the community through its outreach programs. Executive Director Ron Wade and Educational Director Susan Rubio agreed to provide GED tutoring and test preparation for the Health Science Center employees at no cost. The organization generally offers free tutoring for the community, but their space was very limited. When presented with the opportunity, they embraced the UTHSC vision with open arms.

If you are interested in participating in the GED program, please contact Monica Fleming at (901) 448-7493 or mflemin2@uthsc.edu.

From left to right: A winning team! Monica Fleming joins former student Robert Macklin, with his wife Ruth Swift-Macklin, Susan Rubio, and Dr. Ken Brown, at the graduation celebration.

GED class participants, (from left to right) Justin Giden, Robert Macklin, Anthony Tyler, Rickey Howell, Renardo Cunningham touch Macklin’s plaque to honor him as the first graduate of the UTHSC GED program.
Cardiovascular Research Takes Center Stage at Hypertension Research Day

On November 2, the Cardiovascular-Renal Center at UTHSC presented the E. Eric Muirhead Hypertension Research Day. Started in 1987, the symposium honors Dr. Muirhead for his numerous contributions to hypertension research and the medical community. This year D. Neil Granger, PhD, Boyd Professor and head of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology at LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport, La., presented the keynote speech, “Microvascular Responses to Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease.”

“Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in Memphis, the state of Tennessee, and in the United States,” stated Jonathan Jaggar, PhD, Maury W. Bronstein Professor, Department of Physiology and coordinator of the event. “The conference is necessary to provide an annual update to the regional community on the latest findings in hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Hypertension Research Day 2011 was a resounding success, being attended by approximately 150 clinical and basic science faculty, staff and students.”

The program provides leading information in cardiovascular research, stimulates collaboration between laboratories at UTHSC and the institutions of the guest speakers, and leads to new ideas for research, treatment and drug design. Hypertension Research Day has been approved for Continuing Medical Education credit and is open to all health science professionals and students.

The day kicked off with the Grand Rounds lecture on the racial differences in hypertension management by Jackson T. Wright, Jr., MD, director of the Clinical Hypertension Program and director of the William T. Dahms Clinical Research Unit at the Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Leonard Share Lecture titled, “Baroreceptors in Hypertension (Molecules and Function)” was presented by Francois M. Abboud, MD, Edith King Pearson Chair in Cardiovascular Research, professor of Medicine and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, and director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at The University of Iowa in Iowa City.

“IgA Nephropathy – Pathogenic Mechanisms for the Most Common Chronic Glomerular Disease” was presented by Robert Wyatt, MD, Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC.

The successful conference concluded with the Leonard Share Young Investigator Awards, given to a clinical and basic science fellow. Damodaran Narayanan, PhD, Department of Physiology, and Yaser Cheema, MD, College of Medicine, were honored with the award for their research in the cardiovascular renal field.

Donald B. Thomason, PhD, associate dean in the College of Graduate Health Sciences and executive director of the Molecular Resource Center, presented Damodaran Narayanan, PhD, (top photo) and Yaser Cheema, MD, (bottom photo) with the 2011 Leonard Share Young Investigator Award.

Susan Andrews Brings Increased Intervention Efforts to UHS

As part of the expansion efforts in University Health Services, Susan Andrews, MSN, PMHNP-BC, has been hired as the new psychiatric nurse practitioner.

“We welcome an experienced practitioner like Susan Andrews joining us, as we enhance our campus-wide efforts,” stated Lawrence Madlock, MD, medical director of University Health Services.

Andrews will be a great aide as the department focuses on early intervention efforts in regards to behavioral problems, especially in cases where students may suffer from depression and anxiety caused by stress.

“Through her 20 years of varied behavioral health experiences, Susan brings a holistic approach to meeting these campus needs,” said Diane Todd Pace, assistant dean for practice in the College of Nursing and director of University Health Services. “She demonstrates an enthusiastic commitment to helping students achieve academic success through maintaining healthy outcomes.”

In 2000, Andrews earned her Master’s of Nursing in Psychiatric Nursing from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. Prior to accepting the position, Andrews worked as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner at the Geriatrics Group of Memphis. She also held an instructor position over the past two decades in both the College of Nursing at UTHSC and Methodist Hospital.
While most College of Medicine students busy themselves with their studies, group projects and rotations, Sheg Aranmolate, second-year medical student, also took on another endeavor he wanted to accomplish — his second novel. *Bountiful Famine* is centered on the events surrounding a young African, Nadus, his family, the exotic animals in their care, and the mischief that Nadus and his friends stumble into — until something unexpected happens that will change his life forever. During his recent visit to the UTHSC Communications and Marketing Department, Aranmolate discussed not only his professional experiences, but also shed light on his personal life as well.

