UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, delivered a very upbeat "State of the University" address July 30 in a town hall meeting on campus. He noted that the university has a strong and growing education and clinical presence in all the major cities in the state, is consistently achieving top quartile academic performance and board certification of graduates, and is transforming its Memphis campus with new construction while expanding its facilities statewide – in Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

A town hall meeting titled "Research Update," is scheduled for 12:30 p.m., Aug. 21, in Room 101 of the UTHSC College of Pharmacy building.

"The State of the University" address, along with all of the chancellor’s messages, is available at www.uthsc.edu/chancellor/messages/index.php.

**Stressed? Beyond Stressed? EAP Can Help**

Do you wonder where all the time goes each day? Is it difficult to take a breath? If you answered yes, or have stress inducers outside the workplace, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can work for you.

EAP offers private counseling sessions to you and your eligible dependents at no cost. With the EAP benefit, you will receive up to five sessions of short-term counseling and one free legal consultation for personal or workplace issues. EAP can help with:
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Work/life balance
- Relationship issues
- Adjusting to change
- Depression
- Self-improvement
- Anger
- Time management
- Weight management
- Communication
- Workplace concerns
- Grief and loss
- Family and parenting issues
- Child/elder care
- Substance abuse
- Legal and financial issues
- Anyone needing more information about the EAP benefit may call Human Resources Benefits at (901) 448-4876 or drop by 910 Madison Ave., Suite 727.

**UTHSC Graduates 672; COP Professor is Father of Two UTHSC Graduates**

On Friday, May 30, UTHSC graduated 672 health care professionals in FedExForum. 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.

- 185 from the College of Allied Health Sciences
- 74 from the College of Dentistry
- 23 from the College of Graduate Health Sciences
- 157 from the College of Medicine
- 107 from the College of Nursing
- 126 from the College of Pharmacy

This year’s graduating class included 75 African-Americans, 12 Latino-Americans, and 147 graduates who came from out of state. There were 411 women and 261 men. Sixteen of the out-of-state dentistry graduates were Arkansans who earned their doctoral degrees from the UT College of Dentistry.

For the second time in his life, UTHSC College of Pharmacy Professor Brad Boucher presented one of his children with a UTHSC degree. Andy Boucher shook his father’s hand as he accepted his diploma and readied himself for his residency in neurosurgery at Emory University in Atlanta.

Two years ago, Professor Boucher’s oldest son, Alex, earned his MD from UTHSC. Like Andy, he accepted his diploma from his dad in front of a FedExForum audience of thousands. He is a second-year resident in internal medicine-pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. Following his residency, he plans a fellowship in pediatric oncology.

Professor Boucher will have another opportunity to present a son with a UTHSC diploma; his son Adam is a second-year pharmacy student.

“My wife, Barb, and I feel incredibly blessed that our three sons have been able to pursue their passion within the world of health care at the University of Tennessee Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy. It is our hope that they will find great happiness in serving others throughout their respective careers,” Professor Boucher said.
On Tuesday, July 1, the College of Allied Health Sciences at UTHSC officially changed its name to the College of Health Professions (COHP). Although the renaming was approved by the UT Board of Trustees during its Feb. 27 winter meeting, the change was timed to coincide with the start of the 2015 fiscal year. Founded in 1972 as the College of Community and Allied Health, the unit’s name was abridged to the College of Allied Health Sciences in 1985.

“The name change is in keeping with national trends and will bring the college into better alignment with the university and with our various areas of specialty,” said Noma Anderson, PhD, dean of the college since 2010. She continued, “The term ‘allied health’ has been in use since the 1930s and was coined at a time when our disciplines were perceived as ancillary to health care. Today, allied health professionals, as a diverse group, account for more than half of the health care workforce in the United States. With salaries on the rise and an abundance of job opportunities, the need for highly educated, well-trained health professions specialists continues to grow.”

With fall enrollment expected to be 585 students, the college comprises six departments: Audiology and Speech Pathology, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Health Informatics and Information Management, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant Studies. Depending on the program selected, students obtain training at the bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral levels.

Over the past decades, the scope of practice, autonomy, and education of health professions team members has evolved. As a result, the entry-level education requirements for most health care professions are at the graduate and post-baccalaureate level.

The COHP has more than 9,000 alumni who work in clinical, administrative, educational and service roles throughout Tennessee and around the world. With its administrative offices and most educational programs located on the UTHSC Memphis campus, the college also has a major presence in Knoxville where it is constructing a $20 million facility for the college’s Audiology and Speech Pathology Department, to open in 2015.

On Friday, May 9, leaders from the Memphis business, bioscience, health care, and legislative communities gathered for the dedication of the Central Green at the UT-Baptist Research Park, which is adjacent to the UTHSC main campus.

The event celebrated completion of the fourth phase of development of the research park, located in the heart of the Memphis Medical Center. The outdoor, morning program included brief remarks from J.R. “Pitt” Hyde, III, chairman of the board, Memphis Bioworks Foundation; UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD; State Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris; Stephen Reynolds, president and CEO, Baptist Memorial Health Care (BMHC); and Jason Little, executive vice president and COO, BMHC.

Implemented in six phases, UT-Baptist Research Park is about nine years into its development plan. Once construction is finished, UT-Baptist Research Park is expected to produce a $2 billion annual economic impact on Memphis with $250 million in annual salaries from 3,000 new jobs. Currently there are three facilities in operation on the research park grounds: the UTHSC Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, the UT College of Pharmacy and TriMetis, a specialized laboratory and research firm.

Guests at the Dedication of the Central Green also witnessed the unveiling of the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Medical Center Commemorative Plaque. In 2002, when Baptist donated four medical office buildings and 1.4 million square feet of land to UTHSC, the contribution was one of the largest academic gifts ever in the United States. When completed the UT-Baptist Research Park is expected to add 1.2 million square feet of laboratory, research, education and business development space on its 10-acre campus.

