UT Health Science Center Celebrates 100 Years

50 Years of African-American Achievement
From the Gaston to the Globe: Nursing Worldwide
Alumni Award Winners
I often speak with pride of the history of our college and the legacy of academic innovation and leadership that seems hard-wired in its fiber. Never has the face of that legacy been so pronounced as in this edition of “Nursing.” Perhaps it’s the juxtaposition of historical aspects of the Health Science Center’s centennial anniversary and the stories about the marvelous work of our faculty and students that bring this legacy alive.

The feature article, “From the Gaston to the Globe” artfully illustrates how the legacy of excellence and innovation, upon which the College of Nursing was founded, is linked and lives on in some of the amazing work of our faculty. However, most faculty will tell you that it is the accomplishments of their students that bring them the most gratification.

The stories about our alumni who were named Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars and who received Postdoctoral Fellowships exemplify some of the outstanding accomplishments of our graduates and provide assurance that the future of nursing is bright.

It seems everyone these days is focused on the future of nursing. The convergence of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Institute of Medicine report on the Future of Nursing, the changes in our health care system that will necessitate nurses assuming greater responsibility for the delivery of health care, and the emergence of new academic programs for nurses poise us for what is likely to be some of the most dramatic changes that have occurred in our profession. The UTHSC centennial celebration prompts us to reflect on the past, but perhaps more importantly, it also causes us to contemplate what the next 100 years may hold in store for our university, profession and health care. Regardless of what that future may hold, we can be confident that the legacy of innovation and leadership that survived the first 100 years of our college will continue into the next century and help shape health care for generations to come.

Donna Hathaway, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean
College of Nursing
UTHSC has begun our centennial celebration commemorating our 100 years on the Memphis campus. The College of Nursing is a key part of this celebration. It is fitting that this centennial marks the expansion of our nursing programs with expansion of the nation’s leading Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. It also marks the return of the BSN to MSN program to the UTHSC campus to complement our Clinical Nurse Leader MSN Program.

In January, I had the opportunity to spend some time with then Governor-elect Bill Haslam during one of his several pre-inauguration visits to Memphis. Our partners at the Memphis Bioworks Foundation organized a presentation to demonstrate the myriad, local growth opportunities on the horizon in biotechnology. Naturally, the UT-Baptist Research Park, where our Regional Biocontainment Lab and nearly complete, new College of Pharmacy Building are located, was one of the items on the agenda.

Also in January, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBST), one of our long-standing health care partners, kicked off our year on an incredibly bright note with the award of a more than $2.9 million grant. The funds will be used to move our campus forward, at a much more rapid rate, to establish an interdisciplinary simulation center where students from five colleges – Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy – can work together to practice team-based clinical care, while sharpening their focus on patient safety. I hope you’ll take a few moments to read about the grant on page 6. We are incredibly appreciative of this noteworthy gift, and we take great pride in counting Vicky Gregg, CEO for BCBST, and her team at the BCBST Foundation as one of our most steadfast and generous partners.

Through the generosity of our alumnus Dr. Robert Kaplan (College of Medicine, 1973), we established the Kaplan Clinical Skills Center several years ago. On page 7, you can read about the technological updates recently installed to provide all students with an even more enhanced, realistic clinical training experience.

In March, UT Day on the Hill, the annual legislative outreach event that brings representatives from every UT campus to Nashville, highlighted the UTHSC Centennial. Legislators were afforded an opportunity to hear more about how UTHSC affects the lives of people throughout the state, region and beyond.

In addition, please make note that the UTHSC Centennial Anniversary Gala has been moved to Saturday, September 17, 2011. We hope many of you will join us right here in Memphis where our institution was founded and has continued to flourish.

The UTHSC Centennial Book continues to be available for purchase online and at our Bookstore in Memphis. During the book signings that Dr. Pat Wall and I participated in at year-end, we found faculty, staff, students and alumni not only thrilled with the Centennial Book but also pleased to have a copy of the 75th anniversary book, gratis, as a bonus. We hope you will visit our bookstore Web site (www.uthsc.bncollege.com or http://bit.ly/uthsc_100) to purchase copies of our centennial book for yourself, a friend or colleague. You can also scan the QR code printed at the bottom of this page with your smart phone to make a book purchase.

In sync with the celebration of our first century, UTHSC is also celebrating 50 Years of African-American Achievement throughout 2011 as a way to recognize the accomplishments of African-American alumni and students. This celebration is being held in conjunction with other campuses within the UT system. Read more about how to get involved with this special series of events on page 7.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor
The UT Health Science Center
DiPietro Takes Office as UT President

A new era of leadership at the University of Tennessee began on January 3, 2011.

That was the first day on the job for new UT President Joe DiPietro. “I’m rolling up my sleeves and getting to work,” DiPietro said in an e-mail sent on his first day to system-wide faculty and staff. “After my election, I made quick visits to each campus, and I am in the process of scheduling more visits that will let me spend more time getting to know each place and its distinctiveness.”

The Board of Trustees elected DiPietro as the 24th president of UT in October. He officially became president on Jan. 1. During the transition, Interim President Jan Simek and DiPietro traveled to each campus.

“I’m grateful to Dr. Jan Simek for his outstanding service as interim president. He has been a steadying influence and strong advocate for the university over the last 22 months,” DiPietro said. “He has guided us through these difficult economic times, and I believe his efforts have us on a sound foundation as we begin 2011.”

For more information about President DiPietro, visit his Web site at http://president.tennessee.edu/.

Centennial Celebration Launched

It all began in 1911 with the merger of several Tennessee medical units into the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. Now, 100 years later, UTHSC continues our commitment to research, education, clinical care and public service.

To ignite excitement for this year, a kickoff event was held in conjunction with the Development Council meeting in April 2010 at the Madison Hotel. The council rotates between all campuses and convenes in Memphis every four years.

Top donors, faculty and attendees watched the sunset on the rooftop of the hotel while enjoying live music and a display of health care memorabilia.

Throughout 2011, UTHSC will salute the past and celebrate a promising future through a variety of centennial activities for students, alumni, faculty and staff. In addition, a coffee table book that showcases our people, campuses and pivotal role in the health care fabric of our communities will also be available for purchase. (See page 15 for more information about this commemorative item.)
New Faces In Nursing
Nursing has welcomed the following six new faculty and staff members to the college:

Victoria Bass
Assistant Dean of Administration

Amanda B. Ermis
Instructor

Jamie A. Garrett
Coordinator I

Brenda Hill
Instructor

Beverly A. Jones
Instructor

Stephanie Plummer
Assistant Professor

New Executive Dean for Medicine
Following a nationwide search, Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, announced that David M. Stern, MD, has been named executive dean for the UT College of Medicine campuses statewide.

Reporting directly to Chancellor Schwab, Dr. Stern will serve as the chief academic and administrative officer responsible for the College of Medicine campuses in Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville. Additionally, Dr. Stern will serve as Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs at UTHSC to oversee the college’s clinical activities and faculty practice plans.

Dr. Stern, who since 2005 has been a pivotal part of the University of Cincinnati’s academic medicine community, embarked on his new position at UTHSC in mid-April.

100 Years Right Here in Memphis
In addition to remembering what UTHSC has meant to the health care community for the past 100 years, other memories have also been shared. To the right is a highlight of UT’s Nurse Basketball Team; local radio stations in Memphis aired this piece in January.

Hi, this is Steve Pike, director of the Pink Palace Family of Museums with another Memphis Moment. Years before the Lady Vols were hanging championship banners in Knoxville, UT had a champion women’s basketball team right here in Memphis.

As early as 1953, the UT Nurses competed against nurses from local hospitals in a league run by the city’s parks commission. But they really took off in 1955 when they found a volunteer coach in the person of Jim Stockdale, who had recently arrived on campus as the new director of student welfare.

