UTHSC is Top Workplace for Second Year

UTHSC 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.

“Methodist UT Hospital is 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.

Methodist and UTHSC Receive $40 Million Donation

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH) and UTHSC announced a $40 million gift, the largest single donation in the Methodist Healthcare system’s nearly 100-year history.

The anonymous gift will be used to transform the current Methodist UT 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.

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 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 socio-economic 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 UT Hospital Transplant Institute.

“We are going to do even more. We’re going to do it even better. We’re going to do it in a way that builds on the past but also helps us change the future,” said Dr. Eason.

“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 UT Hospital Transplant Institute. "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.

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The mission of UTHSC is centered around helping people. That mission applies internally, as well as externally. Support given recently to new employee Cassandra Caldwell is a perfect example.

A benefits specialist in the Human Resources Department, she was the recipient of a financial gift organized by her coworkers, who saw a need and went into action.

Caldwell initially joined UTHSC about three months ago as a temporary employee, but was quickly hired on full time. However, before her health insurance could become active, she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Benefits Specialist Cassandra Caldwell was moved to tears by the generosity of her coworkers in nominating her for WREG-TV’s “Pass it On” feature.

Reveal. Caldwell was surprised with a grand total of $1,480 in cash. Meanwhile, coworkers from Human Resources, campus administrators and other UTHSC team members contributed to the total.

When Ransom came to campus, Caldwell was wrapping up her work with a training class in the Student Alumni Center. The news anchor was joined by most of the Human Resources team for the Big Reveal. Caldwell was surprised with a grand total of $1,480 in cash.

“You just don’t know how much this means to me. I never expected it.”

“Hopefully, this will give her some financial breathing room,” said Chandra Alston, associate vice chancellor for Human Resources.

Lindsey Price of the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center is now a certified fellow of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

Recent News

Lindsey Price, death investigator and anthropology coordinator at the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center (WTRFC), has been named a Board-Certified Fellow by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI).

Price is one of only five ABMDI Fellows in Tennessee, and one of only 187 in the entire country.

The WTRFC is managed by UTHSC.

“This is a huge accomplishment for me. I feel privileged to be among an elite group in the country.” Price said after successfully passing the board certifications.

“Reaching the fellow status has been a personal goal since I started my career.”

First accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board in 2005, ABMDI exists to certify and promote excellence in standards of practice for medicolegal death investigators.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Price said watching a show about the Forensic Anthropology Center on the Knoxville campus during high school triggered her interest in the field of anthropology and forensics.

After graduating from college, she worked at the Medical Education & Research Institute in Memphis, assisting in the cadaver labs. She joined WTRFC in April 2011 as a medicolegal death investigator. Price’s role encompasses receiving death reports, collecting evidence at the scene of a death or crime, obtaining medical records from the deceased’s physician, locating family or legal representatives, providing grief counseling, working with local authorities on investigation of the death scene, and preparing death certificates and cremation permits.

WTRFC is always working on old and new cases. Partnering with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, WTRFC has been successful in identifying old cases, bringing closure to families with the return of a loved one’s remains.

“I am proud of just being a part of the great team that we have at the WTRFC. As a team, I think we offer the best service that we can to the decedents who come through our facility and their families,” Price said. “There is a level of passion we all share for our job, and I think it shows in our work daily.”

Frequently Asked Questions

What is UTHSC?

The mission of the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center is to investigate sudden, unexpected and unnatural deaths with the highest level of professionalism, compassion and efficiency, and to provide a resource for improving the health and safety of the community consistent with the general mission of public health. For more information, visit www.uthsc.edu/forensic-center/.

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FAQs

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COPS’ CORNER: How to Respond if There is an Active Shooter

In light of recent incidents that have occurred on several college campuses, UTHSC Police continue to take measures that ensure our campus is safe, and that our officers are well-prepared to respond to any situation. UTHSC Police and Security officers are frequent, active participants in training sessions for such scenarios as active shooter response and procedures. Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operations Officer Dr. Kennard Brown has provided our team with another major tool that will serve to prepare us to handle this type of situation – a building that we will use as a training facility. We plan to conduct more extensive and intense training for different emergency situations at this designated site. Training will be conducted on a regular basis to ensure that we are current on any new techniques and procedures. The list that follows presents practical steps on how to respond in an active shooter situation.

Please bear in mind that our faculty, staff and students are the most important resource we have to minimize the impact of an active shooter situation. Campus Police officers appreciate the help you’ve given us in identifying potential problems on our campus, through your phone calls, observations and reports of unusual activity.

