VolShop Open

A ribbon cutting was held Aug. 1 for the new VolShop in Madison Plaza. “Our new location allows students at the Memphis campus the same great services and products that our Knoxville students receive,” said store manager Gary Carter. “This includes allowing students to order their books online with in-store pickup.” Tony Ferrara, UTHSC vice chancellor and CFO, added, “This organization has a deep appreciation for our brand and a clear understanding of the needs of UT campus communities.”

From left, Vice Chancellor Ferrara, Drew Sims, Alex Uhlmann, Gary Carter and David Kent

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.

Employee Appreciation Picnic

shown, UT President Joe DiPietro and Chancellor Steve Schwab. They, along with Executive Vice Chancellor & COO Ken Brown, attended UTHSC Employee Appreciation Day on Sept. 13 in Health Sciences Park. Faculty and staff members enjoyed food, games and musical entertainment.

UTHSC Plans the Work and Works the Plan

Leadership team members at UTHSC are currently engaged in a strategic initiative that will outline the roadmap for our institution for the next 10 to 15 years – the UTHSC Campus Master Plan. To move forward, UTHSC has commissioned Perkins + Will, an innovative and award-winning firm comprised of architects, interior designers, urban designers, landscape architects, consultants and branded environment experts who approach design from all scales and perspectives.

Over the next 12 to 14 months, UTHSC will collaborate with Perkins + Will in a segmented process that involves six main tasks:

1. Visioning: Planning Principles, Goals & Objectives
2. Evaluation of Existing Conditions
3. Development and Analysis of Alternative Scenarios
4. Selection of Preferred Alternative
5. Draft Campus Master Plan
6. Final Campus Master Plan

“Our focus is to ensure the institutional mission, vision, strategic plan, operations, and capital and financial plans are synchronized to achieve a unified set of goals and objectives,” said Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, FACHE, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer. “The Campus Master Plan will produce proposals for property acquisition, partnerships, highest and best land use, site selection, building use, open space, circulation and utility infrastructure. These initiatives will support the ongoing transformation of the Memphis campus into a state-of-the-art Health Science Center.

“The planning process will begin with a data request for information from the administration of specific campus units. Your support in providing necessary information is essential to the success of this project. Thank you in advance for your cooperation,” Dr. Brown added.

An array of stakeholders will be involved in the planning process including UTHSC faculty, staff and students, local health care industry partners, e.g., Methodist, Le Bonheur, The MED, St. Jude and the VA; higher education partners like Southwest Tennessee Community College and the University of Memphis; and high-profile government, business and community organizations including city and county public officials, Memphis Bioworks Foundation, and the Downtown Memphis Commission.

A web page has been established at where periodic updates on the project will be posted and available for public review. Visit http://www.uthsc.edu/masterplan/.
COM Creates Advisory Board

Local leaders, including Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, CEOs and civic leaders, met in the Hamilton Eye Institute’s board room in July to form an advisory board for the UTHSC College of Medicine. Participants gathered at the behest of David Stern, MD, executive dean of the college, and David Levine, a volunteer and former CEO of ResortQuest International.

Local Leaders Learn About UTHSC’s Impact

This summer, UTHSC hosted members of the Memphis City Council, Shelby County Commission and state legislature to update them on the economic impact of UTHSC on the community. The group also discussed the UTHSC campus master plan, which includes demolition of five buildings, construction of several new research and education structures, and renovation of outdated, existing facilities.

UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, and Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operations Officer Ken Brown, JD, MBA, PhD, welcomed the public officials, including City Council Chairman Edmund Ford Jr., County Commission Chairman James Harvey and State Representative Joe Towns. Dr. Brown took them on a tour of the campus, noting that he is committed to telling “the local constituency” more about what UTHSC does, especially the economic impact it has on the community.

As extensive as that role is today – with UTHSC having an almost $2 billion economic impact on the Memphis economy every year – that influence will become even greater, Brown explained, with multiple renovation and construction projects slated for the next few years. “The execution of our campus master plan is going to have a huge economic impact,” he said.

One such project being seriously discussed is a roughly $200 million Women and Infants health pavilion, which would be a cooperative effort with the MED. Another would be the renovation of the Mooney building and library, a structure situated at the historic core of the UTHSC campus, which has been vacant for the past 20 years.

Dr. David Stern, executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine, spoke of the pressing need to better take care of the “underserved population” in the region. This is part of what he called “embedding” the College of Medicine more deeply into the local community. Stern called kidney disease, stroke and infant mortality major problems in the Memphis area. He said that the goal of his tenure is to make real improvements – to move the needle – in those areas.

“We’re focusing our scientific inquiries on those diseases where we can make a difference here in Memphis,” Chancellor Schwab told the legislators. UTHSC-trained physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and allied health professionals comprise the lion’s share of the health care workforce in the state. UTHSC health care professionals provide more than a million days of hospital care across the state every year and more than two million outpatient visits.

Employee Educational Assistance

When employees at UTHSC say they have good benefits, they’re usually talking about health insurance and retirement. They may not be aware of the educational assistance benefit that is available not only to them but to their immediate family members. Some employees, however, have found out how beneficial the program is.

How it Works

The goal is to enable regular faculty and staff to perform their present duties more effectively and to assist them in preparing for future opportunities by providing a plan of educational assistance. The program is a fee waiver program, not a reimbursement program. Full-time regular faculty and staff may enroll in any UT or Tennessee Board of Regents college, university or vocational-technical school without payment of fees for up to a maximum of nine undergraduate or graduate credit hours per term/semester. Part-time regular faculty and staff working 50 percent or more may enroll without payment of fees based upon their percent of effort. Full-time and part-time regular employees are eligible for educational benefit immediately. They must attend an approved state of Tennessee school. (A list of eligible institutions is available.) The university will not pay for non-credit, continuing education courses (CEUs).