To complement a schedule that included a dozen games each season, Stockdale started a tournament — the Cotton States Nurses Invitational. It drew competition from as far as Georgia and Kansas. Under Stockdale, the UT Nurses won seven tournament championships and 12 Nurses League titles in 26 years. His teams won 68 percent of their games. Three teams finished with undefeated records.

By 1981, when Stockdale retired from coaching, the golden age of nursing school basketball was gone, a victim of changing times. Compared to the ’50s and ’60s, nursing students tended to be older and more family oriented. A growing percentage were males. And women’s basketball was fast becoming a major presence at large state universities, eclipsing the old leagues where the sport had once flourished. The UT Nurses team folded after the 1985 season.

But the players remembered. Years later, one recalled Stockdale as the most special person she had ever known. “You did not read much about [the nurses’ league] in the newspapers,” Stockdale said. “But it really mattered to those who were playing.”

You can learn more about the rich history of our region including the UT Medical School at the Pink Palace Museum.
Nursing Anesthesia Program Receives International Recognition

The UTHSC College of Nursing Anesthesia Program was awarded “Recognition” status in March 2011 by the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists and is now a step closer to becoming internationally accredited.

Jill Detty Oswaks, CRNA, DNSC, director of UTHSC’s Nurse Anesthesia Option, explained that the nurse anesthetist program is moving toward international acknowledgment. “There are three levels – registration (first), recognition (second), and accreditation (third, highest). We have entered the program for the pilot accreditation process and while waiting for a decision, we moved forward with recognition,” she said.

IFNA Recognition signifies the College of Nursing’s commitment to a common standard of education quality for non-physician anesthesia programs throughout the globe.

Having completed all requirements of the approval process and receiving recognition as such, UTHSC will be a model for others to follow. As part of the Recognition UTHSC’s nursing anesthesia curriculum will be shared on IFNA’s Web site for easy access by programs around the world.

UTHSC Receives Nearly $3 Million BlueCross Grant

UTHSC has been awarded a $2,912,751 grant from the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Health Foundation to fund its “Promoting Patient Safety Through Teamwork-Focused Interdisciplinary Simulations Program.” Vicky Gregg, CEO for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBST), provided Chancellor Steve Schwab with the first installment at a January 24 check presentation.

The nearly $3 million grant, which runs through 2013, will support the purchase of new medical simulators, computers and software for training students from five UTHSC colleges – Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. Use of simulators allows students from different colleges to work as an interdisciplinary team and respond to simulated patient care crises and address real-world health problems.

The grant supports recruitment of three staff members to administer the program, including a director. It will also fund the installation of equipment and software to record, analyze and evaluate performance.

“This grant will be a tremendous asset in educating future generations of health care professionals from a wide variety of disciplines,” said Chancellor Schwab. “Today’s health care students and trainees must learn to consistently work as teams, to trust each other’s judgment, and to maintain a constant, shared focus on patient safety.” He also noted, “The grant will allow us to move ahead with this collaborative training methodology at a much faster pace. We will be able to bring together students with a range of health care specialties in simulations where they can practice listening, learning and pooling their knowledge and resources to better serve patients.”

BCBST, a more than 65-year-old health insurance provider, established its foundation to award grants for initiatives that improve health for the state’s citizens.

“The idea of health care as a team exercise that is practiced and coordinated with a focus on quality patient care and safety resonates strongly with our organization,” said Gregg. “We are pleased to support this forward-thinking initiative, which will better prepare the next generation of health care providers in our state and positively impact the health of Tennesseans.”
UTFSC Celebrates 50 Years of African-American Achievement

UT Health Science Center will celebrate 50 Years of African-American Achievement throughout 2011 as a way to recognize the accomplishments of African-American alumni and students. This celebration is being held in conjunction with other campuses within the University of Tennessee system. This year is especially significant for UTFSC since the main campus in Memphis is marking its centennial anniversary in 2011: 100 years advancing the future of health care.

“UTFSC has demonstrated a consistent commitment to diversity since the desegregation of the Health Science Center and the Geier Consent Decree,” said UTFSC Chancellor Steve Schwab. “We continue to be progressive in supporting equal opportunities for African-Americans to succeed in all areas of our institution – from student enrollment and retention to hiring and retention of faculty and staff.”

During the year-long celebration of African-American Achievement, UTFSC will also focus on encouraging African-American alumni and student interactions, and on building African-American alumni relations – i.e., participation, volunteerism and networking – through a series of events that will include the Black Student Association (BSA) Awards Ball, a celebration luncheon, a Wine Down Reception at the Soulsville/Stax Museum, and UTFSC Diversity Day.

For more information about UTFSC Health Science Center’s year-long program to mark 50 Years of African-American Achievement, please contact the UTFSC Office of Equity and Diversity by telephone – (901) 448-2112; by e-mail – hsc-oed@uthsc.edu or through our Web site – www.uthsc.edu/oed/50years.php.

Technology Advances Clinical Skills Training

UTFSC donors and guests recently joined UTFSC faculty for a special demonstration at the Kaplan Clinical Skills Center located in the 920 Madison Building. The group – which included Robert J. Kaplan, MD, the Memphis dermatologist who made the center possible – gathered for a close look at the new B-Line Medical System in action. The B-Line brings new videotaping and audio capabilities into the already advanced patient simulation facilities, equipping each of the 12 patient exam rooms and the hallways outside them with video and audio.

Before the B-Line was installed, each student undergoing clinical skills training would enter an exam room that had a standardized patient and a faculty member who was quietly taking notes and watching everything the student did and said. No matter how unobtrusive the observer might have been, having a third person in the room while a student is interacting with a simulated patient had to be a nerve-wracking experience. [Editor’s note: Standardized patients are real people who are trained, much like actors, to present certain symptoms to the student.]

With the B-Line in place, we can give our students a much more realistic clinical skills training experience,” said Robert Shreve, associate dean for Medical Education in the UT College of Medicine. Students are given a case, enter the exam room and have a focused 15-minute encounter with the trained standardized patient, followed by a 10-minute write-up. The exchange is captured on videotape while faculty members observe from a nearby monitoring station. Following the encounter, assessments are completed about each patient exam and digital portfolios are also available for students to review their progress and self-evaluate.
Nursing and Med Tech Simulation: A Model for Others

By: Amber Carter

Nurses and medical technologists working together to meet the needs of patients—that’s a demand of the real world. However, training students together to prepare them for this modus operandi is not as common. The UTHSC College of Nursing is leading the way to change this, showing others how it can be done.

The Colleges of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences have joined forces to showcase and participate in a unique process known as inter-professional simulation through the use of the UTHSC Virtual Blood Bank.

Located on the second floor of the General Education Building on the UTHSC Memphis campus, the Virtual Blood Bank is a success story. The simulation was designed to mimic real-life client and health care professional interactions during blood administration and transfusion reactions. The concept developed after several months of meetings and decisions. Teresa Britt, MSN, RN, director of Nursing Simulation and Clinical Assessment, said the two colleges wanted to collaborate in order to “provide an opportunity for students and faculty in different disciplines to interact and learn from each other within a simulated clinical scenario.”

Started in October 2010, the operation of the Virtual Blood Bank can best be described as a step-by-step process. After receiving patient requisition orders, blood was issued from this “Blood Bank” by the medical technology (MT) students. Nursing students reviewed patient orders and performed initial patient assessments on the mannequin patients who would be receiving the transfusions in the College of Nursing Simulation Lab. Blood components were subsequently administered according to established protocols.

