In February, Chancellor Hershel P. Wall announced that the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) has restructured its College of Graduate Health Sciences (CGHS). Founded in 1928, the college offers seven highly sought advanced degree programs and has graduated nearly 1,200 Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, and Master of Dental Science degrees.

Ed Schneider, PhD, interim dean for the CGHS, has stepped down. Dr. Schneider, former associate dean in the CGHS and professor of physiology, came out of retirement 18 months ago to serve as the interim dean. “Ed has served admirably and enthusiastically,” Chancellor Wall said. Cheryl Scheid, PhD, vice chancellor of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs, who serves as the UTHSC provost, has been named interim dean for CGHS until a permanent dean is hired.

Going forward, the Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences (IPBS) will remain part of the College of Graduate Health Sciences but will be overseen by the College of Medicine. “IPBS has been taught by faculty in the basic science departments in the College of Medicine and at St. Jude,” Chancellor Wall noted. “This program has been very ably directed by Dr. Pat Ryan, associate professor of molecular sciences.” With the restructuring, IPBS will now be administered by an associate dean in the UTHSC College of Medicine. The associate dean will oversee all of the graduate programs under the College of Medicine — epidemiology, biomedical engineering and imaging, MD/PhD and IPBS. Those programs in the other colleges of the Health Science Center will remain in place; i.e., students who enroll at UTHSC to earn advanced degrees in Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy will continue to enroll through the CGHS.

“Over the past year, a task force reevaluated the structure of the college and employed the services of external consultants to develop recommendations for restructuring,” Chancellor Wall said. Chaired by Dr. Scheid, the task force was composed of faculty from all six Health Science Center colleges and from St. Jude, which has a long and close association with the graduate school, as well as with members of the administration. It also included representation from the graduate student leadership. Three consultants from the graduate schools of the University of Massachusetts, Vanderbilt and Emory studied the situation, meeting with faculty, students and administrators at UTHSC and St. Jude.

“Although struggling with substantial reductions to the Health Science Center budget, this was not a major factor in our restructuring plan,” Dr. Wall observed. “On the contrary, we are committed to maintaining the integrity of all colleges on our campus throughout the ongoing financial challenge of reduced state appropriations.”

The chancellor added, “We feel that the changes, now reviewed and discussed with all those involved in the CGHS, have ensured the integrity of the college and will significantly enhance the stature of the graduate program here and among our peer institutions.”
As I take over the role of interim dean, I am pleased to report that the College of Graduate Health Sciences at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center remains a vibrant part of the campus, providing a variety of training options for our students. Currently, we offer degrees leading to the Doctor of Philosophy, the Master of Science and the Master of Dental Science through programs in biomedical engineering and imaging, dental science, epidemiology, health outcomes and policy research, the Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences, nursing, and pharmaceutical sciences. Graduates from these programs are moving on to exciting careers in academics, industry, patient care and public service, and we are confident of their future success.

That being said, the college has experienced challenges and changes this year. The fiscal problems in the country have also impacted our college, requiring reductions in our modest administrative budget in order to protect our core mission: the education of students. To meet these challenges, we temporarily combined the duties of graduate school dean with another administrative role – that of vice chancellor for Academic Affairs – and I was asked to assume the combined role. This is a critical time for our college and I will do my utmost to continue to preserve and improve this important component of our campus.

Other changes in the college structure were made following an external review of one of our largest programs, the Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences (IPBS). This program, unlike the other five graduate programs, had been imbedded within the graduate school, creating equity and accountability issues. The change, recommended by the reviewers, was to create additional administrative support for the IPBS and for the other graduate programs offered by faculty in the College of Medicine (COM). The COM is now recruiting an associate dean for Graduate Education to assume this role and provide new leadership for reinvigoration of these programs. Similar external reviews will also be carried out for our other graduate programs to assure that all are of high quality and designed to meet the needs of our students.

Other recent efforts have focused on strengthening our relationship with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, our partner in graduate education. We hope to celebrate this partnership and enhance our outreach to prospective students.

The College of Graduate Health Sciences at UTHSC has plenty to offer, and we hope to engage our alumni to help us make our case. Please contact us – we want to hear from our alumni and friends. We also hope that you will consider giving back to the graduate school – your donations would help to enhance our recruitment and retention efforts and provide additional enrichment opportunities. Our students are our future.

Cheryl Scheid, PhD
Interim Dean
College of Graduate Health Sciences

Cheryl Scheid, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs
The UT Health Science Center
I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share news of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center with you. During a recent meeting with a gubernatorial candidate, I was asked for a wish for our institution. As someone who has been associated with it for more than 52 years – I entered medical school on our Memphis campus in 1957 – I felt qualified to respond. I told the candidate that I hoped our almost century-old institution could be appreciated for its value to this community and state; that it would be recognized for its rich heritage as the state’s flagship organization for producing the state’s workforce of outstanding health care professionals; and that it could be more strongly supported in funding by our state leadership.

I would like to take this occasion to explain what we at the Health Science Center are doing to be worthy of this wish, as well as why now, more than ever, we need the community’s continued support to make it a reality. In a recent address to our faculty, I stressed that even in these uncertain financial times, our six colleges were educationally strong, making aggressive strides in research while being responsive to the health needs of our community and state. Many of us, including our students, are significantly engaged in community service. We as an institution have much for which to be grateful including the support from our hospital partners, foundations and community leaders. I believe we are making progress in telling the story of the Health Science Center – previously the best-kept secret in town.

Yet, these successes are not without trials. We are facing significant challenges as this global financial tsunami affects all of us at some level. In this current fiscal year, we have had a state base budget reduction totaling $7 million, which included the state-mandated reduction last July and a mid-year rescission last October of $4.5 million. We learned earlier in the year that the UT system would face a $66 million reduction in FY 09-10, our HSC’s part totaling more than $15 million.

Our plan to meet this budget cut includes a reduction in force of about 200 non-faculty positions, the elimination of about 300 vacant faculty and staff positions, and the merging, reduction or elimination of various programs. These decisions were based on whether or not the positions and programs were strategically critical to the mission of this institution. Importantly, the plan requires at least a 10 percent across-the-board tuition increase in order to maintain the integrity of all colleges here and across the state.

