The COHP and the Community Unite to Honor a Special Student
(and Create a One-of-a-Kind Community Resource)
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The University of Tennessee College of Health Professions
College of Health Professions
Magazine
Summer 2016

Dean’s Message

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From Lost Boy to Bright Future

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Message from the Chancellor

In proud to tell you that the University of Tennessee Health Science Center is working diligently to make a difference in the community on the local, state, national and global stage. And this magazine will show you how the College of Health Professions is playing a big part in our effort.

You’ll read how an institution:

- We secured one of the largest philanthropic gifts in our history in conjunction with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH) for our Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute. This gift will enable us to transform the current Transplant Institute from a leading transplant program to a world-class research program. (page 5)
- We watched the UT name added prominently to Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, taking an already productive clinical partnership to new heights. (page 9)
- We celebrated as Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, our pediatric clinical partner, again was named a Best Children’s Hospital by U.S. News & World Report. (page 10)
- We ranked as one of the Top Workplaces in Greater Memphis for the second year in a row. (page 6)
- We celebrated with our Methodist Healthcare and West Clinic partners on the opening of new headquarters for the UT-West Cancer Center, a comprehensive cancer center committed to leading-edge clinical trials and research. (page 7)

And you’ll see how your college has contributed by:

- Joining with the Memphis Fire Department to train paramedics as Healthcare Navigators able to educate the public on ways to reduce fall-related injuries, which currently account for the majority of their emergency calls. (page 4)
- Earning a $1.5 million grant to conduct groundbreaking, cross-college research that could improve mobility for veterans who are amputees. (page 8)
- Providing free developmental and autism screenings for children in underserved areas of Memphis. (page 10)
- Partnering with the College of Pharmacy to launch a dual-degree program option in Health Informatics and Information Management to better prepare student pharmacists to practice in the rapidly changing electronic health care environment.

The new Rachael K. Stevens Therapy Center, a student-run, faculty-supervised, pro bono pediatric occupational therapy center that opened earlier this year on campus, is yet another example of how the College of Health Professions is serving our community. As the chancellor of this institution, I am so pleased to see and support this. I trust that you will be, too.

The College of Health Professions, too, has grown in incidental ways in the past. Founded as the College of Allied Health in 1972, it was largely assimilated in pieces as gifts or transfers from other programs.

In 2014, a name change from the College of Allied Health Sciences to the College of Health Professions signaled a major step forward for us. The term ‘allied health’ has been in use since the 1930s, and was coined when our disciplines were perceived as ancillary to health care. Today, health professionals, as a diverse group, account for more than half of the health care workforce in the United States. The scope of practice, autonomy and education of health professions team members have evolved. As a result, the entry-level education requirements for most health care professions are at the graduate and post-baccalaureate level.

All this good work by the College of Health Professions has not gone unnoticed. Noma Anderson, who has served as dean of the UTHSC College of Health Professions, will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. She will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology.

In summarizing his efforts to move the campus forward, Dr. Brown stresses understanding the value of always questioning where you are as an institution and how you got there. He asks: Was it incidental, or was it a result of a deliberate, thoughtful act?

In its incidental phase, Dr. Brown says the UTHSC infrastructure was made up of a collection of buildings that did not suit the needs of a growing university. But after careful inventory, assessment and intensive fundraising, the campus is now in the midst of more than $350 million in new construction.

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With the new name, our intentional growth has moved into high gear. A process of evaluating and strengthening programs that best fit the college is underway. New programs will be added, existing programs that fit better elsewhere will exit.

Also, we continue to look at growing current programs:

- BHM, an all online program, is offering tracks to students in the College of Pharmacy (page 26), and doctoral courses through the College of Graduate Health Sciences. Both CLS, where graduates have 100 percent employment rate, and HIIM are looking to extend course offerings through other venues and programs.
- The Department of Occupational Therapy is evaluating future growth in current class size, as well as possible continuing education and professional course work beyond the master’s level to better serve the citizens of the state and region.
- The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology (ASP), located on the Knoxville campus, graduated its first class of BS in Audiology and Speech Pathology students on May 12. This is a joint degree offered by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and UTHSC. Students complete three years of study in the College of Education Health and Human Sciences at UTK. At the end of their senior year, they apply and transfer in their senior year to the College of Health Professions at UTHSC to complete courses in audiology and speech pathology. Also, a new Audiology and Speech Pathology Building is in the horizon for the Knoxville campus.
- The Department of Physical Therapy is growing its clinical and research enterprises, as well as strengthening its faculty presence with clinics and student placements.
- Further, our faculty and students are intentional about their service to local and regional communities through clinical and research projects that address the health care needs of the people of Tennessee, provide leadership in the respective health professions, and contribute to the knowledge bases of the respective health disciplines. The Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy Center, a new student-run, faculty-supervised, pro bono, pediatric occupational therapy center founded by our OT Department, is a perfect example of this. It is the only clinic of its kind in the country. (page 13)

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In the College of Health Professions, we can truly say that our efforts are not incidental, but intentional. And rest assured, that the future will be bright with Vice Chancellor of Academic, Faculty, and Student Affairs Lori Gonzalez serving as interim dean and preparing the way for the new leadership to come.

Noma Anderson, PhD

Message from the Outgoing Dean

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am thrilled to assume a new role as advisor to UT System President Joe DiPietro on matters of diversity and inclusion. But this exceptional opportunity pulls me away from my duties as dean of the College of Health Professions.

Though I will remain on the faculty of the College of Health Professions, I feel it is important to use this valedictory letter to express my gratitude and pride for all the things we have been able to accomplish together since I became dean in 2010.

When Ken Brown, UTHSC’s executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer, talks about the growth of the Memphis campus, he is proud to say he has worked to move it from an “incidental” campus to an “intentional” campus.

This would also apply to the recent trajectory of the College of Health Professions, as we have moved from largely incidental origins to aggressively intentional growth.

In its incidental phase, Dr. Brown says the UTHSC infrastructure was made up of a collection of buildings that did not suit the needs of a growing university. But after careful inventory, assessment and intensive fundraising, the campus is now in the midst of more than $350 million in new construction.

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Noma Anderson, PhD

Message from the Chancellor

Steve J. Schwab, MD

Chancellor
The UTHSC MOT Program is working with a group of paramedics to take their careers to a new level, while hopefully reducing hospital readmissions, with its new Healthcare Navigators program. This joint venture between the Memphis Fire Department (MFD) and the Department of Occupational Therapy is a pilot program that started in May 2015. Selected paramedics are participating in the program. Upon completion, each participant will earn certification and an expanded role as a paramedic. “It’s the ‘teach someone to fish’ approach,” said Kendal Booker, MOT, OTRL, an instructor in Occupational Therapy at UTHSC. “The majority of paramedics are folks,” she said. “This program is about going into homes and doing proactive maintenance, fall prevention, and education to keep people out of the hospital.” Graduates of the Healthcare Navigators Program will gain the skills to educate patients and their families so the need for emergency care is greatly reduced.

“It’s all about empowering patients,” Booker stated. The idea for the program came to Kevin Spratlin, MS, NRP, during a recent symposium on falls prevention. Spratlin is a paramedic coordinator for the Memphis Fire Department’s EMS Training Department. At the symposium, Spratlin was struck by the breadth and benefits of an occupational therapist’s perspective and services. Spratlin, along with the fire department’s Lieutenant Cecilia Hester, reached out to the UTHSC OT faculty and proposed a partnership.

The Healthcare Navigation program aims to help paramedics pinpoint those members of the community who are high utilization consumers at local hospitals and provide those individuals with greater levels of care, as well as preventive education. Lawrence Faulkner, PhD, and Booker serve as content experts and community partners for the Healthcare Navigators program. The two work together to teach aspects of health literacy, how to build rapport with patients, falls assessment and prevention, medication management, and home environment safety. The broader training for the MFD Healthcare Navigators during this project focuses on concerns for persons with cardiac health conditions.

“This gift will further our vision of Memphis being a health care hub not only for the Southeast but for the entire United States.”

Dr. James D. Eason

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and UTHSC Receive $40 Million Gift

On Nov. 15, 2015, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH) and UTHSC announced the receipt of a $40 million gift. The anonymous gift will be used to transform the current Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute (a partnership between MLH and UTHSC) from a leading transplant program to a world-class research program and a progressive, healing environment for patients and families alike.