After the initial collaborative steps, students and instructors held a debriefing to review best practices for safety and communication. The scenarios resumed, and the simulated patients were monitored for physiological changes. As each individual patient case unfolded, all RN and MT students observed the scenario play out via the remote Laerdal Audiovisual System. Another debriefing was held after all six patient transfusions were completed with the subsequent reactions/non-reactions. Students discussed the pathophysiology of the reactions and performed root cause analysis of any contributing errors.

Both student groups rated this as a positive inter-professional learning experience, expounding both patient care content and health care roles. The Virtual Blood Bank will resume its operation this fall.

“The simulation gave students real-life situations of what can occur during a transfusion reaction, allowing them to experience these scenarios without any harm to an actual patient,” said Britt. She also emphasized that the students from both colleges “discovered commonalities which seemed to enhance their ability to communicate with each other. They also verbalized that after the simulation laboratory, they would be more confident and comfortable communicating on a professional level.”

Soon, others will gain insight into the UTHSC Virtual Blood Bank. An abstract poster was submitted and accepted for the International Nurses Association of Clinical Simulation and Learning annual meeting, which will occur in Orlando, Fla., on June 16 to 18, 2011.
UT Health Science Center Centennial Gala
Saturday, September 17, 2011

For details or tickets, contact Pam Houston phouston@uthsc.edu or (901) 448-1164.
To the Globe

UTHSC College of Nursing Faculty Continue Centennial History of Excellence by Reaching, Working Worldwide

Though the early organizers of what would become the UTHSC College of Nursing set out for excellence, it is hard to imagine that they would have foreseen the global impact the college is making today. Now as the UT Health Science Center celebrates its 100th anniversary it is not surprising to hear that College of Nursing faculty members are having a hand in helping educate the next generation of nurses globally, which is the focus of this year’s Nursing Alumni Day.

At Nursing Alumni Day, held May 20, 2011, faculty members share their experience of teaching, practice and research in Great Britain, Mexico and Peru. However, to fully appreciate the work of these nursing leaders, one must take a glance back at the beginnings of the college and its impact on the field of nursing.

A Look Back

A school to train nurses in Memphis actually began in 1887, and then gained a formal home in 1898 with the opening of the new Memphis City Hospital, located at 860 Madison Avenue, across the street from the present UTHSC campus. The superintendent of nurses for the new nursing school, Mrs. Lena Angevine Warner, stated, “My one object and ambition was to give to my hometown a creditable School of Nursing” (Greenhill, 1998, p.12).

After opening its doors in 1911, the UT College of Medicine began an increasingly close association with the hospital, and in 1926, the nursing school officially came under the university’s umbrella. The College of Nursing became an autonomous unit of the Health Science Center in 1949, though its offices remained in the John Gaston Hospital.

See Globe, pg. 12
A Leader Through the Years

As the first school of its kind in the Mid-South, the UTHSC College of Nursing would continue to lead in the nursing profession and become an integral part of the Health Science Center, helping it to forge its centennial history.

In 1950, the school became one of the earliest programs in the country to grant baccalaureate degrees in nursing. Then in 1961 the School of Nursing became the College of Nursing.

As the nurse practitioner programs of the early 1970s emerged, the UTHSC College of Nursing was among the leaders of the movement. Likewise, the practice doctorate inaugurated at the college in 1998 served as a foundation for Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees now proliferating across the country.

With more than 5,100 alumni to date, the UTHSC College of Nursing has prepared about 2,000 nurses now practicing in Tennessee and is a nationally recognized change agent in nursing education. It is the leading producer of graduate nurses and nursing faculty for the region. And in the past three years the college has nearly quadrupled its research funding and enrollment. The college is also listed on the U.S. News & World Report list of America’s Best Graduate Schools.

Beyond Its Borders

The UT Health Science Center has established a renowned reputation for quality health education and care, thanks in part to the College of Nursing. With its three statewide campuses – Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville, the UT Health Science Center has a major impact on the health of Tennesseans and the entire Southeast and Central regions.

Now College of Nursing faculty are pushing those borders to expand its reach to improve lives globally. A study abroad program in Great Britain, led by Cheryl Stegbauer, PhD, associate dean for academic programs, allows a historical and comparative look at two health systems. Collaborative research in Monterrey, Mexico, is the result of the work of Patty Cowan, PhD, director of UTHSC’s nursing PhD program, and Ann Cashion, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Acute and Chronic Care in the College of Nursing. And an improved quality of life through a systems approach to the problem of child abuse and family violence for the people of Huánuco, Peru, is the hope of Peg Hartig, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Pat Speck, DNSc, FAAN, associate professor and Public Health Nursing (PHN) option coordinator, and Marion Donohoe, DNP, assistant professor in the PHN Option, who have begun collaborative efforts with local officials there.

These faculty members are taking the information they obtain and are teaching the next generation of nurses, sharing this information with colleagues and friends, as well as applying this
knowledge in an effort to improve the health of those near and far. Following is a brief synopsis of their work.

**British and U.S. Health Care Systems**

This study abroad course is headquartered at the University of Evansville’s British campus, Harlaxton College, and is led by UTHSC’s Dr. Cheryl Stegbauer. The program allows a comparative approach to both the Great Britain and U.S. health care systems.

For 10 days both practicing health care professionals and full-time students, travel Great Britain, including to Nottingham, Lincoln, Eyam, Leicester, and Grantham. The stops along the way give participants the opportunity to tour both historical and modern health care sites.

As important as the view of these sites is, the perspective students receive from those who work and live there and who experience Great Britain’s health care system is even greater. It is as they interview and interact with citizens that students are able to develop their comparative study between the health care systems of Great Britain and the United States.

**Mentorship of PhD Students From Mexico**

The collaborative research partnership with Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León began with a desire and a simple invitation. UTHSC faculty member Patty Cowan explains:

“Clinically, we see a large number of patients who come from Mexico or Spanish-speaking countries. We have been seeing more obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes in this population. Originally we thought it was the acculturation to American food and more sedentary behavior,” said Dr. Cowan. “However, about fours years ago I coordinated a trip to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, for our accelerated BSN students. We did developmental screenings and health promotion education for underprivileged preschool children, toured the public hospital, visited outlying rancheros where a food kitchen provided nutrition for the children, and conducted health screenings for the parents. We saw a range of weight in the population, and poor nutrition … few fruits and vegetables, and lots of starches, sodas, candy and chips.”

From this experience, a desire for more research-based evidence regarding the health and health practices of this population was ignited. Then Dr. Ann Cashion met Dr. Esther Gallagoes with the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey, Mexico, which has the only PhD nursing program in Mexico, and extended an invitation for Dr. Gallagoes to visit the UTHSC campus to discuss ways to collaborate.

Subsequently, Dr. Cashion hosted a PhD student, Mercedes, for a six-month research immersion (diabetes research focus). The following year, Dr. Cowan hosted another student Yolanda (childhood obesity focus). While here, the PhD students honed their English speaking and writing skills – both considered essential in order to progress in their careers. (English is the primary language used to present at conferences internationally and in scientific journals.)

The PhD students from Mexico spent time in classes with UTHSC PhD students. They shared ideas, learned about health care in the other’s country, and the roles of the health care team … including nurse researchers.

Working with these students has helped to increase the number of PhD-prepared nurses in Mexico; however, the benefit has not only been to these students. “Dr. Cashion and I have been able to share the research we are doing in the U.S.,” said Dr. Cowan. “We both were invited speakers at their university’s research day.”

But the ultimate benefit will hopefully be to the patients – like the ones Dr. Cowan mentioned seeing, who face obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes.

“We will be interested in replicating findings from the study in Mexico in our first and second generation Mexican-American patients,” she stated. “Hopefully the findings from the studies being done in Mexico will inform our clinical practice as well.”