Q. What was it like growing up in West Africa?

A. I grew up in Nigeria and it was a lot of fun. In fact, that is one of the reasons why I wrote this novel. I feel that a lot of people have very unique views of what the African continent is like and they see a lot of images that skew their views of African cultures and lifestyles. Nigeria is very similar to Memphis, where you can live in Germantown or Cordova and see gorgeous homes, but then you can come to parts of downtown or midtown and it looks contrastingly different.

Q. So, what made you want to write books?

A. Growing up as a child, I don’t want to say Africa? young African, centered on another endeavor he wanted to accomplish — second-year medical student, also took on projects and rotations, Sheg Aranmolate, While most College of Medicine students discussed not only his professional experiences, but also shed light on his personal life as well.

Q. How did Bountiful Famine come about?

A. It was a way for me to show some of my experiences and to show people that pain and suffering are universal to every human being. Love exists even in the worst conditions; humanity still prevails even when society fails.

Q. Did you find it hard to sit down and write?

A. Yeah, I feel that the most difficult part was constructing the first paragraph. But after that, the story just came naturally to me like I was watching people in action and documenting their every move. I had a mental image of what I wanted to write. I knew that I wanted to write a story about a young boy and I had a vague idea of how I wanted the story to end. Afterwards, it was very similar to filling in the blanks in the storyline. I began to add more layers to the story and add more characters with different personalities and emotions. Sometimes, I’m still blown away by the speed at which the book was completed. *Bountiful Famine* is 366 pages and I wrote it in less than a year while working on other projects.

Q. So if anyone decides that they want to write a book, what advice would you give them?

A. I would tell them to write a story about something they know and are familiar with. It is important to keep the descriptions as simple but as vivid as possible. Finally, it’s critical to have a plan and to stick with it. Yes, that would be my biggest advice and I feel that as long as those rules are followed, there will not be a problem writing the story, whether fiction or non-fiction.

Order your copy of *Bountiful Famine* today on Amazon.com!

About the Author

UTHSC medical student Sheg Aranmolate is currently the officer of student representatives, president of the Student Surgical Society, and vice president for the American Medical Association/Medical Student Division and the Student National Medical Association. In 2008, he was featured on the annual *Oprah* episode titled “Oprah’s Big Give” on ABC. In 2009, Aranmolate was featured as one of Nashville’s leaders under 40 by the Nashville Business Journal and was selected as the youngest man in the top 21 American Leaders Under 30 by Ebony magazine.

Premiere Issue of Student Health 101

From students, for students, the new Student Health 101 is an online publication with a modern focus on wellness. Stay current with announcements about campus-wide events, as well as personal stories and opinions from students on health topics.

The Student Health 101 committee is composed of the following: Neha Bhattragar (M1), Megan Galasko (M3), Lataisha Garrett (D2), Heng Ghaila (M2), Dee Helton, president of the Student Government Association Executive Council and third-year student in the College of Graduate Health Sciences, Kenreta Hix (M2), Heather Jeffries (M2), Kashif Memon, infectious disease fellow in the Department of Medicine, and Ashley Smith (P3). The committee is led by Christa Deiss, project manager and office coordinator in University Health Services.

The publication will be available on the first of each month. Go to www.uthsc.edu/univhealth on February 1 to read the premiere issue!

Software Updates Offer More Interactive Options

The UTHSC Educational Technology team has made software updates and enhancements during the past few months. Read below for an overview of the new and emerging upgrades set for 2012. For a complete listing of all supported technologies and technology training workshops, visit https://academic.uthsc.edu/edtech/matrix.php.

**Blackboard**

Blackboard is currently the officer of student representatives, president of the Student Surgical Society, and vice president for the American Medical Association/Medical Student Division and the Student National Medical Association. In 2008, he was featured on the annual *Oprah* episode titled “Oprah’s Big Give” on ABC. In 2009, Aranmolate was featured as one of Nashville’s leaders under 40 by the Nashville Business Journal and was selected as the youngest man in the top 21 American Leaders Under 30 by Ebony magazine.

**ExamSoft**

ExamSoft testing software will undergo a major upgrade during summer 2012. ExamSoft supports the entire testing process with exam design, administration, delivery and analysis, making it easy to give exams in the classroom, lecture room or lab.

**Adobe Connect**

The EdTech team has partnered with Information Technology Services to offer a campus-wide Web conferencing and PowerPoint enhancement solution. Coming to UTHSC in spring 2012, Adobe Connect Version 8 offers online meetings, eLearning, webinars, desktop sharing, multimedia integration and much more.