Spouse/Dependent(s)

UTHSC assists regular employees by providing a student fee discount for their spouses and dependent children who are classified as undergraduate students at approved state of Tennessee schools. For regular full-time employees, UTHSC will pay 50 percent towards in-state maintenance fee. For regular part-time employees, UTHSC will pay a pro-rata share of their 50 percent maintenance fee, depending on their percent of effort. Part-time (50-99 percent) employees must be employed for one year to receive a full 50 percent discount.

More Info

Employees can begin obtaining approval for the spring semester as early as Dec. 1. The amount of the fee waiver amount is added to taxable income. If the fee waiver amount is over $5,250 in a calendar year, UTHSC can adjust the employee’s tax withholding. Employees can obtain more information about this from Human Resources.

Educational Assistance Overview classes are available. Employees may visit the HR Training Calendar online to find out a schedule.

Necessary forms for obtaining the fee waiver as well as information on how to use the forms and FAQs (frequently asked questions) are available at https://www.uthsc.edu/hr/benefits/educational_assistance.php.

Kaplan-Amonette Clinic Opens

The Dermatology Department in the College of Medicine at UTHSC was officially named the Kaplan-Amonette Department of Dermatology, in honor of Robert Kaplan, MD, and Rex Amonette, MD. Drs. Kaplan and Amonette, both UTHSC dermatology alumni, provided the ongoing support and participation that made the new department possible.

“We owe the solid foundation for this new department to the dedication and philanthropic spirit of both Bob Kaplan and Rex Amonette,” said David Stern, MD, executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine. “We are grateful for the generosity and stewardship Rex and Bob continue to demonstrate. The university community is very pleased to bestow a permanent name for our Department of Dermatology that reflects the partnership and impact of Drs. Kaplan and Amonette.”

Success Stories of UTHSC’s Employee Educational Assistance Program

Sekhna Thomas

Sekhna Thomas is a business manager in the office of the Executive Vice Chancellor. “When I came to the university, I didn’t have a degree,” she said. But in the eight years that she’s been here, she’s received her associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree and finally a master’s degree with a concentration in Human Resources. She’s currently working on a second master’s degree, this time with a concentration in finance.

“Being able to go to school for free has equipped me with the knowledge and skills to be promoted from administrative assistant to business manager,” she said. “It can’t get any better than that!”

Belinda Donaldson

The Employee Educational Assistance program helped Belinda Donaldson, who works in the Parking Authority, to acquire her undergraduate degree from UT Martin, a second undergraduate degree and a master’s degree – in strategic leadership – from the University of Memphis.

“I am so very thankful for the program because it has helped me to grow on the job and in life,” she said. “I have become a more knowledgeable person and am able to put this knowledge to use,” adding, “This was a personal journey for me.”

Contribute to The Record

Submit information and photos by Jan. 10, 2014 to tbullar1@uthsc.edu.

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

The College of Dentistry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) opened a new state-of-the-art endodontics clinic in the Winfield C. Dunn Building at 875 Union Ave., on Friday, Sept. 6. The Dentsply Tulsa Endodontics Graduate Clinic, located on the north side of the fifth floor of the dental building, is named in honor of major contributor Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties, which gave $100,000 to support the educational mission of teaching future endodontists at UTHSC.

The clinic is a total digital operation with custom endodontic carts, digital radiography, and endodontic practice management software designed to simulate the contemporary endodontic practice. Each of the six operatories is outfitted with a Zeiss microscope on the screen. Video feeds from each microscope to a nearby conference room will let instructors also view what is being done on a large projector screen.

The clinic is a major step for the Advanced Specialty Education Program in Endodontics at the College of Dentistry. The program received initial accreditation in 2011. Prior to that, UT dental graduates received their specialty endodontic training out of state, and then returned to practice in Tennessee. Now, residents can receive their training here and help patients locally. Fashioned from the Greek words endo (inside) and odont (tooth), endodontics is the dental specialty focusing on the study and treatment of the dental pulp, commonly referred to as root canal treatment. Endodontists perform root canals, endodontic surgery, treat cracked teeth, and care for other dental trauma.

“I am thrilled we have been able to partner with Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties, a company that has always been a strong supporter of our specialty and advocates for higher education,” said Adam Lloyd, DDS, MS, associate professor and chair of the Department of Endodontics. “The graduate residents and patients really benefit from this investment by being able to provide excellent and compassionate care in a state-of-the-art facility. It really is a gem that rounds out all the specialties at the College of Dentistry.”

A major mission of the program is to provide patients better alternatives to tooth extraction and attract new patients who want to save their teeth, but cannot afford private practice fees.

Methodist Le Bonheur/IPECS Collaboration

In September, interdisciplinary teams from the Cardiovascular ICU Unit at Methodist Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital traveled to the UTHSC Interprofessional Education and Clinical Simulation Center (IPECS) to participate in team training. The days included six different scenarios, including care of a patient with a blocked cardiac shunt, care of a child with a life-threatening arrhythmia, dealing with pediatric pulmonary hypertension, identifying the proper rescue of children needing ECMO interventions, dealing with parents of the acutely ill child and utilization of team communication techniques based on the TeamSTEPPS curriculum.

The team participants included physicians, nurses, residents, fellows, respiratory therapists and nurse educators. Actors were utilized to portray parents in two of the scenarios, and these actors participated in the debrief sessions. The pediatric patients all were mannequins from the IPECS Center. The mannequins were controlled by the IPECS Center staff to realistically breathe, cry, and have all the medical symptoms of acutely ill pediatric patients. All scenarios were videotaped and the videotape was reviewed in the team debrief that followed each encounter. The teams participated in three scenarios in the morning, had lunch together, attended an educational update on pediatric pacemaker technology, and then completed the program with three additional scenarios in the afternoon. The day concluded with a large group debrief and post-encounter survey.