**Collaborative Beginnings with the Universidad Nacional Hermilio Valdizan and Paz y Esperanza**

This same desire to help improve the health of a community through system’s changes using public health nursing interventions of health promotion and secondary prevention prompted a collaborative effort with the Universidad Nacional Hermilio Valdizan and Paz y Esperanza in Huánuco, Peru. The population in this area is impoverished, suffering from the effects of a post-civil war economy, residual community corruption, and family violence, including domestic violence, rape and child abuse.
UTHSC Nursing faculty members – Drs. Peg Hartig, Pat Speck, and Marion Donohoe – are helping to facilitate a collaborative dialogue among forensic health officials, justice officials (e.g., law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, forensic physicians), and mental health officials (e.g., psychologists and legal advocates) to discuss the public health response to child sexual assault and domestic violence through comprehensive forensic nursing practice and community advocacy.

The focus of their initial efforts was to assess and work with the existing government and non-government organizations in the Huánuco region, to share evidence-based forensic nursing practice, and to begin to build capacity within those organizations. These UTHSC CON leaders saw the evidence of their efforts during their first visit while meeting with local judges, prosecutors and psychologists when a child was removed from an abusive family after the case was discussed among the visiting experts and the Peruvian team members. In an effort to build scholarly relationships, the university president and deans of the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing met to solidify a commitment with UTHSC CON for future endeavors. With each subsequent visit, these beginning partnerships and collaborations with the Peruvian criminal justice and health care systems will shape the future for systematic public health nursing interventions so the Peruvian professionals can help protect and improve the lives of their children and families impacted by civil war and poverty, family violence, and abuse.

Moving Forward

For 100 years, UTHSC nurses have been leading in Memphis and the Mid-South. For decades they have received national recognition for their practice, teaching and research. These three examples of UTHSC faculty members working worldwide is just a sample of the Health Science Center’s impact around the globe.

Now, as day-to-day work has a global impact on health care – magnifying efforts and having a greater effect than ever before – it will be hard for this generation of nurse leaders to imagine what the next 100 years will bring.

Reference:

AUSTRALIAN NURSE PIONEER VISITS UTHSC

While UTHSC Nursing faculty members are having an impact in countries abroad, a nurse leader from the other side of the globe made a stop in Memphis. On October 19 and 20, 2010, Kay Edgecombe, RN, an internationally known pioneer in nursing education, practice and research, met with College of Nursing administrators, faculty and students. Central to Edgecombe’s visit were tours of the three Dedicated Education Units (DEUs) that UTHSC established in partnership with Methodist University Hospital and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. In 1996, Edgecombe, who is on the faculty of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia, conceptualized and implemented the first Dedicated Education Unit (DEU).

DEUs are strategic, sustained collaborations among academic faculty, hospital management and working nursing professionals. This novel model of clinical nursing education allows experienced nurses to serve as clinical teachers who lead by example, providing students with richer, more intensive, real-world clinical training. Edgecombe’s multi-city tour of DEUs around the globe was designed to spur further development of the DEU model.

“We are honored to have someone of Ms. Edgecombe’s stature visit our college and include our work in her international review of Dedicated Education Units,” said Donna Hathaway, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the UT College of Nursing. “As one of the earliest DEUs in the region, our first unit opened at Methodist in January 2009. Its success propelled the establishment of two DEUs at Le Bonheur,” Dean Hathaway observed. “In the past 21 months, 154 UT nursing students have rotated through our three DEUs. These new nurses have attained levels of clinical knowledge, proficiency and confidence that will make all the difference for them, their employers, their colleagues and their patients as they transition into practice.”
The Legacy The Future:
A Centennial Portrait of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Founded in 1911 at the heart of what is now the Memphis Medical Center, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) is now in its centennial anniversary year -- 2011. Since its founding, UTHSC has educated and trained more than 53,000 health care professionals on campuses and in health care facilities across the state. UTHSC and its affiliated teaching hospitals provide more than one million days of inpatient services and more than two million outpatient visits annually.

The centennial book titled -- The Legacy The Future: A Centennial Portrait of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center -- contains beautiful photographs and insightful text that provide a snapshot of our past and present, as well as a glimpse of our future.

Discounted Price: $50

Available in the UTHSC Bookstore
930 Madison Ave., Plaza Level
Memphis, Tenn.

Order Online
http://bit.ly/uthsc_100
Shipping: $6.95 for first book, $1.95 for each additional book shipped to the same address
Outstanding CNL Preceptor: Ulla Mansdorfer

During the past five years, Ulla Mansdorfer has worked with UT BSN and now CNL students on the neurological unit at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. On a unit that is world renowned for the care of children who suffer from seizures, brain tumors, and other neurological diseases, Mansdorfer stands out as a true leader.

Through her years of experience in this patient population, she has developed an extensive knowledge base that enables her to provide comprehensive and intuitive care to her patients and families. She brings an unparalleled expertise to the bedside, resulting in anticipation and early recognition of her patients’ needs. Mansdorfer is conscientious, thorough and precise in her nursing care.

But Mansdorfer is not satisfied with only providing this level of care to her patients. She consistently volunteers to precept and mentor nursing students so that she can share her love of nursing with them. She has a natural ability to work with novice students in a way that uplifts their learning process. She is always encouraging and helpful, creating a sense of accomplishment in the student. She works with all levels of students and can identify strengths and areas for growth in each individual.

As a role model, she exemplifies the qualities of professionalism and performs at an expert level. She teaches students to perform nursing care with precision and care, highlighting areas that require in-depth knowledge and critical thinking of the nurse.

For these reasons, which are noted words of praise from those she works with and trains, Mansdorfer has been named the 2011 Outstanding CNL Preceptor. Recognition was formally made at the Awards Luncheon at the College of Nursing Alumni Day in May.

Susan Jacob Announces Plan to Retire

She knows nursing and has been known in the Mid-South nursing community for more than 30 years; now, after a distinguished career, Susan Jacob, PhD, RN, executive associate dean, has announced plans to retire at the end of this year.

Dr. Jacob joined the UTHSC College of Nursing faculty in September 200 to lead efforts toward the re-establishment of the baccalaureate nursing program. Her role in the college as executive associate dean now focuses primarily on strategic planning, accreditation, and outreach and globalization. She also serves as nurse planner for the UTHSC College of Nursing Continuing Education Provider Unit.

A native of West Virginia, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from West Virginia University, the Master of Science degree from San Jose State University, and the PhD from UT. She served as the first hospice nurse and hospice administrator in Memphis from 1979 to 1984, and in 1982 received the John W. Runyan Award for her efforts toward the development of hospice. She is also a founding member and current chair of the Cashdollar Committee.

During her more than 40 years of nursing, Dr. Jacob served as a tenured professor on the faculty of the Loewenberg School of Nursing and Union University where she also served as dean of the School of Nursing prior to becoming the executive associate dean at UTHSC. She has extensive experience in the area of curriculum development and teaching/learning in both the classroom and clinical settings at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has received numerous awards for her work, served in multiple leadership positions in nursing organizations, and has had local and national research funding in the areas of gerontology, hospice, home health and bereavement.

Dr. Jacob will be deeply missed, as the college prepares for her departure and wishes her the best in retirement.
Achievements

College of Nursing faculty and staff continue to excel, bringing recognition to themselves and the college. Below are just a few highlights:

The 2011 Student Government Association Executive Council’s Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to:

- **Dwayne L. Accardo, DNP, CRNA**, associate director of the nurse anesthesia option, was acknowledged in the College of Nursing
- **Hallie Bensinger, MSN**, instructor, was acknowledged in the College of Nursing
- **Patricia Cowan, PhD, RN**, PhD program director, was acknowledged for her work in the College of Graduate Health Sciences
- **Patricia Cunningham, DNSc**, psychiatric option coordinator, was acknowledged by the UT Alumni Association

**Marie Bredy**, nurse practitioner at University Health Services, was named one of 2011 Memphis’ Great 100 Nurses.

**Irma Jordan, DNP**, assistant professor, has been re-elected to serve as the Tennessee Representative for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She will begin her two-year term of office at the annual membership meeting that will be held on June 22 at its 26th National Conference in Las Vegas, Nev.