“It is a pleasure to be here because this event is an opportunity for the UT Health Science Center to thank our partners for helping us get where we are today,” Chancellor Schwab said. “UTHSC today is a dramatically rejuvenated campus… in the best go-forward position that we have been in for a very long time. Here in Memphis our main campus has experienced a real renaissance. J. R. Pitt Hyde, III, is the visionary who supported UT through hard times and good times. His vision for the medical center district is the main reason that we are all here today.

“In addition, the state of Tennessee has made major contributions to UTHSC. In recent years, more than $130 million has been poured into our institution, funds that were designated for demolition and funds for building new facilities on this campus. One of the centers of the UTHSC campus is the Madison complex of buildings that were Baptist buildings 15 years ago. Without Baptist’s generous gift, this would not be possible.”

Chancellor Schwab also singled out Steve Bares, PhD, president and executive director of Memphis Bioworks Foundation, for “the tireless work that he does to support UTHSC,” adding that, “Bioworks understands that the UT-Baptist Research Park is a cornerstone of our campus — architecturally and in commercializing science.”

“This research park is a key part of the future growth and success of our community,” Hyde stated. “I’m thrilled with the progress and prospects in front of us. And I’m thrilled at looking forward to working with you on the continued development of the research park.”
BSN Program Calls for Third Party Comments

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in the College of Nursing is currently undergoing a self-evaluation for initial accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College of Nursing will submit a self-study document to CCNE in August 2014; CCNE is scheduled to conduct an on-site evaluation of the BSN program Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2014. CCNE provides opportunity for program constituents to submit, in writing, comments regarding an educational program’s qualifications for accreditation status. Written and signed third-party comments will be accepted by CCNE up to 30 days prior to the start of the Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2014 on-site evaluation. All third-party comments received by CCNE are considered confidential and shared only with the evaluation team. Send comments to:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036-1120
Phone: (202) 887-6791 Fax: (202) 887-8476
www.aacn.nche.edu/Accreditation

Questions About Partnership PPO Health Insurance Plan

Anyone enrolled in the state of Tennessee’s Partnership PPO health insurance plan who received a letter explaining they would be transferred to the Standard PPO plan for 2015, but feels they were notified in error, is encouraged to file an appeal by Aug. 31.

According to the state, some letters were sent by mistake, and correction letters will be mailed soon. However, the state recommends that members go ahead and file appeals to Healthways by Aug. 31 to ensure review.

For more information, go to http://uthsc.edu/hr.

Those who participated in a wellness screening in 2013 as part of the state’s Partnership Promise program and recently received a letter from Onsite Health Diagnostics stating that their personal information was included in a data breach are encouraged to enroll in free identity theft protection services by Nov. 8, 2014.

To read more about the data breach and to enroll in the free protection services offered, visit http://www.myidcare.com/idexertsrecovery using an access code in the letter sent from Onsite Health Diagnostics. Those who did not keep their letter may call (888) 266-9285. Questions also can be directed to the state’s benefits administration privacy officer at (866) 252-1523 or benefits.privacy@tn.gov.

UT cannot access your health information, but the UT System Payroll Office is available at (865) 974-5251 for more questions.

Relative Caregivers Picnic June 21

The Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program, a program of UTHSC’s Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, hosted its 12th annual Family and Community Awareness Day Saturday, June 21, in Health Sciences Park.

“Administration recognizes that, ‘Supporting Relatives Raising Children in Their Families,’ truly captures what we stand for as a unit,” said Shunta Adams, community outreach coordinator for the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program. “We are eager to enrich the lives of these families and be of great service to our community,” she added.

The purpose of the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program’s Family and Community Awareness Day is to promote family unity and connect caregivers to community resources, while providing a platform for state and local officials to connect with families in their community. Represented agencies include the Department of Children’s Services, Community Services Agency and Le Bonheur Early Intervention and Development.

from left, clockwise, a banner proclaims the UT connection with the Shelby County Relative Caregiver Program; UTHSC staff prepare hamburgers and hotdogs for the event, which was attended by about 150 families

Donated Scrubs Help UTHSC Employee to Build Houses in Mexico

Argun Can, MD, a resident specializing in Internal Medicine, presents a donation of scrubs to Todd Barber, director of Web Services. Barber went on a mission trip to Ensenada, Mexico, a small town on Mexico’s Pacific coast. The scrubs, which were worn while building houses, were donated by UTHSC residents. The drive was facilitated by Sheila Champlin, assistant vice chancellor of Communications and Marketing, who also arranged for Barber to collect used scrubs from Landau Uniforms. After speaking with Champlin about the project, Aaron Haynes, director of Graduate Medical Education in the College of Medicine, distributed a request to residents for used scrubs in support of this community service effort. Barber said about 100 volunteers participated in the effort.
Dr. Brown Addresses Korean Medical Organization in New York City

“If you don’t know where a drug was manufactured, if you don’t know how the drug has been shipped, if you don’t know who handled the drug, you really don’t know if it is safe for you to take,” Dr. Brown said.

He added, “We’ve seen experiences right here in Tennessee that show what happens when drugs aren’t manufactured to the appropriate standards, precious lives are lost.”

“IT doesn’t matter that they practice medicine in Korea or that they practice medicine here in the United States or that they practice medicine in some developing Third World country, they have a responsibility in the pharmaceutical supply chain,” he said.

“As the person who is the point of delivery of care to a patient, physicians need to know their responsibility is much greater than just giving the patient the medication and assuming that all of the other appropriate things that should have been done actually have been done.”

UTHSC is particularly interested in issues of supply chain safety and in networking with pharmaceutical companies around the globe as it prepares to break ground later this year on the Plough Center for Sterile Drug Delivery Systems on campus, a roughly $16 million Good Manufacturing Practice pharmaceutical facility.

“We can manufacture pharmaceuticals for any company, and in doing so, we will ensure the absolute integrity of the drugs that we manufacture,” Dr. Brown said. “By being directly involved in the manufacturing, shipping and verification of appropriate delivery, we can control what the supply chain looks like.”