We will be receiving federal stimulus funds. However, these are only one-time funds that will provide us with an opportunity to better prepare ourselves to withstand the effects of the inevitable major budget reduction in July 2012. Over two years, we will receive approximately $30 million in stimulus funds. The funds will be very tightly controlled, including prohibiting use for salaries and capital outlay (new buildings). They may be used for renovation, modernization or repair of our facilities infrastructure, all sadly in great need.

Since we do not anticipate state funding for critical capital needs in the near future, we will seek funding from the State Bond Authority to allow us to carry debt service, which has to be paid back. We will use these borrowed funds to build a new research facility, as well as a new clinical facility. In addition to seeking funds from the State Bond Authority, we are developing creative means for advancing the progress of the institution including private philanthropy.

Though we face challenging times, we believe great opportunities for future restructuring of our Health Science Center have been created. We will be leaner but more efficient and effective in addressing our strategic missions. As we approach our centennial year — 2011 — we have defined our vision for the future and recently published a strategic plan titled, “The Future of Health Care Today ... its subtitle, “Strategic Planning in a Time of Declining Resources.” We have reinforced the importance of our mission as the flagship campus dedicated to educating the state’s workforce of health care professionals.

We will be ever grateful for your support as we face the difficulties and opportunities ahead. Please keep us in your thoughts as we face these intensely challenging times. We in the Health Science Center family wish you all the best, and we welcome your insights and comments in the months to come.

Hershel P. Wall, MD
Chancellor
The UT Health Science Center
hwall@utmem.edu
UT President Steps Down, Simek Named Interim

On February 27, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees accepted John Petersen’s resignation as president and appointed Jan Simek as acting president.

In his farewell address to the board, Dr. Petersen looked back at the challenges facing him when he was hired in 2004, thanked his staff and offered encouragement as the university faces serious budget reductions.

“We’ve got the spirit. We’ve got the vision. We’ve got the plan. We’ve got the opportunity even though these are tough times,” Dr. Petersen said.

Dr. Simek was acting president March 1 through June 30 while Dr. Petersen was on administrative leave with pay. Dr. Simek became interim president on July 1 and will serve a term not to exceed two years.

Board Vice Chair Jim Murphy commended Dr. Petersen for accomplishing the tasks set before him when he was hired: restoring confidence with the governor, legislators, alumni and donors; filling leadership vacancies; maximizing UT’s relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and increasing fundraising. “He succeeded in all priorities we set. Now he has decided to take another course,” Murphy said. “We thank him for his devotion to the university.”

Dr. Simek, a distinguished professor of anthropology, has been at UT Knoxville since 1984. Previously, he was interim chancellor in Knoxville.

Speech and Hearing Science Program Joins CGHS

Budgetary concerns have been on the forefront this year, prompting a number of structural and operational changes in the university and the CGHS. One of the changes has been the association of the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, based on the Knoxville campus, with the UTHSC College of Allied Health Sciences.

The clinically focused degree programs leading to a master’s in speech pathology and a clinical doctorate in audiology will be housed in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

The research-focused degree program leading to a PhD in speech and hearing science will be included in the CGHS family. The PhD program seeks to develop individuals for professional careers in a variety of positions, including research and college teaching, with primary emphasis on processes involved in normal and disordered speech, language and hearing.

Currently, the program has 18 students, 12 academic faculty, and 19 clinical faculty. Welcome aboard!

UTHSC Mourns Loss of Emeritus Vice Chancellor

William “Bill” Robinson, 79, Emeritus Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, died on April 29 at Baptist Memorial Hospital after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Bill and Sylvia, his wife of 43 years, came to Memphis in 1962 when Bill was hired by the UT Medical Units as assistant director of Student Welfare. That launched a 36-year career with the university which had numerous highlights including the six-year design, planning, and building of the Wassell Randolph Student-Alumni Center and Fitness Center, which Bill then had the responsibility for managing.

He was later appointed vice chancellor for Student Affairs and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1998. Upon his retirement, the university honored him by naming the school’s athletic facility (gymnasium, swimming pool, exercise facilities and racquetball courts) the “William C. Robinson Student Recreation Center.”

“During his decades here, Bill was better known than any other member of the Health Science Center staff,” stated Chancellor Hershel P. Wall. “Naming the athletic building after him was a lasting and appropriate tribute for his many contributions to this university. For years Bill was, for students in all of the colleges, the face of the university while they studied here.”
CGHS Web Site Redesign

The CGHS Web site has recently taken on a new look. The redesign was motivated by campus-wide changes in Web page styles and the fact that, as Web pages age and accumulate information, navigation can become increasingly challenging. The redesign took a systematic approach to the material that students, faculty and staff want and need.

We were fortunate to have a summer research scholar, Grant Bond from Duke University, apply his computer science skills to test a hypothesis that prospective students, graduate students, faculty and staff each sought information on a Web site in a different manner.

With the help of the CGHS staff, Grant had individuals perform two sorts – an open-sort in which the participants were asked to group our Web page materials into categories of their choosing, and a closed-sort in which the participants grouped Web page materials into fixed categories.

Interestingly, Grant found that the participants were surprisingly similar in their organization of the Web materials. Also interesting was how similar graduate students were to faculty as compared to prospective students.

With the study as the foundation for the redesign, we hope that the navigation is more intuitive. This is a work in progress, though, so please send your feedback to dthomaso@utmem.edu.

Barbara Connolly, EdD, DPT, has been appointed the interim dean for the College of Allied Health Sciences. Her appointment became effective in December when William R. Frey, PhD, retired.

Barbara has been a member of the Health Science Center family for more than 35 years. She will work in close collaboration with the leaders of all the Allied Health units to keep the college moving forward until a permanent dean is named.

Dr. Connolly is a professor of physical therapy and has been chair of the Department of Physical Therapy for 21 years. She will continue in these roles while serving as interim dean.