ACTIVE SHOOTER: HOW TO RESPOND

- If you hear shots, immediately go to a safe area and contact Campus Police at (901) 448-4444.
- Give your location and any information pertaining to what you heard and/or saw – the shooter, a description of the shooter, and specifics on the area from which the shots came.
- While in route to a safe location, advise others of the situation.
- Keep calm as best as you can and remember not to run in the direction of the danger.
- If you feel that you have an escape route that is safe, use it with caution.
- Only use it if you know where the shooter is located and exit in the opposite direction of the shooter.
- Avoid exiting down long hallways if you’re not sure where the shooter may be located.
- Once you’ve found a location to hide, remember to lock and barricade doors, secure windows if possible, turn lights off, and limit the noise inside of that room by turning sound down on cell phones.
- When an alert is sent out, please follow the instructions that come with the alert. Be aware of alerts that may follow.
- If you find a safe route to exit a building, remember that police personnel will be at that location and always follow the commands given by police.
- When you’re approaching any police personnel, have your hands in a position where the officer can see that you’re not armed. Do not make any sudden hand gestures or threatening movements at the officer.
- Most importantly, do not confront the shooter. Only as a last resort should you consider engaging with an armed shooter.
- If confronted by the shooter, do whatever you can to distract him or her. Throw any objects at him, chairs, backpacks, etc., that would affect his ability to use his weapon.
- Remember, if you are in an area with others and are confronted by the shooter, do not make yourself an easy target. Do not remain stationary because that makes you an easy target. If a decision is made to engage (last resort) the shooter, do it as a team.
- If the shooter is subdued, move the weapon or weapons away and out of reach of the shooter. Contact police and advise them on your location as quickly as possible.

Interim Chief Bruce Holden, UTHSC Campus Police

UTHSC’s Astronaut Joins TN Women’s Hall of Fame

Rhea Seddon, MD

Former astronaut Rhea Seddon, MD, a graduate of the College of Medicine at UTHSC, was inducted in the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Oct. 26. The event is part of the 12th Annual Economic Summit for Women, which was held in partnership with the Vision 2020 National Congress in Nashville.

“It is such an honor to be selected as one of the women being inducted into the 2015 Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame,” Dr. Seddon said. “I hope that the recognition of my accomplishments and those of my fellow inductees will serve as encouragement to other women to use their own particular talents for the betterment of our state and nation.”

Founded in 2010, the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame has recognized and honored the achievements of women who have contributed to the cultural, economic and political well-being of Tennessee. Women inducted have demonstrated support for the advancement of women, success in their business or profession, and a passion for community service and engagement.

Eight women representing the western, middle and eastern regions of Tennessee were honored. Past inductees have included Pat Summit, head coach emeritus of the Lady Vols.

Dr. Seddon set the precedent of inspiring women early in her career. In 1975, she was one of the first women accepted into the general surgery residency at UTHSC. She was one of the first six female astronaut candidates selected by NASA in January 1978. She enrolled in the astronaut program, and became an astronaut in August 1979.

She went on to spend 19 years with NASA, completing three space shuttle flights (’85, ’91, ’93), and logging a total of 30 days in space.

After her career with NASA, Dr. Seddon spent 11 years as the assistant chief medical officer at the Vanderbilt Medical Group in Nashville where she pioneered an initiative that began use of Crew Resource Management, an aviation-based model in which training procedure guidelines are used in environments where human error can have disastrous consequences.

Actively involved in motivating young women to study science, technology, engineering and math, Dr. Seddon is now self-employed with LifeWings Partners, LLC, where she continues to teach leadership, focusing on patient safety in health care institutions throughout the United States. She lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with her husband, retired astronaut Hoot Gibson.

Sheila Champlin, former assistant vice chancellor for Communications and Marketing at UTHSC, and Amber Carter, publications coordinator, nominated Dr. Seddon for the Tennessee Women’s Hall of Fame.

“I had the honor of working with Dr. Seddon in 2011 when she served as the keynote speaker for the UTHSC Centennial Gala,” Champlin said. “When I heard the call for nominees for this award, Dr. Seddon immediately came to mind,” she added. “She is truly a groundbreaking role model and an inspirational Tennessee woman.”

West Cancer Center Expands

The East Campus location of West Cancer Center is “our chance to reinvent care for the high disease burden that cancer inflicts on our citizens,” said David Stern, MD, the Robert Kaplan Executive Dean of the College of Medicine at UTHSC, at the opening ceremony for the new facility in Germantown on Nov 17.

The $65 million, 123,251-square-foot building at 7945 Wolf River Blvd. 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.

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.

UTHSC is privileged to be a founding partner in the West Cancer Center, Dr. Stern told the crowd. “It’s not only a grand opportunity, it’s also a great responsibility. This requires bringing the best doctors in the United States together with the best technology to develop programs that offer expertise comparable to what one could find in Houston or New York City.”

The new center brings together multispecialty 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.

Anyone wishing more information may go to http://www.westcancercenter.org.
SPRINT High Blood Pressure Study Proves Successful, Changes Lives of Participants

When researchers released the findings of a blood pressure study showing that aggressive intervention to lower systolic blood pressure in older adults below conventional standards reduces cardiovascular disease, stroke and death, it was hardly news to Memphis landscape company owner Joe Pipkin.

