5K Run for College of Medicine Scholarships Held May 19

The second annual Medicine in May 5K started at 8:30 a.m. May 19 near Health Sciences Park. All proceeds benefited the Peri Ankh Student Endowment Fund and the UTHSC College of Medicine. Peri Ankh, Egyptian for “house of life,” was founded in 2004 by students as the UTHSC College of Medicine’s only Student Endowment Fund. For more information, go to http://www.uthsc.edu/Medicine/periankh.

Congressman, Mayor Visit UTHSC

Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, UTHSC Executive Vice Chancellor Ken Brown and U.S. Representative Steve Cohen spoke at a picnic for the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program in Health Sciences Park on June 15.

Part of UTHSC’s Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program has been helping children and families throughout the Memphis area for more than a decade. The program is a comprehensive public/private collaboration designed to support children whose parents are not able to raise them. These children may be cared for by a grandparent, aunt, uncle or other extended family member. Respecting what is unique and special within each family, staff members work to eliminate gaps in services, providing accurate, easy-to-follow information about existing resources available to families, including support groups, information, referrals, workshops, recreation, family advocacy and more.

For more information on the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program and the Boling Center at UTHSC, call 901-448-3323 or email Sadams10@uthsc.edu.

Tornado Relief

Thank you for the empathy and generosity of spirit you demonstrated. Together, UTHSC team members raised $5,200 for Oklahoma Tornado Relief, and did so in only eight and a half hours. We greatly appreciate the willingness of faculty, students and staff to reach out to those devastated by the monstrous twister that struck the small town of Moore, Okla. All of our donations were delivered to the American Red Cross right before the Memorial Day weekend.

Thank you again.

Steve J. Schwab, MD, Chancellor
Kennard D. Brown, JD, MPH, PhD, FACHE, Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Operations Officer

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Mission Statement

The mission of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center is to bring the benefits of the health sciences to the achievement and maintenance of human health, with a focus on the citizens of Tennessee and the region, by pursuing an integrated program of education, research, clinical care, and public service.
Dermatology Department, Dermpath Lab Created

UTHSC is creating a new Department of Dermatology in the College of Medicine, chaired by Kathryn Schwarzenberger, MD. She assumed her duties on May 1.

Before joining UTHSC, Dr. Schwarzenberger was professor of medicine in the Division of Dermatology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. After receiving her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, she completed residencies in both internal medicine and dermatology at Duke University. A fellowship in immunodermatology research followed at the National Cancer Institute Dermatology Branch.

Previously, dermatology was a division of the Department of Medicine at UTHSC. Promoting dermatology to a full department was done in response to the changing health care needs of the country’s population, and as part of the university’s ongoing commitment to provide exceptional health care to the local community along with the best medical education possible.

The new department gives UTHSC the ability to address needs that are currently not being met. New services planned include pediatric dermatology, contact allergy and complex medical dermatology, which is the care of patients with serious skin problems related to internal diseases.

Within the department is a new dermatopathology laboratory, UT DermPath, which plays a crucial role in support Medicated of UTHSC. Promoting dermatology to a full department offers new opportunities for UTHSC’s commitment to providing exceptional health care to the local community along with the best medical education possible.

Dr. Kathryn Schwarzenberger

Dermatology, the Tennessee Dermatology Society and the American Academy of Dermatology. Members also serve many hospitals in the area, including the Regional Medical Center, the VA Medical Center, Methodist University Hospital and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital.

In return, local dermatologists provide a valued resource for UT, helping to teach medical students and residents, who will benefit from their unique experiences and special knowledge.

David Stern, MD, executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine, noted, “We are delighted to have formed the new Department of Dermatology in close collaboration with our colleagues in the dermatology community. Drs. Rex Amourette and Bob Kaplan, two graduates of our dermatology program, were critical in advancing the department and hiring the first permanent chair, Dr. Kathryn Schwarzenberger. We feel lucky to have been able to attract someone of Kathy’s stature in the world of dermatology. Our goal is to develop a practice that provides expertise that is not otherwise readily available in the city.”

Dr. Schwarzenberger has received numerous honors and awards, and has been published in multiple journals and dermatological textbooks. She currently serves on the board of directors of the American Academy of Dermatology, the largest, most influential and most representative dermatology group in the United States. With a membership of more than 17,000, the academy represents virtually every practicing dermatologist in the country.