Among her many distinctions, Barbara was recognized by Therapy Times in 2006 as one of its 25 Most Influential in the therapy field and, that same year, she was named one of Memphis Business Journal’s Health Care Heroes, receiving the award as a Health Care Provider – Non-Physician. Under her leadership, the Physical Therapy Department at UTHSC has advanced its degrees offered from Bachelor of Science to Master’s and most recently, to Doctor of Physical Therapy. In addition, she has initiated several advanced-degree programs for previously credentialed practitioners, such as the Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Barbara was a founding member of the American Physical Therapy Association’s (APTA) section of pediatrics and subsequently was president of the section. In 1985, she represented the APTA at the World Rehabilitation Fund (part of the World Health Organization). In 2007, she was elected president of the International Organization of Paediatric Physical Therapists. In recognition of her role as an outstanding mentor for professional and pre-professional students, Dr. Connolly received the 2001 Jeanne Fisher Distinguished Mentorship Award from APTA. As a result of her efforts to establish the first Minority Affairs and Recruitment Advisory Committee for the UTHSC College of Allied Health Sciences, the Physical Therapy Department received the 2000 APTA Diversity Award.

She is a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the APTA and is one of approximately 100 physical therapists in the United States who has earned this designation as recognition of their vision and leadership. Barbara is the only Tennessean to receive this award.

William Frey, who was appointed dean of the college in January 2008 and had served as interim dean since May 2005, was a member of the UTHSC team for five years.
The University of Tennessee will join Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Tennessee Valley Authority as a partner in Governor Phil Bredesen’s proposed Volunteer State Solar Initiative.

UT and ORNL will be home to The Tennessee Solar Institute, one of two projects in the proposed $62.5 million initiative subject to U.S. Department of Energy approval. The Tennessee Solar Institute would receive $31 million of that funding to focus on basic research to improve solar product affordability and efficiency. Also proposed in the initiative is the West Tennessee Solar Farm near Brownsville. This five-megawatt 15-acre power generation facility at the Haywood County industrial mega site will serve as a demonstration tool for educational, research and economic-development purposes.

“Together, UT and Oak Ridge National Laboratory have an unmatched collection of resources and assets,” said UT Acting President Jan Simek. “It’s exciting to consider what we may be able to achieve – for this state, for Tennesseans, and for the energy economy – by putting all of these extraordinary resources to work.”

“With our statewide mission and reach, we are especially proud that UT is helping bring economic development and opportunity to Haywood County in rural West Tennessee.”

ORNL Director Thom Mason added, “Tennessee is taking advantage of a unique opportunity to become a national leader in the solar industry. By leveraging all of the state’s assets on the single goal of making solar energy more affordable, there is a good chance that the Solar Institute will help bring even more jobs to Tennessee.”

Funding for the proposed comprehensive solar-energy and economic-development program would come from federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to advance job creation, education, research and renewable-power production in Tennessee.

The UT-ORNL Joint Institute for Advanced Materials will be home to the Tennessee Solar Institute. The Joint Institute for Advanced Materials will anchor and is to be the first building on the university’s new Cherokee Farm innovation campus. Construction on the previously funded, 132,000-square-foot building is expected to begin in late summer or early fall of 2009.

The Tennessee Solar Institute will take advantage of world-class DOE research assets housed at ORNL, including the Spallation Neutron Source, Center for Nano-phase Materials Sciences and the world’s most powerful supercomputers. It also will take advantage of existing UT faculty with expertise in materials science, of which solar energy research is a discipline. The institute will employ graduate research scholars, postdoctoral fellows and support staff.

Scientists and researchers from UT and ORNL will be engaged in research at the institute to improve the conversion of solar energy into electricity and to increase the capacity of key technologies for storing electrical energy.

In addition to supporting the Solar Institute’s research mission, the Solar Farm will serve as an educational site for students and the public. The farm, which will be located on a site to be determined along Interstate 40, will be Tennessee’s largest solar installation to date and one of the largest in the Southeast. Demonstrating the zero-carbon production of electricity on a highly visible and significant scale could encourage future renewable-energy interest and investments.

Simek added, “We are excited to be part of this proposed initiative, which I believe represents our looking ahead to see the opportunity to make Tennessee a leader.”

Restructuring the MS in Pharmacology

Although a few of the CGHS PhD degree programs do not admit students into a master’s degree track, all do award a terminal master’s degree for students who will not be continuing toward the completion of PhD degree requirements.

With market forces pointing toward the need for a one-year terminal master’s degree (often called Master of Professional Science), the Department of Pharmacology restructured its master’s degree requirements to provide an intense, one-year terminal master’s degree program.

The department worked closely with the Curriculum Committee to ensure the best value to the student with an academically rigorous curriculum. The restructured program offers potential students even more career development options through the CGHS.

To learn more about the master’s in pharmacology degree, please visit http://www.utmem.edu/grad/Programs/index.php?page=Programs.
“The most unselfish and unique gift one can give higher education is to donate your body to medical science,” said Randall J. Nelson, PhD, professor and director of the Anatomy Bequest Program at the UT Health Science Center.

Dr. Nelson, who has taught gross anatomy to first-year medical and physical therapy students and now teaches dental students, explained, “The human body can’t really be replicated in plastic or even on the computer.” Part of what students learn in the process of dissecting a human body is that each has very subtle, some not-so-subtle differences. “Realizing that the actual human body does not necessarily fit the textbook description is the best educational experience for treating real-world patients,” Dr. Nelson added.

Todd Smith, DDS, alumnus and former instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry of the College of Dentistry, had this to say about his experience as a dental student in gross anatomy: “It’s of paramount importance to get hands-on experience. Books can only do so much and the fact is, not all are textbook bodies. For example everybody’s nerves don’t run in the same places.”

“The gross anatomy class is one of the first chances students have to be clinicians,” noted Dr. Nelson. “This class sets students apart from every other discipline.”

People who have ever considered donating their body to science might also consider that it is one gift that does, quite literally, keep on giving. “Each student can play a role in saving lives. If each saves just 10 lives in his or her career or trains 10 students, they have parlayed one donation into impacting hundreds of lives,” Dr. Nelson conjectured.

“The wonder in students is incredible,” added Dr. Nelson, pointing out that students of the health care professions have been learning directly from the human body for more than 100 years.

“The students’ relationship with the cadaver is an intimate one,” recalled Dr. Smith. “We’re with the body every day, and we learn from day one to respect the person who gave their body so we can learn.”