**Technology Skills Enhancement**

EdTech now offers UTHSC faculty, staff and students FREE training in the following commonly used software and topics:

- Microsoft Windows 7 & Internet Explorer 8
- Microsoft Office Suite 2010
- Outlook 2010/Outlook Web Access/Exchange Mail
- SharePoint
- Aethos
- Computer Basics

**CoursEval**

CoursEval has gone mobile after a software upgrade that allows faculty, staff and students to access surveys from their smart phones and other mobile devices, as well as traditional Web browsers. With CoursEval you can create, maintain and distribute online course surveys. For more information, attend one of our upcoming training sessions in 2012.
THE RECORD

Frontiers Highlights
Primary Care

The Fall 2011 issue of Frontiers magazine features the role primary care plays in health care and offers a by-the-numbers look at how the University of Tennessee Medical Center and UT Graduate School of Medicine have impacted access to primary care in the region.

The issue also describes the evolution of education for primary care physicians at the Graduate School of Medicine and features a compelling research study on concussion conducted by physicians in the Graduate School of Medicine’s Sports Medicine Program.

Frontiers magazine is a publication for alumni and friends. It is produced by the University of Tennessee Medical Center and UT Graduate School of Medicine, Knoxville, which form the region’s only academic medical center.

This issue of Frontiers is available in print and online at http://gsm.utmck.edu/news/frontiers.cfm. To request a copy, contact the UT Graduate School of Medicine at (865) 305-9190, or visit http://gsm.utmck.edu/news/frontiers.cfm to be added to the mailing list.

Safeco Insurance Gives $10,000 to CHS Program

On January 9, Safeco Insurance donated $10,000 to help the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology (ASP) Child Hearing Services Program (located at the Knoxville campus) to continue its mission of treating hearing-impaired children.

Child Hearing Services (CHS) provides treatment for hearing-impaired infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children and their families. Special emphasis is placed on early intervention plus family education and counseling.

“CHS provides wonderful treatment and education to many hearing-impaired children and their parents,” said Noma Anderson, PhD, dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences. “This donation from Safeco Insurance allows CHS to expand the breadth and depth of what they’ll be able to provide.”

In business since 1923 and based in Seattle, Wash., Safeco sells insurance to drivers and homeowners through a network of independent agents and brokers in eight regions throughout the United States. The company sent the donation in honor of 6-month-old Emerson Grace Doty, the granddaughter of one of its employees and a participant in the Child Hearing Services Program.

Currently, CHS provides services for more than 85 children on a weekly basis with more than half of those enrolled having a cochlear implant. The children range in age from birth to 21 years of age with most children being between birth and 10 years of age.

From left to right: Jesse Doty (Dad), Cristin Doty (Mom), and Emerson Grace Doty (infant), help collect the $10,000 contribution made in Emerson’s name by Derek Wright, Territory Manager East Tennessee for Safeco Insurance. ASP team members Kim Jenkins, Emily Noss, Velvet Buehler and Paige Hutchins were also on hand with ASP Department Chair and Associate Professor Ashley Harkrider, PhD.

Tennessee Alumnus Winter 2012 Edition

The Winter 2012 edition of Tennessee Alumnus magazine highlights faculty and accomplishments of UTHSC.

Check out the feature article about Samuel Dagogo-Jack, MD, chief in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, in the Department of Endocrinology. The article focuses on diabetes prevention and his current study, which examines the effects of diabetes in minority patients.

Jody Long, clinical social worker and instructor in the Department of Psychiatry, joins UT therapists in an article about making marriage work.

You will also find stories about UTHSC’s economic impact, pharmacy building opening, and more! Find Tennessee Alumnus online at http://alumnus.tennessee.edu/.

NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY® FEB. 03, 2012

American Heart Association
Learn and Live®

The UTHSC Office of Community Affairs & Special Events presents a Fashion Show benefiting the American Heart Association

February 3, 2012 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Student-Alumni Center Dining Hall

If you consider yourself “fashion-talbulous” and would like to strut your stuff for this fun event to help raise money and awareness about heart disease in women, this is your chance to walk the catwalk. Models of all ages and sizes are needed for the categories of business attire, after 5, accessories, fitness and all red finale.

Tickets are $5. Lunch will be provided. To participate or purchase tickets, please contact Emma Anderson at eanderson@uthsc.edu
**Update Time for Campus Phonebook**

Make sure your information is up to date on the Online People Search.

People Search is essentially the campus phonebook. Make sure your information is accurate, so that work can be accomplished expeditiously.

Visit the UT Directory Check at www.uthsc.edu/phonebook.

The information under UTHSC Directory Check will guide you through the process. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Ennis at (901) 448-1766 or rennis1@uthsc.edu.

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**Save the Date**

**HIV/AIDS Network 2012: Responding to the Challenges in the Mid-South**

March 8-9  Student-Alumni Center

All scheduled workshops will be 85 minutes. Conference Workshop Tracks are designed to target individuals by involvement and interest in HIV work, specifically clinicians, HIV program administrators/managers, allied health professionals, and community stakeholders. To register for the event or if you have questions, contact Timkiya Taylor at (901) 379-7529 or timkiya.taylor@shelbycountynn.gov.