A five-year participant in the Memphis site of the landmark Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT), Pipkin says he feels great thanks to the SPRINT study team members at UTHSC. They worked with him to reduce his systolic blood pressure from about 140 to under 120, through a carefully monitored regimen of medication.

“My energy levels are good, my outlook has improved. I’m very happy about it.”

The world learned about similar results for other participants in the study. Those results are expected to change the way blood pressure is treated globally in the future.

Details of the SPRINT study were released Nov. 9 at the American Heart Association (AHA) conference in Orlando, Florida, and published online in the New England Journal of Medicine. They reported that more intensive management of high blood pressure, below the commonly recommended blood pressure target, markedly reduces rates of cardiovascular disease, and lowers risk of death in a group of adults 50 years and older with high blood pressure.

The intervention in this randomized clinical trial carefully adjusted the amount or type of blood pressure medication to achieve a target systolic pressure reading of less than 120, reducing rates of cardiovascular events, such as heart attack and heart failure, as well as stroke, by 25 percent, and the risk of death by 27 percent, compared to the traditional target systolic pressure of less than 140. Systolic blood pressure is the top number in a blood pressure reading.

With the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), a unit of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as its primary sponsor, SPRINT started in the fall of 2009, and included more than 9,300 participants age 50 and older who were recruited from about 100 medical centers and clinical practices throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

In Memphis, the Department of Preventive Medicine at UTHSC was a large SPRINT study site, following 175 participants since the study launched.

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The whole thing about it is, I feel good.”

The Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center enrolled 80 participants.

UTHSC scientist Karen C. Johnson, MD, MPH, was the principal investigator for the local SPRINT study site. Dr. Johnson, a professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and College of Medicine Endowed Professor in Women’s Health, is also the national vice chair of the SPRINT Steering Committee and one of the authors of the report.

Originally, the SPRINT study was supposed to continue into the fall of 2016, but on September 11, 2015, the NHLBI announced it had stopped the study in order to quickly disseminate the preliminary results. The reasons for halting SPRINT were positive, and preliminary results were released early because they had the potential to help many with high blood pressure.

Since the SPRINT study population included women, racial and ethnic minorities, and the elderly, there is significant scientific support for the application of its findings across a broad population. High blood pressure — hypertension — affects one in every three American adults, nearly 80.7 million people, according to the AHA. Hypertension is an important risk factor for heart disease and stroke, the first and third leading causes of death in the United States. It is also a contributing risk factor for chronic kidney disease and cognitive function decline.

Hypertension is a serious health burden among Memphis-area residents and Tennesseans. The Tennessee Department of Health states almost 4 percent of all adult Tennesseans were diagnosed with high blood pressure. Furthermore, African-Americans are more likely to develop high blood pressure.

“The results of the SPRINT study have far-reaching implications to help the Memphis and Mid-South community prevent disease and extend healthy life,” Dr. Johnson said. “The next steps will include communicating the SPRINT results to help inform patient care and the future development of evidence-based clinical guidelines.”

The SPRINT study was also assessing the impact of intensive blood pressure reduction on the risk for Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, as well as examining kidney disease among the study participants. These results are not yet available.

Besides the NHLBI, SPRINT is co-sponsored by the NIH’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the National Institute on Aging.

Pipkin can’t recall exactly how he learned about the study. He thinks his wife, Ramona Pipkin, chairman’s assistant and administrative coordinator in the UTHSC Department of Surgery, may have mentioned it. In any case, he’s glad he participated.

“I would have high blood pressure pretty regularly to the point my face got red and it literally felt like it was going to pop,” he said. “I was starting to feel sluggish and a bit down. I have been an athlete most of my life, and that was the key for me to find some kind of help.”

He now takes potassium and three medicines to manage his blood pressure. That took some getting used to, he said. But over time, his medication has been reduced, and he’s been told that at some point he might not require medication at all.

“If your blood pressure is elevated, that’s certainly a dangerous thing,” he said. “Going through this program has been very helpful, not only monitoring my blood pressure, but getting it to a healthy level. The whole thing about it is, I feel good.”

SPRINT Study at a Glance

• Started 2009; ended 2015
• More than 9,300 participants age 50 and older were enrolled
• Traditional systolic blood pressure target: 140
• Intensive treatment target: 120 or less, achieved through carefully monitored medication
• Findings: New, lower target reduced cardiovascular events and stroke by 25 percent and risk of death by 27 percent.