By participating in this off-site simulation team event, the teams will improve their knowledge, skills and overall performance in their delivery of care to the pediatric cardiac patient. It is proposed that this methodology could be replicated for additional front-line pediatric providers as a way to improve team performance and ultimately, pediatric patient safety.

This same technology and educational opportunities are provided to UTHSC students across professional programs before they start their clinical rotations.

College of Dentistry Partners With European University

The College of Dentistry at UTHSC welcomed dignitaries and dental students from the Medical University of Sofia in Bulgaria on Sept. 17, in the first student exchange under a new Global Health Initiative.

The contingent from Bulgaria included Vanyo Mitev, MD, PhD, DSc, rector and professor; Anton Filipchev, DMD, DSc, professor and dean of the faculty of dental medicine; and Krassimira Yaneva-Ribagina, DDS, PhD, associate professor.

Two pre-doctoral students, Paulina Krassimirova Ivanova and Neli Yordanova Dilkova, were also in the group. They are staying in Memphis for a month, shadowing UTHSC dental students in classes, clinics and lectures to learn how dentistry is practiced in the United States.

Tom Hotell, DDS, M5, MBA, dean of the UTHSC College of Dentistry, has worked on the exchange with Chris Ivanoff, DDS, associate professor in the Dental Research Center at UTHSC. “It was sort of his brainchild,” Dr. Hotell said of Dr. Ivanoff, who is Bulgarian.

Dr. Hotell said he expects the initiative to expand to institutions in other countries and on the UTHSC campus to other departments. “It’s a big deal in medical education that you participate in cross-cultural kinds of efforts,” he said. “This has really blossomed into a huge event. We have more than 25 other universities from around the world that want to join us, and we are now creating the Global Oral Health Institute (GOHI).”

National and international dental organizations are also showing interest, he said. “We’re talking about world-renowned organizations that are now saying, ‘We want to take a look at what’s going on at the University of Tennessee and the GOHI.’”

Dr. Hotell believes UTHSC students will also benefit from such exchanges. “I’m interested in their learning the value of treating people who we don’t have access to the most modern care,” Dr. Hotell said. “We’re reaching those patients in our area as much as we can, but this is worldwide.”

 Deadpool 3

From left, David Clement, program director, Graduate Endodontics; John Viskuk, vice president and general manager, Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties; Dr. Adam Lloyd, chair, Department of Endodontics.

Dean Thomason Visits China

Donald Thomason, PhD, second from left, dean of the College of Graduate Health Sciences, visited China’s Harbin Medical University in September to build a partnership.

Dr. Chaum Wins Award

Edward Chaum, MD, PhD, of the Hamilton Eye Institute and UTHSC, was one of five winners of the inaugural Innovation Awards presented by MBQ: Inside Memphis Business magazine and the Fogelman College of Business & Economics at the University of Memphis. He created the Teledent RETINAL IMAGE Analysis and Diagnosis (TRIAD) Network, which allows for digital screening and diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy, a major cause of blindness in adults.

UHSC Faculty Women’s Club

The UT Faculty Women’s Club promotes friendship among faculty members and their families. Membership is open to wives of faculty members, officers of the General Administration, women faculty members, and all women officers of the General Administration. Besides regular meetings, members enjoy book discussions and lunch at restaurants around town.

For more information, contact Judy Palmer at judy.palmin@gmail.com or (901) 753-9932. To join or renew, contact Kathleen Anthony at 901-681-9766.
UTHSC Professor Writes the Book on Babies

Dr. Zachry

While working in the county schools system in the late '90s, occupational therapist Anne Zachry noticed she was seeing a lot of young students who had trouble controlling the muscles of their arms and hands well enough to write legibly. A trained researcher, she started investigating, and the end result is her new book, “Retro Baby,” published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and released in October.

Dr. Zachry, PhD, OTR/L, an assistant professor of Occupational Therapy at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), discovered that many of the children with underdeveloped fine motor skills had spent considerable time as infants in car seats, carriages and bouncy chairs and very little time sitting up on their own, having “tummy time,” or play on blankets or being carried around by their parents. As a result, their muscles and motor skills suffered.

A car seat is meant for travel time, Dr. Zachry explains, but if a baby is in one much of the day, he has no need to hold himself erect or support head and neck muscles, and may wind up with a flat spot on the back of the head. A baby carried on mom's hip is forced to develop back muscles to stay erect, which helps develop his head and is more likely to make eye contact.

Dr. Zachry wanted to get the word out to parents about the benefits of a back-to-basics approach when bringing up baby – fewer gadgets and gear, more bonding and play the old-fashioned way. So, she decided to write a book. Despite rejections from several commercial publishers, she took a chance and emailed the AAP with her book proposal. Within weeks, she had a response and a publisher.

“Retro Baby,” subtitled “Cut Back On All The Gear and Boost your Baby’s Development with More than 100 Time-tested Activities,” discusses how an infant's brain and motor skills develop, and offers information and suggestions from Dr. Zachry and experts at the AAP for activities that promote it. The book has ideas for homemade toys that let the baby do the work at playtime, including blocks made from milk cartons, drums made from an oatmeal box and baby spoons, and cloth books you can stitch up. Dr. Zachry included photos of Memphis babies to illustrate her points.

“I wrote this book to spread the word about the importance of limiting screen time and baby gear use with infants under two years of age,” said Dr. Zachry, the mother of three. “My hope is that parents will understand the importance of spending one-on-one time with their baby. The activities in the book are fun and promote physical and mental development.”