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**Serving Others on King Day 2012**

On Monday, January 16, 2012, more than 30 UTHSC faculty, staff and students volunteered their time to help commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the National Civil Rights Museum.

“UTHSC decided to participate in King Day 2012 to give back to our community and celebrate the vision and beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Lynne Moore, coordinator for Community Affairs and Special Events.

Volunteers assisted by signing up visitors for memberships, working in the gift shop, leading tours, and helping to coordinate the more than 7,000 visitors to the museum that day.

The day not only served to remember the past, but to help the future as well. There was a food drive on the premises to benefit the Memphis Food Bank. Visitors could bring a bag of canned goods and receive free admission to the museum.

The event was a huge success with many media outlets covering it including the Fox affiliate WHBQ-TV and V-101 FM.

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**Retirement Party for Dr. Dick Gourley**

In November, UTHSC said good-bye to a legend at the retirement party for Dick Gourley, PharmD, former dean of the College of Pharmacy.

The cocktail reception included live music and hors d’oeuvres as guests mingled with the man of the hour. In his 22 years of service, Dr. Gourley led the College of Pharmacy to the 16th position in U.S. rankings. He also saw the opening of the new $70 million pharmacy building in August.

Dr. Gourley currently serves as the interim president of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) in Knoxville.

To commemorate his service, former colleague James Eoff, PharmD, presented Dr. Gourley with a gift certificate for $1,500 towards a class at the Breed School of Fine Woodworking in Maine. Apparently, Dr. Gourley has been hiding a secret love of building dollhouses, a fact his wife was pleased to share.

A special thanks to Dr. Gourley for his commitment to UTHSC throughout the years, and best wishes for his continued success at UTRF.

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**How to Combat Health Care Fraud**

On November 10, attorneys, medical records personnel, and hospital and government administrators gathered at UTHSC for “Pay and Chase No More: The Government’s Proactive Initiatives to Combat Health Care Fraud.”

Speakers for the event included Stuart Canale, assistant U.S. attorney and coordinator of the Health Care Fraud Task Force, as well as Anna Grizzle and Brian Roark, attorneys from Bass, Berry, and Sims law firm.

In an effort to combat the growing prevalence of health care fraud, the task force began a few years ago to bring officers from federal, state, and local government together with medical groups to facilitate dialogue and address the issues common to all.

Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer, welcomed the guests and expressed interest in continued collaboration with the task force.

“We train health care providers in multiple different strata, and the population your work affects the most is the population we train,” said Dr. Brown.

The Health Care Fraud Task Force holds meetings quarterly and the locations vary.
Lee Moore had his track gear neatly packed away in his closet and was focused on preparing for the next phase of his life. But less than a month into his first year at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Moore got a phone call from USA Track and Field officials informing him that he might be selected to represent the country in the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Moore got the official word in mid-September. Three months had passed since his last track meet, so the former Memphis University School and Ole Miss star had a little more than a month to get back into shape.

He left Memphis on Saturday and this week will participate in the 400-meter hurdles and the 1,600-meter relay.

"Generally, that’s not the ideal situation,” Moore said. “In most seasons, I have a full year to prepare, especially after taking three months off. I don’t think a lot of people realize how out of shape you can get, especially with track and field being a sport where tenths of a second make all the difference.

“I think I’m in position where I can do well. I’ve had to do a quick, brief training period.”

The three months Moore had off were much needed. During his senior season at Ole Miss, Moore ran the indoor track season while getting over mononucleosis. He followed that up with a strong outdoor season, being named an All-American for the second time. He placed sixth in the 400-meter hurdles at the NCAA men’s outdoor championships.

From there, he placed ninth in the 400-meter hurdles at the USA Championships. His professional career began immediately as he flew to Stockholm the next day, placing third in a meet there.

Then, it was off to Brussels, where he finished second. Then to Ireland, where he won the event on July 2.

“By the time that was over, I think I’d run about 20 hurdle races and 10 to 15 relays, so my legs were completely done,” Moore said. “They were used and abused for that season. I was happy to get back.”

In mid-August, Moore began medical school. For now, he said he’s enrolled in general courses until he decides what he wants to specialize in.

“Long term, I’m looking forward to a career in medicine and not professional track,” Moore said. “I’m going to enjoy it while I’m doing it because the Lord has blessed me with the talent and the ability to run and be one of the fastest people out there. But that’s not ultimately what I’m working towards. When Team USA called, I said I’ll give you guys my best shot and I’ll run the hurdles and the relay if you want me to.”

At Ole Miss, Moore set a school record with a time of 49.52 in the 400-meter hurdles in 2010. Although he isn’t expecting to run quite that fast this week, Moore is confident he can put on a good showing.

Update: At the 2011 Pan Am Games held in October, Moore advanced to the finals in the Men’s 400m Hurdles Event, where he placed 7th overall. Congratulations!
UTHSC Brings Back December Graduation

With so many choosing UTHSC as their educational institution, it was only a matter of time before a second commencement ceremony was needed. Seventy-one health professionals received their degrees at the Winter Commencement held in the Schreier Auditorium on December 9.