“This generous gift will greatly impact the scope and level of care provided by our transplant program,” said Gary Shorb, CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. “Since 2006, we’ve been on a journey to achieve national excellence for our transplant efforts, and this gift will serve as a catalyst to not only transform our Transplant Institute, but all of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

“Our mission at Methodist Le Bonheur is to serve all areas of Memphis, regardless of a patient’s ability to pay, and philanthropic gifts such as this provide the bridge between what we can afford and what we can envision. We are honored to receive this gift – the largest ever in our nearly 100-year history.”

The gift will be used for a new, innovative, comprehensive transplant facility at Methodist UT Hospital that will provide state-of-the-art and easily accessible accommodations for all stages of the transplant process – from pre-transplant testing, to the transplant operation itself and lifelong post-transplant care.

The funds will also be used for pioneering research in conjunction with UTHSC. As one of the busiest transplant centers in the United States with one of the most diverse patient populations, the expanded research will be critical in examining outcomes across racial and socioeconomic groups, while further building upon our research mission and improving patient care and outcomes.

“This gift will further our vision of Memphis being a health care hub not only for the Southeast, but for the entire United States,” said James D. Eason, MD, UTHSC professor of Surgery and director of the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute. “The University of Tennessee has a long history with solid organ transplantation, successfully performing the first kidney transplant in Tennessee more than 40 years ago. Our vision is to expand upon that success, while further developing the research mission and improving the quality of life and the life expectancy of transplant patients. We will use this generous donation for groundbreaking research centered on further improving the outcomes for transplant patients and providing a world-class patient and family-centered care experience. This gift is a testament to the great work being done in Memphis.”

The Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute has been recognized for its success with kidney, liver, kidney-pancreas and pancreas transplants, ranking among the top 10 liver transplant programs and top 15 overall transplant programs (by volume) in the nation. The Transplant Institute is known for its innovative steroid-free liver transplantation. The program offers hope to patients with conditions such as kidney failure and end-stage liver diseases. More than 6,000 transplants have been performed at the Institute, more than 1,000 liver transplants and 1,000 kidney transplants have been performed at Methodist UT Hospital and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital under Dr. Eason’s leadership since 2006.
Former Dean Noma Anderson Earns Top Award from ASHA

Noma Anderson, PhD, former dean of the College of Health Professions at UTHSC, received the Honors of the Association Award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) during its convention in Denver, Colorado this past November. ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 182,000 audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing pathology support personnel, and students.

The Honors of the Association is ASHA’s highest award and is a public recognition of distinguished and exceptional contributions to the field of speech, language, and hearing.

Before her appointment at UTHSC in 2010, Dr. Anderson was the immediate past chair and a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. She was also dean of the School of Health Sciences at FIU for five years. Before that, Dr. Anderson was chair for 10 years and on the faculty for 16 years in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Named a Fellow of ASHA in 1992, Dr. Anderson was on the board of directors for ASHA from 1996-2000 as vice president for academic affairs, and again from 2006-2008, and served as president in 2007.

Dr. Anderson holds a PhD in speech-language pathology from the University of Pittsburgh, and an MS in speech pathology from Emerson College in Boston. She received her BA in speech pathology and audiology from Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia.

News

Still on Top

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center has been named one of the 2015 Top Workplaces in Memphis by The Commercial Appeal daily newspaper. This is the second year in a row that UTHSC has made the list.

“It is wonderful to be named a top workplace by our employees at UTHSC, where we aim to improve healthcare for Tennesseans and the region by focusing on integrated programs in education, research, clinical care and public service,” said Chandra Alston, associate vice chancellor for Human Resources.

“Our survey scores improved from 2014 to 2015, and this lets us know that we continue to make a positive difference in the lives of the people we work with and improve the work culture. Our culture is far from perfect, but I think our employees see that the leadership is working to develop a culture where employees can thrive, be fulfilled and maximally contribute to our mission. Thank you again to our wonderful employees for recognizing our efforts.”

The distinction, given to a total of 50 large, medium and small workplaces, is based solely on surveys completed by employees. The newspaper partners with WorkplaceDynamics, a survey firm based in Philadelphia, to identify the best places to work based on factors including how employees feel about their job, training, direction, retention, motivation, benefits and pay.

More than 800 companies were invited to participate, and almost 19,000 employees responded on paper or online to the 22-question survey. The results indicate that feeling appreciated and doing meaningful work is important to job satisfaction, according to WorkplaceDynamics.

New West Cancer Center Brings Comprehensive, Multidisciplinary Cancer Care to Mid-South

Four years ago, we came together to give world-class cancer care to Memphis, the region and the nation,” Lee Schwartzberg, MD, FACP, executive director of West Cancer Center, said at the opening ceremony for the new facility on Nov. 17, 2015. “We provide everything in this building.”

The $65 million, 23,251-square-foot building is the product of an innovative collaboration between West Clinic, Methodist Healthcare and UTHSC to bring comprehensive cancer care, education and research to the region and beyond.

In 2016, the West Cancer Center is expected to:
- Treat 35,224 patients*
- Deliver more than 18,000 radiation treatments*
- Treat more than 10,000 with chemotherapy*

* Source: Erich Mounce, West Cancer Center Chief Executive Officer

The partnership, which began in 2012, magnifies the strengths and expertise of each of the institutions to improve patient care, elevate training for the next generation of clinicians, and aid in recruiting research leaders from all over the country to Memphis.

“This is the beginning of a new day for cancer care in the Mid-South,” Gary Shorb, chief executive officer of Methodist Healthcare, told the elected officials, health care professionals, cancer survivors and community members attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new center brings together multiplicity services— including medical, surgical, diagnostic and radiation oncology, genetics, pain management, nutrition, palliative care, clinical research and others— under one roof for the first time in Memphis. The collaborative environment is designed to make cancer care more accessible, organized and easier for patients, enabling them to stay in Memphis for treatment instead of traveling to institutions in other cities.

(Left) The new West Cancer Center lobby

News
A new study — the VALOR study — is the first funded research collaboration between the UTHSC Colleges of Health Professions and Medicine. VALOR stands for Veteran Amputees Leading Orthotic Research. A $1.5 million grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity will enable Audrey Zucker-Levin, PhD, PT, MBA, GCS Emeritus, professor of Physical Therapy, to explore those health disparities faced by military veterans who are amputees. Dr. Zucker-Levin is also director of the Motion Analysis Laboratory and the assistant dean of Research for the College of Health Professions. Her collaborator is Phyllis Richey, PhD, from the UTHSC College of Medicine where she is associate professor of Preventive Medicine, of Physical Therapy and of Pediatrics. “We are very excited about our new Department of Defense award and the cross-college collaboration opportunity it presents to address an important disparity among veteran below-knee amputees,” Dr. Richey said. The $1.5 million grant will enable them to study the effectiveness of one of the newest prosthetic feet on the market — the microprocessor-controlled prosthetic foot (MPF) — for use with military veteran amputees who have limited mobility. The study aims to determine if an MPF will provide a preferable alternative to the most commonly prescribed foot for use with military veteran amputees, who have limited mobility. The type of prosthetic foot generally prescribed for the typical amputee does not lift the toe when a step is taken. To compensate, the amputee is forced to bend the hip or knee to raise the leg higher or swing the leg out to the side in order to walk. In either case, balance is thrown off, and the risk of falling greatly increases. Designed to raise the toe when a step is taken, the MPF theoretically should make walking easier and safer and reduce the risk of falling. Unfortunately, it is currently not prescribed for the typical below-knee amputee, who is an older person with complications from vascular disease and diabetes. Guidelines for prescribing the MPF restrict the device to more active, athletic amputees. “Due to financial limitations, newer prosthetic components are traditionally provided to the more able-bodied amputees,” said Dr. Zucker-Levin. “I am excited to see if providing a high-tech foot will improve function in the typical amputee.” The U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity, the contracting element of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, provides support to the Command headquarters and affiliated organizations. For more information, please visit http://www.usamrma.army.mil/index.cfm.