In May, Dr. Brown traveled to China to attend a conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, a forum that supports sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference focused on global concerns related to pharmaceutical supply chain security. The invitation to address the Korean medical conference stemmed from that meeting.

Church Health Center Offers ‘Serving The Underserved’ Course

This spring, the Church Health Center hosted the fourth offering of its certificate program for medical students at UTHSC titled, “Serving The Underserved.”

Participating students explored topics including the social determinants of health, how to provide effective health care to impoverished communities in the United States and abroad, and the relationships and resources that physicians can rely on to maximize their practice of medicine and their own personal well-being.

Though the course was prepared for medical students, there are plans to open the course to a more varied array of health science students. The course aims to engage students on these topics and more.

- What is the health care landscape in urban areas like Memphis and underserved areas like Haiti and Kenya?
- What can medical students expect to encounter when they begin to practice?
- What are the tools, methods, practices and relationships that physicians should employ to serve not only their patients, but also their patients’ families and larger communities?

The course was organized by Rev. Stacy Smith, Krystal Grant-Crutchfield, John Shorb and Dr. Nia Zalamea of the Church Health Center and Chaplain Jonathan Lewis of Methodist Healthcare. Dr. Zalamea and Chaplain Lewis also served as co-facilitators of the weekly class meetings.

Chaplain Lewis is a full-time staff chaplain at Methodist South Hospital and a United Methodist campus minister at UTHSC.

Speakers included Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare CEO Gary Shorb and Dr. Robin Womeodu, CMO at Methodist University Hospital. Also presenting were Dr. Merry Sebelik, Dr. Paul Juarez, Dr. Scott Morris, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, and Antony Sheehan, president of the Church Health Center.
Teresa Britt, MSN, RN, is a 30-year nursing professional with an extensive background in teaching. She serves as the director of Interprofessional Education and Clinical Simulation (IPECS) and recently spoke about her road to nursing, IPECS and her involvements beyond the classroom.

Why did you go into nursing?
I chose nursing because I really like to help people and it seemed to have a lot of possible job opportunities. It has enriched my life because I have met and been influenced by so many patients, families and colleagues in my many different nursing roles. My background has mostly been in Adult Intensive Care settings. About 25 years ago, I decided that I would like to teach, so I went back to school. I have taught at three different nursing education programs in Memphis, including the UTHSC College of Nursing program.

You have been at UTHSC since 2006. What other positions have you held?
I originally started in the College of Nursing. In 2010. I was selected as the assistant director of Interprofessional Education and Simulation Development and in 2013, I was selected for my current position in IPECS.

Let’s discuss IPECS. What does it entail and why is it vital to UTHSC as an institution?
IPECS entails experiential learning activities of all types for our learners, typically health care provider students or community practice partners. We allow learners to come into our simulated health care environment and practice both individual and team skills such as airway management, communication with patients, physical examination of patients, team events such as Code simulations and low-incident/high-risk events such as dealing with the angry patient, dealing with a transfusion reaction, the steps when abuse is suspected in the pediatric or elder patient, and many other examples. All of our educational activities are vehicles to facilitate health care provider students to learn and practice without involving a real patient. Many of the educational activities are completed using mannequin patients, or, more commonly, a simulated patient actor and a task trainer or mannequin together, which is called a hybrid simulation.

What advice would you give a health care professional considering a career in simulation?
Most health care professionals that have any focus on education will deal with simulation. Simulation is utilized in both teaching and educational assessment of health care providers. It includes so many modalities: mannequins, simulated patients/actors, virtual reality, robotic device training, training on computerized medical models – the list goes on and on. There are new simulation modalities being created every week and new ways of utilizing the modalities that we already have. It is truly an exciting time to be involved with health care education.

Outside of UTHSC, you are one of three regional directors for the Tennessee Simulation Alliance, which provides health care educators with firsthand resources and knowledge surrounding the field of simulation. What is your role in the organization?
I have been a member of the Tennessee Simulation Alliance since its inception. I currently serve as the regional director for the West Tennessee region. We are working on collaboration with the Tennessee Hospital Association as we plan our annual fall meetings and network with colleagues across the state from both academic and service sectors that are utilizing simulation. In June, I will travel to Nashville to meet for two days with other Simulation Fellows and discuss best practices utilizing simulation technologies.

What is your overall vision for the future of the IPECS program?
Personally, I hope that the IPECS program will provide the UTHSC campus with the resources to create a paradigm shift in health care education. We want to help future health care providers learn in a more experiential manner and to be able to collaborate in their educational encounters; thereby learning about, from and with each other as they are concurrently learning how to provide patient- and family-centered care. The IPECS Center should provide a place where those from all disciplines are able to collaborate; our hope is that this collaborative learning will contribute to a transformation in the health care practice environment, a transformation that will improve patient care, reduce medical errors and increase patient and provider satisfaction. This is a tall order, but health care education must change to meet the challenges of the complex health care environment. Multi-professional educational centers such as IPECS can provide this support.

For more information about IPECS at UTHSC, go to https://uthsc.edu/ipecs.

Dr. Chasity Shelton has participated as a Simulation Fellow mentee for 2013-2014 through a HRSA Faculty Development Program grant: Integrated Technology into Nursing Education and Practice Initiative (ITNEP; Grant No. U1KHP12906, Elizabeth Weiner Ph). During the past nine months, she has participated in video conference sessions with other educators from across the state and completed assignments to facilitate her knowledge of simulation educational evidence. She has compiled a Simulation Portfolio as part of her responsibilities for this program that includes a service/community practice plan, scholarly articles review and critique, development of a presentation abstract and creation of a participation plan for a regional clinical simulation initiative.

Dr. Shelton traveled with Brit to Nashville in June to participate in the Simulation Fellows retreat and present her portfolio.
Professor Robert W. Williams, PhD, UT-ORNL, Appointed Founding Chair of Genetics, Genomics and Informatics

Teresa Waters Chairs Preventive Medicine

Teresa Waters, PhD, is the new chair for the Department of Preventive Medicine, according to David M. Stern, MD, executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine.