Health Information Exchanges Work

The use of health information exchange, known as HIE, can decrease repeated diagnostic imaging for back and head pain, according to research supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Researchers analyzed cases from Memphis area emergency departments to understand the impact of HIE on repeated x-rays, CAT scans and other radiological studies. Doctors, nurses and other clinicians frequently did not look up results through HIE when they did, however, there was a significant reduction in repeat testing.

“Previous studies have shown that electronic health records in both internal medicine and Preventive Medicine, and director, Center for Health Systems Improvement. “Our work suggests that health information sharing may be among the most important functionalities of electronic health records for promoting health care quality. When emergency departments, hospitals, and clinics share health information through a health information exchange (HIE), care is improved — fewer unnecessary and potentially dangerous tests and procedures — and costs are reduced.”


Contribute to The Record
Submit information and photos to thullar1@uthsc.edu.

View News Notes
For the most recent good news notes about UTHSC faculty, staff and students, check out News Notes at http://www.uthsc.edu/news.

Communications and Marketing Team:
Tim Bullard
Amber Carter
Brielle Ghazanfar
Thurman Holborn
Pamela Looney
David Meyor
901-448-5344
communications@uthsc.edu

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The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ ADAE institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

Dermatology Department, Dermpath Lab Created

On Friday, May 31, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) graduated 722 health care professionals. The commencement ceremony was held in the FedEx Forum. UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, presided over the ceremony, UT System President Joe DiPietro conferred the degrees and gave the charge to the graduates.

The 722 graduates are from all six of the UT Health Science Center’s colleges.

• 187 from Allied Health Sciences
• 80 from Dentistry
• 8 from Graduate Health Sciences
• 157 from Medicine
• 143 from Nursing
• 147 from Pharmacy.

UTHSC Graduates 722

This year’s class included 98 African-Americans, seven Latino-Americans, and 175 graduates who came from out of state to study at UTHSC. Twenty-two of the out-of-state graduates are Arkansans who earned doctoral degrees from the UT College of Dentistry; Arkansans come to Tennessee to train as dentists. The class comprised 44 women and 268 men, including three sets of male twins. One set earned Doctor of Dental Surgery degrees, another Doctor of Medicine degrees, and the third Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees.

UTHSC Leads in African-American Grads in 2011

The 2011 graduating class from the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) included 20 African-American medical students. Based on data compiled by the Association of American Medical Colleges, those 20 African-American graduates made UTHSC the second highest among non-historically Black medical schools for graduating African-Americans. During the 2011 academic year, a total of 1,129 African-Americans graduated from U.S. medical schools.

The 20 African-American graduates represented 14 percent of the 2011 UTHSC College of Medicine graduating class, which had a total of 142 graduates. In the category of non-predominantly Black colleges and universities, only Duke University ranked higher than UTHSC in 2011, graduating 19 African-Americans in a class of 100.

“We are proud to be among the top medical schools educating and graduating African-American physicians,” — Dr. David M. Stern, executive dean of the College of Medicine.

Dr. Stern, MD, executive dean for the UTHSC College of Medicine. “Our College of Medicine is committed to recruiting talented, motivated African-American men and women with the drive and desire to become competent, caring physicians. Matching the complexion and diversity of the physician workforce to the communities we serve is essential in ameliorating disparities in health care that plague our region and nation.”

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is a not-for-profit association representing all 141 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 75,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians.

More information about the AAMC and U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals is available at www.aamc.org/newsroom.
After receiving her UTHSC faculty member since 1992.

Dr. Patricia Cunningham, DNSC, APN PMHNP, is associate professor and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner, and a family nurse practitioner. Cunningham has received the Outstanding Alumna is Patricia D. Jacob, RN ('93), PhD, who recently retired as interim dean of the college after more than nine years at UTHSC.

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF), which created a major at West Virginia University in 2003, UTRF helps inventors at UT and its faculty members for working around the schedule, canceling or go to jralbovs@uthsc.edu. Any ADME-tox studies to date and summary of biological data: in vitro data and Compound structure or type of biologic.

The goal of the UT Research Foundation's Drug Discovery Support Program is to add commercial value to UT technologies by acquiring early-stage drug development data (ADME-tox, PK/PD) on small molecules and early development assays for biologics. To receive assay support, an invention disclosure for the technology must be submitted or have been submitted to UTRF along with a one-to-two page request that includes:

- Compound structure or type of biologic.
- Brief overview of biological data: in vitro data and in vivo proof of concept data.
- Any ADME-tox studies to date and summary of results.
- No funds will be distributed to inventors. All scheduling and billing with contract research organizations will be changed through UTRF. All data from the contract research organizations will be sent to UTRF and relayed to inventors. Inventors may use the data for publications, presentations, and grant proposals.