“In this, the 218th year of UT and the 100th year of UTHSC, it is truly a pleasure to welcome the newest group of health professionals to the family,” said Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, who presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees.

Dr. Schwab spoke about the many technologies, and areas of study in today’s world that were just coming onto the scene when he graduated medical school including CAT Scans, Angioplasties, and AIDS research.

“We believe that the most important thing we have taught you is the ability to learn,” stated Dr. Schwab.

Graduates represented four of the six UTHSC colleges with 25 from the College of Allied Health Sciences, 25 from the College of Graduate Health Sciences, 1 from the College of Medicine, and 20 from the College of Nursing. During 2011, UTHSC’s Centennial Anniversary, our institution graduated a total of 686 students.

UTHSC Holds Hinman Research Symposium

In October, more than 90 dental students from across the United States and Canada attended the 17th Annual Hinman Student Research Symposium, held at the historic Peabody Hotel in Memphis.

Timothy L. Hottel, DDS, MS, MBA, dean of the College of Dentistry, followed by Franklin Garcia-Godoy, DDS, MS, senior executive associate dean for Research in the College of Dentistry, opened the meeting. Dr. Garcia-Godoy encouraged the students to remain active in research regardless of whether their career paths take them into dental practice or academics.

Eighteen dental students from UTHSC presented their projects and acted as hosts for the symposium. Eight awards were given for the most outstanding student presentations, four in clinical research and four in basic science research. The award from the National Students Research Group (NSRG) of the American Association for Dental Research went to Jillian Rigert, third-year dental student from Southern Illinois University. Her presentation titled, “The Role of TRPA1 in Nociception Following Pulpal Exposure in Sprague-Dawley Rats” analyzed the subject of pain management in dentistry and medicine.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the UTHSC College of Dentistry and the Hinman Dental Society, which holds one of the nation’s largest continuing dental education meetings each March in Atlanta.

UTHSC Students Mentor Future Health Care Workers

On Wednesday, November 30, UTHSC students took a break from the classroom to encourage 50 honors students from Frayser High School to pursue their goals to become health care professionals.

The Frayser students began the day with a tour of the National Civil Rights Museum. The tour exposed the youth to the struggles African-Americans endured before gaining equal rights.

“The trip to the museum showed them their heritage and the struggle others went through,” said Pam Houston, director of UTHSC Special Events and Community Affairs. “The whole idea is to inspire them to have a better life.”

Following the museum tour, the Frayser High honors students headed to the UT Health Science Center campus for a noon luncheon and frank discussions with UTHSC students. The discussion panel included UTHSC students representing the university’s six colleges. Each member of the panel reflected on individual choices made, as well as personal and academic successes. This was just one day in an ongoing relationship — UTHSC students intend to partner with the Frayser students throughout their academic careers.
Student Spotlight

Class President Makes College of Dentistry, Friendlier, Less Expensive

At the age of 16, Keith Jones did not have a clear plan for life. But, after working as a farm tractor driver for his first job, he knew that was not his life's calling. The only thing left to do was to excel academically.

“I had to do something different,” said Jones. As fate (and lack of transportation) would have it, Jones carpooled to high school with his friend, whose dad was an established pediatric orthodontist. He soon began working in the orthodontist’s office, igniting Jones’ interest and passion for the field of dentistry. These days, Keith Jones is in his fourth year as a Dentistry student at UTHSC.

“There’s nothing like a smile,” said Jones. “It can make or break someone’s day. The fact that you can set your own schedule doesn’t hurt either.”

After graduating high school, Jones went on to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville (UAF) where he received his degree in biology, becoming the first person in his family to graduate college. At UAF, he was a recipient of the University of Arkansas Chancellor’s Scholarship and a member of the Chancellor’s List during his college years. In addition to getting good grades, Jones also devoted time to community service projects. He founded the University of Arkansas Chapter of the White Ribbon Organization, a national men’s group striving to educate people on ending violence against women.

One cause especially close to Jones is organ donation. While attending college, Jones’ fraternity brother was killed in a tragic accident. As the philanthropy chair of his fraternity, he reached out to the Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency (ARORA) in a collaborative effort to encourage organ donation, especially since his late fraternity brother was a donor. The fraternity raised more than $3,000 and signed up more than 70 organ donors. Jones would work in the realm of organ donation again when his wife Kendal lost her brother Kyle — also an organ donor — in a car accident. Jones worked with her family and ARORA to start the Kyle Bollen ARORA Golf Tournament to raise money for organ donation. In fact, he still wears a “Klick it for Kyle” bracelet in Kyle’s memory.