“With 14 years on our faculty, Dr. Waters brings extensive research experience, sound health policy insights and strong, professional relationships to this position,” said Dr. Stern.

She began her new role on Aug. 1.

Dr. Waters joined the faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine in 2000. Previously she served on the faculty of Northwestern University where she was an assistant director and, later, an interim deputy director of the Institute for Health Services Research and Policy Studies, a research center that coordinated the efforts of more than 20 faculty and 35 staff. Dr. Waters received her PhD in economics from Vanderbilt University in 1992.

Having published 61 original, peer-reviewed articles and five reviewed articles or book chapters, Dr. Waters has mentored dozens of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty members during her career at Northwestern University and UTHSC.

Joan C. Han Directs UT-Le Bonheur Pediatric Obesity Center

Joan C. Han, MD, was named associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC and founding director for the UT-Le Bonheur Pediatric Obesity Center.

She will also be director of the Pediatric Obesity Program on Le Bonheur's clinical staff and the new Le Bonheur Healthy Lifestyle Clinic.

Supported jointly by UTHSC and Le Bonheur, the Pediatric Obesity Center will focus on both research and patient care in an effort to determine ways to stem the current tide of childhood obesity in the Mid-South. The new center will be located on the Le Bonheur Children's campus, which is near the UTHSC main campus in the Memphis Medical Center.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years.

The Department of Pediatrics has focused its research and community outreach efforts in three major areas — obesity, asthma and developmental disabilities. Dr. Han was recruited to spearhead this first major initiative,” said Jon McCullers, MD, professor and chair of UTHSC Pediatrics and Le Bonheur's pediatrician-in-chief.

“Dr. Han will develop and implement a comprehensive initiative in obesity that will span research, education and clinical initiatives, especially community-centered research that extends to our underserved, city neighborhoods.”

“The impact of childhood obesity is manifested in both immediate and long-term effects on children's health and well-being, from elevated cardiovascular and blood pressure risks to pre-diabetes, bone and joint problems,” said David M. Stern, MD, executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine. “Plus, obese children too often grow into obese adults, and we know obesity in adults can lead to increased risks for stroke, heart disease, diabetes and a variety of cancers. Partnering with Le Bonheur to bring Dr. Han to our community has the potential for our organizations to make a significant, measurable impact on childhood obesity and its associated health problems.”

“As we continue to recruit the nation's top specialists, our impact on the region's kids will continue to broaden,” said Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour.
PA Program Has a New Chair . . .

Established in 2013, the Department of Physician Assistant Studies has a new chair: Linda Reed, EdD, PA.

Dr. Reed joined UTHSC on July 1, the same day the college's name changed from the College of Allied Health Sciences to the College of Health Professions.

Noma Anderson, PhD, dean of the college, introduced her at a celebration that day. She came from the Baptist College of Health Sciences, where she was the dean of the Division of Allied Health.

“I made the switch because I wanted to help the program,” she said, adding, “It’s my first love.”

Dr. Reed isn’t exactly a newcomer to UTHSC’s Physician Assistant Studies (PA) program. She’s been involved in an advisory capacity from the very beginning. A few years ago, Dean Anderson came to her and told her that UTHSC’s Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, was thinking about creating a PA program. Dr. Reed served on the steering committee and met with the accreditation body.

“I felt very strongly there needs to be a PA program in West Tennessee, and that UTHSC was the best place to have one,” she added. “This program is just so dear to me. When the department needed a chair, everything just fell into place.”

Dr. Reed earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center in Oklahoma City, a Master of Education degree from the University of Oklahoma and an EdD in Higher Education Administration from the University of North Texas.

“I am a PA myself,” Dr. Reed said. “I’ve been a PA for 36 years, and I’ve been in PA education for 20 of those.

Before coming to Baptist College of Health Sciences in 2008, she spent 10 years at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth as an assistant professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and the PA program’s associate director and academic coordinator. Before that, she was an assistant professor and director of the PA program and chair of the Medical Science department and admissions coordinator at Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, West Virginia, and was named Woman of the Year by the college’s Association of Women Students.

If the concept of the physician assistant isn’t a terribly familiar one, it may be because there aren’t many in this area, she said, even though there is a need.

She called the PA program’s association with a health science center “a huge asset” that set it apart from other programs in the area. “It’s wonderful that it’s so closely associated with a medical school, with the PAs and MDs, who one day will be working together, training together.

“As a new program, the first thing I plan to do is make sure it is established on a firm foundation,” Dr. Reed said. Her immediate task, she said, was to evaluate what has gone on up until now, and see if any curriculum changes are needed.

“We want to establish a program of excellence,” she said. “We want to produce excellent PAs.”

The program is accredited, she stressed, but is only in the provisional accreditation stage. Even that “still has a couple more steps” to go.

As for a long-term vision, she noted that Chancellor Schwab wants PAs to be trained at all UTHSC sites across Tennessee – Nashville, Knoxville, etc. Dr. Reed also sees potential in training PAs with dual degrees in related fields, though she called it too early to move in that direction.

“I’ve only been here seven days,” she laughed. “I’m still learning.

Dr. Reed and her husband have two children – a son and stepdaughter – and two grandchildren. She describes herself and her husband as “foodies and big college football fans.”

Eugene Stead, MD, created the very first PA program in 1965 at Duke University with its first graduates in 1967. Dr. Stead, considered the father of the PA profession, was convinced of the need for mid-level practitioners in health care delivery.

From the beginning, the PA profession had a close association with the military. Duke University took students who had been hospital orderlies in the Vietnam War and had extensive first-hand experience in patient care and provided them with the formal medical training to round out their education.

. . . and a New Medical Director

David Maness, MD, is the PA department’s medical director.

“Every PA program has to have a medical director,” Dr. Reed said. “The medical director is the person who works with the program to make sure that it meets medical practice standards.”