Dr. Patricia Cunningham, who has been attached to nursing education for nearly four decades, chose nursing as a major at West Virginia University in the late 60s. She holds the distinction of being the first hospice nurse and hospice faculty member since 1992. Currently, she is an associate professor and Director of Nursing Practice (DNP) psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner. She is certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center as an adult psychiatric/mental health clinical nurse specialist, a psychiatric family nurse practitioner, and a family nurse practitioner.

She is a board member on the Coalition of Nurse Practitioners' Advocate State for Excellence recipient. Dr. Jacob is also a co-author/co-editor of a leading textbook in its sixth edition, and author of numerous journal articles. She has served in leadership roles in Sigma Theta Tau International and the Tennessee Nurses Association. She is a board member on the Tennessee Action Coalition, the Nursing Institute of the Mid South, and an evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The Outstanding Alumna is Patricia D. Jacob, RN ('93), PhD, who recently retired as interim dean of the college after more than nine years at UTHSC.

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Growing up the eldest of four siblings in Pennsylvania, Dr. Cunningham knew she wanted to become a nurse. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Temple University, she pursued her MSN in psychiatric/mental health nursing from Indiana University. She is certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center.
2013 Bike Ride for World Health Stops at UTHSC

In April, the National Council of University Research Administrators Region III held its annual meeting in Memphis. More than 220 professionals registered for the event, held at The Peabody Hotel. About 150 attended the opening presentation, a keynote address by Edward Chaum, MD, PhD, titled, “Building Bridges: Translating Biomedical Engineering Concepts into Clinical Practice: The Future of Medicine.”

Dr. Chaum is the UTHSC Plough Foundation Professor of Retinal Diseases and a professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology, Pediatrics, Anatomy and Neurology, and in the Joint Program in Biomedical Engineering.

Dr. Chaum focused on what it takes to build and sustain a successful academic research program. In the future, he said, organizations that want ongoing grant funding will need to engage in health care research that is translational, multidisciplinary and cross institutional. He also observed research needs to focus on current disease problems with strong outcome assessments, identify non-traditional sources of funding, and strive for innovation, including the use of modern technology in novel ways to address health care problems.

2013 Suicide and the Black Church Conference at UTHSC

Memphis Mayor AC Wharton spoke at the national Suicide and the Black Church conference at UTHSC June 12-13. More than 300 local leaders and representatives of the faith-based community addressed the issue of suicide in the African-American community.

A video crew filmed parts of the conference for use in a locally produced documentary.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operations Officer Ken Brown welcomed conference participants, saying, “We wouldn’t do this if we didn’t think it was significant.” He added, “It’s not a subject we like to talk about but we’d be remiss if we didn’t. We’re concerned about the overall well-being of people in this community.”

Dr. Chaum Speaks to University Research Administrators

When he retired on June 30 after 45 years of teaching at UTHSC, Jack L. Wilson, PhD, left a generous gift for future students and faculty, a pledge for $25,000 to start a multi-purpose endowment in his name. Dr. Wilson, who received his PhD in anatomy from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, taught gross anatomy and embryology.

“In this way, I hope to continue benefitting educational programs at UTHSC,” Dr. Wilson said.

Though he wrote 45 published papers, abstracts and books and chapters, Dr. Wilson said that the most rewarding aspect of his years at UTHSC was the interaction with students. He received more than 70 teaching awards, including numerous Golden Apple Awards; 16 awards for Best Course Director and distinguished teaching and alumni awards.

According to M3 Brienne Petcher, “It’s not only Dr. Wilson’s breadth and depth of knowledge that makes him stand out, but his ‘gift for teaching’ that warms him a special place in the hearts of his students. He is warm, caring, and can make the most difficult concepts easy enough for a third-grader to understand.” She added, “Dr. Wilson is the kind of professor one can only hope to encounter in a lifetime of education, and I am so grateful to have had the privilege of learning from him. He goes above and beyond. Every day.”

Whit Sutton Named UTHSC’s First-ever Energy Manager

On June 26, Whit Sutton was a speaker at the Memphis and Shelby County Sustainability Summit. Sutton is the first energy manager at UTHSC. He spoke on, “Reaping the Rewards of Smarter Energy Practices” at the Memphis Botanic Garden and Shelby County Sustainability Summit June 26.