Titled, “The Effect of a Microprocessor Prosthetic Foot on Function and Quality of Life in Transtibial Amputees Who Are Limited Community Ambulators,” it will be funded over three years to determine if exchanging a traditionally prescribed prosthetic foot with an MPF will improve quality of life. More than half of all amputees fall each year, and 75 percent of those fall multiple times. Forty percent of these falls result in injury; 20 percent of them require medical attention. Approximately half of all amputees report a fear of falling. Falling and the fear of falling often lead to avoidance of physical activity, which in turn may lead to a decreased quality of life. The type of prosthetic foot generally prescribed for the typical amputee does not lift the toe when a step is taken. To compensate, the amputee is forced to bend the hip or knee to raise the leg higher or swing the leg out to the side in order to walk. In either case, balance is thrown off, and the risk of falling greatly increases. Designed to raise the toe when a step is taken, the MPF theoretically should make walking easier and safer and reduce the risk of falling. Unfortunately, it is currently not prescribed for the typical below-knee amputee, who is an older person with complications from vascular disease and diabetes. Guidelines for prescribing the MPF restrict the device to more active, athletic amputees. “Due to financial limitations, newer prosthetic components are traditionally provided to the more able-bodied amputees,” said Dr. Zucker-Levin. “I am excited to see if providing a high-tech foot will improve function in the typical amputee.”

The completion of this process to independent university status in a rapid and efficient manner is both a remarkable and laudable achievement.” “For several years, UTHSC has been working toward independent accreditation as a stand-alone university and we are extremely pleased that the extensive SACS peer review process resulted in no adverse findings or recommendations,” Chancellor Steve J. Schwab said. "The completion of this process in a rapid and efficient manner is both a remarkable and laudable achievement.” "We remain an integral component of the UT System of universities overseen by President DiPietro and governed by the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee," the Chancellor said, noting, "I want to thank the leadership of the institution and all those who contributed both directly and indirectly to this strategic effort. The independent institutional accreditation of UTHSC reflects the ongoing high level of activity and myriad contributions of UTHSC faculty, students and staff."

U.S. News & World Report has recognized Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in seven specialties in the 2014-15 Best Children’s Hospitals rankings. Recognized specialties include cardiology/heart surgery, neonatology, nephrology, neurology/neurosurgery, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology.


“The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is proud to be the major academic partner of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and, as such, we are proud to celebrate this continued acknowledgement of Le Bonheur as one of the nation’s Best Children’s Hospitals,” said UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab. “Since the vast majority of the physicians at Le Bonheur are UTHSC faculty members, it is our joint physician-faculty who provide the clinical care for patients and the training for generations of new pediatric care professionals.”

“The hospital is thrilled to be recognized as one of the country’s best children’s hospitals,” said Le Bonheur president and CEO Meri Armour, MSN/MBA. “We use the U.S. News process as a way to improve the care we offer children.”

Audiology and Speech Pathology Awarded Over $3 Million in Grants in Past Year

Audiology and Speech Pathology (ASP) was awarded approximately $3 million in grants this past year. Isa Schwarz, PhD, and Jillian McCarthy, PhD, CCC-SLP, received two grants totaling over $2 million from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. One grant supports the training of 32 master’s level speech-language pathology graduate students over the next five years to work in the areas of literacy and language with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The second grant will provide specialty training to 32 graduate students to improve the language and literacy outcomes for children with complex communication needs who would benefit from augmentative and alternative communication strategies.

Along with Emily Noss, MA, CCC-SLP, Drs. McCarthy and Schwarz were also awarded a $5,500 Giving Circle Grant from the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists to support the development and distribution of language and literacy materials, including books, to use with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Patrick Johnstone, PhD, recently completed a study funded by Adaptive Bionics to investigate the use of microphone technology in facilitating word recognition in background noise for children and adolescents with cochlear implants (CI). Study results indicate that the use of adaptive directional microphones (ADM) and wireless remote microphones (RM) technology improves performance in noisy situations and enhances hearing in CI users to more closely approximate that of normal hearing peers in background noise.

Patrick Pyfer, PhD, was recently awarded a $62,000 grant from Oticon to evaluate development of new hearing aid processing strategies.

Kristin King, PhD, CCC-SLP, and Molly Erickson, PhD, along with Russ Langdon, MD, of UT Medical Center, were awarded $9,500 in funding from NeuroNet to further their research into how specific types of background music affect our research into how specific types of background music affect our hearing.

Devon Casenbiser, PhD; Elena Patten, PhD; and PhD student Lauren Mitchell, received a 2015 Giving Circle Grant from Outcom to evaluate development of new hearing aid processing strategies.

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The new Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy Center at UTHSC is a labor of love on many levels. A pro bono, pediatric occupational therapy center, it is a memorial to a daughter who died too young, a tribute to a student and classmate who is missed, and a gift to many families and children in need in the Memphis area.

It is also tangible sign of the commitment of the Department of Occupational Therapy and the College of Health Professions to bring positive change to the community, all in the name of a young woman who had dreamed of becoming a pediatric occupational therapist one day.

Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy Center opened February 9. It is located on the Memphis campus in the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities at 711 Jefferson Avenue.

A student-run, faculty supervised OT center for children of families who are uninsured or underinsured would fill a pressing need in the community, and be a fitting memorial for the young woman who had dreamed of becoming a pediatric occupational therapist one day.

The Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy Center opened February 9. It is located on the Memphis campus in the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities at 711 Jefferson Avenue.

Of the 112 student-run clinics at academic health centers like UTHSC across the country, it is the only one to offer pro bono, pediatric occupational therapy services, Noma Anderson, PhD, former dean of the College of Health Professions, said before the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the center.
OT students were Rachel’s classmates have taken the lead in setting up the clinic.

"Our goal has two layers," Dr. Zachry said. "We plan to incorporate the clinic experience into pediatrics classes for the students. They’re going to be better practitioners because they actually have worked hands-on with children who have special needs. An additional goal is community outreach. It’s a win/win for the students and the community. I am pleased we are able to honor Rachel in this way.”

The board of directors of the center is made up primarily of OT students. Managed and staffed primarily by OT students as volunteers under the direct supervision of UTHSC faculty members, the center provides developmental screenings, evaluations and occupational therapy treatment for children, as well as parenting education classes. Students will also perform outreach initiatives to improve the lives of children and families in the community.

A student board of about a dozen of Rachel's classmates, along with faculty in the department, raised money through a letter-writing campaign to supplement the generous initial donation from the Stevens family. The students cleaned up the space and helped with renovations.

The need is great for these services, said Anne Zachry, PhD, OTR/L, assistant professor and chair of the OT Department. Dr. Zachry has served as the faculty advisor for the clinic.

In Shelby County, 34.7 percent of children live at or below the federal poverty level, and more than 18,300 of those children struggle with challenges, including learning disabilities, autism, emotional challenges or other disabilities that could benefit from OT services, she said. Accessing the necessary services can be difficult or impossible for the families of these children.

Early childhood OT services are also available at the center. This is especially needed because of Shelby County’s high rate of premature births, which can result in developmental delays, Dr. Zachry said. In addition to working with children on fine-motor skills or behavioral issues, the center will provide education for families and teachers on how to help children with special needs. Open the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 3 to 6 p.m., initially, organizers estimate that the services will reach 300-500 families a year.

The center is also designed to give OT students real-world experience and educational opportunities they otherwise would not have.

"Our goal has two layers," Dr. Zachry said. "We plan to incorporate the clinic experience into pediatrics classes for the students. They’re going to be better practitioners because they actually have worked hands-on with children who have special needs. An additional goal is community outreach. It’s a win/win for the students and the community. I am pleased we are able to honor Rachel in this way.”

We are grateful to these donors for their gifts in support of the Rachel K. Stevens Therapy Center. If you would like to make a gift, go to www.uthscalumni.com/RKStevens.

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ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT

The Dr. Barbara DuBray-Benstein Endowment Fund Marking 35 Years of Commitment

By Keisha Brooks-Burnett, MS, CT(ASCP), assistant professor; and Tricia Nathenson, EdD, MBA, assistant dean for Finance and Administration

By Jose Balins, MPA, senior director of Philanthropy Communications

Attributing her success to the mentors that helped her along the way and the people before her who paved the way in the science, Dr. Benstein specifically credits Dr. Bill Murphy, a pathologist in the Department of Pathology at UTHSC, now with the University of Florida, for her interest and love of the profession. "Dr. Murphy encouraged me to participate in national meetings and related professional organizations as a means to remain on the cutting edge of the new science in the field. I am grateful for my position at UTHSC and the opportunities I have had to serve not only as the program director, but also serving at the national level with other professional colleagues."