“Most students refer to the cadavers as ‘patients,’” said Dr. Nelson. “In the past, some students have given their patient a memorial service and are very sad to finish the course.”

In the fall approximately 155 medical students are in the gross anatomy class. Spring semester finds 80 dental students, as well as 55 to 70 physical therapy, occupational therapy students and nursing students in the labs. In total, six gross anatomy labs can accommodate eight cadavers each.

With the growing need for health care professionals, larger classes in most of the UT Health Science Center colleges are planned. “We would like to be able to offer more students in more disciplines the experience of the gross anatomy lab today,” noted Dr. Nelson. “The greater challenge will be in the future.”

All of the literature on donating one’s body for medical teaching and research encourages the donor to give the idea a great deal of thought. Discussion with family members, clergy, the family physician and an attorney is encouraged.

The UT Health Science Center operates within the framework of Tennessee laws, which provide for and clarify the rights of those who wish to donate all or parts of their bodies after death to medical science. The administrator of the anatomical bequest program is a licensed funeral director and embalmer. An anatomical diener maintains the lab in appropriate order.

Persons wishing to find out more about donating their bodies to the UT Health Science Center can contact: Anatomy Bequest Program, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, 855 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, TN 38163, or call (901) 448-5978 before 5 p.m. or after 5 p.m., page a Bequest Program representative at (901) 448-2640. Information is online at: http://www.utmem.edu/anatomy-neurobiology/index.php?doc=ABP.htm.

Our Students Serve the Community

CGHS students recognize that they are threads in the fabric of local community and give freely of the little spare time that they have available. Among the contributions the students made to the community were participation in building projects with the Memphis Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a clothing drive, a blood drive, a food drive and several trips to Zion Cemetery to help maintain the grounds of this historic site. In addition, our students helped as judges in the Memphis-Shelby County Elementary Science Fair and raised money for research in the American Heart Association Heart Walk. However, it is not all work and no play. CGHS students won championships in intramural coed volleyball and basketball!
On May 29th at the FedEx Forum UTHSC held its 98th graduation, with 614 students collecting their health care credentials. The commencement ceremonies were conducted and degrees conferred by Chancellor Hershel P. Wall. Alongside the graduates being honored were nine of the university’s professors who were awarded endowments for various chairs and professorships.

The ceremony also featured Methodist Health-care CEO Gary Shorb as the guest speaker. Commenting on the relationship between Methodist and UT, Shorb called the partnership “mutually beneficial and key to us achieving our vision of being the best.” In his speech he stressed Methodist Le Bonheur’s important link to UTHSC saying, “When you look at the top 25 hospitals in the country, every one is owned by, or affiliated with, a strong academic enterprise committed to research, education and clinical care.” Shorb described for the graduates the three features that he believes separate good health care professionals from great ones: collaboration, compassion and giving back to the community. “These are true regardless of what happens with health care reform, and I am confident at this point no one knows what that will look like. We will have reform but these traits will still define the best.”

Shorb highlighted the ability to work and be part of a team, the desire to foster open communication and mutual respect. He praised those who use collaboration to truly provide outstanding care because they work in tandem not just with the health care team but with the families of their patients. Collaborators always take time with their patients and their families. Collaborators recognize that “many are smarter than one and they take advantage of the collective intellect of the team.”

Great health care professionals also consistently demonstrate compassion. He said that all of the graduates “possess a certain level of compassion just by choosing health care as your life’s profession. Ultimately for patients and their families, it is our compassion that helps them through difficult times... Sometimes small but thoughtful gestures are all that’s needed.” He relayed the story of a palliative care nurse whose compassion for patients and their loved ones made it possible for a couple who had been married for 64 years to share a final photo together even though one was wheelchair bound and the other bedridden.

The final trait he ascribed to all great health care professionals is the ability and willingness to give back. He named Church Health Center founder Dr. Scott Morris as an example of someone who created a way for himself and dozens of other health care professionals to give back to the Memphis community. With some 60,000 patients who would not be able to afford traditional health coverage, the Church Health Center and its more than 600 volunteers play a vital role in serving Memphis families. Shorb then mentioned a certain pediatrician who has organized the scheduling of volunteers for the Church Health Center for the past 21 years. And when volunteers can’t be found, that physician takes on the work himself. That volunteer and organizer is UTHSC Chancellor Pat Wall whom Shorb referred to as a “magnificent professional... We are all pleased and grateful for what he’s done for our community.”

The nine UTHSC faculty members whose dedication and diligence earned endowed professorships or chairs received special hoods and certificates to commemorate their honors.

- Samuel E. Dagogo-Jack, MD – A.C. Mullins Professorship in Translational Research
- Matthew Ennis, PhD – Simon R. Bruesch Professorship in Anatomy
- James C. Fleming, MD, FACS – Philip M. Lewis Professorship in Ophthalmology
- Donna K. Hathaway, PhD – Ruth Neil Murry Chair in Nursing
- Natalie C. Kerr, MD, FACS – Roger L. Hiatt Professorship in Ophthalmology
- Abbas E. Kitabchi, MD, PhD – Maston K. Callison Professorship
- Giancarlo Mari, MD – Baptist Memorial Healthcare Clinical Professorship in Maternal/Fetal Medicine
- Guy L. Reed, MD – Lemuel W. Diggs Professorship in Medicine
- Robert W. Williams, PhD – Governor’s Chair in Computational Genomics

Each of the 614 graduates and the nine faculty members who crossed the stage to be recognized and to shake hands with the leadership of the university has made a commitment to being a resource – a commitment to improving the lives of others. And although the new graduates and faculty are in very different phases of their careers, that shared commitment to the well-being and health of others is the tie that binds.
Meet Our Graduates

The CGHS has an enviable record for students completing their degrees, as well as students completing in a timely manner. This year was no exception! Our graduates are listed below.

Beginning this year, UTHSC has suspended formal commencement exercises in December for budgetary reasons. Nonetheless, students will still complete and receive their degrees according to each of their schedules. Diplomas will be issued on a regular basis for students who do not receive them at the May commencement exercises. Participation in the May commencement exercises remains mandatory unless the student is granted a waiver from the dean.