Dr. Maness is a professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine in the UTHSC College of Medicine. Befitting the PA profession’s historical origins in military experience, Dr. Maness served as a physician in the U.S. Army for 27 years, retiring early to join UTHSC.

A native of Martin, Tennessee, Dr. Maness attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and receiving the Outstanding Chemistry Major Award. In 1980, he graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa. He obtained a Master of Strategic Studies degree in 2001 from the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Maness served in many academic, administrative, clinical and leadership roles during his military career, including clinical director, team leader, program director, chair, and chief of staff/director of medical education. He also served as the Family Medicine Consultant for Europe and commanded three hospitals: the 115th Field Hospital, a 500-bed go-to-war hospital; Task Force Med Eagle in Tuzla, Bosnia; and Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In his final military assignment, he served as the dean of the United States Army Medical Department Center and School in San Antonio, Texas.

Board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, Dr. Maness is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces and the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.
**Elizabeth Bowman Retires as Professor of Health Informatics and Information Management**

After 40 years at UTHSC, Elizabeth “Beth” Bowman, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA, retired at the end of June. She spent her entire career in the Department of Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIM), making significant contributions over the past four decades to the department, the College of Health Professions, UTHSC and the health informatics discipline.

“Beth is a legacy to the University of Tennessee and respected by all who have worked with her,” said Noma Anderson, PhD, dean of the College of Health Professions.

A graduate of Millsaps College, she was the first faculty member to be hired by then-chair Mary “Mamel” McCain. She achieved the rank of full professor in 1996, earning a Master of Public Administration from the University of Memphis along the way.

She served as interim department chair from July 2006 until September 2008. After stepping down from that position, she was instrumental in the transition of the bachelor’s program to an entry-level master’s program, as well as the transition of that program’s curriculum to an online delivery.

In 2010, Bowman received fellow status with American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), one of the association’s highest honors. It is given in recognition of contributions to the discipline. She is a past chair of both AHIMAs Assembly on Education and its Professional Development Committee, and a past chair of the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM), which accredits HIIM programs.

Bowman served on numerous committees for the college and the university, including every committee of the Faculty Senate. As president of the Faculty Senate in the mid-1980s, she oversaw the approval of the first faculty handbook. She has long been a campus and system resource on faculty governance issues, and was named Senator of the Year in 2011.

In recognition of her years spent teaching and serving as a mentor, Bowman received the AHIMAs Educator Award in 1999. She was a charter recipient of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, and received the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association’s Outstanding Teacher Award in 2009. Most recently, she earned the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Public Service Award in June 2014.

Following her retirement, Bowman will remain associated with the department as Professor Emeritus, teaching part time and assisting the program with its CAHIIM accreditation.

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**UTHSC Gets Visit from ‘HERO’**

On July 7, UTHSC welcomed Nneka Norman-Gordon, the state’s Higher Education Resource Officer, who came to Memphis to get the word out about her office, which was funded by the state legislature July 1, 2013.

The Higher Education Resource Officer (HERO), housed in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, was established to improve state government’s responsiveness to faculty, staff and employees of Tennessee’s higher education system.

“Ultimately, the goal is to make government work better for faculty, staff and employees of our two-to-four-year institutions, so if there are institutional policies or barriers to maximum effectiveness and efficiency, this office really wants to find out about that and fix those issues,” Norman-Gordon said.

For more information about what the Higher Education Resource Officer does, and to contact her, go to www.comptroller.tn.gov/HERO.

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**Cancer Conference Oct. 24-25**

The UT Graduate School of Medicine and the UT Medical Center Cancer Institute will present a one and a half day CME and ACPE-certified educational activity on the latest in cancer detection and treatment. Presentations will include the role of radiology, genetics, clinical trials and implications of the Affordable Care Act. The conference will be held Oct. 24-25 at the Holiday Inn World’s Fair Park in Knoxville.

For more information or to register, visit www.tennessee.edu/cme/Big4.

**Male Caregivers of Those with Chronic Kidney Disease Sought for Study**

Alexia Williams, RN, a PhD candidate with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, is conducting a study to help health care providers better understand how taking care of a relative with chronic kidney disease affects male caregivers.

Male caregivers are men who are providing care to a wife, sister, or other relative who is receiving dialysis therapy. Williams is looking for male caregivers who are 18 to 75 years of age. Participation in the study involves answering eight questionnaires. These will take approximately 60-90 minutes to complete.

The study information obtained from participating men will help health care providers find new ways to improve the lives of patients and families coping with kidney disease.

Participation in the study is voluntary and research participants can leave the study at any time. At the end of the study, participants will receive a $20 Target gift card. For more information, contact Williams at 901-591-0524.
The UTHSC Campus Community – Safe and Secure!

The word “community” connotes a certain cement of shared values and aspirations. Our UTHSC Police Department is a fully empowered police agency with a vision of enhancing and preserving the quality of the learning opportunities and life experiences of each member of the UTHSC community. By actively working in collaboration with all facets of the community, we work to provide a safe and secure campus environment for our faculty, staff, students and visitors.

We recognize that effective law enforcement and the prevention of crime are achieved by establishing a professional and trusting relationship with our community. We value this relationship and offer several programs and options to assist you in supporting our common vision:

- **UTHSC Alert** – emergency notifications for you and your family at your UTHSC email address or cell phones, and those of your family members.
- **Blue Light Phones** – located in strategic areas throughout campus.
- **Escorts** – available during the evening hours until early morning to accompany you to your vehicle, work or residence. Also for anyone in the last trimester of a pregnancy or anyone with a temporary injury. These are available anytime.
- **“If You See Something, Say Something” Program** – for reporting suspicious activity.
- **“Stow It, Don’t Show It” Initiative** – to encourage not leaving personal items visible in your vehicle and being aware of your surroundings.

For additional information on Campus Police and more safety tips, visit [www.uthsc.edu/campuspolice](http://www.uthsc.edu/campuspolice).