Throughout her career, Dr. Benstein had received numerous honors and awards. She is a three-time recipient of the UTHSC Student Government Award in Teaching in 1999, 2004, and 2011. Memberships and offices held include the Southern Association of Cytotechnologists, the American Society of Cytopathology, the American Society for Cytology, and the College of American Pathology. Her community service includes over 20 years of membership in Campus Memphis’ Grand Krewe of Pal, an organization that raises money for a variety of children’s charities.

Dr. Benstein’s husband, David, died in 2010. He was her biggest supporter and taught her how to enjoy life outside of her work. In her retirement, Barbara hopes to spend time with her family, which consists of her father and his wife, her in-laws, four brothers and one brother-in-law who have blessed her with 10 nieces and nephews, and her beloved cat, Frank. Currently, Dr. Benstein manages the Cytopathology program alongside former student Keisha Brooks-Burnett. She feels this is a great compliment as a scientist and an academician to see her students grow and accelerate in the field. Barbara plans to step out of the classroom and have more time to pursue various children’s charities while enjoying a much deserved retirement in August 2017. It is comforting for her to know she is leaving a legacy by way of the way and the people before her who paved the way in the science.
COHP Faculty Among Those Honored by UTAA

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is UTHSC faculty members were
honored by the University of Tennessee
Alumni Association (UTAA). The
awards were presented during the annual
banquet of the Student Government
Association Executive Council on May 3.
Among the recipients were three
members from the College of Health
Professions.

Ashley W. Harkrider, PhD, received
the Distinguished Service Professorship
Award. Anne H. Zachry, PhD, OTR/L,
received the Public Service Award. Lekha
George, MD, MBBS, received the
Outstanding Teacher Award.

Harkrider
is a professor
and chair of the
Department of
Audiology and
Speech Pathology
at UTHSC in
Knoxville. In
her first year,
she successfully
transitioned the
department
and its five
degree programs
administratively from UT, Knoxville, to
UTHSC. Most recently, she implemented
the Bachelor of Science in Audiology and
Speech Pathology, the first undergraduate
joint degree program offered by UTHSC
and UT, Knoxville. As chair, she oversees
the education of hundreds of audiology
and speech pathology students, while
maintaining financially viable, state-of-
the-art campus clinics.

“Dr. Harkrider is highly dedicated to her students,” said Noma Anderson, PhD,
former dean of the College
of Health Professions.

“Dr. Harkrider utilizes case studies, lectures,
homework, PowerPoint,
reading materials and labs, all in a highly
effective manner.”

Dr. Ashley Harkrider
Dr. Annie Zachry

Zachry worked
as a pediatric
occupational therapist for 22 years. Her
blog, “Pediatric Occupational Therapy
Tips,” has had more than 1.5 million visits
and has been described by Career Momie
as “one of the best educational online tools
for occupational therapists,” and by Horizon
Healthcare as “one of the top 10 occupational
therapy blogs.” Her book, “Retro Baby,”
published by the American Academy of
Pediatrics, has earned the Benjamin Franklin
Gold Medal Award, the Gold Medal Award from the
Annual Midwest Book Awards, and
Honororable Mention by the American
Medical Writer's Association Book Awards.

Most recently, under Dr. Zachry's
direction, students in the UTHSC
Department of Occupational Therapy
opened the Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy
Center, the only student-run, pro bono,
pediatric occupational therapy clinic in
the country.

Dr. George is board-certified through
the American Board of Internal Medicine
in Internal Medicine and Nephrology.
She continues to pursue her passion as
a pediatric occupational therapist in
the College of Medicine for
nephrology fellows, internal medicine
residents, medical students and physician
assistant students at UTHSC. She has
authored many peer reviewed articles and
book chapters on chronic kidney disease
and cardiovascular disease.

Her research
work had been presented at various
national and international conferences
including the annual sessions of the
American Society of Nephrology and
National Kidney Foundation.

“A

COHP Dean’s Leadership Council has been established by inviting a rich array of leaders from health care and non-health care settings to suggest initiatives and partnerships in academics, research, development and outreach that will be impactful and innovative. The Council members will provide the dean with data on strategic trends, challenges and opportunities for the health professions represented in the college.

The inaugural meeting of the council took place on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in the Freeman Auditorium on the UTHSC campus.

Connie Binkowitz, MS
Program Director, HMCA
Beth Bowman ’72, MPA, RHA, FAHIMA
Professor Emeritus
Beth Buggert '01, PT, DPT, NCS
Physical Therapist, Regional One Health
Justin Casey, MPA
Director of Finance and HR, Girls Inc. of Memphis
Becky Cox ’14, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist, Regional One Health
Julie Dixon ’91, OTR/L, CHT
CEO, Southern Navel Centers
Mickey Henry ’02, AuD, CCC-A
Chief Audiologist, Shea Ear Clinic
Denise Higdon ’91, OTR/L
CEO, Work Site Consultants
Mamie McCain, MPA, RHA
Professor Emeritus
Anna Mullins, MFA
Marketing Director, New Memphis Institute
Logan Owens '09, PT, DPT, CCS, COMT
District Operations Leader, Results Physiotherapy

Dr. Lekha George

Members of the newly-formatted Dean’s Leadership Council learn about the college, the faculty, curriculum, students and the college’s impact on the city of Memphis. At the
inaugural meeting, each department gave an introductory presentation. Dr. Barbara Dubray-Wilensz makes a presentation on the Cytotechnology program in the College.

Divyen Patel, PhD
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Leslie Smith, PhD, MPA
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and Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry at UTHSC
Bob Stewart, BBA
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Gail Stewart, MBA, PT, OTR
Director of Rehabilitation Services, Regional One Health
Kyle Veazey, BS
Deputy Director of Communications, City of Memphis
Scott Vogel, BS
Executive Director, Center for Health Care Innovation, Regional One Health
Thank You for Your Membership in the 1911 Society

The UT Health Science Center Office of Development and Alumni Affairs is pleased to record a successful year for the 1911 Society. The society recognizes annual supporters of the College of Health Professions, who are critical to our mission of educating some of the best minds, conducting innovative research, and improving health. The listing is available through the 1911 Society Members link at uthscalumni.com/1911.

“The gifts we receive go a long way toward helping our students, faculty, programs, and facilities. To each of you who has given, thank you,” said Randy Farmer, vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs.

From recent graduates to alumni, friends, faculty, and staff, we are honored to extend 1911 Society membership to our annual donors,” Farmer added. Named for the year of the Health Science Center’s founding, the 1911 Society recognizes and celebrates total giving by donors who make their gifts between July 1 and June 30 each year.

Membership levels are based on total contributions during the year to any college, program or fund at UTHSC. Gifts can be renewed annually to retain membership.

“Private donors to our campus are the leaders of our past, present and future,” Farmer said. “Members of the 1911 Society demonstrate an extraordinary level of interest, involvement, and dedication through their generous financial support.”

Your loyalty matters to us, to our students, and to you. For more information on how to make a gift and become a member of the 1911 Society, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (901) 448-5516 or visit online at uthscalumni.com/1911.

Where would you be without UTHSC?

J. Marcus Rickman, MHIM, RHIA ’13

Current Hometown: Lexington, Tennessee
Family: parents Frank and Melanie Rickman; siblings Will and Chelsey
Specialty: Health Informatics and Information Management
Awards: Most Outstanding Student, UTHSC MHIM, 2013; Rising Star 2016, Tennessee Health Information Management Association

What is your favorite memory as a UTHSC student?

Many memories come to mind, above all else, the memory of walking down the aisle to receive the diploma I worked so hard for in the presence of my family. There were many late nights of persistent study spent to achieve my goals. The road to success was not easy, but it was necessary. The relationships I built with the professors at UTHSC were fundamental to my success, and they are still ongoing.

Why did you select UTHSC COHP?