December 2008

Doctor of Philosophy
Om Anand, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Elizabeth Ann Chismark, Nursing
Shuyu E, Physiology
Yu Fukuda, Interdisciplinary
Katy Garth, Nursing
JaWanda Grant, Interdisciplinary
Heather Hall, Nursing
Kirk Hefener, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Sarah Kathleen Hill, Molecular Sciences
Sarah Lynn Hurley, Health Sciences Administration
Yi Jin, Molecular Sciences
Chad Mire, Molecular Sciences
Mayola Rowser, Nursing
Haopeng Wang, Interdisciplinary
Yu Zhao, Anatomy

Master of Science
Nancy Anderson, Epidemiology
Amanda Ruth Chapman, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Hana Hakim, Epidemiology
Abbie Hayes-Hartge, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Kartikeya Iyer, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Braden Kimball, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
Jason Roberson, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
Elizabeth Sanders, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
John Simmons, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
Timothy Sullivan, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Akshata Udyavar, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Geneva Vasser, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Jason Brett Wilson, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Nephi Zufelt, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging

May 2009

Doctor of Philosophy
Ramy Raafat Naguib Attia, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Nageshwar R. Budha, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Shereeha Dale Cherry, Anatomy and Neurobiology
Bahram Dahi, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
Harish Raghuram Desu, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dian Dowling Evans, Nursing
Kelly Kristin Filipski, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Belinda D. Fleming, Nursing
Queen Obiageli Henry-Onyia, Nursing
Valerie Malvany Jansen, Molecular Sciences
Timothy Daniel Kayes, Interdisciplinary
Shirleatha Taylor Lee, Nursing
Wendy Michelle Likes, Nursing
Engy Abdulhameed Mahrous, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Rosemary Ann McLaughlin, Nursing
Christopher Bruce Miller, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Khyobeni Mozhui, Anatomy and Neurobiology
Stella Enyichi Nwokeji, Nursing
Nicholas S. Phillips, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
Bridget Katrina Robinson, Nursing
Erin Renee Phillips Shull, Interdisciplinary
Carol L. Warren, Health Sciences Administration
Christy Marie Wilson, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
Min Zhuang, Interdisciplinary

Master of Dental Science
Swati Amitkumar Ahuja, Prosthodontics
Owais Ali Farooqi, Periodontics
Jonathan Michael Hart, Prosthodontics
Jason Todd Primm, Periodontics
David Justin Sander, Orthodontics
John R. Zang-Bodis, Orthodontics

Master of Science
Katherine Ann Ayers, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Troylyn Lateria Braud, Epidemiology
Fang Lei, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Alicia Beatriz Rodriguez, Epidemiology
Thomas Spentzas, Epidemiology
Holly Lynn Spraker, Epidemiology
Michelle Athryn Taylor, Epidemiology
Angela Ann Tomozzi, Epidemiology
Peter Yung-Chung Wong, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
The 2009 Graduate Research Day, held May 8, was once again an outstanding program of student and thematic presentations. Seventeen students presented posters of their research in the Student-Alumni Center, generating considerable interest and discussion. This year’s theme was translational research.

A panel discussion in the morning gave our graduate students the opportunity to hear an extraordinary group of scientists give examples of career paths that have led to successful benchtop-to-bedside research. The panel consisted of Dennis Black, MD, Department of Pediatrics and Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center; P. David Rogers, PharmD, PhD, FCCP, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center; and Victor Santana, MD, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. James Dale, MD, director of the UT Clinical and Translational Science Institute and professor of Medicine, gave the keynote address in which he provided insights into translational research with examples from his work.

All of the students who participated showcased the excellent research that our CGHS students traditionally conduct during the course of their careers.

Ivelina Jurkowski, a dental science graduate student, was awarded second place in the Basic Science Category of the Billy Pennel Research Competition sponsored by the Southern Academy of Periodontology. Her research project was titled “Statins Regulate IL-1beta Induced RANKL and OPG Production in Human Gingival Fibroblasts.”
Students Share Their Research

The College of Graduate Health Sciences is proud of the research performed by its students and supports them in communicating their research with travel awards from the John Autian Student Enrichment Fund. The travel awards help our students defray the cost of presenting their research at national and international meetings. Students who received travel awards this year are listed below, along with the titles of their research presentations and meetings attended.

Nageshwar Budha, Pharmaceutical Sciences
2008 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting
“An In Vitro PK/PD Model for Slow-growing Microorganisms to Determine Time-kill Curves for Dosing Regimens of Anti-mycobacterial Drugs”

Hari Desu, Pharmaceutical Sciences
2008 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting
“Development and Lyophilization of Methylprednisolone Entrapped RGD-peptide Conjugated Liposomes”

Brahm Dhillon, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
25th Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference 2009
“Biomechanical Testing of Posterior Lumbar Stabilization Systems”

John Fisher, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
14th International p53 Workshop
“Structural-based Mechanism for PUMA-mediated Release of Cytosolic p53 from Bcl-xL”

Belinda Fleming, Nursing
23rd Annual Southern Nursing Research Society Conference
“Effect of Fitness on Metabolic Syndrome Markers, HRV, and Inflammation in Obese African-American Youth”

Kyle Fraysur, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
25th Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference 2009
“Use of a Spine Robot to Simulate Pure Moment Testing for Spine Biomechanics”

Arijit Ganguli, Health Outcomes and Policy Research
International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 14th Annual International Meeting
“Does Combining Antiretroviral Agents in a Single Dosage Form (Co-formulations) Enhance Quality of Life of HIV/AIDS Patients – a Cost Utility Study”

Rebecca Glatt, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
31st Annual Association of Chemoreception Sciences Meeting
“Mouse Strain Differences in Conditioned Taste Aversion Formation, Generalization and Extinction Using a Self-administration Paradigm”

Meghan Hufstader, Health Outcomes and Policy Research
International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 14th Annual International Meeting
“Metabolic Syndrome Risk Factors for Native Born and First Generation Adolescents (12-17) in the United States”

Haeman Jang, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Neuroscience
“Does H5N1 Influenza Virus Induce Encephalitis and Parkinsonism in the Mammalian CNS?”