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Charlie Brooks Retires From Creating Computer Applications

Under his direction, Application Development has built dozens of applications that support the academic and business missions of UTHSC, including the inventory system used by General Stores and the toxicology and Forensic Center statistics application. His group’s most recent accomplishment includes the migration from the homegrown student information system (SIS) to the Banner SIS, a project that spanned several years and continues to grow in functionality in order to facilitate many administrative student processes.

Now that he has retired, his plans are to “ride bikes, play golf, and swim,” and regularly travel to Nashville to visit his two daughters and two granddaughters.

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Dr. Jack L. Wilson Retires, Leaves Endowment

Whit Sutton, second from left, answers audience questions at the Memphis and Shelby County Sustainability Summit June 26.
Dr. Williams-Cleaves Honored
Beverly Williams-Cleaves, MD, was honored recently by the Memphis Chapter of the American Diabetes Association.

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People

Leonard “Jeff” Harris presented at the College of Graduate Health Sciences Quarterly Scientific Session in Memphis on July 13, 2013 on: “Predicting of Hospital Resource Utilization: A Prospective Cohort Study.” Will Lewis published for Graduate Research Week in Nashville on April 2013: “Comparison of Proactive Versus Reactive Recruitment Strategies in the Team PLNY Study.”

Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves

Dr. Jacob Receives Tennessee Nurse Practitioner Award
Susan Jacobs, PhD, RN, received the 2013 Tennessee Award for Nurse Practitioner Advocate. Recipients were honored at the American Association of Nurse Practitioners June conference.

Grayson Peek one of 11 Students Recognized at National Level
Grayson Peek, fourth-year student pharmacist, was one of 11 students nationwide recently recognized by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) with the ASHP Student Leadership Award.

Dr. Mottingly Named to Dual Appointment
Jay L. Mottingly, MD, was named associate professor and director of the Department of Ophthalmology. He already was an associate professor in the Department of Anesthesiology.

Jessica Baumann Honored
Jessica Baumann, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), was honored by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). Baumann was one of 10 recipients nationwide of the Medical Student Award for Academic Excellence and Achievement in Pathology. “Should you consider specializing in pathology, I assure you a warm welcome to our profession from the entire membership of the ASCP,” wrote Joel Shilling, MD, ASCP president.

Dr. Cashion to Represent National Institute of Nursing Research
Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN, a distinguished scholar of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), was appointed to represent NINR on the IOM Board on Health Care Services.

UT Family Medicine in Jackson, TN Raises Money for Cancer
The UT Family Medicine Center in Jackson, Tenn., participated in the Madison County Relay for Life on May 10.

Dr. Donna Hathaway Named to National Council
Donna Hathaway, PhD, RN, FAAN, distinguished professor in the College of Nursing and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, was named to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, where she also served as chair of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Essentials Task Force. Dr. Hathaway is also a past president of the Southern Nursing Research Society, a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and an alumna of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows.

Dr. Harris Cohen Visits Kenya
Radiologist Harris C. Cohen, MD, is bringing medical expertise to Kenya as part of the International Visiting Professor Program of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). The program fosters international relations among radiology societies to assist with medical education in developing and newly developed nations. Dr. Cohen, professor and chairman of Radiology, professor of Pediatrics, and professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UTHSC, in Memphis, was joined by two fellow radiologists when he embarked on May 31 on the 14-day trip. He spent his visit giving presentations and teaching intensive seminars to radiology residents, as well as attending conferences and meetings.

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Dr. Slominski: Thanks everyone for being here.

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Jessica Baumann
Study Seeks Participants

Candace Brown, MSN, PharmD, professor in the Departments of Pharmacy, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Psychiatry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) and Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the University of Rochester. Dr. Brown is the coordinator for all three study sites and the principal investigator for the study in the Memphis region. The collaborators joined forces to assemble only investigators who have successfully performed large-scale randomized controlled trials on PVD treatments.

PVD has no known cause. However, gabapentin, an anticonvulsant, has appeared to be effective in previous trials. The study’s aim is to prove the effectiveness of gabapentin as a treatment and to determine what causes PVD.

“Women burdened with vulvar pain are frequently reluctant to report the problem and confused about what causes it,” said Dr. Brown. “Many PVD sufferers have seen multiple doctors and receive no relief after trying several, unproven treatments. They are sometimes told ‘it’s all in your head’ and are left not knowing where to turn. Our study offers hope that gabapentin, which is widely used to treat neuropathic pain, will relieve the burning and irritation of PVD, which is the most common form of vulvar pain in premenopausal women.”