I had difficulty deciding what specifically I wanted to do with my life career-wise. Once I made the decision to travel down the pathway of Health Informatics, selecting UTHSC was the easy part. I considered my acceptance into the MHIIM Program at UTHSC in 2011 an honor and a blessing from above. With UTHSC’s prestige and respectability, I knew I would receive the highest quality education possible.

What are some of the highlights of your professional career?

Although I have just begun my journey, I am truly proud to be a part of National HealthCare Corporation. I joined NHC after graduating UTHSC in 2013. In 2014, I was promoted to Regional Health Information Director for the South Central Region of the company. NHC is a prestigious post-acute care company based in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In 2014, NHC was named by Forbes magazine as one of the 100 Most Trustworthy Companies in America.

What is your advice to other UT Alumni about getting involved?

I would not be the same person I have become, nor would I be in the same position I am today if not for the quality education conferred by the staff at UTHSC. I would encourage all alumni whose lives have been impacted by UTHSC to give back in one way or another. This can be done by mentoring current students, financial contributions, and/or volunteering your time in other ways.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Alumni & Development

Health Professions Summer 2016

20
Ashley Nations Bradford and Rebecca L. Rogers Named Memphis’ Top 40 Under 40

**Ashley Nations Bradford**  
By Jodie Ballin

Alumni

College of Health Professions graduate Ashley Nations Bradford is a 2009 DPT graduate from the UTHSC College of Health Professions. Ashley has worked for Rehab, etc. since 2000 and currently serves as the Clinic Director at the Collierville location.

Before opening her Collierville clinic in 2012, Ashley worked for 11 years at the Tabor Orthopedic Clinic. In her 20 years with Ashley had been diagnosed with a congenital disorder. She is also a member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and its Orthopedic Section and Performing Arts Special Interest Group (PASIG).

One of Ashley’s most fulfilling activities is serving as the Founder and President of Cheer for the Kids, Inc. This organization became a dream of Ashley’s when she learned that a friend’s child had been diagnosed with a terminal illness. The news was devastating, and it moved Ashley to consider what she could do to make a difference using her skills and abilities.

In 2006, Ashley formed a team of volunteers, leveraging her association with Universal Cheerleaders Association and ultimately launched the first annual Cheer for the Kids competition. Ten years later, Ashley has successfully led her board and volunteers to raise over $175,000 for Make-a-Wish Mid-South.

Brookie Castleman, Special Events Coordinator of Make-a-Wish Foundation of the Mid-South said after one of the competitions, “I keep bragging to co-workers and friends how proud we are to be associated with such a great group. I look forward to it every year.” Without Ashley’s vision and leadership, none of this would have been possible.

Ashley’s desire to help others and her community extends beyond Cheer for the Kids, Inc. With 13 years of running experience and five years of competing in triathlons, Ashley often gives back to her community in educating athletes by leveraging her dance experience and physical therapy education. Ashley has served as the acting physical therapist in several Orthoheum productions, such as Anything Goes, Memphis - the Musical, Kinky Boots and Sister Act. She is also a proud member of the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UC).

Ashley also takes special interest in treating performance artists given her 24-year background in dance. While earning her undergraduate degree, she danced as a two-year member of the University of Memphis Pom Squad. She then advanced as one of the first NBA dancers in Memphis when the Grizzlies made their debut in 2001 and continued to dance for the Grizzlies franchise until 2008.

Additionally, Ashley was a St. Jude patient at 22 months of age and underwent treatment for three years before I was in remission. I was tracked annually until age 21 and then was enrolled in the St. Jude Life program which tracks former patients and the long-term effects of any treatment they receive.

In 2013, Rebecca was chosen as a participant in the St. Jude Select program, which develops leadership skills of outstanding employees. “Working at St. Jude is really very rewarding. There is no other place I would want to work. I did my medical technology program at UT with a goal of working in the lab at St. Jude.”

When asked what she likes best about her career in Medical Technology and Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Rebecca is quick to point out the importance of what she does. “All of the lab testing and results we provide are the building blocks of everything else. Lab testing will determine the way doctors will treat and the way nurses will care for patients. While many don’t realize we are there, we do have an impact.”

**Rebecca L. Rogers**  
By Wes Williamson MS, MT(ASCP), Assistant Professor

Rebecca is a 2015 alumna of the UTHSC College of Health Professions. Rebecca Rogers earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology in 2004 and a Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science in 2009. She has worked for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital since 2006 and currently is the evening shift supervisor in the clinical laboratory at St. Jude, as well as an adjunct professor for the Medical Laboratory Science Program in the College of Health Professions.

Rebecca is known as a leader and a consummate professional. Highly engaged with the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), she served as president of the Tennessee state chapter (ASCLS-TN) in 2013-2014 and was instrumental in reactivating the local chapter in Memphis (MSCLS). Additionally, Rebecca has been a regular attendee at the ASCLS Legislative Symposium in Washington D.C. and has lobbied with Tennessee congressional representatives to affect change in the medical laboratory profession at both the state and the national level. She currently serves as the chair and primary instructor for the ASCLS Leadership Academy for 2015-16.

Rebecca’s leadership repertoire is not limited to her professional activities. She was a participant in the New Memphis Institute’s Fellows Program in 2012. As a participant in this program, she contributed to the development of a toolbox, which community groups could utilize as a resource to develop their organizations from the ground up. In 2015, she was the recipient of the Outstanding Recent Graduate Award presented by the Alumni Association of the Mississippi University for Women, which recognized her contributions and service to the community.
Nerves, Walking and the Babinski Test
My Patient Encounter Experience in the Physical Therapy Lab

I was sitting in the lobby of the General Education Building on campus, waiting to participate in the Patient Encounter experience of the Department of Physical Therapy. I was excited and nervous at the same time. I so wanted to be the best patient ever. Every year, the Department of Physical Therapy asks for volunteers from the community to be assessed by first-year PT students. Working in groups, this is one of the first times PT students interact professionally with patients, who present with an array of diagnoses.

My nervousness subsided as Emily, a first-year student, greeted me with a smile and led me into the evaluation room. I walked to my post and introduced myself to a group who would be using my condition and anatomy as an exploratory canvas. The students were full of smiles, but I could tell that they were nervous – as nervous as I was, if not more. They wanted to make a great impression, as their peers and superiors watched.

“This learning opportunity is in a non-threatening environment and occurs prior to students’ first full-time clinical internships,” said Carol Likens, PT, PhD, MBA, associate professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy. “Students comment that these experiences remind them of why they chose the profession of physical therapy, and that this exposure helps them to learn and refine their skills. They like it.”

According to Taylor Johnson, a first-year student and one of my evaluators, I was indeed a good patient. “Before the evaluation began, I’d say our group was a little nervous, because this was our first time practicing or having a real-life situation on someone other than a classmate,” Johnson said. “When we met you, I think we were all a little surprised at how everything just flowed and fell into place. You made everything go so smoothly. We all want to be very good therapists for our patients someday, so this first patient encounter was a great opportunity to get an idea of what it would be like for us. It was great to be able to learn from you. We all came away from the encounter with a lot of insight and information, and we are very appreciative of that.”

Shannon Hughes, PT, DPT, OCS, MTCS, assistant professor in the department, said, “We hope that this encounter will allow these students to apply the skills they have acquired over the last year to a real person. From this experience, the students will pull together all of their findings to develop a treatment plan, prognosis and an exercise program to address the issues identified in their assessment. All of the steps that they will be expected to do once they are licensed physical therapists.”

Before the students began, they had to learn my medical history. I was born with cerebral palsy. According to cerebralpalsy.org, this is defined as the loss or impairment of motor function caused by brain damage that occurs while a child’s brain is still developing – before, during and immediately after birth. It can affect everything from body movement to oral motor functioning.

In my case, cerebral palsy impacted my lower extremities. I am spastic and have balance and tone issues. I started out using a wheelchair. At age six, I had surgery in which a bad nerve was removed from my back, enabling me to walk upright, though I use a walker for mobility.

The areas the students assessed included flexibility, muscle strength, endurance and a specialty test of flexion and extension of toes upon stimulation, known as the Babinski reflex response. Along with some other participants, I also had my walking routine observed by students and faculty. The challenge was for students to apply their knowledge to call out deficiencies that they saw. For me, this component was fun, but a bit difficult. I wanted to make absolutely sure that I was walking to the best of my abilities!