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UTHSC to Operate Forensic Center

UTHSC has been awarded a $3.1 million contract to operate the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center (WTRFC) and the Shelby County Medical Examiner’s Office. Under the contract, which was approved in June by the Shelby County Commission and went into effect July 1, UTHSC will provide a range of services. They include:

- staffing and management of the center, including forensic pathologists, forensic technicians, support staff, and a physician who will be eligible for appointment as the Shelby County medical examiner
- consultation services 24/7 for all reported cases, when possible
- establishment and operation of a forensic pathology fellowship program that is accredited by the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education), with the primary location for the program at the WTRFC
- continued accreditation of the Office of the Medical Examiner by the National Association of Medical Examiners.

The one-year contract with UTHSC was awarded through a process that required participants to submit proposals by Jan. 21. The contract contains an option to renew for three additional one-year periods from July through June. UTHSC ran regional forensic services for years before ceasing to do so in 2006.

The center will oversee medico-legal death investigation services for all 20 counties west of the Tennessee River that send autopsies to the facility. It will apply uniform standards of investigation for all deaths regardless of the county of origin, and maintain investigative integrity beginning with the crime scene.

“We believe that we are uniquely positioned to deliver high-quality, cost-effective management of the center and to add considerable value to the educational, public service and research elements that the center has the potential to deliver,” Kenneth Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, FACHE, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer at UTHSC, said in the petition to operate the center.

“The integration of the missions of the WTRFC and UTHSC transforms the investigation of suspicious deaths into a discipline of education, research, clinical care, and public service for the benefit of the health and welfare of the citizens of Shelby County and West Tennessee,” he said. Plans are to keep as many of the existing employees as possible.

Dr. Brown also said UTHSC plans to develop a Center of Excellence in Forensic Science that will use current resources in forensics, including forensic dentistry and forensic nursing. The contract also positions the WTRFC to better respond in instances of natural disasters and acts of terrorism, he said.

During the past three years, investigations by the County Medical Examiner’s Office totaled 2,687 in 2011; 3,709 in 2012; and 4,152 in 2013. The West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center is located at 637 Poplar in a $10 million facility that opened in June 2012.

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**Join the Movement, Join the Ride, and Help Us to Fight on!**

[Image of a poster for the Ride to Fight On event]

**Ride to Fight On** will be the negativity assault fighting hanging out event in Memphis and the Mid-South. The event is not only to show support for anyone who has been touched by our event, but it's also to raise funds for education and support for a child cancer center.

The event will be held on October 11, 2014, at FedExForum. The ride starts with the kids, and there will be a special kids event with special guests, food, and entertainment. All riders will receive a t-shirt, and the ride will finish at FedExForum, where there will be a special kids event and entertainment.

The event will start and conclude at [www.RideToFightOn.com](http://www.RideToFightOn.com).

**Ride to Fight On** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and your donation is tax-deductible. For more information, visit [www.RideToFightOn.com](http://www.RideToFightOn.com).
Dr. Pfeiffer Featured in Publication
Ronald Pfeiffer, MD, professor and vice chair, Department of Neurology, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, is featured in the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation’s Summer 2014 issue of its quarterly newsletter, News & Review. He shares his expertise as a movement disorder specialist in an article entitled, “PD Take 3: How Can I Ease Constipation Related to PD?” You may view his contribution at www.pdf.org/summer14. To view the entire newsletter, which is distributed nationwide to more than 100,000 people, visit: www.pdf.org/summer14.

PhD Student Felicia Emery Receives Prestigious SREB Fellowship
Felicia Emery, a doctoral student in the Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences at UTHSC, recently received a competitive dissertation fellowship from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). This award supports minority PhD students and encourages them to seek careers in academia in order to increase diversity in higher education.

The Dissertation Award offers a one-year, $20,000 stipend, a research allowance and professional development support. SREB Fellows are invited to an annual conference that is the largest gathering of minority PhD scholars in the country. Emery is a fifth-year Microbial Pathogenesis, Immunology, and Inflammation PhD candidate under the direction of Mark A. Miller, PhD. Her dissertation research involves identifying host genetic elements that contribute to differential immune responsiveness and/or susceptibility to a Burkholderia pseudomallei infection. During her matriculation at UTHSC, she has contributed to three publications, for two of which she is the primary author.

Emery is a native of Baton Rouge and plans to pursue a career as a professor and researcher. She earned her bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from Louisiana State University and her master’s degree in microbiology from Southern University and A&M College.

Dr. Chesney Publishes Study in New England Journal of Medicine
Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital pediatric nephrologist Russell Chesney, MD, is co-author of a recent New England Journal of Medicine study published by Randomized Intervention for Children with Vesicoureteral Reflux (RIVUR) trial.

Dr. Chesney serves as study chair and sits on the executive committee for the two-year, 19-site study that enrolled more than 600 children with vesicoureteral reflux. Its purpose was to study the effects of long-term antimicrobial prophylaxis. The study found that antibiotics significantly reduce the risk of recurrent urinary tract infections in many children. The RIVUR study is funded by the National Institutes of Health. More papers are expected from the study.

Dr. Chesney is the former chair of the Department of Pediatrics for UTHSC. He retired as chair in 2012, but continues to see patients at Le Bonheur.

Dr. Desiderio Lectures in China
Dominic M. Desiderio, professor in the Department of Neurology and director of the Charles B. Stout Neuroscience Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, presented two invited lectures in China in October, 2013. One lecture was at the 15th Beijing Conference and Exhibition on Instrumental Analysis, and the other at East China Institute of Technology in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province.

Dr. Desiderio is a member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Cardinal and Gray Society, the members of which led the procession at MIT’s graduation ceremony on June 6.

Dr. Migliorati Publishes Letter on Interprofessional Education
A letter to the editor titled, “The intersection of oral medicine and interprofessional education,” by Cesar Migliorati, DDS, MS, PhD, was published in “Oral Surgery Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology.” The publication is the highest-ranked oral and maxillofacial surgery title by number of citations. The journal is available at www.ooojournal.net/home.