Recruitment will begin in September. Participants must be between 18 and 50 years old, and will be seen at Methodist University Hospital Clinical Research Center (CRC) and at Women’s Health Specialists in Germantown over a 18-20 week period. All treatment and medical procedures will be provided at no cost to participants, who may be reimbursed for travel per clinic visit.

For more information, contact Leslie Klawinson at 901-448-1500 or klawinski@uthsc.edu. The pre-screening questionnaire is available at http://www.hopeforvitypain.org.

Sixth Annual Pediatric Research Day

The Sixth Annual Pediatric Research Day will be Nov. 20, hosted by the Children’s Foundation Research Institute, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, and the Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC. Dunbar Ivy, MD, professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado, will be the keynote speaker.

Four to six outstanding posters will be selected to receive commendation and financial rewards. Submit abstracts to Andrea Patrick at abpatters@uthsc.edu by Friday, Oct. 11. Limit abstracts to 450 words. Do not use tables or graphs. Include title, authors and affiliations (not included in word count), for more information, call 901-287-5368 or email abpatters@uthsc.edu.

New Diabetes Research Study

Those who have had diabetes for less than five years, are more than 29 years old, and taking metformin but no other diabetes medications may be eligible to participate in a study titled “Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes” (GRADE). Diabetes medications, supplies, clinic visits, lab work and education are provided at no cost. All medications are FDA approved. Visits are every three months for up to seven years, plus up to $100 a year for follow-up visits. The IRB number is 13-02421-FB; the IRB approval date was May 30, 2013.

For more information on GRADE, call 901-516-2212.

HR Offers Educational Assistance

The HR Benefits website has been updated with newly revised Educational Assistance forms. These are to be used beginning with the Fall 2013 semester/term. For more information, updates on policies, procedures and fee waiver forms, go to http://uthsc.edu/hr/benefits/educational_assistance.php, or call 901-446-5601.

UTHSC Creates IPEC Institute

IPEC stands for Interprofessional Education Collaborative. The goal of the institute is to create faculty champions who can enhance interprofessional curricula, learning experiences, and assessment of learners in quality improvement and patient safety at the point of care. Faculty across the health disciplines will come together to explore how to embed quality improvement and patient safety (QIPS) content into their curriculum.

The team of Teresa Britt, MSN, RN; Cesar Migliorati, DDS, MS, PhD; Shaunta Ray, PharmD, BCPS; Leslie McKenzie, PhD, RN, CNL, NEA BC; and Dennis Stokes, MD, MPH attended an IPEC workshop May 20-22 in Henderson, Va.

Physical Therapy Residency Credentialled

The Department of Physical Therapy’s Clinical Residency Program has been credentialled by the American Physical Therapy Association, becoming the first credentialled residency for physical therapists in the practice area of orthopedics in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, and the first university-based credentialled residency for physical therapists in Tennessee. The department developed the program with its partner, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation.

Oral Health Conference Held

“Understanding Interprofessional Education in the Context of Oral Health” was the focus of a conference hosted May 3 by the Colleges of Nursing, Allied Health Sciences and Dentistry. These colleges participate in a $1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with the purpose of advancing IPE opportunities and integrate technology for advanced nursing education, dental hygiene, and dentistry through shared clinical and technology learning experiences.

Biomedical Informatics Honored

The Office of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) was named a 2013 Computerworld Honors Laureate. “This is a great honor and a real surprise,” said Ian Brooks, PhD, director of the BMI. “This award recognizes all the hard work everyone at UTHSC has put into developing our clinical data management systems and collaborations over the last few years. It really shows the level of commitment from our colleagues in ITS, the Office of Research, and the dedication of our faculty colleagues and collaborators to create a powerful set of systems to address key health care questions in Memphis.”

For more information, go to http://www.idgenterprise.com/press/the_25th_annual_computerworld_honors_program_celebrates_positive_business_and_world_change_through_it_innovation.
It is a beautiful spring day. The skies are a perfect hue of blue and the flowers are in full bloom. The possibilities for recreation are endless. You could go for a bike ride on the Greenline, go to a park, or take in the sights of historic Beale Street. Recent graduate Ben Lewis, however, a native of Kingsport, Tenn., preferred to spend his time on the soccer field sidelines at White Station High School. How did a full time medical student manage to be a head coach at the same time? It may indeed seem like a lot of work, but Lewis was up for the task.