**Cynthia K. Russell, PhD**, professor, and Ramona Patterson (PhD student) presented their abstract, “Beginning an International Nursing Education Collaboration,” at the Global Alliance for Leadership in Nursing Education and Science (GANES) on December 10, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

**Pat Speck, DNSc**, public health option coordinator and associate professor, and **Marion Donohoe, DNP**, assistant professor, along with Dr. Pam Connor and PhD student Marie Gill presented at the Academy on Violence and Abuse Biennial Scientific Conference, “The Developing Science of Violence and Abuse: Toward a New Understanding,” held April 15 to 16, 2011, in Bloomington, Minn. Importantly many UTHSC faculty have been co-authors involved in bringing this work forward to the point of presentation but not listed in the conference program.

**Mona Wicks, PhD, RN**, associate dean for research, participated in the University of Tennessee Leadership Institute, held February 6 to 11, 2011, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The Leadership Institute is a statewide program, recognizing and encouraging the excellent performance and leadership development of the university’s faculty and staff.
For the third consecutive year, Nursing has received funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing for the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program (NCIN). This year, a total of $100,000 is being given to underrepresented minority and male students at UTHSC.

Ten students entering the accelerated master’s in nursing program for the 2010-2011 academic year were awarded $10,000 each as an academic scholarship. The students are: James Beasley, Jason Casey, DeAnza Chaffin, Derrick Meadow, Justus Mogaka, John Ogles, Aaron Oswaks, Brittney Smith, Y’Esha Weeks and Andrea Williams. During the past three years, NCIN has supported 40 students at UTHSC.

“Our career-changing students eagerly enter our Clinical Nurse Leader Program to make the dream of becoming a nurse a reality in about two years,” said Donna Hathaway, PhD, FAAN, professor and dean of the UT College of Nursing. “They begin their nursing careers at the master’s level instead of having to start by earning another bachelor’s degree in the nursing field.”

The retention rate for students in the accelerated program at UTHSC is 100 percent. The students participate in weekly mentoring, leadership and academic support activities to ensure the success of the program.

The scholarship program was launched in 2008 to address the nation’s nursing shortage and create a diverse pool of nursing professionals. NCIN allows students to enter an accelerated bachelor’s degree in nursing program or an accelerated master’s-level nursing program for students holding bachelor’s degrees in other fields.
First Class of CNLs Set to Graduate in May

The first class of the Master’s Entry Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) students are scheduled to graduate on May 27, 2011. Upon graduation these students are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Exam-RN and certification as a CNL. They are being recruited to fill nursing staff positions and are sure to positively influence delivery of health care with a vision of error reduction, safety and quality improvement. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

2010 White Coat Ceremony

The College of Nursing held its second white coat ceremony in October in which approximately 50 MSN-CNL Professional Entry students received a white coat marked with an orange UT nursing patch on the sleeve, preparing them for the start of their clinical rotations. The students also took the International Nurses pledge to prepare them for this path.

December 2010 Graduates

The College of Nursing welcomed its newest graduates on Friday, December 10, 2010, during the Dean’s Convocation, held at the Memphis Bioworks Foundation. Rebecca L. Gombkoto, CRNA, DNSc, program director, Minneapolis School of Anesthesia, gave the charge to graduates.

Doctor of Philosophy, Nursing
Sandra Henley Williams

Master of Science, Nursing
Nurse Anesthesia
Cassandra L. Anderson
Heather M. Artiles
Dustin James Brazil
Mary Maureen Farris
Cara Comeau Fisk
Lauren Nicole Goetz
Chad Aaron Goodwin
Elisabeth Faith Hale
Daniel Lex Hester, III
Amelia Suzett Jordan
Theresa Ann Melton
Alyson Lee Owens
Richard Ronald Pace
Lewis Clinton Rushing
Heather Siebert
Robert Lance Tabb
Leslie Dionne Ware
Edmund Jarom Wingert

Bachelor of Science, Nursing
Shelitha S. Harris
Meet the College of Nursing Alumni President

Samuel Maceri, RN, MPA, DNSc, NEA-BC, was instated as the new Nursing Alumni Board President last fall, receiving the gavel from Madge Saba. As the director of Education and Support, Division of Patient Care Services at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Dr. Maceri brings a wealth of nursing knowledge and experience to the alumni board.

Dr. Maceri is originally from Memphis, where he has worked in a variety of nursing positions. He has served as a staff nurse, nurse manager, director of education, director of nursing at a mental health hospital, and director of nursing at a small rural general hospital. He is an adjunct faculty member at a number of local colleges and universities where he does both course and clinical instruction.

Dr. Maceri earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 1966 from St. Mary’s College, Ky., and a Bachelor of Divinity in 1972 from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He graduated from the University of Memphis with an Associate of Arts in Nursing in 1976, a Master of Public Administration in 1980, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1999. In 2001, he received a Master in Nursing degree from the University of Tennessee, and in December 2002 he received the Doctor of Nursing Science degree.

Dr. Maceri is a member of the Tennessee Nurses Association, the National Staff Development Organization, and the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society. Dr. Maceri is board certified in nursing administration – advanced by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Neudecker Joins Nursing Development Team

Chris Neudecker has been a part of the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at the Health Science Center since March 2010, but recently he teamed up with Nursing to help meet their development needs.

A proud West Tennessean, he is thrilled to be back in the area after a 14-year absence. His experiences include working with trust and estate planning and fundraising for educational endowments. His professional career has included working for Her Majesty’s Crown Prosecution Service in London and also as an estate planner for Hollywood’s elite. Neudecker, who has earned a BS from Bethel University, an MBA from the University of Tennessee, and a JD from the University of Missouri, is currently working toward a doctorate in higher education administration.

Neudecker enjoys traveling, researching education policy, reform and leadership, and has yet to see a college football game he won’t watch. He and his wife, Rachael, live in Lakeland and are proud owners of their pug, Allie.
Carver and Phillips Take on New Positions

Recently there have been changes in the UTHSC Office of Development and Alumni Affairs as one leader headed to Knoxville and another arrived from there. Keith Carver, PhD, (above right) interim vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs, was named executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro on Jan. 3. Prior to that Kris Phillips (above left), who for 10 years had served as a director of alumni programs for the UT Alumni Association based in Knoxville, was named associate vice chancellor for Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving.

Dr. Carver has held positions at UT's campuses in Knoxville, Martin and most recently Memphis during his career. Prior to working at UTHSC, Dr. Carver was assistant vice chancellor for development at UT Martin from 2006 to 2010. He held several positions at UT Knoxville including assistant director and director of Development and Alumni Affairs for the College of Law, program director for the Office of Student Activities and co-director of TeamVOLS. He also worked as director of special projects and coordinator of experiential education at Marietta College in Ohio for two years.

A UT system veteran, Phillips' primary responsibilities included managing all affinity marketing programs for UTAA including the Affinity Card Program, Tennessee Travelers (international tours), Traveling Vols (athletic tours), alumni directory (print/CD Rom and online), and the alumni discount insurance program. Phillips also managed sponsorships for the UTAA and the Big Orange Tailgate Tour, a pre-game tailgate program for football and men’s and women’s basketball. From 2008 to 2009, he served a dual role with the UTAA and as interim assistant vice chancellor for alumni affairs at UTHSC.

Goolsby Steps Up in Interim

Bethany Goolsby, JD, was named interim vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs for UTHSC, assuming the responsibilities for the office as Dr. Keith Carver moved to his new position as executive assistant to UT President Dr. Joseph DiPietro.