Shirleatha Lee, Nursing
23rd Annual Southern Nursing Research Society Conference
“Comparison of Manual 12-lead Electrocardiogram Analysis and Computerized Holter Analysis of QT Interval Duration in Overweight-obese Youth: a Pilot Study”

Xin Liu, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
American Association of Immunology
“Analysis of Regulator and Effector T Cell Repertoires During MOG-EAE”

Fei Ma, Pharmaceutical Sciences
2008 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting
“Preclinical Pharmacokinetics of EDL-2, a Novel Agent for the Treatment of Glioblastoma”

Damodaran Narayan, Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences
Experimental Biology Meeting
“IP3 Receptors Stimulate Mitochondrial-dependent TRPC1 Expression through NF-kB Activation in Arterial Smooth Muscle Cells”

Stella Nwokeji, Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Meeting
“An Integrative Research Review on Global Perspective of Practitioner Role in Rural Areas”

Karen Sedacki, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
25th Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference 2009
“Does Placement of the Axis of Rotation of the Cervical Spine Affect Mechanics during Flexion and Extension?”

Varun Vaidya, Health Outcomes and Policy Research
International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 14th Annual International Meeting
“Racial Disparities in Utilization of Asthma Controller Drug Therapy”

Zhao Wang, Pharmaceutical Sciences
2008 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting
“Novel Thiazole Derivatives as Potent and Selective Broad-Spectrum Anticancer Agents”

Daniel Wido, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
25th Southern Biomedical Engineering Conference 2009
“Biomechanical Comparison of Lumbar Disc Prostheses: Prodisc-L, Charite, and Maverick Disc Implant Systems”

Janice Zawaski, Biomedical Engineering and Imaging
54th Annual Radiation Research Society Meeting
“Radiation Induced Changes in the Peritumoral Microenvironment”

In addition, CGHS students have not only been busy presenting their work at meetings, they have also been successful in having their work published. Our students have 63 papers either in print or soon-to-be published this year.
Faculty Update

David L. Armbruster, PhD, has stepped down as the associate dean for Academic Affairs after many years of invaluable service to the CGHS. Among Dr. Armbruster’s many accomplishments is the smooth and deliberate transition to electronic theses and dissertations (ET/D). Dr. Armbruster is now able to devote more time to scientific editing and remains chair of the UTHSC Academic Ceremonies Committee. Larry Tague was appointed to fill Dr. Armbruster’s role as assistant dean for Academic Affairs. Larry has also been instrumental in the transition to ET/Ds and chairs the ET/D task force advisory group.

Denis DiAngelo, PhD, and Brian Kelly, PhD, faculty in the Biomedical Engineering and Imaging program, were finalists in the Health Care Innovations category at the 2008 Memphis Business Journal Health Care Heroes Awards for their development of the spine robot.

P. David Rogers, PharmD, PhD, FCCP, was recently appointed as the new associate dean for Translational Research in the College of Pharmacy. Translational research merges basic and clinical investigations into new therapies for use in the marketplace.

As associate dean, Dr. Rogers will act as liaison between the College of Pharmacy and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). CTSI is the system for transforming basic and clinical science into novel health care treatments in our communities. He will focus on the design of a graduate program in translational and clinical research, and will evaluate both clinical and translational research initiatives. Dr. Rogers will also evaluate educational efforts within the College of Pharmacy.

In addition to acting as associate dean, Dr. Rogers will retain his current UTHSC responsibilities, all of which relate to Translational Research. He is professor and vice chair of research for the College of Pharmacy’s Department of Clinical Pharmacy. He also holds joint appointments in the College of Pharmacy’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the College of Medicine’s departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Sciences.

Reese Scroggs, PhD, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, assumed the chair of the CGHS Curriculum Committee. Dr. Scroggs works closely with program faculty to advance the academic quality of courses and programs within the college.

Robert W. Williams, PhD, has been appointed to the Governor’s Chair in computational genomics at UTHSC and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
(ORNL). The appointment is the first governor’s chair in this area of specialty to be awarded to a researcher on the UTHSC and ORNL campuses. Dr. Williams is also the Dunavant chair of Developmental Genetics in Pediatrics and professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at UTHSC.

Governor’s chairs are prestigious appointments established by the University of Tennessee and ORNL. The appointments are given to leaders in science to develop and direct research programs that benefit both institutions. Dr. Williams’ appointment to the Governor’s Chair is a milestone in a long and highly productive collaboration between UT and ORNL in genetics and biomedical research. Awarding a Governor’s Chair to a scientist at UTHSC will solidify and enrich collaborations between UTHSC and world-class research programs at ORNL in computer science, biology, materials science and energy.

Over the past decade, Dr. Williams has worked closely with colleagues at ORNL in the Systems Genetics and Computational Biology groups. “We have already accomplished great things by collaborating with ORNL at the interface of genetics, radiation biology, computer science, and health science,” Dr. Williams said. “This appointment provides me a much better opportunity to expand collaborations between ORNL and UTHSC. Bridging missions can be highly rewarding. The recent success of the Tennessee Mouse Genome Consortium is one example, and we need to replicate this success,” he stated.

**Professors Blatteis and Nishimura Retire**

In December, the Department of Physiology celebrated the retirement of two distinguished professors, Clark M. Blatteis, PhD, and Hiroko Nishimura, MD, DMSc. Dr. Blatteis served the university for 42 years while Dr. Nishimura has been with the university for 35 years.

**UTHSC Revises Mission Statement**

In June, the UT Board of Trustees approved a revised UTHSC mission statement. The new mission statement is in direct alignment with the UTHSC strategic plan.

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.
Construction Update on RBL, Pharmacy Buildings

RBL Brings Opportunity to Memphis

The grand opening of the new Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL) on the UTHSC campus means more job opportunities for Memphians skilled in biomedical research and technology. Researchers, technicians, lab assistants, facilities support personnel and administrators will work in the 30,315 square foot building, working to fight naturally occurring infectious diseases and to protect citizens against bioterrorist attacks. Each position created by the RBL will require unique training and Mid-Southerners should prepare now.

Memphians of all ages interested in science can become a part of the immense UTHSC research enterprise by honing their skills in scientific studies and technology. “Science and technology courses at college and graduate school levels can prepare individuals for solid careers in biomedical research and technology,” said UTHSC Chancellor Hershel P. Wall. “Now is the time for high school students to plan ahead by taking as many classes as possible in biology, chemistry and computer technology. We are actively informing local students that career opportunities will be available for those who are ready for the new biomedical and biotechnology era.”

