UTHSC, Methodist Announce Nursing Partnership

Methodist Healthcare and The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) have announced a unique partnership between the health system’s School of Nursing and the university’s College of Nursing. The partnership’s primary purpose is to enhance the delivery of nursing care by offering educational opportunities ranging from pursuit of an entry-level bachelor’s degree in nursing, continuing on with the master’s degree and concluding with the doctoral degree.

According to Methodist Healthcare senior vice president and chief nurse executive, Donna Herrin, MSN, RN, CNAA, CHE, the transition for the Methodist diploma program has already begun. In its place will be a new and innovative program creating a career path that will enable individuals to enter the educational continuum at different points with minimum redundancies.

“Like all hospitals across the country, Methodist Healthcare feels the impact of a national nursing shortage; therefore, it is essential that this program be implemented as soon as possible to meet workplace demands, as well as deliver the highest level of patient care and safety,” said Herrin. “Implementing innovative educational programs like this will enable us to reach our goal for quality patient outcomes.”

Dean of The UTHSC College of Nursing, Donna K. Hathaway, PhD, RN, FAAN, commented, “UTHSC has been focused on graduate education, and this new program will offer a comprehensive educational continuum. Although the partnership will become effective immediately, a transition will occur over the next two years as Methodist graduates their last diploma class in 2005. With support from Methodist, we will begin the process of designing a new curriculum to reinstate our entry-level bachelor’s in nursing program and integrate it more closely with our master’s and doctoral programs.”

UTHSC Interim Chancellor, Jim Gibb Johnson, MD, said, “This is one more way we can affiliate with Methodist Healthcare to ensure our students are provided the best educational experiences possible. We are also pleased to have Methodist School of Nursing graduates become members of our alumni association. We welcome them as a vital part of the UT family; and hopefully, this new, innovative career path will provide them opportunities to further their education.”

UTHSC Supports Heart Walk

A UTHSC team, the Heartbeats, will support the American Heart Association (AHA) by participating in the Tenth Annual AHA Heart Walk, Saturday, Sept. 13, with registration at AutoZone Park. The schedule for the day is:

8 am  Late registration and continental breakfast  
9 am  Walk through downtown  
10 am  Lunch from Subway  
11 am  4-inning baseball game with local celebrities

To volunteer to work at an AHA booth, contact Billye Massey at 572-4209. Those planning to walk or work at one of the AHA booths should send their name, department, campus address, and phone number to pvanhoozer@utmem.edu AHA contributions should be sent to Pat VanHoozer, 910 Madison, Suite 600, by Monday, September 8.
Dentistry Launches Outreach Initiative

Offering community oral screenings, improving dental health awareness, and developing and implementing research activities are the goals of the new Tennessee Smiles: UT Grassroots Oral Health Outreach Initiative. The outreach initiative is being coordinated by the UTHSC College of Dentistry, and its immediate focus is obtaining national funding, according to Waletha Wasson, DDS, associate professor.

“Faculty in the College of Dentistry have been participating in dental screening for years, but with a name, comes a focus,” said Dr. Wasson. “It’s time to take a look at some of the things we are doing, and see how we can improve our public service.”

Core faculty participating in Tennessee Smiles include Marjorie Woods, DDS, Mary Aubertin, DMD, and Maurice Lewis, DDS. Mark Anderson, DDS, Tamara Gravely, DDS, and John King, DDS, are recent partners in the initiative.

Assisting with the research activities is Bettina Beech, PhD, of the University of Memphis, who also serves as director of public health research at the UTHSC Center on Health Disparities.

UTHSC Offers Child Care on Campus

For UTHSC parents with children between the ages of six months and five years, finding quality child care is no more difficult than bringing their kids to campus. The UT Child Care Program, located at 711 Jefferson, offers high-quality child care at competitive prices.

Weekly costs range from $175 for infants 6 to 14 months, $160 for toddlers 15 months to 3 years, and $150 for pre-kindergartners 3 to 5.

“I don’t think you could find a better group of people to take care of your children in this city,” said Marsha Ewart, director of the program. “We truly offer exceptional child care here, with all the advantages of being on a university campus.”

One such advantage is free health and developmental evaluations from UT and University of Memphis students studying language, speech and hearing, nursing and other disciplines.

Each classroom is staffed by at least two teachers, who have an average of nine years experience. Class sizes are kept to the National Association for the Education of Young Children standard, which requires fewer students in each class than Tennessee standards. The program has been awarded three stars by the state, the highest possible ranking for a childcare facility.

The teachers advance children to higher levels based on individual development, rather than age. As the children progress, they are prepared for kindergarten through exercises that develop skills in language, mathematics, art and Spanish, to name a few.

Also, the teachers have experience with international children and welcome those who speak no English.

“Surprisingly, we have openings in every age range right now,” said Ewart. “But I don’t expect those spots to last long.”

The UT Child Care Program is open to all children, not just those whose parents are affiliated with UT. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Marsh Ewart at 448-4926 or at mewart@utmem.edu for more information.
People

Methodist Healthcare senior vice president and chief nurse executive, Donna Herrin, MSN, RN, CNA, CHE, was appointed the UTHSC College of Nursing Assistant Dean of Nursing for Methodist Healthcare. As a part of the College of Nursing leadership, she will be involved with the establishment of the new program and continued collaborative relationships between the two entities.

Susan Jacob, PhD, RN, who has served as Dean and Professor of the Union University School of Nursing since 1999, will be joining the university effective September 15 to establish and implement the educational continuum that is being developed through the nursing partnership with Methodist Healthcare. Prior to working with Union, she was with the Memphis Loewenberg School of Nursing for 15 years.