GRANTS

Alex Dopico, MD, PhD, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacology, College of Medicine $100,000/two years

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

“How Consuming Caffeinated Drinks with Alcohol Affects Arteries in the Brain”

Dietlef Heck, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, College of Medicine $418,000/two years

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

“Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury on Temporal Dynamics of Brain Activity and Learning”

Catherine Kaczorowski, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, College of Medicine $418,000/two years

“If Consuming Caffeinated Drinks with Alcohol Affects Arteries in the Brain”

Michio Kurosu, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy $431,000/two years

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

“Expansion of Spectrum of Activity of Pleuromutilin for MDR Gram-Negative Bacteria”

Jennifer Martindale-Adams, EdD, associate professor Linda Nichols, PhD, professor $371,083/three years

Rx Foundation

“Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer’s Caregivers Health in Tribal Communities”

Linda Moses-Simmons, MD, assistant professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine

“Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns Program”

$344,524/three years

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Anton Reiner, PhD, professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, College of Medicine $617,388/three years

 Cure for Huntington’s Disease Initiative Foundation

“Progression of Basal Ganglia Pathology in Q175 Huntington’s Disease Mice and Human Huntington’s Disease”

Junling Wang, PhD, professor, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy $987,662/three years

National Institute on Aging

“Finding Equitable, Effective Medication Therapy Management Eligibility Criteria”

Audrey Zucker-Levin, PhD, professor Phyllis Richey, PhD, associate professor $1.5 million/three years

U.S. Army

“The Effect of a Microprocessor Prosthetic Foot on Function and Quality of Life in Transtibial Amputees Who Are Limited Community Ambulators”
BSN Program is Key to Success Stories

If you had told Joshua Light a few years ago that he would have a nursing degree and a good job at a Memphis hospital by the time he was 23, he probably would not have believed you. He’s a believer now.

The former sales associate from Bartlett was among the first graduates of the reactivated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at UTHSC. Light graduated in December 2014, and now works at Methodist UT Hospital.

He said the accelerated, 17-month BSN program made him and his classmates attractive to employers and prepared him well for the demands of his new job.

"UT is an excellent program, from the staff, to the campus, to all the different extracurricular activities that they do for the students and for the community," he said. "Any of the staff there would do anything for you. They will help you with whatever you need."

After the inaugural BSN class graduated, all 35 members passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on the first attempt. State boards of nursing use the exam to certify that a candidate is prepared for entry-level nursing after completion of an accredited nursing degree. The 100 percent pass rate is quite an accomplishment. The average rate for Tennessee is 87 percent, and the national average is 81 percent.

The BSN program, established at UTHSC in 1950 with 26 students, has been inactive from time to time over the years. It was most recently revived in November 2012 in response to requests from UTHSC’s hospital partners.

“We are in great need of nurses at the bedside,” said Hallie Bensinger, DNP, APN, FNP-BC, assistant professor and director of the BSN/MSN programs at UTHSC. “We talk about a nursing shortage. We’ve been talking about it for a very long time, but it is becoming acute. And I know that the practice partners really want nurses at the bedside, and they were asking for us to bring back the BSN degree.”

According to the United States Registered Nurse Workforce Report Card and Shortage Forecast, the shortage of registered nurses is expected to grow across the country through 2030, with the most intense shortages in the South and the West.

The Future of Nursing Report by the Institute of Medicine in 2010 advocated increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in the workforce to 80 percent and doubling the number of nurses with doctoral degrees. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, only 55 percent of registered nurses currently hold baccalaureate or graduate-level degrees.

Dr. Bensinger said the BSN program at UTHSC draws students from diverse walks of life. "We’ve had people from retail, banking, teachers," she said. "A lot of them will tell me, ‘I always wanted to be a nurse, but I wasn’t sure I could do it. After I started doing the job I trained for, I realized nursing was what I really wanted to do.’"

The first professional degree in nursing, the BSN prepares students to continue their studies at the master’s and doctoral levels. That’s something Light hopes to do.

"I’m going to pursue the Doctor of Nursing Practice, and I want to specialize as a psychiatric nurse practitioner," he said.

Wendy Likes, PhD, DNSc, ARNP-BC, dean of the College of Nursing, said most members of the inaugural BSN class plan to pursue higher-level degrees. "In our recent exit survey, more than 75 percent of our graduates indicated they intend to continue their education," Likes said. "These numbers are quite impressive and speak to the quality of our students and the excellent modeling of our faculty."

Kelsey Starnes, 23, a 2014 BSN graduate, said she also plans on pursuing more education. But for now, she’s content to get some “real world experience” under her belt in her new job at Methodist Hospital North.

Starnes credits her instructors at UTHSC with preparing her. "They are very good at preparing you to be a fast, critical thinker, which is what you need in being a nurse," she said. "That is one thing I was complimented on a lot. I flew through my orientation because of my critical thinking skills."

Veterans at UTHSC Honored

On Nov. 11, UTHSC honored the many military veterans among its faculty, staff and students. “We live the way we live because of the sacrifices that you have made,” said Dr. Ken Brown, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer. The Veterans Day program sponsors were the Offices of Equity and Diversity, Special Events and Community Affairs, Human Resources, and Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs.

Joshua Light

While the program taught her how to work under pressure, Starnes said the caring faculty of the UTHSC College of Nursing helped students cope with the stresses of the course load and the challenging training.

"It’s fast paced and it’s hard, but they were the nicest people, and that made it so much easier," she said, adding, “You can tell the professors really enjoy being nurses.”