A national search for a vice chancellor for Development and Alumni affairs is under way, led by UT Trustee George Cates and Dental Dean Dr. Tim Hottel.

Bethany has served as assistant vice chancellor for planned giving at UTHSC since 2007 and has worked at the university for more than eight years. She is well prepared to lead the office while UTHSC undertakes the search for a permanent vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs.
2011 Outstanding Alumna Award Winner
Peggy Ingram Veeser, EdD

Dr. Peggy Ingram Veeser is Professor Emeritus at the UTHSC College of Nursing where she served on faculty as a tenured professor for 30 years. She is formerly the director of University Health Services, a position she held for more than 24 years. Dr. Veeser is former president of the Tennessee Center for Nursing, Fellow and former vice-president and two-term board member of the American College Health Association (ACHA), and Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). With numerous publications and presentations, Dr. Veeser co-authored a chapter on nursing in the only textbook on college health. She has served as executive editor of the Journal of American College Health for 10 years, chair of the National Conference for Nurse Practitioners, and president of the Tennessee Center for Nursing. Dr. Veeser received the ACHA Lovett Award in 1998 for outstanding nurse-directed college health service and the Reifler Award for her contributions to the ACHA Journal. In 2000, Dr. Veeser received the UTHSC Student Government Award for Teaching Excellence and was named the “Outstanding Political Nurse” by the Tennessee Nurses Association. Dr. Veeser was also selected as a Top 100 Nurse throughout the Memphis metropolitan area in both 1990 and 2001.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Vanderbilt University, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner certificate from University of Virginia, Master of Science in Nursing from UTHSC, and Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Higher Education from University of Memphis. A board certified family nurse practitioner since 1980. Dr. Veeser currently works as a nursing consultant in college health, and was recently appointed director of a new RN to BSN program at Christian Brothers University.

As a graduate of Leadership Memphis and the Leadership Academy, Dr. Veeser has always been active in the Memphis community. She has served as president of the Junior League of Memphis and the Alumni Association of Leadership Memphis, and has been a board member for several community organizations, including the Volunteer Center of Memphis, Urban League of Memphis, Memphis Area Planned Parenthood, Leadership Memphis and the UTHSC College of Nursing Alumni Association. Dr. Veeser presently serves as a board member for the Children’s Foundation of Memphis and the American College Health Foundation.

Dr. Veeser’s most cherished accomplishments are her marriage to William Veeser, PhD, and her two children, Mary Catherine Tagg and George Canale Tagg Jr. In her leisure time, she enjoys painting, the practice of Tai Chi and yoga, and family travels.
A New Medallion for Golden Graduates:

One of the traditions of UTHSC alumni is a strong reunion program, especially when alumni return to campus and become “Golden Graduates” in honor of their 50th-year class reunion.

During the UTHSC Centennial, the Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving Office, unveiled the UTHSC Golden Graduate medallion. The handsome keepsake, complemented with its UT orange ribbon, is presented by each collegiate dean to class members who return to campus for this milestone occasion.

UTAA Offers Car Rental Benefits, Discounts

The University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA) is always looking for opportunities to create new benefits for the more than 300,000 UT alumni worldwide. Last month, UTAA entered a partnership with Enterprise Rent-a-Car to provide UT alumni with free memberships in the Emerald Club (a value of $50) and receive discounts on all car and truck rentals through Enterprise and National Car Rental.

The Emerald Club membership allows UT alums services and perks designed to get you in, out and on your way faster. Benefits include:

- **Bypass the counter and choose your own car** - you can bypass the counter and choose any car on this exclusive section of the lot when you reserve a midsize car.

- **E-Receipts** - There’s no need to wait for an agent to give you a receipt. It will be e-mailed to you after each rental.

- **Choose your rewards** - Choose Free Rental Days or Frequent Traveler miles / points as your reward.

For more information on how to receive your UT alumni benefits, visit alumni.tennessee.edu/car.
Two UTHSC College of Nursing alumni, who have traveled similar paths, met as recognized researchers and educators when both were named Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars.

Michael G. Gates, PhD, RN, and Eric A. Hodges, PhD, FNP-BC, are both men in nursing. Both had mothers who were leaders in the field, and both are scholars, though with different areas of research, who teach others.

Dr. Gates is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at San Diego State University. Dr. Hodges is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill School of Nursing.

Drs. Gates and Hodges were two of 15 junior faculty nationwide selected to take part in the second cohort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar Program. Their three-year $350,000 grants began Sept. 1, 2009. The goal of this program is to develop the next generation of national leaders in academic nursing.

Mothers’ Influence & Path to UTHSC

Dr. Gates’ mother (Marie Gates) was the director of Nursing at Western Michigan School of Nursing, but is now retired. She was also a faculty member at the UT School of Nursing while he was there.

“She was very instrumental in my decision to get into nursing and continues to be a sounding board as my academic career develops,” said Dr. Gates.

Dr. Hodges’ mother, who was the dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock and is now retired, also had an impact.

“Our research and clinical areas of interest are quite different,” said Dr. Hodges of his mother, “But mom led me to consider nursing as a career path after she told me about nurse practitioners. I graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1994 with a BA in international studies. After graduating I considered several career paths.

“Mom had never spoken to me about nursing as a career, but while listening to what I wanted in a career, she suggested I consider shadowing a nurse practitioner. I did, and the more I found out, the more it seemed this was the right path for me. So, I went back and got my prerequisites and was accepted at UTHSC in Memphis,” Dr. Hodges explained.

Dr. Gates finished at UTHSC College of Nursing in 1994, while Dr. Hodges graduated in 1996. While they were on campus at different times, Dean Michael Carter influenced both.
“His mentorship was one of the main reasons I decided to pursue my PhD in Nursing, along with my mother’s influence,” said Dr. Gates. “He was my academic advisor while I was at UT, and he continues to be a great source of advice as my nursing career has developed.”

Dr. Hodges agreed, “UTHSC gave me a great foundation while allowing me to graduate on an accelerated time frame. Dr. Michael Carter, dean at the time of my attendance, was very influential, pushing me to consider doctoral work very early in my nursing career. My great pediatric clinical experiences also cemented my love of pediatrics.”

**Careers After UTHSC**

Dr. Gates, who played Division I basketball at Brown University for four years, graduated with a bachelor’s in applied mathematics and economics. Before enrolling in nursing school at UTHSC, he worked for two years at the Urban Institute, a policy think tank in Washington, D.C., doing health care policy research. After UTHSC, he worked as a nurse for about six years primarily in spinal cord injury in Southern California. Then he received his PhD in nursing from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

Now teaching and conducting research, Dr. Gates’ focus is to develop a better understanding of the issues surrounding the use of supplemental nurses in the hospital environment. This, in turn, may have future benefits for supplemental nurses by improving knowledge about the factors that lead to supplemental nurse assimilation, dissatisfaction, burnout and turnover.

The knowledge gained through this study may also further expand knowledge of the supplemental nurse role in today’s economy, the ways in which organizations use them, and the organizational costs associated with their use. Dr. Gates hopes his findings will contribute to the creation of work environments in which patient care is improved, the quality of work life for supplemental nurses is enhanced, and organizational costs associated with the use of supplemental nurses are minimized.

Dr. Hodges has also had a detailed career path; after graduating from UTHSC, he worked at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis for about a year. Then he attended George Mason University’s MSN (Family Nurse Practitioner) program, graduating in 1999. As a FNP, Dr. Hodges practiced full time for about two years in Northern Virginia, and then in 2001, he entered the PhD in nursing program at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. There he minored in developmental psychology and focused on maternal-infant feeding interaction quality and its relationship with early childhood obesity. Dr. Hodges continued this focus as the first PhD-prepared nurse postdoctoral fellow at the Children’s Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine, completing his postdoc in 2007 and joining the faculty at UNC – Chapel Hill School of Nursing that same year.