“Initially, we plan to hire about 120 research and trade professionals over the next two to three years, and that number will increase as our efforts continue,” said Gerald Byrne, PhD, UTHSC professor and chair of molecular sciences, and director of the RBL. He added, “The RBL is an important achievement for Memphis, because it opens the door for our partner hospitals, schools, higher education institutions, corporations, and citizenry to engage in biomedical research and technology, the future of science and medicine.”

The RBL’s grand opening celebration was supported by Congressman Steve Cohen, as well as representatives from the City of Memphis Office of the Mayor, the Shelby County Health Department and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). “It’s truly an honor and a privilege to share this event with University of Tennessee community because we’re not only celebrating today, but looking ahead to the value this facility will bring to this community and the region, as well as the entire nation,” stated Michael G. Kurilla, MD, PhD, associate director for BioDefense Product Development for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

The RBL is funded by the NIH and is located on the UT-Baptist Research Park, adjacent to the UT Health Science Center campus in the Memphis Medical Center.
On February 14, 2008, the theme for Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center’s groundbreaking was Valentine’s Day red. The crowd watched as children — current and former patients — shoveled a heart-shaped mound with small, red, heart-shaped shovels. A larger red heart of Le Bonheur employees encircled the audience. Guests wearing red commemorative scarves adorned with the words “Le Builder” joined with choirs from local schools to sing rousing versions of “You Raise Me Up” and “We are the World.”

The large turnout included local commissioners and Mayor Willie W. Herenton. The crowd also enjoyed video greetings from Tennessee senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, as well as words from UT Health Science Center Chancellor Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD. The chancellor expressed his appreciation to Le Bonheur as a valued partner as the practice site for many of UTHSC’s faculty and residents. In addition, Dr. Wall said, “How fitting on Valentine’s Day, a day to honor the great hearts who lovingly devoted their lives and careers to this institution over the past 55 years. With this new planned edifice and its superb leadership, Le Bonheur will move, not from good to great but from great to greater.”

In closing, everyone joined musician Eddie Harrison in a moving chorus of “Oh Happy Day.”

The 610,000-square-foot, 12-story hospital will be the result of the largest public campaign in Memphis ever, as well as the largest investment by a nonprofit organization in a free-standing facility in Shelby County. To date more than $87.1 million has been raised toward the $100 million fundraising goal.

The $327 million hospital has been designed around needs of children and their families. When it opens in 2010, the new Le Bonheur will double its current space for patient care, research and teaching.
On September 22, 2008, UT President John Petersen arrived in Memphis to lead a very special event — the inaugural dinner of the Hershel P. Wall, M.D., Legacy Society. Eighty-five Legacy Society members, the Memphis-area UT trustees, and UTHSC leaders joined the celebration at The University Club.

“You all represent a special organization of supporters who have demonstrated your vision and commitment to the future of education and health care by including UTHSC in your estate plans,” stated Dr. Petersen. Legacy gifts can be made by naming UT as a beneficiary of a will, charitable trust, gift annuity, insurance policy, or retirement plan.

“These types of gift commitments have an inherently special meaning because you are equating UT to a family member,” he observed. “Your gifts will help us sustain the proud tradition of teaching, research, patient care and public service, all of which make a tremendous, positive difference in the lives of so many throughout Tennessee and across the region.”

Dr. Petersen noted that naming the society for Chancellor Wall was a natural decision. “Pat sets a wonderful example for others, demonstrating true leadership and exemplary service to the Health Science Center. He truly embodies the spirit and ideals of the Legacy Society.”

Accepting this recognition and a commemorative gift from the university, Chancellor Wall stated, “In honoring me in this lasting and meaningful way, you also challenge me as well. When one receives recognition such as this — which seems undeserved — one has to earn it so I will have to work hard to do just that.

“I have been blessed to have served this place for half a century in one capacity or another. The wonderful students, residents, physician peers in the College of Medicine and now my superb colleagues here and across the state in our flagship health science institution have greatly enriched my professional life. To all of them, I am grateful.”

For information on how you can become a founding member of the Hershel P. Wall, M.D., Legacy Society, contact Bethany Goolsby at (901) 448-4941 or bgoolsby@utmem.edu.

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**Campaign for Tennessee Celebration a Success**

On May 30, Chancellor Hershel P. Wall and his wife Jean welcomed “American Idol” Top 10 contestant Lil Rounds (center) to the Memphis campus for the Campaign for Tennessee Celebration. That evening the university announced that it has raised $99,585,662 or 77 percent of its $130 million goal. The funds are part of the five-year $1 Billion Campaign for Tennessee. The UT system total when this issue went to press was more than $852 million.
The University of Tennessee’s telephone fundraising campaign is proof that gifts of all sizes can make a difference.

For the first time, UT’s Telefund has reached $1 million in pledges for a single fiscal year, which is considered a benchmark for programs that contact potential donors by telephone. The pledge total is $1.1 million, and it will count toward the $1 Billion Campaign for Tennessee.

Part of the UT Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving, the Telefund has recorded 10,349 pledges this year, also a record for the 24-year-old program. The average gift was $97.94. Last year, there were 8,324 pledges for an average of $96.

“This milestone attests to the power a large number of people can achieve by pledging gifts of any size. It means $1 million more for UT programs across the state,” said Kerry Witcher, assistant vice president for alumni affairs and annual giving.

The Telefund begins every year in August and ends at spring commencement. About 60 student workers are hired each year to call alumni and ask for pledges.

This year, the calling shifts were expanded from three hours to four hours a night. Students work from 6 to 10 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

While the Telefund is operated in Knoxville, calls are made to alumni from every campus. The Telefund is centrally located to take advantage of one automated dialing system and staffing. Donors can allocate their pledge to any campus or program.

The Telefund, begun in 1985, has raised $8.1 million and logged 768,000 completed calls.

The Campaign for Tennessee so far has reached $825 million. The campaign’s silent phase launched in 2005 and will run through 2011.