The 66 members of the second class for the reactivated BSN program will graduate in December. UTHSC’s College of Nursing has more than 5,400 alumni, and has educated approximately 2,000 nurses practicing in Tennessee. It is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, an independent accrediting agency that ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate, graduate and residency programs in nursing.

Prospective students can apply to the BSN program with a bachelor’s degree or higher in any non-nursing field or with 60 college credits. RNs with an associate degree or nursing diploma can apply to the online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Program. The application deadline for entering the BSN program in the fall of 2016 is Jan. 15, 2016.

For more information, call (901) 448-6125 or visit http://www.uthsc.edu/nursing/academic-programs/BSN/.

Catherine Kaczorowski, PhD, center, received the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award on Nov. 18. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. She is shown with Thomas Shapaker, a senior research assistant, who nominated her for her cooperation whenever he needed to be away from his job at UTHSC for military duty, and Rachelle Hart, who presented the award on behalf of ESGR.

Dr. Kaczorowski Receives Patriot Award
West Cancer Center Gets Multimillion Gift

West Cancer Center announced a significant gift from Jack and Betty Moore to The University of Tennessee/West Institute for Cancer Research, the fundraising arm of West Cancer Center. This generous commitment to the UT/West Institute’s Capital Campaign is in honor of West Clinic’s founder, and their brother-in-law, William H. West, MD, who lost his mother to breast cancer.

The gift will rename West’s and Methodist Healthcare’s Comprehensive Breast Centers to the Margaret West Comprehensive Breast Center.

“Jack and I are thrilled to contribute to West Cancer Center’s vision for helping others in our great community,” said Betty Moore. “After losing his mother to breast cancer, Bill’s mission became very clear: to provide world-class cancer treatment and research in his hometown of Memphis. This remains the foundation of West Cancer Center today, and we are proud to show our love and honor Bill’s meaningful work and legacy with this gift.”

This philanthropic gift will provide much-needed funds to support research and initiatives within the UT/West Institute’s Center of Excellence in Women’s Cancers.

According to Lee S. Schwartzberg, MD, executive director of West Cancer Center, “There is rapid progress taking place in the world of cancer research, but there is much more work to do. Thanks to the generosity of donors like Jack and Betty, we are developing the resources necessary to translate discoveries into impactful treatment, right here in Memphis. I couldn’t imagine a more fitting tribute for Bill, whose vision and legacy continue to shape our work at West Cancer Center, every single day.”

“Bill and I are truly humbled by this generous gift in honor of Bill’s work and in recognition of his mother’s legacy,” said Carole West, Betty’s sister and wife of Dr. West.

“We are extremely appreciative of what this gift will mean for those impacted by cancer and all who walk through the doors of West Cancer Center in search of help and healing.”

The University of Tennessee/West Institute for Cancer Research is a not-for-profit public charity dedicated to raising funds for adult cancer research. For more information, visit www.westcancercenter.org.

Students Raise $10,500 for West Cancer Center

Members of the Medical Student Executive Council, along with students from the Colleges of Pharmacy, Nursing and Dentistry, reached out to fellow students, faculty, staff and friends to raise more than $10,500 for the recent Ride to Fight On to battle cancer. A key person in UTHSC’s team effort was medical student Andrew Dudas, Class of 2017, who worked on behalf of his mom, Alice Dudas, who was treated for ovarian cancer three years ago by West Cancer Center doctors and is doing well.

Goodman Appoints Committee to Foster Research; Wendy Likes, Rob Williams to Serve as Co-Chairs

Steve R. Goodman, PhD, recently announced a plan to create what he called “a highly integrated UTHSC research roadmap that crosses departmental, college and institutional borders.”

Dr. Goodman is the vice chancellor for Research as well as professor of Pediatrics and of Physiology. He appointed an Operational Strategic Plan for Research Committee (OSPRC). The committee’s membership was recommended by UTHSC deans.

Wendy Likes, DNSC, dean of the UTHSC College of Nursing, will co-chair the committee along with Rob Williams, PhD, professor and chair of Genetics, Genomics & Informatics.

“The goal is to develop a detailed strategic plan which matches creative ideas for fostering research with resources, and measures success with appropriate metrics,” Dr. Goodman said. “The end result must be a document that all stakeholders can support.”

National Postdoc Appreciation Week at UTHSC

UTHSC’s Postdoctoral Association and Postdoc Office celebrated National Postdoc Appreciation Week Sept. 21-26. This marked the first time the event was celebrated for an entire week on the UTHSC campus.

Events included a Postdoc “Meet & Eat” potluck; tours of core facility labs such as the Molecular Resource Center, Imaging Center and Cytometry Center; a LinkedIn workshop to help with their careers; and a picnic at Shelby Farms.

Upper right, postdoc students tour the Imaging Center; lower right, members of the UTHSC Postdoctoral Association.

New Online Portal for Invention Disclosures

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) is excited to announce the release of its new Invention Disclosure Enterprise Application (IDEA).