Upon arriving at UTHSC, Jones quickly emerged as a leader. He became class president, a position he has excelled in during all four years of his dental education. In his sophomore year, he helped all of the dental students by finding an outside contractor and securing a deal to provide dental kits at a discount. Thus, a kit that was once $8,000 is now available for $5,500. The ability to save money on necessary supplies for health care training continues today, helping students to focus on their work and worry less about finances.

Jones’ involvement at UTHSC does not only consist of his class presidency. He also serves as a dental ambassador — giving tours of the College of Dentistry to prospective students — as well as being the new member chair for the American Student Dental Association.

He has been a recipient of the Dr. Winfield C. Dunn Scholarship and the Pierre Fauchard Academy Scholarship. Additionally, Jones is a member of the IIMHOTEP Society for leadership and has served as a student representative at the MidSouth Dental Congress speaking to both Golden Grads and the University of Tennessee Dental School Board of Trustees.

Although not one to talk much, Jones certainly does not mind sharing his thoughts on the College of Dentistry and its environment.

“We are like one big happy family over there. When I walk in the building, I know everyone’s name from the dean to the lady who empties the trash can,” said Jones. “It feels like you have the chance to connect with people on a personal basis, as well as gain a vast amount of knowledge about the career of dentistry.”

For aspiring dental students, Jones offers sound advice. “First and foremost, make sure that this is the field you want to pursue,” he said. “If you know for sure, then go for it.” He also urges prospective dentists to find a mentor and intern in his or her office, so that they can have as much real life experience as possible.

Janet Harrison, DDS, chair of Restorative Dentistry and one of Jones’ advisors on the Honor Council deems him “one of the most effective and compassionate student leaders that she has had the pleasure of working with in her 30 years of involvement in dental education.”

“Weing with Keith, I’ve found out that his class, his peers, had the utmost respect and appreciation for him as a class leader,” shared Dr. Harrison. “In all my years of teaching, I had not seen such a level of peer respect. Keith is a natural leader, who has a gentle and caring nature with students, faculty, staff and patients. I am sure that he will continue to be a great leader in dentistry.”

Although Jones in set to graduate in May, he has yet to decide whether to pursue pediatric dentistry or a specialty. Regardless of which path he chooses, it is clear that he is actively working towards making his aspirations a definite reality.

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Health Care Challenge Registration in Full Swing

On January 5, students filed into the General Education Building for free pizza and registration information about the first ever Health Care Challenge. Students from all six colleges signed up to compete in teams to develop initiatives to address health-related issues facing underserved members of the Memphis community. Teams will be competing for a $1,000 cash award, judged by local professionals representing a diverse range of health care fields.

The Health Care Challenge is the first event on campus sponsored by the new Interprofessional Education and Clinical Simulations (IPECS) committee. The purpose of IPECS is to train health care students to work in groups in multidisciplinary scenarios, echoing situations they may encounter in the real world.

The official kick-off event for the Health Care Challenge was held on Saturday, January 21. The final team presentations will take place in March. For more information on the Health Care Challenge and IPECS, contact Alicia Dorsey at (901) 448-2947 or adorsey@uthsc.edu.
Health Care Challenge Registration in Full Swing

Keith is a natural leader, who has a gentle and caring nature with students, faculty, staff. "Working with Keith, I've found out that his class, his peers, had the utmost respect and appreciation for me," says Dr. Boucher. "In her 30 years of involvement in dental education, we are like one big happy family over there. When I walk in the building, I know everyone's name and that is necessary for working with in her 30 years of involvement in dental education.

Dentistry and its environment. MidSouth Dental Congress speaking to both Golden Grads and the University of Tennessee Dental School about their work and worry less about finances. looking forward to prospective students — as well as new students by finding an outside contractor and securing a deal to provide dental kits at a discount. In addition, he is dedicated to helping students to focus on their work and worry less about finances. looking forward to prospective students — as well as new students.

UT Research Foundation

¥15,000 Dispersed over: 1 year

Grants List is compiled from information provided by the Department of Research Administration.

Congratulations to the following UTHSC team members who have recently received grants totaling more than $5,000. The Grants List is compiled from information provided by the Department of Research Administration.

Hassan Almoazen, PhD
UT Research Foundation
“Transdermal Delivery of Trace Elements by Nanoemulsion Technology as an Alternative to Parenteral Delivery”
$15,000 Dispersed over: 1 year

James Dale, MD
NHT - National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
“Vaccine Prevention of Group A Streptococcal Infections”
$315,000 Dispersed over: 5 years

Denis DiAngelo, PhD
UT Research Foundation
“Dynamic Back Support System”
$150,000 Dispersed over: 1 year

Monica Jablonski, PhD
UT Research Foundation
“A Novel Drug and Nanoparticle Delivery System for the Treatment of Age-related Macular Degeneration: Toxicity and Pharmaco Kinetics Studies”
$15,000 Dispersed over: 1 year