Dr. Migliorati is professor and chair, Department of Diagnostic Sciences and Oral Medicine, and director of Oral Medicine, UTHSC College of Dentistry.

Interprofessional Education is a new competency that health-related colleges, including UTHSC, are incorporating into their students’ experiences.

Dr. Cindy Smith Presents to National Vaccine Advisory Committee
Cindy Smith, PharmD, assistant professor of Clinical Pharmacy, from Reeves-Sain Pharmacy in Murfreesboro, presented to the National Vaccine Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. on June 11. This committee advises the Assistant Secretary of Health in making decisions about the government’s rule in vaccines.

Her presentation was titled, “Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine – The Pharmacists’ Perspective.” She was asked to help the committee understand how a practicing pharmacist deals with the HPV vaccine. She was listed on the agenda as representing the University of Tennessee. If you would like more information, go to www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvacommittees/upcomingmeetings/06012014agenda.html.

UTHSC Communications and Marketing
Honored by Local Chapter of Public Relations Society
The Communications and Marketing Department at UTHSC took home two awards at the 2014 VOX Awards sponsored by the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. The annual awards honor exceptional work by Memphis public relations professionals.

The UTHSC team won a VOX Award in the public service category for its Memphis Crisis Center Awareness Week campaign. The multimedia campaign last fall, which featured billboard space donated by Clear Channel Outdoor, was designed to raise awareness of the 24/7 crisis hotline, increase volunteers to answer the center’s phones, and raise money to support its work.
"UTHSC is proud to be a supporting partner for the Memphis Crisis Center. The work done there is truly lifesaving in so many instances," said Kennard Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, FACHE, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer at UTHSC. "Certainly we know how gratifying it is for our Communications and Marketing team to be recognized by their peers for this public service campaign, but more importantly, our efforts on behalf of the Crisis Center are a win for the entire Memphis community."

UTHSC also won a Gold Award in the hard/breaking news category for press materials, advertising and media work related to the announcement in 2013 that Robert W. Williams, PhD, UT-Oak Ridge National Laboratory Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, was selected as one of four scientists in the United States to participate in the Human Brain Project, a multinational collaboration to study the brain.

Dr. Coughlin Appointed to Three Editorial Boards

Steven Coughlin, MD, a professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and director of the Research Core for the University of Tennessee College of Medicine’s Research Center on Health Disparities, Equity, and the Exposome, has been appointed to the editorial boards of the Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health Care, the International Journal of the Environment and Biotechnology, and Annals of Translational Medicine and Epidemiology at www.austinpublishinggroup.com/translational-medicine.

Dr. Coughlin, who relocated from Washington in January, said, “Serving as a journal editor and anonymous peer reviewer provides an important service to medicine, epidemiology, and community health as it is essential that articles published in biomedical and public health journals be subjected to rigorous peer review. Peer review is an important part of the scientific method.”

He emphasized that the dissemination of information about effective approaches for addressing health disparities, such as elevated rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, major depression and infant mortality, is an important goal of the Research Core of the Research Center on Health Disparities, Equity, and the Exposome. The center is co-directed by Dr. Patricia Matthews-Juarez and Dr. Paul Juarez.

Explains Dr. Coughlin, “I enjoy working with graduate students, medical students, residents, post doctoral fellows, and junior faculty to help them with their own careers in academic medicine, epidemiology, and community health by facilitating their efforts to write up research findings and publish them in peer-reviewed journals.”

Dr. Coughlin also noted that students and fellows should become familiar with approaches for reviewing and critiquing journal articles prepared by other authors, so that they can objectively review the biomedical literature. He said, “Department of Preventive Medicine faculty, including Dr. Karen Johnson, Dr. Pamela Connor, and many others, have done a fantastic job of mentoring students and post-doctoral fellows in this way.”

In his free time, Dr. Coughlin is editing a book on community-based participatory research for the American Public Health Association (APHA).

Dr. Artsimovitch Elected to American Academy of Microbiology

UTHSC alumna Irina Artsimovich was one of only 88 Fellows elected to the American Academy of Microbiology this year. This prestigious honor recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the field of microbiology.

A link to Dr. Artsimovitch’s biosketch can be found at http://academy.asm.org/index.php/fellows-info/aam-fellows-elected-in-2014/5141-irina-artsimovich.

TodayCare Closing Dec. 31

On Aug. 13, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare announced what it described as “the difficult decision to close TodayCare.” The decision becomes effective Dec. 31.

Donna Winfrey, corporate director of Benefits & Wellness for Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, said that “TodayCare has been a huge help for those who have taken advantage of this benefit,” but added that “only a very small percentage of associates have used TodayCare’s services. Unfortunately, the program is not sustainable at such a small usage rate.”

In addition to staying open until the year’s end, she promised that TodayCare would provide parents with a list of alternative childcare facilities and contact information, and that Methodist LeBonheur would assist TodayCare in helping its staff members find other positions.

“Until then, TodayCare and its highly skilled, caring staff will continue to provide traditional, back-up, transitional and mildly ill childcare,” she said.

“Since the TodayCare staff cares for the children as if they were their own, we know this transition will be a challenge for parents, children and the staff,” she added. “As we approach the end of the year, we’ll share tips on how to help children transition to a new care setting and the best way for children to say goodbye to their teachers at the center.”

She thanked TodayCare staff members, and thanked those associates who utilized the program.