• IDEA – idea.tennessee.edu – is the new, secure, online portal for invention disclosures at the University of Tennessee. It offers a faster, easier way to submit disclosures.

• The application is available 24/7/365 and compatible with any PC/Mac/Phone/Tablet.

• Your UT netID is linked automatically to simplify the submission and approval process.

• Submission and approval status are monitored in real time.

• New disclosures are submitted for commercialization in just minutes!

• IDEA is paperless and ecofriendly.

At any time, UT employees may log in to idea.tennessee.edu to submit or manage an invention disclosure. IDEA enables inventors, approvers and UTRF staff to monitor the progress of invention disclosures through submission, management and approval. It also facilitates the initiation of the commercialization process. The IDEA tutorial and manuals are available on UTRF’s website at http://utrf.tennessee.edu/idea-tutorials/.

UTRF helps inventors at UT turn their ideas and discoveries into products and services that benefit society. In addition to supporting the university research enterprise and commercializing the resulting inventions, UTRF also supports entrepreneurship as well as state and regional economic development efforts. UTRF serves all seven of the UT campuses and institutes across the state.

For more information, go to http://utrf.tennessee.edu.
I am a UTHSC student and want to produce a T-shirt. How do I get started?

First, fill out and submit a request with the Office of Student Affairs/One Stop Shop.

NOTE: Approval to sell your merchandise is a separate process from the artwork/design licensing approval process. See https://www.uthsc.edu/studentlife/documents/student-solicitation-fillable-form.pdf.

Once this process is completed, please follow one of the two paths below for artwork/design approval.

I need a design or artwork.

• Have an approved vendor or internal campus supplier produce your artwork. Go to http://licensing.tennessee.edu/licensees.html.

• Submit your artwork to UTHSC Communications and Marketing for review and editing as needed. Email it to brand@uthsc.edu.

Once approved, the artwork goes back to your vendor.

The vendor submits your approved design to UT Trademark Licensing for final review, editing as needed, and approval.

After the vendor receives approval from UT Trademark Licensing, the T-shirts are printed.

Still have questions or need help? Contact UTHSC Communications and Marketing at (901) 448-5544 or communications@uthsc.edu.

I already have a design.

• Submit your artwork to UTHSC Communications and Marketing for review and editing as needed. Email it to brand@uthsc.edu.

Once artwork is approved, work with a licensed vendor or an approved internal campus supplier. Go to http://licensing.tennessee.edu/licensees.html.

NOTE: When using colors, always use the Pantone® value for spot color printing, the CMYK breakdown for four-color printing, and the hexadecimal code for the web.

Still have questions or need help? Contact UTHSC Communications and Marketing at (901) 448-5544 or communications@uthsc.edu.
Think Before You Click!

Cybercriminals have become quite savvy in their attempts to lure people in and get you to click on a link or open an attachment. The email they send can look just like it comes from a financial institution, e-commerce site, government agency or any other service or business. It often urges you to act quickly, because your account has been compromised, your order cannot be fulfilled or another matter. These tactics all are an attempt to make you give out your personal and/or financial information.

These attacks and other scams aren’t limited to just email. They’re also prevalent on social networking sites. The same rules apply on social networks: When in doubt, throw it out. This rule applies to links in online ads, status updates, tweets and other posts.

AVOID BEING A VICTIM

Don’t reveal personal or financial information in an email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information. Be very careful before you click on links sent in email. As a good rule of thumb, do not trust any link unless you expect the email and the embedded link.

Pay particular attention to the website’s URL. Malicious websites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling, contain spelling errors, or use a different domain (e.g., Fedx.com instead of FedEx.com, or Amazon.net instead of Amazon.com). If you are unsure whether an email is legitimate, contact the company directly, but do not use the contact information provided in an email. Look up the company by yourself.

Keep a clean machine. Having the latest operating system, software, web browsers, anti-virus protection and apps are the best defenses against viruses, malware, and other online threats.

WHAT IF YOU THINK YOU ARE A VICTIM?

- Immediately call the UTHSC Helpdesk at (901) 448-2222, the UTHSC Information Security Senior Security Analyst at (901) 448-1260, or email itsecurity@uthsc.edu.
- Forward the email to abuse@uthsc.edu.
- If you believe your financial accounts may be compromised, contact your financial institution immediately.
- Watch for any unauthorized charges to your account.
- Consider reporting the attack to the Economic Crimes Bureau of the Memphis Police Department at (901) 336-3350 or your local police authority.

For more information about phishing and spam, contact your UTHSC Information Security Team at (901) 448-1579 or itsecurity@uthsc.edu.

Plough Center Offers Hands-on Training in Sterile Drug Processing by Frank Horton

The Plough Center is the result of a cooperative effort between the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and the Plough Foundation. In the coming year, the center will offer a hands-on training course in sterile drug processing. The course is offered four times a year with the following 2016 dates:

Course 1: April 11-15
Course 2: June 13-17
Course 3: Aug. 15-19
Course 4: Oct. 31- Nov. 4.