Ann H. Nolen, Ph.D, OTR, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at UTHSC, said the book is a “must” for parents who want to enrich their child's development and have fun at the same time.

“The activities are engaging and require minimal expenditure,” she said, “but has moved too far in restricting children's healthy exploration of the environment, this book sends a clear message – movement matters.”

Retro Baby is available through www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com as well as bookstores.

UTHSC Launches Mobile App

The College of Nursing is completing a Doctor of Nursing Practice Program self-study report and will host an accreditation visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education Feb. 3-5, 2014. During the site visit, the evaluation team will meet with students, faculty, administration, and community partners. Signed, written comments from communities of interest (e.g., students, alumni, faculty, employees, etc.) will be accepted by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education until Jan. 4, 2014. These comments will be shared with the evaluation team.

Director of the program is Catherine Sneed.

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530

Washington, D.C. 20036

DNP Program Input Sought

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) is creating a new business plan competition for academic-affiliated startups. The competition, named Tennessee Venture Challenge (TVC), will be held in April 2014 and is open to startups engaged in commercializing intellectual property created at the University of Tennessee. Finalists will pitch their idea to a panel of venture investors for a share of the $25,000 in cash.

“The Tennessee Venture Challenge is an exciting, demanding and rewarding contest designed to encourage all members of the UT community to create new sustainable businesses in the state,” said David Washburn, president and CEO of UTRF.

In conjunction with TVC, the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at UT Knoxville will host a series of venture development workshops beginning in the spring semester. Attendance at these workshops is mandatory. Each team must have at least one representative present at each session. These workshops will help prepare teams for the challenges of venture creation. Mentors also will be available to provide assistance in the venture creation process.

The competition is for new, independent ventures in the seed, startup or early growth stages. Teams may have business ventures centered on intellectual property from any campus in the UT System. Venture ideas may focus on a technology, consumer product, service, or social venture. Various prizes of cash and valuable in-kind services are available for a wide range of opportunities. More information regarding eligibility and specific prizes is available online at http://ut.tennessee.edu/TVC.

The deadline for entry is Dec. 16. Application forms and additional information are available at http://ut.tennessee.edu/TVC.

Cops’ Corner

UTHSC PD Welcomes All New and Returning Students

With Safety Tips They Can Use

360 Stay Safe At College: http://www.uthsc.edu/campuspolice/staysafe/

Make the call: Program UTPD – (901) 448-4444 – into your phone. Don’t walk alone. Use the university's safety escort services or walk with friends or classmates.

Protect your property: Never leave items unattended. Report selection of magazine subscriptions, etc.

On the bus/trolley: Stay awake and keep your personal belongings close to you.

Grab it. Close it. Lock it. (your vehicle when parking on campus)

Keep personal information private: Avoid becoming a victim of identity theft.

Protect your wheels: Lock your bike with a strong U lock. Avoid to wear your UT ID badge where it is visible on the outside of clothing.

UTHSC Police Department Launches “If You See Something Say SomethingSM” Program

by Officer William F. Walsh

UTHSC Police Department Crime Prevention Unit

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is the first campus in the state of Tennessee to collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security to launch the “If You See Something Say SomethingSM” program as a way to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to our UTHSC Campus Police Department, or to local and state law enforcement authorities.

This program underlines our department’s vision of working with all facets of the community to provide a safe and secure campus environment. Effective law enforcement and the prevention of crime are achieved by establishing a professional and trusting relationship with our campus community, and we truly appreciate our observant faculty, staff and students who share in this vision – who, when they see something, they say something!

UTHSC Launches Business Plan Competition for Academic-Affiliated Startups

On Oct. 15, UTHSC launched its first mobile application. Called “ME” – “Mobile Everything, Everywhere, Everyone” – the app is available on Apple, Android and Kindle Fire devices to faculty, staff and students as well as the general public.

Implementation of the app was a joint effort by the Office of Student Affairs and Information Technology Services, with the primary target audience being UTHSC students. The main goal of the app is to increase student access to UTHSC data, services and resources while providing a general mobile presence for the university.

ME currently gives users access to general university information such as the campus calendar, news, important numbers, and the directories. However, it also provides access to some individualized information for students and faculty via secure NetID login. For instance, students can review their final grades and Banner account holds, and both students and faculty can view information about the courses they are taking and teaching.

In early 2014, even more functionality will be added to the ME app, including a campus map that provides building information and the ability to access and play campus-related videos and audio clips.

To get the application, users must go to their app store on their mobile device and download and launch “Ellucian Go” (the vendor's name for the application) and then choose “UTHSC ME” from the school list.

For more information about accessing and using ME, go to http://www.uthsc.edu/me/
Third Annual ‘Determined to be a Doctor Someday’

On Aug. 24, approximately 75 students, volunteers, and health care professionals gathered at the UTMC for the third annual Determined to be a Doctor Someday Symposium. The symposium was initiated in 2011 by UTHC alumni Chris and Timothy Reed, DDS, to encourage underprivileged youth to pursue degrees in health care. In addition to the activities, gift cards, and prizes, two $500 scholarships were awarded in honor of Dr. Wisdom F. Coleman, former dean of admissions in the College of Dentistry. For more information, visit www.therecord.uthsc.edu.

New Docs Join UTMG

Maura Schenone, MD, has joined UT Medical Group’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and been named assistant professor at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. Dr. Schenone earned her medical degree at the University of Carabobo in Venezuela and completed OB/GYN residency at Wayne State University in Detroit. She furthered her training with a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at the UTHSC College of Medicine. She has a special interest in preeclampsia, fetal therapy, and intrauterine growth restriction. She cares for patients at UT Medical Group’s Center for High Risk Pregnancies at 6215 Humphreys Blvd., in East Memphis, and at 880 Madison Ave., in the Memphis Medical Center.