Despite all of this, the experience overall was rewarding. It is very fulfilling to know that you have contributed to the education of a rising health care professional.

Lucas Isley, another first-year student and one of my evaluators, summed up the experience with, “This clinical experience was a great time finally putting our skills into practice. Working with our patient in the lab helped us to learn and refine our skills in real time, while allowing us to experience the ebb and flow of basic human interaction during an evaluation. We still talk about how great it was as a group and the confidence we gained in our craft.”

“Physical therapists are movement experts. The light and additional space are energizing,” said Carol Counts Likens, PT, PhD, associate professor and chair of the department. “Where we were before was dark, in the basement, and crowded.”

The space has four treatment booths, one of which is enclosed, a bathroom that meets ADA standards, a laundry room, storage areas and more. The move was necessary to allow for expansion of the department’s Motion Analysis Laboratory in the previous space.

University Therapists offers physical therapy to clients who have musculoskeletal disorders, orthopedic problems, mobility issues, neurological disorders or other conditions that result in challenges with functional abilities. The services are available to UTHSC students, faculty, staff and members of the community referred from area agencies and physicians.

The space is getting great reviews, not just from the therapists who provide the services, but from clients, Dr. Likens said, “They like it.”

My Patient Encounter Experience in the Physical Therapy Lab

My Patient Encounter Experience in the Physical Therapy Lab

Physical therapy is all about moving toward a better quality of life.

University Therapists, an outpatient rehabilitation clinic operated by UTHSC faculty members of the Department of Physical Therapy, has brand new space on campus to help clients on that journey...

The practice, which is more than 30 years old, recently moved into renovated space in Suite 415 of the 920 Madison Building. Larger than its former location on the Concourse Level of the 930 Madison Building, the new area has large windows, an open floor plan so equipment is more accessible, and is better suited for the practice that had approximately 600 to 800 client visits last year.

University Therapists

For appointments, call (901) 448-6438 or email jclift@uthsc.edu.

Assistant Professor Ann Coleman, PT, DPT, MSSA, (right) works with client P. McLendon in the bright new space that now houses University Therapists.
Laboratory test results, immunization records, radiology reports, personal statistics, records of medications and allergies—all these data and more are currently available in digital formats collected and considered part of a health care or treatment plan. As digital technology advances and is integrated into health care organizations, this information routinely becomes a part of a patient’s electronic health record.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIM), the field that works with the acquisition, storage, analysis, use and dissemination of these data, is one of the fastest-growing professions in the country. The combined development and assimilation of technology into health systems will further expand the roles of pharmacists in health informatics as they contribute to health care organizations of all sizes.

Thanks to the forward-thinking collaboration of the UTHSC Colleges of Health Professions and Pharmacy, student pharmacists now have another degree option available that trains students to work in this rapidly expanding area, and an online certificate program is offered as an option for those students who do not wish to pursue a master’s degree.

The dual degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and Master of Health Informatics and Information Management (MHIIM) was introduced the spring of 2015 and several PharmD students began the required coursework in mid-August. Pharmacists in this area of practice frequently work in multidisciplinary teams for the planning, development, implementation and maintenance of new health care-related technologies such as computerized practitioner order entry, bar code medication administration, clinical decision support, robotics, automated dispensing cabinets, intelligent infusion devices, and telepharmacy.

Pharmacists who graduate with a dual PharmD/MHIIM will be ideal candidates for positions in the rapidly growing HIIM field. Even though it is less comprehensive, the HIIM certificate option provides basic skills needed to practice in an electronic health care environment. Since the MHIIM and HIIM program offerings are 100 percent online, students are able to participate when they are on advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs) outside the greater Memphis area. The College of Pharmacy provides APPEs at sites across Tennessee, making the online aspect of the programs particularly important and beneficial to UTHSC’s statewide student body.

For more information about the dual PharmD/MHIIM degree or certificate, contact Rebecca Reynolds, chair of the Department of HIIM in the College of Health Professions, at (901) 448-6486 or rreynol5@uthsc.edu.
Evolving Education

UTHSC Graduates its First PA Class

T

trust the process.” It’s a mantra that has been stressed early on to the 25 physician assistant (PA) students who comprised the first graduation class of PAs at UTHSC in December 2015. As the only public university with a physician assistant program, and one of six programs in the state of Tennessee, this class is truly unique. “Physician assistants are actually a fairly new introduction to West Tennessee,” said Matthew Allman, MPAS, PA-C, chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at UTHSC. “There are a total of six PA programs in the state, and the majority have been in eastern Tennessee. There are only three physician practitioners at the Center in Shelby County currently. So, we’re truly introducing a new health care provider to this area of Tennessee.”

The process for each of these students, now graduates, began with admissions. They were selected from a pool of over 900 applicants from across the U.S. It was a highly competitive process, but excellent grades did not guarantee success. The admission committee knew that each of these students had to possess strong intellect, maturity, flexibility, as well as a sense of adventure. Completing the program was a two-year journey. The students completed over 60 hours of didactic work in their first year, including gross anatomy, clinical medicine, pharmacology, physiology, anatomy and physics exam as well as other courses focusing on issues relevant to PAs. Upon successful completion of the first year with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, the students began their clinical year - 11 month-long clinical rotations at UTHSC affiliated sites in Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. For their final month, the students returned to Memphis for a summative experience, which focused on displaying their newly acquired skills with a series of medical simulations, an intense three-day board review and research presentations.

Despite the intense requirements, the students were able to find time for other experiences, including participation in intramural activities and also adopting a floor at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, where they would spend time with patients on a weekly basis. Students also participated in interprofessional educational experiences, including partnering with Methodist Wellness Wednesday on an oral cancer screening project and also spending time with senior students at Southern College of Optometry learning more advanced techniques of emergency ophtalmological concerns, including hands on practice removing foreign bodies from a cow eye.

Carrie Dill, one of the students said, “I’m so glad I chose the PA profession as a career path. The process is challenging, but I’m excited to take on the responsibility of caring for patients. It has been a unique experience being part of the inaugural class and I hope the program continues to grow!”

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies was scheduled to be part of the College of Medicine in July 2016.

Doctoral Courses Begin Fall 2015

The HIIM faculty, in conjunction with the College of Graduate Health, is teaching three doctoral courses in health informatics in the Health Policy and Informatics Department of Physician Assistant Studies at UTHSC. The HIIM faculty, in conjunction with the College of Graduate Health, is teaching three doctoral courses in health informatics in the Health Policy and Informatics Department of Physician Assistant Studies at UTHSC.

The HIIM program has been a part of UTHSC since 1954. A unique aspect of the program is that faculty and staff have grown with it, developing the new curriculum. Beth Bowman, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA, Professor Emeritus, has been with UTHSC’s HIIM program for more than 40 years and taught both Ferguson and Woodcock. When Ferguson attended class in the late seventies, it was daily and in a classroom setting. Today, HIIM offers just an online program which is the curriculum her daughter, Woodcock, followed.

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Faculty

Sajeev Kumar, PhD, Institute of Health Outcomes and Policy, coordinated the interdisciplinary health outcomes and policy research PhD program, actively engaged faculty from all colleges in the educational programs of the Institute, developed academic courses and activities related to the mission of the Institute. Specifically, he chaired Executive Council meetings, formed student recruitment strategy, established a new website, launched new recruitment materials, chaired the admissions committee, enrolled a new group of doctoral students, graduated two doctoral students, initiated a curriculum review process, introduced new courses and coordinated a doctoral seminar course.

Keisha Brooks, UTHSC education coordinator for the Cytotechnology Program, served as president of the American Society for the Accreditation of Cytotechnologists (ASCT) from April 2014 until May 2015. She presided over the annual conference in Nashville. Among the noteworthy accomplishments under her leadership was the creation of a student academic scholarship in honor of Bob Gay, a former ASCT leader. She was also instrumental in getting the ASCT to provide free membership to cytotechnology students.

Susan Apple, PT, DPT, PhD, former faculty member and adjunct professor in the Department of Physical Therapy was elected to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) board of directors in June 2015.