Michio Kurosu, PhD
UT Research Foundation
“Novel Electron Transport Inhibitors for MDR-Gram Positive Bacterial Infections: In Vivo Study”
$15,000 Dispersed over: 1 year

Robert Maxwell, MD
NHT - National Trauma Institute
“Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in a Trauma Population: Do Decolonization Prevent Infection?”
$180,000 Dispersed over: 1 year

Andreas Schwingshackl, MD
The Le Bonheur Club
Winner - Bea Gerber Award
$5,000 Dispersed over: 1 year

PEOPLE

Bradley A. Boucher, PharmD, professor of Clinical Pharmacy and associate professor of Neurosurgery, received the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) 2011 Clinical Practice Award. This prestigious award honors those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in the development of innovative clinical pharmacy services and sustained excellence in service delivery. In 1984, Dr. Boucher joined UTHSC and started a critical care pharmacy practice in the intensive care unit of the Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center, Regional Medical Center at Memphis, where he still practices today. During his career, he has developed a Critical Care/Nutrition Support Pharmacy Residency Program, training critical care pharmacy fellows and 48 critical care pharmacy residents. The prestigious award was presented during the opening general session of the ACCP 2011 Annual Meeting.

Lawrence M. Brown, PhD, PharmD, chair and director of Getzler Studies in the Health Outcomes and Policy Research Division in the College of Pharmacy, and research director at the UT Center for Medication Therapy Management, received the Medallion of the Association by the Hungarian Private Pharmacists Association (MOSZ) at its Annual Meeting in Siofok, Hungary. The award recognizes Dr. Brown’s eight years of work with Hungarian community pharmacists to advance the practice of pharmacy in Hungary. The Medallion of the Association is the second-highest award given by MOSZ, with Dr. Brown being the first non-Hungarian to receive this honor.

Patricia Cunningham, DNSc, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC, APN, associate professor in the College of Nursing, received the 2011 American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Award for Excellence in Practice—Advanced Practice Registered Nurse category. Dr. Cunningham, who also serves as the Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Option coordinator at UTHSC, was nominated by her peers and selected by an APNA committee. Dr. Cunningham is certified as an adult psychiatric/mental health clinical nurse specialist through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She also holds certifications as a psychiatric family nurse practitioner and a family nurse practitioner. In addition to her roles at UTHSC, she volunteers with the Tennessee Public Safety Network to serve the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office with critical incident stress debriefing. She has been an integral part of the College of Nursing since 1992.

James Eason, MD, program director of the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and professor in the Department of Surgery, was honored by the West Tennessee Chapter of the cystic fibrosis Foundation at the annual Breath of Life Gala. Dr. Eason is an alumn of UTHSC Medical School and has been part of the faculty since 2006. In 2009, he completed the successful liver transplant of Apple CEO Steve Jobs. Dr. Eason has led the Transplant Institute into a nationally recognized Center for Excellence for liver and kidney transplants.

Jonathan Jaggar, PhD, professor of Physiology, was named to the Maury W. Bronstein Chair of Excellence in Cardiovascular Physiology. The prestigious honor is named for Dr. Bronstein, internist and cardiologist at Baptist Hospital for more than 50 years, and a 30-year professor at UTHSC. The honorary chair title was established for him in 1987, and was formerly occupied by Avis Hassid, PhD. Dr. Jaggar’s research focuses on mechanisms regulating the diameter of small arteries and arterioles that modulate systemic blood pressure and organ blood flow. He has written and published more than 60 articles and is on the editorial board of the American Journal of Physiology. Dr. Jaggar will use funds from the endowed professorship for cardiovascular research.

Diane Todd Pace, PhD, FNP-BC, NCMP, CED, FAANP, assistant dean for Practice in the College of Nursing and director of University Health Services, was elected president-elect for the North American Menopause Society (NAMS) at the 2011 annual scientific meeting in Washington, D.C. NAMS is North America’s leading nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health and quality of life of all women during midlife and beyond through an understanding of menopause and healthy aging. The organization is recognized as the preeminent resource on all aspects of menopause to both health care providers and the public. The multidisciplinary membership of 2,000 leaders in the field includes clinical and basic science experts from medicine, nursing, sociology, psychology, nutrition, anthropology, epidemiology, pharmacy, and education. Dr. Pace is the first nurse practitioner to be elected to this leadership role and will serve as NAMS president for 2012-2013. Dr. Pace has been a member of NAMS since 1996. In 2011, she also passed the national Health Information Technology Clinician/Practitioner Consultant Certification Exam, which assesses competency of clinicians seeking to demonstrate proficiency in health IT workforce roles.