To maximize interaction and allow for individualized instruction, enrollment is limited.

For registration and more information, contact Frank P. Horton II, Course Director, Plough Center for Sterile Drug Delivery Systems, at (901) 448-6096 or fhorton@uthsc.edu, or visit www.uthsc.edu/plough-center.

“The Comprehensive Industrial Course in the Preparation of Parenteral Products” is a week-long lecture and laboratory course which provides a comprehensive overview of the fundamental concepts in the preparation of sterile drug products by aseptic processes.

The course is designed so that participants:
- Learn principles of production and quality control of parenteral drug products
- Gain personal experience in processing small volume parenterals (SVPs)
- Develop an overall understanding of the science and technology of sterile products processing
- Explore applicable regulations
- Exchange ideas with others

Lectures by industry experts and hands-on training by the Plough Center personnel provide participants with information and experience they can utilize immediately on the job. Guest lecturers are invited from Pfizer, Sartorius-Stedim, EMD Millipore, STERIS corporation, Kimberly-Clark, Biovigilant, and West Pharmaceutical Services.

With more than 16 hours of laboratory, the course provides hands-on experience in planning, preparation, compounding, fill-finish, and QC testing of SVPs. Emphasis is placed on preparation, compounding, fill-finish procedures, lyophilization, sterilization processes, autoclave validation, quality control testing, sterility testing, visual inspection, container-closure integrity, bacterial endotoxin test, and environmental monitoring procedures.

Working in teams of five to eight members, participants formulate a parenteral protein drug product for aseptic fill/finish and lyophilization. The teams then perform appropriate quality control tests such as drug product potency testing by high performance liquid chromatography, filter integrity testing using different methods, and visually inspecting liquid and lyophilized vials.

Participants receive hands-on training in performing sterility tests in an isolator, particulate matter tests, and the bacterial endotoxin test. Teams also perform environmental monitoring using a variety of different sampling methods for air, water and surface in several of the laboratory exercises, allowing individuals to evaluate each method. A hands-on exercise on performing a complete autoclave validation is also done.

The most common attendees are those involved with development, production and quality control of sterile products such as auditors, personnel from regulatory and compliance, production, quality assurance and control, R&D, regulatory agencies, pharmacists involved in “high risk level compounding,” and pharmacy educators.

ABOUT THE PLOUGH CENTER

Previously known as the Parenteral Medications Laboratories (PML), it was founded more than 50 years ago with the objectives of educating individuals in sterile drug product preparation, promoting research in parenteral medications, and also for providing development and manufacturing services to pharmaceutical industries, compounding pharmacies, academic and government agencies. The current Plough Center, housed at 3 N. Dunlap Street, has the capacity to manufacture small to medium-scale batches of parenteral drug products for preclinical and phase I clinical trials.

It has 1,400 square feet of CGMP cleanroom facility along with 6,000 square feet of research and training labs designed for the development, preparation, production, testing, and training on sterile dosage forms.

The Plough Center primarily offers contract research and manufacturing services such as pre-formulation studies, formulation development, small-scale manufacturing for preclinical and clinical studies, analytical method development and validation, and stability study design and testing.

IT UPDATE: Championing Cyber Security

UTHSC announced that it has become a Champion of National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) 2015. UTHSC joined a growing global effort among colleges and universities as well as businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals to promote online safety awareness.

As part of the university’s NCSAM efforts, IT Security hosted a number of events and activities.

Sgt. Marcus Mitchell of the Economic Crimes Bureau of the Memphis Police Department spoke about cybercrime prevention. FBI Special Agent Timothy Marsh spoke on academic espionage awareness. An online scavenger hunt and a Cyber Ready! seminar were among the other events hosted by the Information Security Team and ITS.

Celebrated every October, National Cyber Security Awareness Month was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure everyone has the resources needed to stay safer and more secure online. As a National Champion, UTHSC recognizes our commitment to cybersecurity and online safety.

Coordinated and led by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the Department of Homeland Security, NCSAM has grown exponentially since its inception, reaching consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, corporations, educational institutions and young people across the nation and internationally. This year marks the 12th year of NCSAM.

"The Champion Program is a vital part of making National Cyber Security Awareness Month a success each year," said Michael Kaiser, executive director of the National Cyber Security Alliance. "We are thankful to our 2015 Champion organizations for their support and commitment to our shared responsibility of promoting cyber security and online safety awareness.

For more information, contact the team at (901) 448-1579 or itsecurity@uthsc.edu or visit security.uthsc.edu.
Dentistry students Latoya Legrand and Diane Chavis, who are certified academic tutors in UTHSC’s Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion (SASSI) unit, spend their days aiding in their fellow students’ success.

Legrand is certified in gross anatomy, physiology, operative lecture and lab, and microbiology. Chavis is certified in physiology.