Education and hard work had been instilled in Lewis and his two younger sisters. Lewis' mother, Estenia, came to the United States from Venezuela at 16 years old to further her education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She finished her bachelor's degree at the University of Memphis and eventually completed her master's degree in Probability and Statistics at the University of Texas at Arlington. Although she has spent most of her adult life as a homemaker, she has been an educator at Northeast State Technical Community College in Blountville, Tenn., for several years. His father, Donald, a pediatrician and alumnus of the UT College of Medicine, practices in Kingsport, Tenn., with Holston Medical Group.

“My dad is a physician, so that basically laid the foundation for my career,” said Lewis.

After high school, Lewis attended Lee University, a faith-based, liberal arts college located in Cleveland, Tenn. While enrolled there as a Biology major, Lewis was involved in many activities which included the men's soccer team, the Spanish Honor Society, and being a teacher's assistant for the Spanish faculty. He also worked as a pharmacy technician at Wal-Mart for two years and, thanks to a joint effort between The Ohio State University and the Smithsonian Institute, he was given the opportunity to work as a field research assistant in the jungle of Panama for a summer. None of those endeavors, however, were as significant for Lewis as meeting his future wife, Jessica, in Spanish class.

After college, Lewis took a four-year break, doing everything from waiting tables to working as a river guide on the Ocoee River to teaching Spanish in an elementary school. After much consideration, Lewis decided it was time to pursue medical education and was accepted to UTHSC COM in 2009.

UTHSC appealed to him, he said, “not only because it was a wonderful institution, but because I am a proud Tennessean and wanted to stay in the state.”

Many students immerse themselves in extracurricular activities as soon as they begin classes. Lewis, however, described himself as “rigid and straightforward” during his first semester at UT. Outside of the Christian Medical and Dental Association, “I was all about studying and not much else,” he said. “At the end of my first semester, I knew things had to change.”

Involvement became a key component for Lewis during his time in Memphis. “I encourage students to get involved because it is human nature to be self-centered and go into survival mode during graduate school,” said Lewis. “Getting involved makes you realize that there is more to life than self. The ultimate way to give back is to invest time in other people.”

After his first semester, he contacted White Station high school's athletic director and immediately joined their soccer staff as assistant coach. Back in east Tennessee, he had coached Boys' Club soccer for several years. Also, Lewis' wife was already affiliated with the school through Young Life Ministries.

“I wanted to consolidate our lives a little better,” said Lewis. “My wife and I wanted to be in a place where we could invest our lives together.”

Coaching soccer, Lewis said “created a balance” and supplemented who he was as a person. After coaching the junior varsity team and assisting with the varsity team his first season at White Station, he was offered the head coaching position.

“I was a little hesitant about taking the head coaching job, but it wasn’t one of those things that I could turn down,” Lewis said.

So for the next three seasons, Lewis was the head coach, leading his team to the AAA state tournament two out of three years. After a challenging season this year, his team advanced to the state tournament with key playoff wins over Central, Collierville and Cordova before losing 1-0 to Franklin, who were the eventual state champions.

Outside of coaching soccer, between his first and second years of medical school, Lewis worked for six weeks at a satellite clinic of Universidad de los Andes in Mérida, Venezuela. This experience abroad was partially sponsored by UTHSC's Counsel for International and Area Outreach (CIAO), an organization that provides stipends to medical students to help pay for international research and service projects.

When he is not in scrubs or taking in a soccer game, you can catch Lewis hiking and camping. He loves Central Arkansas; Petit Jean State Park, the Ozarks, and the Buffalo River are among his favorite sights. Lewis enjoys these activities with his wife and with his son, Elijah, who was born in March.

“Ben was one of those medical students who just amazes you when you get to know them.”
— Dr. Owen Phillips

“Getting involved makes you realize that there is more to life than self. The ultimate way to give back is to invest time in other people and causes.”
— Dr. Ben Lewis

Ben Lewis enjoys these activities with his wife and with his son, Elijah, who was born in March.

“Ben was one of those medical students who just amazes you when you get to know them,” said Owen Phillips, MD, associate dean of Student Affairs and professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the UTHSC College of Medicine. “After we finished clinic one morning, the conversation turned to soccer for some reason. He knew everything about it. He then shared that he coached varsity soccer while in medical school. He was so bright and dedicated; he had no trouble making it all work.”

After graduation, Lewis and his family moved to Charlottesville, Va., so that he could begin his general pediatric residency at the University of Virginia hospital. While there, he hopes to take part in the Global Health Leadership Program and prepare himself for a career in general pediatrics. He thinks that he eventually will practice medicine somewhere between east Tennessee and central Virginia. Regardless of where Lewis ends up, things look very promising for his future.