PhD student Carrie Plummer, MSN, APRN, was awarded one of 15 national John A. Hartford Academic Geriatric Nursing Predoctoral Scholarships. Plummer will use the two-year, $110,000 scholarship to obtain new competencies in gerontological nursing research, leadership and education. Her research focuses on community-based accumulation of home medications and their associated adverse health outcomes for older adults. Her advisor is Veronica Engle, PhD, GNP, FNSA, FAAN, professor in the College of Nursing.

Jonathan Jaggar, PhD

Diane Todd Pace, PhD

Carrie Plummer, MSN

New Bookstore Manager

Just in time for a new semester of textbook buying, there is a new face in charge of the University Bookstore. Charles Burck was recently appointed manager of the UTHSC Bookstore. Prior to accepting his new position, Burck was inventory manager at the Troy University bookstore in Alabama and previously was cash office supervisor at the University of Mississippi bookstore in Oxford, Miss.
THE RECORD

Run to the Sun for Le Bonheur

Members of the Memphis Mummies Racer Club, including Billy Hatcher, director of ITS Infrastructure Network, and Larry Reiter, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Neurology, presented Meri Armour, president of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, with a check for $1,500. The money was raised during the annual benefit motorcycle ride “Run to the Sun.”

From left to right: Alan Valenski, Randall “Snake” Wheeler, Michelle Conners, director of Development at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Billy Hatcher, Meri Armour, Dr. Larry Reiter, and Mic “Eldorado” Walker. The bike enthusiasts spend a day every year riding their hogs around the city to raise money for charity.

UTHSC Annual Food Drive

The 4th Annual Campus Food Drive was a great success. From November 1 to December 2, the UTHSC family donated 2,713 pounds of food and raised $1,265 in monetary donations for the Memphis Food Bank. This produced nearly three tons of food, providing 4,700 meals for families in need. A special thanks to all of those who contributed to making this event a triumph.

Employees Pledge $47,000 to United Way

“We are all part of one community, and the state of that community affects each of us,” stated Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, in a letter to the UTHSC faculty and staff about the annual United Way campaign.

The UTHSC family answered him back affirmatively, with employees raising more than $47,000 for the nonprofit, which works to help not only the sick, disadvantaged or physically disabled, but also average families who face unexpected challenges.

Campaign donors were entered into drawings to win prizes including UTHSC gift bags. Although the campaign officially ended on December 16, contact Elise Moore, campaign coordinator, at emoore@uthsc.edu or (901) 448-9618 to give your contribution. Please remember that donations do not automatically renew, so you must complete a donation form for the 2012 year. For more information about the campaign or to see a complete list of prize winners, go to http://www.uthsc.edu/unitedway/.

Take a Walk Down Health Care Way - Check Out the Sign on Dudley Street

American Diabetes Association
Tour de Cure
April 28, 2012
Mud Island River Park
Memphis, TN
diabetes.org/tourmemphis

REGISTER TODAY!

Join the UT Health Science Center Team

Tour de Cure is a fundraising bicycle ride that offers routes of 10, 35, or 62 miles. Sign up at diabetes.org/tourmemphis and select UT Health Science Center as your team.

Be one of more than 50,000 riders nationwide committed to helping us Stop Diabetes!

Campus Recreation is offering spin classes to help you get ready. Go to ultsac.edu/campusesrec for a schedule or contact Frank Harrison at fhnriso@uthsc.edu or (901) 448-5099.
On Saturday, December 3, more than 250 middle and high school students gathered with UTHSC students to get “The 411 On Sex.”

The event focused on educating teens about HIV, STDs, and practices to keep them safe. Attendees were able to ask questions anonymously and have them answered by health experts. Students also broke up into mini-groups with the UTHSC students to discuss safe sex.

“The 411 On Sex” was held in recognition of World AIDS Day. Over the past three years, the HIV-infected population has increased at a rate of eight percent annually in the Memphis-area. At the end of the event, more than 75 teens signed up to take an HIV test.

The event was covered by The Commercial Appeal, The DeSoto Appeal, and WREG-TV.

On Veterans Day, the Office of Equity and Diversity, Office of Special Events, and Human Resources held a reception for all veterans of the United States Armed Forces in order to recognize their service. Each veteran was personally recognized and there was a moment of silence for those who have died for their country. A special thanks to all of those who attended and the many others on our campus who have served.

Kevin Stine, information security specialist of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Computer Security Division, addressed proper procedures for securing health care information as one of the speakers at the Second Annual Cyber Security Briefing in October.
In December, UTHSC held several holiday parties to bond faculty, staff, and students together before the much-deserved winter break.

“The University of Tennessee Health Science Center continues to do well in very difficult economic times,” stated Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, in his holiday message to the campus. “Our motto of ‘One Mission, Six Colleges, Three Campuses,’ and the ethos behind it is serving us and Tennessee well. It has been a challenging but productive year for UTHSC. I am grateful for all you do to advance our missions and for the resilience and flexibility you have shown in these difficult times.”

A special thanks to everyone for an incredible centennial year in 2011 and to making 2012 even better.