Dr. Hodges has continued his research of feeding interaction patterns in infancy and toddlerhood and their relationship with childhood obesity risk. He has also collaborated on studies of feeding interaction quality among mother-infant dyads in which the mother has a history of an eating disorder.

**Recognition Along the Pathway**

Both recipients are honored by the award and grateful for its help in continuing their research.

“It was a great honor not only for me but my school and all those that have played a role in my development as a nurse,” said Dr. Gates. “More importantly, this award offers me the opportunity to be a role model for other men looking at nursing as a potential career.”

Dr. Hodges agreed, “It’s been an amazing experience. I can’t think of another program like it given its focus on developing us as complete scholars with a three-year focus on not only our research, but also teaching, leadership and policy. The opportunity to interact not only with my stellar cohort peers, but national and international leaders in nursing is invaluable.”

The RWJF award has also had another benefit – bringing together two UTHSC alumni as colleagues and friends. “Although we have different clinical and research interests we share a similar story and have developed a great friendship through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar Program even though we did not attend UT Memphis together,” concluded Dr. Gates.
The UT Alumni Association Web sites are getting a makeover. Last year nearly 11,000 UT alumni participated in a comprehensive survey to aid the alumni association in the development of a strategic plan, and based on that feedback the UTAA is reshaping the way it communicates.

Darren Hughes, director of Communications for UTAA, is overseeing the Web project. “Our alumni will see a dramatic change when everything goes live this summer, especially when they visit the campus alumni sites. But, honestly, the coolest stuff is happening behind the scenes in the technology that drives it all. Something as seemingly simple as a system-wide events calendar is actually a tricky problem to solve, and I think we’ve finally cracked it.”

The redesigned Web sites will be better integrated with popular social networking tools, including a new feature that allows alumni to connect their Facebook account with their alumni profile. However, the alumni association has no interest in trying to compete with Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter. “There’s a reason half a billion people are on Facebook!” Hughes laughs. “It’s a perfectly designed tool for staying connected with friends. Our goal with the redesign is to do the most important things better. We want to make it easier for alumni to get involved in their local areas, to stay informed about what’s happening on the UT campuses, to register for events, and to take advantage of our career services.”

Social networking will be a feature of the redesign, though. “The one thing we can offer that Facebook can’t is a closed UT alumni community,” Hughes says. “Every alumnus and alumna will have a profile in the online directory. However, the alumni association has no interest in trying to compete with Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter. This is a completely different tool designed to help connect alumni with each other.”

To celebrate the relaunch, the UTAA will be having a drawing for several prizes. (There are rumors of iPads.) Everyone who registers for the new online community during the first month will be eligible, so keep an eye on your mailbox – and your inbox – for more information.
During the past 15 years, the size of the University of Tennessee’s alumni body has grown by one-third. This influx of young alumni, combined with significant changes in public funding, technology and alumni interests, motivated the UT Alumni Association (UTAA) to undertake a strategic plan for the first time in its 165 year history.

After a year of planning that involved coordinated effort between UTAA and university staff, volunteer leaders, and more than 11,000 alumni, UTAA has created a strategic plan that will guide its decisions for the next five years.

1. Our alumni are a diverse population with equally diverse needs.
   The UTAA and campus alumni affairs offices will take a life cycle approach to alumni engagement and offer activities to each age group based on specific needs. This will have the most immediate affect on how we communicate (high-touch versus high-tech), but it is also the driving force behind our renewed efforts in providing career services and networking opportunities.

2. Good data is critical.
   With an alumni population approaching 350,000 and growing, 20th century modes of communication are no longer adequate. Improving our information systems and the data in them will remain an essential function of the system-level alumni office.

   The UTAA is working with campus partners to better align communications around central themes, institutional priorities, and areas of particular interest to alumni, with the intended results being better coordination and making the best use of print and electronic media.

4. Legislative relations.
   The UTAA’s Alumni Legislative Council has long advocated on the university’s behalf, but now the strategic plan recommends refocusing those efforts in coordination with the UT Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs. This will involve formalizing grassroot efforts, better defining roles and responsibilities, and improving our targeted communications with alumni.

5. Paying for it all.
   The UTAA will continue to make a compelling case for continued financial support to the Board of Trustees, UT president, and the chancellors. The plan further recommends expanding affinity partnerships, evaluating a tiered alumni giving program, and engaging volunteers in valued, meaningful activities.

What’s next? This past fall, the UTAA created three task force groups composed of both staff and volunteers from each campus – Board of Governors Transition, Career and Business Networking, and Chapter Program Assessment. These groups have been evaluating best practices from across the country and will be formalizing plans to improve the UTAA and its benefits to alumni.

The UTAA has already made significant strides in improving communication with university partners; submitted recommendations for upgrades to its information systems; will launch a new online community for each campus in late June; and plans to focus staff resources on developing new career-related services in the near future. For more information on the UTAA strategic plan, visit http://alumni.tennessee.edu/plan.
PhD Nursing Postdocs Share Their Insight

Two Nursing PhD graduates are charting new research avenues as postdocs, where they are continuing their course to becoming acknowledged nurse scientists. Queen Henry-Okafor, who graduated from UTHSC in 2009, and Todd Monroe, who graduated in 2010, are both conducting postdoc research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Henry-Okafor stepped outside of nursing and is working as a research fellow with the Departments of Cardiovascular Medicine and Emergency Medicine, while Dr. Monroe is working as a research associate in nursing. Below is a highlight of their work, as well as insight for those who are considering a similar course.

**Queen Henry-Okafor, PhD, FNP-BC**

Research Fellow  
Department of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**What made you want to continue to study as a postdoc?**

I have a desire to establish myself as a funded investigator in cardiovascular disease management. As a novice nurse-scientist, I felt I needed advanced research knowledge and experience ... under the guidance of seasoned, active scientists.

**Please share a little about your area of research.**

I was hired on the ARRA supplement to an NIH R01-funded study investigating ways of “Improving Risk Stratification of Emergency Department Patients with Heart Failure.” The project goal for our ARRA supplement was to determine the relationship between three novel biomarkers (neuregulin-1, uric acid, and midregional pro-adrenomedullin) and risk of serious complications and death in emergency department heart failure patients.

**What was the hardest part of this process?**

One of the interesting hallmarks of my postdoctoral experience is the fact that my work is outside the school of nursing. My primary mentors are both from cardiovascular and emergency medicine divisions with basic science and clinical research expertise. This privilege has given me a very unique and robust experience collaborating with other disciplines, as well as afforded me the opportunity to bring the insight and personal touch that is synonymous with nursing.

**How did UTHSC prepare you for a postdoc?**

None of these would have been possible apart from the invaluable training and mentorship I received from the faculty at UTHSC. My mentors at UTHSC have graciously remained an integral part of my professional development, and they have continued to respond to my inquiries and provide critical insights whenever I needed them.

**What advice do you have for others considering a postdoc?**

First of all, I would encourage our students to consider a postdoctoral fellowship to further prepare them for a career in academia, clinic or industry. I think nurse-scientists should utilize the opportunity whenever feasible. It is worth the sacrifice. Secondly, for the experience to be worthwhile, one should seek a mentor with mutual professional commitment and personal involvement. Talk with your prospective mentor about your goals and expectations, also ask to speak with his/her previous mentees. Be clear on what you hope to take away from the experience and then be willing to do the work. Maintain your relationship with your current mentors at UTHSC – that is “home” and you can always call “home” if you have questions. Lastly, mentoring is inherent in the postdoc experience. You need someone who can make the investment in time and intellectual resources.