Brian M. Jenkins, MD, joined UT Medical Group’s Department of Ophthalmology at the Hamilton Eye Institute and was named assistant professor at UTHSC. Dr. Jenkins earned his medical degree and completed ophthalmology residency at the UTHSC College of Medicine, followed by fellowship training in glaucoma at Louisiana State University/ Ochsner Clinic Foundation. Dr. Jenkins cares for patients at the Hamilton Eye Institute, 9310 Madison Ave., and in Germantown at 7945 Wolf River Blvd.

Aaron N. Waite, MD, has joined UT Medical Group, Inc., as director of cataract, cornea, and refractive surgery. Dr. Waite noted that he chose to serve in advanced corneal transplant procedures, cataract surgery, LASIK vision correction, and contact lens implantation. He also specializes in treatments for dry eyes and corneal ulcers. After earning his medical degree from the University of Utah School of Medicine in Salt Lake City, Dr. Waite completed opthalmology residency at the UTHSC and fellowship training in cornea, external disease and refractive surgery at the University of Colorado. He is board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is associate professor at the UTHSC. Dr. Waite oversees UT Medical Group’s office at the Hamilton Eye Institute, 9310 Madison Avenue, and in Germantown at 7945 Wolf River Blvd.

Dr. Battle Honored

Alan Battle, PhD, professor of Psychiatry and chief, Division of Clinical Psychology, was honored recently with a reception and the unveiling of a portrait of himself in which he is hooding a student at 2013 convocation. Dr. Battle has hooded every student who graduated from the College of Medicine at UTHSC since 1973.

UTMG Gets New CEO

Charles “Chuck” Woepel has been named chief executive officer for UT Medical Group, Inc. He has been the organization’s chief operating officer since 2012 and will maintain those responsibilities in addition to his new role.

Woepel has more than 25 years of experience in managing academic and private practice physician groups and health care organizations. He was CEO for St. Theresa Medical Complex in Louisiana. As executive director for Meharry Medical Group in Nashville, he led the transition from a decentralized practice plan to a centralized plan. He also served as chief operating officer for the University of Virginia Health Services Foundation, an academic group practice of more than 750 physicians. A graduate of Canissius College in Buffalo, N.Y., Woepel earned a master of science degree in health care administration from Xavier University.

Dr. Matthews-Juarez and Dr. Juarez are co-directors of the Research Center for Health Disparities, Equity and the Exposome.

University Dental Faculty Practice: Getting the Word Out

Maurice Lewis, DDS, calls the University Dental Faculty Practice (UDFP) “the best kept secret at UTHSC.” He doesn’t want it to be a secret, however, he wants to get the word out, and maybe clear up some misconceptions.

Many people assume, Dr. Lewis said, that UDFP is for indigent people, or that it is staffed by students. Instead, University Dental Faculty Practice is a select group of full-time faculty members, not students from UTHSC’s College of Dentistry who provide a full-service dental practice to UTHSC’s own staff and faculty.

“If you’ve been a patient for more than 20 years,” said Donna Hollaway, RN, who is an IRB compliance specialist. “She agreed with him. "UDFP is the best kept secret at UT, but it shouldn’t be!”

UDFP provides an outlet for faculty members to remain current on evolving trends with the various fields and specialties of dentistry. Each faculty practitioner provides patient care services in addition to his or her teaching responsibilities. Many of them have advanced training that goes beyond traditional dental school training.

“Our dental faculty stay current in their respective disciplines,” Dr. Lewis said, “by continuing their own education in addition to their teaching enterprises, attending and presenting many hours of continuing education courses as well as residency and fellowship training in specialty and sub-specialty areas of dentistry, with board certification where applicable. Many serve as consultants in various areas of dentistry.”

UDFP aims to be a model group practice, demonstrating the highest quality of oral health care and providing a convenient source for UTHSC faculty and staff to obtain affordable, quality dental care.

Jackie Fox, an IT technologist, said, “Having your dental services within a teaching college gives you the confidence that you are getting the best care available.”

Five Dr. Ed Reed Scholarships Awarded

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare has donated $250,000 to the University Dental Faculty Practice (UDFP) at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s College of Medicine. The scholarship fund is named in special memory of the late Dr. Ed Reed, MD, who passed away at the age of 92 this past fall.

Dr. Reed was the first black general surgeon to establish practice in the city of Memphis, and he blazed the trail for the integration of the surgical staffs of the Memphis hospitals in the 1960s. He was a former faculty member of the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) and was the first black president of the Memphis chapter of the American Cancer Society. Additionally, Dr. Reed once served as chairman of the board of the MED (Regional Medical Center at Memphis) and practiced medicine in Memphis for nearly 50 years.

“We are delighted that Methodist will support a medical student scholarship,” said David Stern, MD, executive dean at the UTHSC College of Medicine. “This gift will help us recruit a mentorous and diverse student body that can best serve the needs of the citizens of Tennessee.”

The funding will allow for enhanced diversity scholarship support at the UTHSC College of Medicine. Methodist will donate $50,000 per year for the next five years and the scholarships will be awarded to students currently enrolled at or admitted to the medical college. Students must exhibit exceptional academic performance; financial need will be a key consideration for the awards as well.

This fall, the first five Dr. Ed Reed Scholarship recipients at the UTHSC College of Medicine will each receive $10,000 awards. The recipients are:

Class of 2014 – Megan Delores Ward, Andrew Stephen Poole and Bryana Schumee Lewis; and from the Class of 2013 – Keadeena Renee Wilson and Petriona L. Craine.

“We are proud to honor the great clinical and teaching legacy of Dr. Ed Reed,” noted Gary Short, President and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. “We hope that these scholarships will encourage and allow deserving students to pursue a medical career and follow in Dr. Reed’s footsteps and provide outstanding health care for all citizens.”