In February, UTHSC launched its new “Right Here in Memphis” ad campaign, which has generated more than 3.7 million impressions and significantly increased traffic to the UTHSC home page. This ad, produced in honor of the 2009 graduating class, appeared on local TV Websites, on Google Network sites and in selected print media.
Deborah Harmon Hines (Anatomy, PhD, 1977) is vice provost for School Services and a professor of cell biology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Harmon Hines has been a driving force in developing a diverse biomedical research and health care workforce reflecting the community. For more than 25 years, she has worked to ensure that children from the underserved communities in Worcester, Mass., gain the science and math literacy necessary to thrive as members of the workforce, particularly in health science and science careers. Dr. Hines has led the charge to develop and manage several programs that have reached more than 15,000 local students every year since 1989. She has also been recognized by the National Conference for Community and Justice for her exemplary contributions to the greater Worcester area.

Jack Lancaster, Jr. (Biochemistry, PhD, 1974) is a professor in the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) departments of Anesthesiology, Environmental Health Sciences, and Physiology and Biophysics. Dr. Lancaster has been named a William A. Lell, MD/Paul N. Samuelson, MD, endowed professor in anesthesiology.

Dr. Lancaster is an international expert in the biological applications of nitric oxide (NO), a colorless gas widely studied for its medical and biological benefits. NO can be toxic to humans if breathed in high doses without medical supervision. His research focuses on the dynamics of NO in blood and tissue, and on the role of NO in injury, tissue inflammation, infection and heart attacks. He is a co-founder of the Nitric Oxide Society and the editor-in-chief of the journal Nitric Oxide: Chemistry and Biology.

Dr. Lancaster holds three professor positions at UAB, including his primary appointment in anesthesiology. He is also a member of the UAB Center for Free Radical Biology.

Fourth Annual Search for the Healthy City

Join us for the Search for the Fourth Annual Healthy City on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Participants have a unique opportunity to discuss classics of medical history and modern health services research in a location rich with historical interest. Knowledgeable faculty and participants from a variety of backgrounds combine their insights to apply the teachings of history to health care organization in the 21st century.

Readings and seminars will complement guided tours of ancient and modern health facilities in Italy. After a day and night in Rome, the main seminar location will be Lloyd’s Baia Hotel, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, in Vietri sul Mare. This location provides convenient access for course-related tours and for optional activities during free time. Some course tours include the ancient medicinal garden and medical school in Salerno, the temple of Asklepios in Paestum, and archeological sites in Pompeii. We will also spend two nights on the Island of Ischia at a thermal spa resort.

For a complete itinerary, faculty listing, and registration information, please visit http://www.utmem.edu/gim/documents/Italy2009emailattachmentMay1209.pdf.

We’re Turning 100!

As UTHSC approaches its centennial year in 2011, the university is in the early stages of planning for this momentous occasion. Special events, a commemorative Web site, and coffee table book are just a few of the items slated for this year-long celebration.

Be a part of this celebration by contributing any historical photos, personal reflections, or artifacts that you may have from your time at UTHSC. Alumni are also needed as volunteers to search local library files for data pertinent to UTHSC history.

Please contact Richard Nollan in the Health Sciences Historical Collections at (901) 448-6053, rnollan@utmem.edu.
Robert Looby Bowe (Clinical Physiology, PhD, 1960) passed away on August 11, 2008, at his home in Henrico County. Bob’s devoted wife of 51 years, Mary Ellen Bowe, was by his side at his passing. He attended Boston Latin School and graduated from Boston College where he received his BS and MS degrees in physiology. He earned his PhD in clinical physiology from the University of Tennessee Medical College. He then taught pharmacology and pathophysiology at the then Medical College of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C., and for 27 years at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, retiring in 1991.

Patricia A. Garay (Clinical Chemistry, PhD, 1976) passed away on March 12, 2009, at the age of 72. She retired as director of laboratories for The Med after 28 years of service. Dr. Garay continued to work at The Med as a volunteer at the gift shop.

Maston Kennerly Callison, MD, died at his home on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at the age of 91, after a long and fulfilling life. As dean of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine from 1958 until 1970, he was credited with initiating changes that significantly enhanced the quality of teaching and research at the college. Among them was the establishment of a complement of full-time teaching faculty which itself developed training programs in medical and surgical specialties that received national endorsement and attention. He was also a driving force behind the development of both the William F. Bowld Hospital as the university’s primary teaching hospital and the James K. Dobbs Research Center, as well as the move of the Veterans Administration Hospital from its wartime Getwell location to the Medical Center where it could be better integrated into the teaching curriculum.

He conceptualized and helped to develop the Mid-South Medical Center Council, an organization designed to coordinate the community’s resources and its health needs. He was also a tireless worker for several community health-related agencies and governmental commissions. For his service to his community, Dr. Callison received a number of awards. Three of which he was proudest were the L.M. Graves Memorial Health Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Health; the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Medical Association; and the first Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honor society for medical students, residents, and physicians, of which he was a member.

From boyhood in Knoxville, Dr. Callison wanted to become a doctor and never wavered from that goal, ultimately graduating from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in 1939. After a year of internship he completed a fellowship program at the University of Pennsylvania and returned to Memphis for residency training at the John Gaston Hospital, forerunner of today’s The Med, where he served as chief resident before his deployment to the European theater. As a captain in the Army medical corps, he became assistant chief medical officer of the American hospital in Berlin after Germany fell and earned a commendation for his service. In 1947 Dr. Callison returned from Germany, established his private practice of internal medicine in Memphis and joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine.

Seven years later, he was appointed chairman of the medical board of the John Gaston Hospital. At the age of 41, he was called into the office of Dr. Hyman, then dean of the College of Medicine and vice-president of the Medical Units, and offered the deanship. With some trepidation he accepted, but only on the condition that he be permitted to continue practicing medicine after normal working hours, for he believed he could be a good medical school administrator only if he kept current in his field, and he also could not bring himself to entirely abandon his profession and his patients. Dr. Hyman agreed but only if Dr. Callison turned over his practice income to the university, to avoid a conflict of interest. And, so, the deal was struck. After retiring as dean in 1970, he continued practicing internal medicine in Memphis for another 26 years, 49 years total, commonly putting in 75 hour weeks and making house calls until his retirement.