Kendall L. Booker, MOT, OTRL, graduated from UTHSC in 2010. His experience as an occupational practitioner ranges from outpatient, burn unit, and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). At UTHTCS, she serves as the academic fieldwork coordinator and faculty advisor for the PTE Delta Zeta Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon (PTO) Honor Society. She has volunteered as an OT in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Flick is currently the fieldwork developer for the first-ever bachelor’s degree program for OT and PT at the Episcopal University in Leogane, Haiti. She is pursuing a Doctor of Health Science in Global Health at New Southeastern University. Flick’s research interests include capacity building, health disparities, and international education.

Brittany Nash, PT, DPT, OTRL, MTC is a graduate of the University of St. Augustine Health Science Center and possesses a master’s degree in Occupational Therapy and doctorate of Physical Therapy. She holds an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University and Sociology. She joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Occupational Therapy Department in 2015. Her practice experience has been in pediatrics and outpatient orthopedics. She holds a certification in manual therapy and her areas of interest are in myofascial release, hand therapy and splinting.

Kunal Singhal, PT, PhD, has been awarded a Career Development grant through the collaboration of UTHSC and the IRESE program. This grant provides financial support to assist the next generation of clinical and translational research faculty. He joined the faculty in November 2014. Singhal completed his PhD at Texas Women’s University in Denton, Texas and was a postdoctoral research associate in the Movement Analysis Lab at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas prior to moving to Memphis. His research interest involves understanding human movement in real-world environments and finding clinically relevant variables to analyze it. In addition to his research and teaching responsibilities he is seeing patients at Baptist Memorial Hospital and through UTHSC Therapists. His wife, Nishi, is also a physical therapist with a master’s degree in Public health and a master’s degree in Health Systems Management.

Anita Mitchell, PhD, OTRL, FAOTA was promoted to full professor in May 2015. In April 2015, Dr. Mitchell was named to the American Occupational Therapy Association Board of Fellows, in acknowledgment of her work in early intervention, advocacy and research. Dr. Mitchell earned a Bachelor of Health Science degree in occupational therapy from the University of Missouri in 1983 and a Master of Science degree with a specialty in pediatric occupational therapy from Boston University in 1989. She earned a PhD in Educational Psychology and Research (concentration in research) from the University of Memphis in 1992. Her practice experience is in pediatrics, and she has taught courses in pediatrics, neurology, and occupational-centered practice at UTHCS since 1990. She joined the UTHSC OT faculty full-time in 1992. She has published 14 articles related to pediatrics and education in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy, Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics, Occupational Therapy in Health Care, and Occupational Therapy International. She recently contributed a chapter to an edited book focused on evidence-based intervention in the Health Professions: Promoting Best Practice in the Learning and Teaching of Students that was published in Australia and included international and multidisciplinary contributors. She currently serves as a reviewer for the American Journal of Occupational Therapy, an editorial board member of Occupational Therapy International, and on the Tennessee State Occupational Therapy Board. She has received awards for teaching and research during her tenure at the university. Her research interests include clinical reasoning, various aspects of fine motor development, and epistemic and ontological cognition of occupational therapy students.

Audrey Zucker-Levin, PT, PhD, MBA, GCS Emeritus was promoted to full professor in June 2015. She is currently serving as the program chair for the annual meeting of the Gait and Clinical Movement Analysis Society held in Memphis in May 2016.

Katie Faulkner, PhD, joined ASL in Fall 2016 as an assistant professor in audiology. Dr. Faulkner earned her PhD in 2012 at the University of Cincinnati. She recently completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in the speech research laboratory of the Psychological and Brain Sciences department at Indiana University. Dr. Faulkner’s research focus is on exploring ways to improve outcome and benefit for adults and children who have cochlear implants. According to Dr. Faulkner, “not all cochlear implant users achieve the same levels of success of a variety of reasons that are not well understood.” Her research seeks to identify these sources of individual variability to help develop more effective clinical rehabilitation approaches. Recently her work has focused on the roles of perceptual and cognitive skills on understanding speech in noisy conditions.

James Lewis, PhD, joined ASL this fall as an assistant professor in audiology. Dr. Lewis earned his PhD in Speech and Hearing Science at the University of Iowa in 2013. More recently he was a postdoctoral research fellow at Boys Town National Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Lewis’ research interests include the development of noninvasive techniques that rely on sound pressure measurements made in the ear canal to differentially diagnose middle-ear pathologies in both children and adults. He is also interested in cochlear processing of sound in both normal ears and ears with hearing loss using a combination of psychophysical, acoustic, and electrophysiological methods (acoustic emissions that are generated by the ear) and the auditory brainstorm response.


Gwen Johnson (May 2015) “The Impact of ICD-10 Implementation on Hospital Providers” Greater Atlanta Health Information Management Association (GAHIMA) Dekalb Medical Center, Atlanta, Georgia. March 27, 2015.


Several of the second year Master of Cytopathology Practice students were able to attend the American Society for Cytotechnology (ASCT) conference in Nashville in May 2015. Both Christine Niver and Lan Tran presented their interesting cases in the platform session at the meeting.

First year Medical Laboratory Science student Easton Burney received an award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Education and Research Fund. Easton also has been selected as the ASCLS-TN Student Delegate and was able to attend the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, and will be planning the student activities at the ASCLS-TN Conference in 2016.

Kelsey Miles is First Recipient of Mitzi Zeno Scholarship

In the fall of 2015, the first Mitzi Zeno Scholarship Award was granted to Kelsey Miles. The award will be presented each year to a third-year physical therapy student with an overall GPA of 3.5 or greater and an interest in pursuing a career in the field of neurorehabilitation. Miles has a strong interest in treating patients with neuromuscular impairments as evidenced by her clinical internship choices and her stated goal of obtaining her certification as a neuromuscular specialist after graduation.

Donations to the Mitzi Zeno Scholarship Fund are still being accepted through the direct link at uthealthcalsmi.com/zeno.
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center graduated 779 new health care professionals at separate ceremonies for each of its six colleges from May 12 through May 27, 2016.

The 779 graduates include:

- 123 from the College of Dentistry
- 77 from the College of Graduate Health Sciences
- 188 from the College of Health Professions
- 158 from the College of Medicine
- 81 from the College of Nursing
- 152 from the College of Pharmacy

This spring’s graduating class comprised 462 women and 317 men. Reflective of the diversity in Tennessee, 20 percent of the graduates are from underrepresented groups.

The class includes 197 graduates who came from out of state to study at UTHSC.

“We’re proud of our graduates,” said Lori Gonzalez, PhD, vice chancellor for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs, and interim dean of the COHP. “We know that these individuals will positively impact health care as they become practitioners or providers.”

Dr. Gonzalez noted that this year’s graduating class of 779 is a significant increase in number over last year’s class of 698 graduates. “UTHSC is committed to improving the health of Tennesseans, as evidenced by the increased number of graduates – an increase of roughly 10 percent over last year,” she said.

“Our mission is to improve the health of the citizens of Tennessee, and these graduates are not only going to do that, they’re going to become leaders in their communities.”

W. G. “Dub” Currie single-handedly put tennis back on the varsity map at UT Knoxville in the late 1940s, he probably never dreamed that he was building a Big Orange legacy. That’s exactly what he did, however, and two generations later, his own granddaughter Anna Laura Kaspar (PT ’18) is now bearing the UT torch as a first-year physical therapy student at UTHSC, in part because of the tradition her grandfather established so many years ago.

Kaspar is the 2015-16 Legacy Scholar in the College of Health Professions.

The Legacy Scholarship is an initiative of the UT Alumni Association that awards scholarships to those current students who are children or grandchildren of UT alumni.

After receiving the news that she had been selected for the award, Kaspar was able to tell most of her family – mom (Amy, BS ’91), dad (David, MD ’87) and three siblings (UTK alumni) – at the same time.

“I said to my family, ‘thank you all for going to Tennessee!’” she said, laughing.

More seriously, Kaspar is grateful for all the donors who make scholarship funding possible. “I would tell them to keep doing what they’re doing. It could be a small donation or a large donation, but anything helps.”

Kaspar is in her first semester of the physical therapy program, following in her mother’s footsteps and motivated by the impact therapists had on her personal recoveries from sports-related injuries over the years.

“I love the relationship aspect of it,” she said. “As a physical therapist, you can really build relationships with your patients and be the brightest part of their day.”