Methodist University Hospital, a not-for-profit healthcare delivery system based in Memphis, is the major academic campus for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and was ranked as the number one hospital in the region in 2011-2012. Methodist has over 275 resident physicians, nearly 2,000 physicians on the medical staff, and over 1,700 beds.
Postdoc Office Launches ‘OCEAN’ Initiative

At the beginning of the summer, the Postdoctoral Association (PhDAs) celebrated the conclusion of another fiscal year and the significant contributions of the 120 postdoctoral trainees to UTHSC’s research mission.

The event concluded a landmark year in which Diana Johnson, PhD, was triggered by Monica Jablonski, PhD, FAARVO, as associate dean of the Postdoc Office (PDO). Associate Dean Jablonski presented at the event and announced a new initiative called “Opportunities for Careers through Experience, Advice and Networking (OCEAN).”

OCEAN is a proposed joint venture between the College of Graduate Health Sciences (CGHS) at the UTHSC, the Memphis Bioworks Foundation and the PeopleFirst Partnership.

“Within OCEAN, we will establish and refine an innovative model for local training and workforce development,” said Dr. Jablonski. “An important and critical component of our model is to engage the mentors of trainees to garner their support for the non-academic activities of the trainees, to establish or strengthen ties between the research laboratory and local industry, and ultimately, to modify the culture of academic science to allow for career development outside of an academic career path,” she said.

Dr. Jablonski presented Dr. Johnson with a plaque for her service as former director of the PDO. Under her leadership, the PDO won the National Postdoctoral Association’s “Outstanding New Postdoctoral Award” in 2008.

Postdoc students honored mentors Jena Steine, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, and Mark LeDoux, MD, PhD, professor in the Departments of Neurology and of Anatomy and Neurobiology.

Dr. Steine was nominated by seven of her current and former lab members. One wrote, “Rather than molding trainees to simply be clones or adjuncts of herself, she dedicates herself to helping them become the best version of themselves as researchers that they can possibly be.”

Dr. LeDoux was nominated by three of his current and past lab members. In nominating him, one wrote, “Every outstanding scientist needs to learn a lot from him in many aspects.”

The 25th Annual Citywide Back-to-School Fair took place Saturday, July 20, at the UTHSC Student-Alumni Center. Hundreds of kids each received free dental and health screenings as well as free backpacks to get ready for the school year.

Sponsored by various community partners, the event provided necessary physical exams and immunizations to students going back to school.

“Events such as these are vital in our community, especially in the inner city,” said Pam Houston, director of Special Events and Community Affairs at UTHSC. “An abundance of these residents do not have the means for these services, and as an institution that promotes patient-centered care, we hope to encourage the community to stay up to date with their medical necessities.”

UTHSC Hosts Health Fair

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Dr. Jablonski is being honored by Dr. Jablonski for contributions to the PDO and PhDAs.

UTHSC Hosts ‘Golden Graduates’ from 1963, Earlier

UTHSC saluted its 50-year “Golden Graduates” during its 2013 Outstanding Alumni Awards on:

- Dennis Black, MD, professor of pediatrics and physiology at UTHSC;
- Charles Handorf, MD, a UTHSC professor of pathology;
- H. Norman “Butch” Noe, MD, a pediatric urologist; and
- Charles White Sr., MD, a family medicine physician.

Each of these indigents signifies the contributions to their specialty and also to their community,” said Dr. Tom Whitaker, of Myrtle Beach, SC, president of the UTHSC College of Medicine Alumni Council. “I really think they are the best of the best of UT College of Medicine.”

“Dr. White credits his family physician in his native Arkansas, Dr. M.L. Dalton, with influencing his career choice. After graduating from then-Memphis State University, he attended medical school at the University of Tennessee, graduating in 1962. He then did an internship at Methodist Hospital in Memphis and spent time in the Air Force. After discharge, Dr. White set up his family medicine practice in Lexington, Tenn., and still sees patients most days.

“This year’s recipients have certainly turned the tables because of their talents and contributions and made us question perhaps, ‘Where would we be without such distinguished alumni?’” said UTHSC College of Medicine Alumni Council.

“We continually ask our alumni, ‘Where would you be without UTHSC?’” said UTHSC’s Phillips. “This year’s recipients have turned the tables because of their talents and contributions and made us question perhaps, ‘Where would we be without such distinguished alumni?’”

Dr. Black is the director of the Children’s Foundation Research Institute and vice president for research for Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. He completed his pediatric residency and gastroenterology fellowship at Le Bonheur, after receiving his medical degree from UTHSC in 1978.

“I always knew I wanted to be a scientist or a doctor,” said Dr. Black, who holds the L.D. Buckman Endowed Professorship in Pediatrics at UTHSC. “His research interests include pediatric liver disease, disorders of lipid metabolism and molecular mechanisms of fat absorption in the neonate.

Charles Handorf, MD

Dr. Handorf, UTHSC pathology professor and chair of the Department of Pathology, and Laboratory Medicine, found his way to pathology through studying medicinal chemistry. He pursued dual degrees in chemical degree in medicine and a medicine with a PhD in pathology, receiving his MD degree in 1977 and PhD degree in 1981 from UTHSC.

“Pathology has been a wonderful fit for me because I love the challenge of having hard problems to solve every day – whether in medical practice, academics, science, medical or hospital politics, or administration,” Dr. Handorf said. “By far, my favorite days are still the ones when I am of service making diagnoses in the operating room.”

H. Norman “Butch” Noe, MD

Noe, who grew up in Morristown, Tenn., and lives in Miramar Beach, Fla., decided he wanted to be a physician after overcoming a childhood illness. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1966 and his medical degree from UTHSC in 1969. The retired pediatric urologist’s 40-year career includes chief of urology appointments at prominent hospitals in West Tennessee, including St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital.