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**Todd Monroe, PhD, RN-BC**

Research Associate  
School of Nursing  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**What made you want to continue to study as a postdoc?**

I was interested in learning neuroimaging methods to study pain in older adults. To accomplish this, I knew I needed additional training in neuroscience and imaging methods and a postdoctoral fellowship was the perfect answer.

**Please share a little about your area of research.**

- Pain in cognitively impaired older adults  
- Brain imaging modalities and pain, specifically functional MRI  
- Addiction, nurse wellness, and policy

**What was the hardest part of this process?**

Interviewing and finding the perfect mentor match located in the right institution.

**How did UTHSC prepare you for a postdoc?**

Superior mentorship and course work provided the foundation I needed to gain the expertise and confidence to move forward.

**What advice do you have for others considering a postdoc?**

If you are interested in a research career, a postdoc provides the protected time necessary to gain new skills or refine current skills.
The College of Nursing has doubled its giving to the College Fund for Nursing this year with $18,000 in gifts. The College Fund provides unrestricted, crucial budget relief and support for the college, including scholarships, laboratory equipment, student travel, student and alumni engagement, research, faculty recruitment, facility upgrades, and much more.

More nursing alumni have given to the college this academic year than in years past; however, of our 4,095 graduates, our donors still only account for 5.4 percent of the group. We need your support! You can donate quickly and securely online by visiting us at www.uthsc.edu/give/nursing.

**CAPITAL & ENDOWMENT NAMED GIFT OPPORTUNITIES**

**NAME AN INSTITUTE** $2,000,000

**CHAIR** $1,000,000

A vibrant and dedicated faculty is at the heart of any great institution of higher learning. The recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty physicians and researchers is a top priority at the University of Tennessee. One of the ways we are able to attract and retain a superlative faculty is through an endowed chair. An endowed chair is a coveted position in academia, and the ability of UT to offer one enables us to compete in the international arena for outstanding faculty leaders.

**PROFESSORSHIP** $500,000

Provides funds for a term of up to five years to honor and enhance the work of a senior faculty member.

**FELLOWSHIP** $250,000

Funds an award of up to three years to support promising faculty as they seek to enhance their teaching and research goals.

**LECTURESHIP** $60,000

Creates and names an endowment to support a lecture by a noted scholar or seminars and symposia held at the UTHSC.

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND** $50,000

Supports faculty in developing their careers through study, research, travel and professional activities.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND** $50,000

Endows and names a fund which supports research in the field designated by the donor

**MINIMUM ENDOWMENT** $25,000

Any of these opportunities may be provided in one payment or be built to this level over a five-year period. Opportunities for named endowments also include scholarship funds, faculty awards, department/program support funds, and general research funds.

Thank you ... you’ve been generous

Your generous gifts to the College Fund for Nursing have allowed faculty and staff to purchase the needed supplies, books, etc., to continue to fulfill our mission of preparing nurse leaders for excellence today and for the future. More gift opportunities are listed below.
New Web Site Helps Alums Better Connect

Last year almost 11,000 alumni from UT campuses across the state participated in a comprehensive survey to aid the University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA) in the development of a strategic plan. Based on that feedback, the UTAA and the campus alumni offices are reshaping the way they communicate. Starting June 27, UTHSC alums will have a new online community that can connect them to friends and acquaintances long gone, help them meet new friends in their current area or network with individuals across the world. The network will be part of the redesigned Web site, which will integrate with popular social networking tools, including a new feature that allows alumni to connect their Facebook account with their alumni profile.

“We want to make it easier for alumni to get involved in their local areas, to stay informed about what’s happening on campus, and to take advantage of engagement opportunities we will be unveiling later this year,” said Kris Phillips, associate vice chancellor for Alumni Programs and Annual Giving. “The change will give our grads better access to network with the more than 325,000 UT alumni across the world.”

To celebrate the re-launch, the alumni office will have drawings for special prizes including an iPad 2. Keep an eye on your mailbox – and your inbox – for more information including details on how to register with the new online community. If you would like to add your e-mail address to the current database, visit alumni.tennessee.edu and sign up under “Get Connected.”

Distinguished Visiting Professorships

**Bowns DVP: Dr. Kathleen White**

Kathleen M. White, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, associate professor, Department of Health Systems and Outcomes at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, will be the 2011 Beverly H. Bowns Distinguished Visiting Professor on August 3.

In July 2010, Dr. White began a stint at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, where she will serve for two years as a senior advisor to the Office of Workforce Policy and Performance Management through an individual personal assignment. Dr. White also maintains a faculty practice appointment at Howard County General Hospital where she serves as nurse research liaison focusing on evidence-based practice initiatives. Previously, she directed the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and the master’s degree programs at Johns Hopkins University.

**Cashdollor DVP: Dr. Bud Hammes**

Bernard “Bud” Hammes, PhD, ethicist and advance care planning expert, will be the 2011 William T. Cashdollar Visiting Professorship on November 4.

Dr. Hammes has taught at the University of Gonzaga in Spokane, Wash., and at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Since 1984, he has served as the director of Medical Humanities for the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation and the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, Wis.

Dr. Hammes’ work has been primarily focused on improving end-of-life care. Thus, he has developed institutional policies and practices, as well as staff and patient/community education with a focus on advance care planning. This work has resulted in two nationally recognized programs: If I Only Knew... and Respecting Choices®. He has authored or co-authored 34 articles and book chapters that are focused on clinical ethics, advance care planning, and end-of-life issues.
Nursing Friend and Former Professor Passes

The UTHSC College of Nursing lost a dear friend and advocate last fall with the passing of Marie Buckley of Little Rock, on September 9, 2010. Emeritus Professor until her death, Buckley was the Goodman Professor of Nursing and assistant dean for Student Affairs at the University of Tennessee College of Nursing where she served from 1955 until her retirement in 1980.

Buckley received her basic nursing education at the University of Tennessee graduating in 1937. She then earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University and a master’s degree and professional diploma from Columbia University in New York City. Before joining the faculty at the University of Tennessee, she taught at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in Nashville, Tenn., and at the University of Texas in Galveston.

Buckley held numerous leadership posts in nursing and academic organizations at the state and national level and received many professional achievement awards. Among her honors was being named in 1984 as the outstanding alumna from the University of Tennessee College of Nursing in recognition of her contributions in the field of nursing and nursing education. In 2004, the Marie E. Buckley Scholarship Endowment was established in her honor. She was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Pi Lambda Theta, Sigma Theta Tau, Quota Club of East Memphis, and of Highland Valley United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

In Memoriam

1934
Virginia Alphaetta Barnes Davidson, '34, of Camden, Ark., passed away August 22, 2010.

1937
Roxy St. Clair, '37, of Memphis, passed away January 27, 2011.
Nina Ferrell Conger, '40, passed away October 24, 2010, at her home in Decaturville, Tenn.

1940

1942
Nell McNeil Werkheiser, '42, of Madison, Miss., passed away March 6, 2011.

1944
Rosemary Klein Link, '44, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away October 24, 2010.
Blanche P. Vandergriff, '47, of Maryville, Tenn., passed away on May 22, 2010.

1956

1993

Student
Kim Stewart, a second-year student in the PhD in Nursing program, passed away in January 2011 at her home in Nashville.

Friend
Dorothy “Dot” Ann LaRue Daffin Randall, '94, passed away Aug. 29, 2010, at the home of her daughter in Panama City, Fla.
UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3, 2011
Beverly H. Bowns Distinguished Visiting Professorship

November 4, 2011
William T. Cashdollar Distinguished Visiting Professorship

NURSING APPLICATION DEADLINES 2011 - 2012

Master’s Entry CNL
January 6, 2012

DNP CRNA Entry into Practice
September 1, 2011

DNP
December 15, 2011

PhD
February 1, 2012