Unsure of a specialty just yet, Kaspar is looking forward to gaining exposure to different settings.

“I love the hands-on labs so far, and I love being with people who have the same goals.”

To make a gift to support deserving and dedicated students like Anna Laura Kaspar, visit uthscalumni.com/give.
A civil war forced Deng Maluk out of his home country of Sudan when he was just 8 years old, setting him on a more than 25-year journey that brought him to UTHSC.

Once among the “Lost Boys of Sudan,” Maluk, now 36, has found a bright future. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in May 2015 from the Medical Laboratory Science Program in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at UTHSC, and works at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga after achieving board certification.

The odyssey began in 1987, when Maluk, his family, and neighbors were forced to flee their village in southern Sudan because of a civil war that had raged in that country for several years.

“It was terrible,” he said. “An attack happened. My parents ran, and I ran to a different place with other people. The village burned down.”

With the family scattered into the bush, Maluk joined a group of boys and began weeks of walking barefoot in the company of a few adults to try to find safety in Ethiopia.

“We didn’t have anywhere to stay,” he said. “We had to stay three months under the trees until the United Nations came to help us.”

More than 20,000 boys were displaced or orphaned during the Sudanese Civil War that began in 1983. Aid workers in the refugee camps dubbed them the “Lost Boys of Sudan.”

“We were little kids, and they asked us ‘where are you going?’ We didn’t know,” he said. “‘These are lost boys,’ they said.”

Unable to communicate with his parents or siblings, Maluk assumed they were dead. He lived on his own, making his way to Kenya by 1992. He settled there, until relief workers advised him he would be given medical screening and orientation to prepare him to go to America. “I was thinking when I came to America, I would go to school, and when I finished it, I would work and then be independent,” Maluk said.

He was brought to Nashville by World Relief International, and at age 21 was alone in his new country with little English and no work. “From there, I realized that everything is on my shoulders and I have to take responsibility,” he said.

Maluk got a job in a hotel, took English classes and earned his GED. He paid for his community college classes at Volunteer State and Columbia State with grants and the money he made working.

In 2007 he became an American citizen, and in 2008 he moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to attend Middle Tennessee State University. He graduated in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in biology.

Yet diploma in hand, he could not find a job.

Maluk researched educational and career opportunities. Becoming a medical laboratory scientist seemed like a good option. It would take two years, and would help him find a job but would not mean starting over in a new field. He applied to the program in the College of Health Professions at UTHSC and was accepted. He started classes in August 2013, and finished in May 2015.

Kathy Kenwright, MS, MLS (ASCP) SI, MB, associate professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, said Maluk was a welcome addition to the student body at UTHSC.

“We enjoyed having Deng as a student in the MLS program, as he was always cheerful, respectful and very grateful for the opportunities that UTHSC offered,” she said. “Deng taught us all to appreciate so many things that we take for granted in the U.S.”

Maluk, whose first school was outdoors under a tree, added so much that he was honored by his UTHSC professors at graduation with the Alice Scott Hitt Award.

The award is given to a student who has shown outstanding personal and professional characteristics.

“That was a surprise,” he said. “They explained the award came from the faculty. I was so happy about that.”

With determination born from adversity, he looks forward to achieving much more – advancing his career, having a family and one day seeing his parents and siblings, who miraculously survived the war. They have talked on the phone, but Maluk has not returned to Sudan.

“I just proceed and persevere and keep doing what I’m doing,” he said. “Once you give up, you fail.”

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Deng Maluk receives the Alice Scott Hitt Award from Kathy Kenwright, chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, at the 2015 graduation ceremony. The award is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding personal and professional characteristics.

“I just proceed and persevere and keep doing what I’m doing. Once you give up, you fail.”

Deng Maluk
In Memoriam

1978
John Tonkovich (PhD ‘78) appeared in community theater productions of Man on Man and Hair.

1980
Linda Mock (MA Audiology ’80) is a clinical audiologist at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

1999
Pat Jameson, (HIIM ’98), RHIA, joined Group Benefits as compliance director.

2000
Denise Boyd Bryant (MA SLP ’00) is a speech-language pathologist with Anderson County Schools in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

2001
Sarah Lynn Johnson Vultz (PT ’01) married in June 2015.

2005
Kevin A. Webb (HIIM ’05), RHIA is the Chief of Health Information Services Department of Information Sciences/CI Division at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

2009
Melissa Land (MA SLP ’09) has opened Going Places, a speech-language practice in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

2012
Joanna Caldarullo Jeanfreau (PT ’12) and Andrew Jeanfreau (PT ’12) welcomed a baby girl, Avery Kate, in April 2015.

2013
Jennifer Terry (MA SLP ’13) is working at the MOT program in 2012.

2014
Sara and Rusty Whitten (both PT ’14) welcomed a daughter on July 8, 2015. Her name is Marley Grace Greer.

2015
Tricia had a warm, contagious smile, and was a true team player – always willing to go the extra mile for her coworkers.

In Memoriam

1941
Clemence W. McCain
Knoxville

1947
Jeana Eddleman Cook
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

1952
Dr. Laverne Tolley Gurley
Memphis

1953
Carolyn K. Verble
Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

1955
Anita Connell
Saint Augustine, Florida

1957
Alda F. Pant
Avery, North Carolina

1959
Sondra S. Lazarus
Memphis

1963
Helen C. Arney
Collierville, Tennessee

1964
Susan J. Claborn
Knoxville

1965
Doris Williams
Knoxville

1966
Carol Shippey Greene
Dickson, Tennessee

1967
June A. Cope
Knoxville

1971
Richard A. Pressly
Panama City, Florida

1973
Elkie A. Grace
Memphis

1979
Terry Looney
Knoxville

1992
Carolyn Mikulic Fletcher
Germantown, Tennessee

1994
Mary J. Hardin
Columbia, Tennessee

1997
Marsha H. Barton
Millington, Tennessee

2005
Kathryn Taylor McMasters
Bartlett, Tennessee

2008
Patti Harrigan
Beaumont, Texas

Dr. Anna Nabelek, Professor of Audiology Emeritus
1934-2015
The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology mourned the loss of Anna Karczewska-Nabelek, who passed away in May 2015 at the age of 81. Dr. Nabelek was a research professor at the University of Tennessee from 1973 until her retirement. A native of Poland, Dr. Nabelek received her PhD in audiology from the Technical University in Warsaw in 1959. She was an honorary fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association. Dr. Nabelek was a noted and well-respected researcher in the area of speech recognition in noise and was lead researcher for a seminal study which introduced the concept of acceptable noise level (ANL) as a predictor of hearing aid success. Her research was instrumental in the development of acceptable noise levels for hearing aid wearers.

Dr. Tricia C. Satkowski, Assistant Dean, Finance & Administration
1972-2016
The College of Health Professions is mourning the death of Tricia Satkowski, who died in June 2016 at the age of 43. Dr. Satkowski earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at UT Martin, and a Doctorate of Education, Business Administration at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She worked at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital before coming to UT Health Science Center.

Dr. Lee Holder, Founding Dean of the College of Community and Allied Health Professions
1932-2016
Lee Holder, PhD, founding dean of the College of Community and Allied Health Professionals at UT Health Science Center Knoxville, died Jan. 30, 2016 at the age of 84 in Windsor, Colorado. Dr. Holder had at various times served as a professor on the faculties of Johns Hopkins University, the University of North Carolina, the University of Tennessee, Memphis State University, the University of Oklahoma, and the Army Command and General Staff School. He earned both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a PhD in Public Health Administration from the University of Michigan.

In addition to his work in academia, Dr. Holder worked as a public health inspector in both Oakland, Calif. and the Wyoming Health Department which, when coupled with his educational background led to his appointment as the founding dean of the College of Community and Allied Health Professions at the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in Memphis. He served in this capacity from 1972 until 1982.

During his professional career, Dr. Holder served as national president of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions and as an international consultant on allied health programs in the countries of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Dr. Holder held the rank of colonel in the Army Reserves and retired from the Army in 1992 with 50 years of active and reserve service in the Quartermaster and Infantry branches. He was a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Order of the World Wars.

To make a donation in memory of Dr. Holder, go to uthscalumni.com/ho.