“At the time I went through my medical training, there was no such thing as pediatric urology,” Dr. Noe said. “Le Bonheur was one of the few freestanding children’s hospitals in the country. Memphis represented a wonderful practice opportunity to build something that had never been.”

Charles White Sr., MD

Charles White Sr., MD, a family medicine physician in his native Arkansas, Dr. M.L. Dalton, with influencing his career choice. After graduating from then-Memphis State University, he attended medical school at the University of Tennessee, graduating in 1962. He then did an internship at Methodist Hospital in Memphis and spent time in the Air Force. After discharge, Dr. White set up his family medicine practice in Lexington, Tenn., and still sees patients most days.

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“Our medical training during the early 1960s included a crash course in fighting watered-down years,” said Jerry Freeman, MD, founder of Memphis Eye & Cataract Associates and a clinical professor of Ophthalmology at the Hamilton Eye Institute at UTHSC. “So many of us who graduated then entered areas of medicine and research that truly revolutionized modern American and worldwide medicine and surgery. A reunion encourages us to meditate on what a wonderful experience our training at the University of Tennessee gave us.”
Melody Waller Receives Award

Melody Norris Waller, MSN, RN, an instructor in the College of Nursing at UTHSC, is a Minority Nurse Faculty Scholar, chosen by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and Johnson & Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future. A second-year PhD student, Waller’s interest is HIV prevention for African-American women. She began her career in the maternity unit at then-Methodist Germantown Hospital. She has worked at UTHSC College of Medicine in maternal-fetal research, served as a research nurse coordinator for the UTHSC College of Medicine and been an instructor of nursing at UTHSC for four years. Waller has also been a faculty mentor for the nursing chapter of the Black Student Association at UTHSC and a faculty volunteer on community projects. “During times when we have health disparities that are affecting certain groups, I feel I am in a position, as a researcher and an educator, to address the specific health needs of different ethnic or minority groups,” Waller said.

The award, which carries an $18,000 per year scholarship that is renewable based on funding and performance, was launched in 2007 to enhance racial and ethnic diversity in the nursing faculty in the United States. Recipients must attend the AACN’s annual faculty development conference and meet regularly with a mentor.

“...shortage is negatively impacted by a shortage of nursing faculty...”

Nursing Students Receive Awards

Leah Okoth and Dorothy Jordan, MN, PMHCNS-BC, nursing students at the UTHSC, are among 20 recipients of the 2013 Board of Directors Student Scholarships from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). Okoth, who lives in Cordova, and Jordan, who is from Atlanta, will graduate in May 2014. The scholarships honor graduate and undergraduate nursing students who have shown a commitment to psychiatric mental health nursing. The awards include complimentary registration, travel and lodging for the APNA’s 27th-annual conference in San Antonio Oct. 9-12, a one-year membership in the APNA, and opportunities for participation in psychiatric mental health nursing initiatives. The scholarship program aims to encourage students’ professional growth and develop young talent within the psychiatric mental health nursing workforce.

Students at St. Louis School turn thumbs down to tobacco after a visit from UTHSC med students Oct. 11

New Diabetes Study

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, in collaboration with 37 medical clinics, is conducting a study to determine the best combination drug treatment for type 2 diabetes. The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is one of the universities recruiting participants for the “ Glycemic Reduction Approaches in Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness Study (GRADE Study).” UTHSC Principal Investigators are Abbas E. Kitabchi PhD, MD, professor of Medicine and Molecular Sciences and Samuel Dagogo-Jack MD, professor and director, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. People who join the study will all take metformin and be randomly assigned to take one additional diabetes drug.

What does the study involve?

Four visits per year for up to seven years

Diabetes care visits and lab tests provided at no cost

Annual diabetes education

Diabetes medications and supplies provided at no cost

The study takes place at Methodist University Hospital Clinical Research Center, 1266 Union Ave. For more information, call (901) 516-2212 or visit https://grade.bsc.gwu.edu.

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U.S. Army

Scholarships Available from U.S. Army

A “Full Ride” scholarship is available to medical, dental, veterinarian and optometry students of the United States Army. Called the Health Professions Scholarship Program, it pays all tuition, required books, non-expendable equipment, and most academic fees in full, plus a monthly stipend.

For more information, go to Facebook.com/ArmyMedicalSchoolsNashvilleTN or contact Captain Gary E. Miller at (877) 354-4005 or gary.e.miller12.1@milmail.mil.

Melody Waller Receives Award

Melody Norris Waller, MSN, RN, an instructor in the College of Nursing at UTHSC, is a Minority Nurse Faculty Scholar, chosen by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and Johnson & Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future. Melody Waller was an excellent choice for this scholarship. Her enthusiasm to share her expertise through innovative teaching methods that increase retention of minority and at-risk students will certainly be valued by her students.”

Waller said she is honored by the award. “I do think that it is an extremely prestigious award, and I want to fulfill my role in carrying forward the gift that was given to me,” she said.

Chancellor’s Exempt Staff Awards

The Chancellor’s Exempt Staff Award Committee would like to congratulate the top three finalists for the 2013 Fifth Annual Chancellor’s Exempt Staff Awards: Sandra Pulmanoff, major, Vice Chancellor-Finance & Operations; Timothy Florence, IT administrator II, ITS Business Services; Kathy Gibbs, director, Student Academic Support Services.

The Office of Equity and Diversity, in collaboration with the Chancellor’s Office would like to thank the Chancellor’s Exempt Staff Award Committee for its efforts. The committee, which reviews the nominations with the goal of identifying the strongest nominations, is charged with seeking a consensus on the nominations that best reflect the spirit of the award.