Blazej Zbytek, MD, a post doctoral research trainee under the supervision of Andrzej Slominski, MD, department of pathology, was awarded a $50,000 training grant from the Johnson & Johnson Skin Research Center for his project entitled, “Role of CRH in the Regulation of Keratinocyte Functions.”

Ramy Karam Aziz, a fourth-year graduate student in the department of molecular sciences and surgery, has recently received prestigious awards from both the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy and the American Society for Microbiology in recognition of his research on flesh-eating diseases.

Rodney Franklin, P-3, has been appointed public liaison for the Student National Pharmacy Association (SNPhA). Besides coordinating the national newsletter and the website, he will be the primary communications contact for community and other minority organizations.

UT Elects Johnson as Interim President

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees has elected Joseph E. Johnson, PhD, to serve as interim UT president.

Johnson will serve until a new president is named. Dr. John W. Shumaker resigned as president Aug. 8.

“I have great affection for this institution that I have been involved with since 1966,” said Dr. Johnson. “I said to the Board of Trustees that if they thought I could come back for a brief time I would be glad to do that. I have said to the governor and everybody who has talked to me that I hope it will be a short period of time. We need a good, solid, long-term president who will be engaged in the process.

“Obviously, this unexpected change in my university role would impact my lifestyle and plans. Pat and I thoroughly enjoyed the last four years, but we also are devoted deeply to UT.

UT has been a strong force in the State of Tennessee for more than 200 years. It has excellent students, faculty and staff; generous donors; great alumni; and many other wonderful supporters throughout the Volunteer State. I look forward to continuing to help make a great university even better.”

An Alabama native, Johnson earned master’s and doctoral degrees at UT.

He first served UT administratively as executive assistant to UT President Andy Holt. In his 40-year career, Johnson has held almost every top UT administrative position, including vice president for development, chancellor of the Health Science Center and executive vice president.

Under his presidency, UT’s 21st Century Campaign raised more than $430 million.

Births

Amy Kaiser, special events, announces the birth of her son, Zackary Michael Kaiser, born on May 30.

Leigh Rawlinson-Stubbs, advancement services, announces the birth of her daughter, Ivey Scott Stubbs, born on August 8.

Anniversaries

Ronald Davis, educational development, and his wife, Kim, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on September 2.

Laquencia Stigler McNeil, grants and contracts, and her husband Lamonte L. McNeil will celebrate their 3rd wedding anniversary on September 1.

New Faculty

Mingyan Zhu, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor, Medicine

Antonio Martinez
Instructor, Medicine

Christopher Lester, MD
Instructor, Medicine

Angela Michelle Culbreth
Instructor, Medicine

Noel Delos Santos, MD
Instructor, Medicine

Campus Library Tip
MEDLINEplus includes an online version of Merriam-Webster’s Medical Dictionary (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplsdictionary.html). You can type in a word and get a definition.
News Bites

The Ninth Annual Parkinson’s Disease Symposium is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

Registration is required, and must be received by the department of neurology, 855 Monroe, Suite 415, 38163 no later than Friday, Sept. 19. Fees are $15 for registration with complete packet of materials and $10 for registration with no materials. Call 448-5209 to register by phone.

Speakers include: Dee Edward Silver, MD from the San Diego Parkinson’s Information Center; Surya Shah, PhD, professor of occupational therapy at UTHSC; and Ronald Pfeiffer, MD, professor and vice chair of neurology at UTHSC.

Osama Gaber, MD, chief of transplants in the department of surgery, in collaboration with Nora’s Life Gift Foundation, Inc., is hosting the First Annual Golf Classic to benefit NORA’s Home. The tournament will be held Monday, September 15 at Germantown Country Club with a noon lunch and a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The format will be a four-person scramble. For information on registration and fees, please contact Martha Wagerman or Emily Duffee at (901) 682-4663.

Gerry Hogan received the call for duty from the Air Force in March, he was faced with a dilemma. Hogan, 41, was in the middle of spring semester at UTHSC College of Nursing and thought his studies would have to be put on hold.

“My initial thought was that I needed to call the school and get a refund,” said Hogan. “I called Dr. (Cheryl) Stegbauer and asked her what I should do. She told me not to drop any classes because something could be worked out.”

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Hogan served as a flight nurse for the 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and transported combat victims to hospitals in Germany, the Middle East and the United States. He was creative in using this experience to study the Air Force’s medical evacuation system rather than analyzing pain management techniques as planned.

Since the reservist was taking 13 credit hours, he had to be resourceful with time. He used the time spent on medical flights to catch up on his readings and often used the computer in the middle of the night to post discussion messages, send assignments and print required readings, while other soldiers were asleep.

Hogan is thankful to the university for accommodating his needs to let him finish his studies. The administration did not insist on him being present for a wrap-up presentation in April, which is normally a requirement. He was allowed to send his presentation on a file, with the understanding that he would come back to campus whenever possible to give the presentation in person.

Hogan was able to come back to UTHSC for a week in July to finish his presentation. He is currently stationed at Charleston Air Force Base.

The E. Eric Muirhead Hypertension Research Day Program is now accepting applications for the Leonard Share Young Investigator Award, which recognizes outstanding basic science and clinical research in the cardiovascular-renal field by professional students and trainees in UTHSC and affiliated institutions. The award will consist of a plaque and $1,000 stipend. The application submission deadline is Friday, October 3. Contact Jean Simpson at 448-4976 or jtsimpson@utmem.edu for information.

UTHSC Student Studies While Serving

UTHSC ophthalmologist Richard D. Drewry, MD, (left) shakes hands with Former Chancellor Bill Rice (right) during Drewry’s retirement party last month. Dr. Drewry served the UTHSC campus for 30 years and will be staying on as professor emeritus.