Grants

Adebowale Adeyihi, PhD
“Regulation of Neonatal Renal Hemodynamics”
$1.5 million
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases/
National Institutes of Health

Alex Dopico, MD, PhD
“Effects of Alcohol on the Body and Ways to Mediate Those Effects with Drugs that Target the Ion Channels that Carry Them”
$1.8 million
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/National Institutes of Health

Donna Hathaway, PhD, RN, FAAN
“An RCT for Medication Adherence in Kidney Transplant Recipients”
$2.5 million
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases/
National Institutes of Health

Casey Laizure, PharmD
“Caffeine Inhalation Research”
$150,000
National Institute on Drug Abuse/
National Institutes of Health

Bernd Meibohm, PhD, FCP
Purchase of triple quadruple mass spectrometer as shared instrumentation to support 12 NIH-funded research projects at UTHSC
$315,651
National Institutes of Health

Kristen O’Connell, PhD
“Modulation of AgRP Neuronal Excitability: Role of Diet and Body Weight”
$1,607,325
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases/
National Institutes of Health

Kazuko Sakata, PhD
“Anti-Depressive Effects of Enriched Environments Early in Life”
$147,500
National Institute of Mental Health/
National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation’s medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.
Porshia Mahoro

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” We all grow up hearing this question. Porshia Mahoro, RN, MSN-CNL, recent College of Nursing graduate, is no different. However, her career decision didn’t come from childhood dreams, but from her circumstances. During her senior year of college, Mahoro’s mother and College of Pharmacy alumna (’86) Patricia Gibbs, was diagnosed with breast cancer, halting Porshia’s original plans of attending medical school. Although it was a trying time, a passion was ignited for something else – nursing.

“I felt that nursing would be a better fit for me, and would allow me to develop closer partnerships and relationships with my patients and their families,” Mahoro shared. She has not looked back since making her decision.

An only child and Memphis native, Mahoro spent the majority of her childhood in Stanton, Tennessee, just outside of Brownsville in Haywood County. She moved back to Memphis during her junior year and attended Bolton High School where she was involved in honor societies, choir, and her absolute favorite, theater. “I loved the spring musicals,” she said.

After completing a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Memphis, Mahoro had to decide what her next course of action would be. Eventually, she decided to continue her education at UTHSC.

“The Master’s Clinical Nurse Leader program sparked my interest because it was a second degree program that would allow me to enter into the nursing profession with a master’s degree after only two years of accelerated study,” said Mahoro. “Not to mention, I love a challenge!”

While at UTHSC, Mahoro was involved in a multitude of things. She served as a tutor for first-year nursing students, president of the Nursing Student Government Association, and a member of the Student Government Association Executive Council. She was also a member of the UTHSC chapter of the Student Nurses Association, the National Student Nurses Association, and served as the West Regional Director for the Tennessee Association of Student Nurses. She was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and the Innsbruck Society.

When asked about the importance of student involvement, Mahoro said, “Involvement in student organizations is necessary to achieve and maintain a healthy balance between academic and social life while in school. In addition, involvement is a great addition to your resume, and it shows that you are able to balance your school work with other extracurricular activities and still excel in both. However, organization and time management are extremely important for anyone who is involved in student organizations.”

Mahoro reflected on her favorite project, a nursing career event for students.

“When we started to invite nursing recruiters from around the city I was overwhelmed by the positive response,” said Mahoro. “The recruiters knew about our program and were very interested in our students. On the day of the event, we had six organizations representing a number of hospital facilities in Memphis and the surrounding areas. This was my favorite project because we were able to deliver what the students asked for, and this was the first event of its kind hosted in the College of Nursing. Several students were able to network contacts that landed them jobs and externships, and I hope that the college will continue to host the event for years to come.”

Patricia A. Cowan, PhD, RN, associate dean for Academic Affairs, associate professor, and director of the PhD in Nursing program, had this to say about Mahoro:

“I have been impressed with Porshia’s commitment to excellence, integrity, and professionalism. She is mature, conscientious, and professional in her interactions with patients and colleagues. Porshia seeks opportunities to expand her knowledge and skills and is well prepared for class and clinical.

“While in the MSN-CNL program, Porshia participated in leadership training, mentoring activities, and community service leadership activities that addressed the needs of disenfranchised groups (homeless, persons of color, those living in poverty). Her commitment to community engagement is exemplified through her involvement in activities such as community health fairs, health screenings, volunteering at a homeless food kitchen, food drives, and the St. Jude run. She believes in being an active, engaged member of the nursing profession.

“In May, at the College of Nursing’s convocation, Mahoro received the Alumni Award, which is bestowed on a student who has displayed genuine enthusiasm for learning and nursing in addition to superior skill in providing patient care and an outstanding ability to interact with peers, patients and staff. Shortly after, Mahoro graduated from her program with highest honors.

“I truly know that I couldn’t have made it without God, and the support of my family and friends,” explains Mahoro. “My husband Jean was my number one supporter throughout nursing school, and my mom was my other huge supporter. Without them, none of what I did would have been possible. There were times when I was totally overwhelmed, but they prayed for me and always reminded me to keep the end goal in mind. As my mother has always told me, ‘You have to do what you’ve got to do, so you can do what you want to do!’”

Her advice for incoming students?

Be organized.

“The content that you are learning is not the issue; it’s the amount of content, and the fact that you have to understand the content well enough to apply it in different situations. Time management became my best friend. It’s also very important to find a good study group that will hold you accountable and keep you in line. “

“Develop good relationships with your instructors,” she continued. “They want you to do well, are willing to help, and can be your greatest assets in your nursing career. I still talk to and seek the advice of my instructors as a new nurse! I truly have a whole team of wonderful mentors. Lastly, be sure to make time for yourself, and the things that are important to you. If you work out, keep working out. If you go to church, keep going. Those are the things that will keep you sane in your toughest moments.”

After graduating, Mahoro has not slowed down. She started a new job as a pediatric oncology nurse.

“I work on the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and I absolutely love it,” said Mahoro. “I feel so blessed to work at such a wonderful place.”

When she has downtime, Mahoro enjoys cooking, singing, volunteering and mentoring, plus spending time with her husband and their “dog-child,” Zeus.

In the fall, Mahoro will be starting school at UTHSC again, this time in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program to become a family nurse practitioner.

“If given the opportunity to advance at St. Jude as a nurse practitioner, that would be my ultimate professional goal,” said Mahoro. “I was accepted at another school for their DNP program, but I just couldn’t pull away from my UTHSC family. My experience at UTHSC has been wonderful. I wouldn’t change it for the world, and I’m looking forward to the years ahead!”