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Anytime wishing more information can go to www.tarwars.org.

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### 1-5 Year Employees

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### 10-20 Year Employees

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### Tips for Graduate Students

- **Malinda Fitzgerald, PhD**: To succeed in your graduate studies, maintain a healthy work-life balance. Always make time for self-care and relaxation. Don’t be afraid to seek help if you are struggling. Remember, it’s okay to take a break when you need one. Your mental health is just as important as your academic performance.

- **Malinda Fitzgerald, PhD**: To future colleagues, please remember that collaboration is key. Share your ideas, but also be open to receiving feedback. You never know what you might learn from someone else.

- **Malinda Fitzgerald, PhD**: To family and friends, please be patient with your graduate students. Their work is not just about obtaining a degree; it is about pushing the boundaries of knowledge and contributing to the scientific community.

- **Malinda Fitzgerald, PhD**: To the administration, please support your graduate students by providing them with the resources they need to succeed. This includes funding for travel to conferences, access to state-of-the-art equipment, and opportunities for professional development.

- **Malinda Fitzgerald, PhD**: To the world, please remember that graduate students are the future of research. They bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the table. Support them and their work, and together, we can make a difference in the world.
Mary Austin Mays Smith Visits Schools as ‘Mary Molar’

Go up, go down, swirl around, swirl around
In the front, in the back, get rid of that plaque
Go up, go down, from the east to the west
Twice a day you’ll look your best

What do you think of when you hear jingles? Is it music, childhood, or rhyming? What about life lessons? The latter could easily be the case for the young patients who come to visit fourth-year dental student and Student Spotlight honoree Mary Austin Mays Smith. She sings the lyrics of her “tooth jingle” often throughout her various interactions with patients who visit the UTHSC dental clinic. Sometimes, they may even have the chance to catch her in her beloved “Mary Molar” costume, when she visits different schools to educate children about oral health.

How does she manage it all? To her, it’s easy because it’s what she loves to do.

Between her studies, many community projects, and personal endeavors, it would be unbecoming to refer to Smith as anything other than ambitious. A native Memphian, Smith is the youngest child born to Kit, a physician and alum of the College of Medicine (’72) and Diane Mays, a registered nurse and business administrator. Her siblings are Bethany, Will, and Benjamin.

For as long as she can remember, Smith has always had a passion for helping people. “My dad is a doctor, so as a child, one of my favorite things to do was to ask him how his day was and did he help anyone. That’s all I’ve ever wanted to do is help people. I’ve been so privileged to have access to dental care, so I want the same for others.” It was also during her childhood that Smith would make the choice to pursue dentistry as a career, thanks to her pediatric dentist who she coins as one of her favorite people.

“I have always found dentistry to be a unique and rewarding career choice,” Smith explained. “If someone’s oral hygiene is not right, it affects their whole person, and I can fix that. I also love to make others smile, so I knew dentistry was for me.”

Throughout her academic career, Smith has remained true to her commitment of being there for others. Some of her most memorable community experiences occurred while attending high school at St. Mary’s Episcopal School, such as participating in the Meals On Wheels program and the Community Fund, an organization that raises money for different children’s organizations throughout the Mid-South. Smith was also active during her undergraduate years as a biology major at both Southern Methodist University in Dallas and Rhodes College in Memphis, where she completed her studies. Reflecting on her decision to return home, Smith’s reasoning was simple: family.

“I enjoyed my time in Dallas, but my family is very tight knit,” she said. “I could not stay away. Plus, I knew my own community is where I could eventually make a difference in my profession.”

Family would also be the driving force behind Smith’s choice to attend UTHSC to further her studies. As she put it, UTHSC is just “in the blood.” Not only is her father an alum of the College of Medicine as stated previously, but her sister Bethany and brother Will are as well, graduating in 2004 and 2006, respectively.

Smith wasted absolutely no time getting involved, especially in community outreach related projects. During her first year, she served on the executive council for Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA). She is involved in Honor Council, where she started out as the College of Dentistry’s representative. Last year, she held the office of secretary and was voted in as president this year. She has also been active in the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) as their Community Service Chair and the MIFA Health Care Challenge where her team won and has been able to implement some of their ideas.

Aside from that, she has participated in the Xi Psi Phi International Dental Fraternity, serving as editor for two years.

As far as involvement goes, Smith attributed her reasons to her faith in God. “When it comes to involvement, I just think of that scripture ‘to whom much is given, much is required,’” she said. “I have been so fortunate and I just want to give back.”

If you ask anyone about Smith, they do not hesitate to tell you how she has impacted their lives. Janet Harrison, DDS, BS, chair, Restorative Dentistry, UTHSC College of Dentistry, said: “Mary Austin Smith shows a wonderful enthusiasm and spirit in all that she does, such that her dental patients, especially the children, look forward to their visits with the dentist.”

When she is not immersed in her studies or community projects, Smith enjoys running, attending church, being involved with children and spending time with family, especially her husband Scott, whom she met at church in 2006 and refers to as “one of her biggest accomplishments.”

She is also proud of her nonprofit organization, Memphis Dental Outreach, which she started in November 2012. Memphis Dental Outreach Implements oral health education awareness within the underserved Memphis community, especially children, but it is not limited to them. The organization abides by the moniker, “Live in Style, and Wear a Smile” and even has bracelets that say such.

As graduation approaches, this D4 has advice for incoming dental students: “Make sure that you take care of yourself mentally, spiritually and physically,” she advised. “Don’t take life too seriously. This is a great opportunity that you have to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Smith is excited about the future. She hopes to serve the community as a pediatric dentist, further Memphis Dental Outreach and collaborate with the Church Health Center on their initiatives. Even with all that she anticipates, Smith is keeping her calling at center and is hard at work trying to make a difference.