“A typical day as an active tutor requires work days before a session takes place,” said Legrand. “Making sure that I know an upcoming session’s material is very important before tutoring. I want the students to get the most out of my tutoring sessions. I also like to make worksheets for the students so that it is interactive while I teach. Many of my students enjoyed my worksheets.”

Chavis shared a similar sentiment, stating that tutoring involves helping students to make outlines, create fun games or develop questions that could be used as a study guide.

“My goal as a SASSI tutor is to present the material in a way for students to easily understand and learn the material,” Chavis explained. “At the end of the day, I wanted the students to do well in their classes.”

“I enjoy being able to share what I have learned with incoming students,” Legrand said.

“Taking a short break in between school required me to re-learn what studying habits worked best for me. Once I learned my studying habits, I felt like I was in control of learning material. I share all of my study habits with the students and give them advice as to what works for me.”

“I like encouraging students when they are struggling, because things will get better,” Chavis explained. “Students get an opportunity to ask questions they were not able to ask their professors in class, or may have been afraid or too embarrassed to ask. It is important for them to know there are other students who care about them and who are willing to help them. I strive to create an environment of teamwork and trust so students can feel comfortable to express their concerns or weaknesses about the material.”

Born a military kid in Germany, Legrand lived the longest in Columbus, Georgia, so she considers it to be her hometown. She has a very small immediate family, which includes her older sister, Likedia and a Lhasa apso puppy, Praline.

Legrand, who attended Tennessee State University, states that the most fascinating thing about dentistry is that it is an exciting field where she can use her love of science and art all in one.

“I love interacting with people and changing lives through their smile,” she said.

Chavis hails from Lafayette, Louisiana. She is the youngest of four children, having two older brothers, Jeff and James, and one older sister, Erica. She received her undergraduate degree in biology from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In addition to receiving academic scholarships, Chavis also received a full scholarship in volleyball.

Dentistry interests her because she really enjoys making patients happy, especially when she is able to restore their smiles.

“I had the pleasure of working with a patient who had not had teeth for the past two years. When I delivered his denture to him, he literally could not stop smiling. He was like a completely different person.”

Student involvement is a priority for Legrand and Chavis. Both are active in the Student National Dental Association; Legrand is active in the Black Student Association.

“Both students are actively engaged in the life of the college and of the campus,” said John Covington, DDS, MS, FRSM, associate dean of Admissions and Student Affairs, UTHSC College of Dentistry.

Latoya Legrand and Diane Chavis

“They are splendid role models for aspiring professionals. By being SASS-certified tutors in several subjects, they demonstrate they have two completely different skill sets – knowledge about the subject and the ability to transmit that knowledge through teaching.”

Legrand has some advice for students: “Get involved in student activities, seek help when needed and build relationships with classmates and faculty.”

Chavis added: “Stay encouraged and don’t give up. Sometimes a simple conversation can lead to an exchange of valuable advice that may significantly improve your performance in school.”

On graduating, Legrand and Chavis have one goal: to be successful dentists. Legrand plans to practice in the southeast region, and Chavis has plans to take her talents to the southwest.

Dr. Covington added, “It will be fun to see where life takes them. Each will likely have many practice and residency opportunities before them.”

Healthy Living in the New Year

The UTHSC Campus Recreation Healthy Living Program is for anyone who has struggled with making healthy nutritional and fitness choices and is ready to make a change in their life.

If you have a BMI of 30 or more, want to begin to make some healthy changes in your daily lifestyle, nutrition, fitness, and your medical health, then this is the program for you.

Participants will meet once a week for 12 weeks beginning in January. There will be an educational session on nutrition and fitness topics, and a 30-45 minute exercise session each week.

Please be sure to wear clothes you can move in. We will learn how to set reasonable goals for healthy lifestyle choices, talk about our successes and failures, and exercise weekly.

For more information, contact Suzanne Fenech at sfenech@uthsc.edu.

Countering Stress with Meditation

Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., Marcia Seeberg, a licensed mental health counselor and an instructor in the College of Dentistry, invites UTHSC students, faculty and staff to take time out to meditate.

She leads a half-hour session in the conference room of the Student Academic Support Services and Inclusion offices in Room CB15 of the General Education Building on campus.

Seeberg says she uses meditation in her counseling practice to help people with obsessive thoughts and quiet “the endless mind salad” that distracts us all.

“We started to do this because I have this in my life and I find it to be very valuable,” she says. “Inevitably, when someone learns to meditate, the first thing they say is, “You know, the small stuff just doesn’t seem to bother me anymore.”
Facilities Administration Update

Emile J. David, associate vice chancellor for Facilities Administration at UTHSC, has announced two appointments: Kenneth J. Bradshaw to director of Facilities Administration, and Gary M. White to director of Architecture and Planning.

KENNETH BRADSHAW

In the spring, Bradshaw officially assumed his new role, in which he has overall responsibility and authority for all facilities activities. He previously served as assistant director and interim director in Facilities Administration, and the Office of Architecture and Planning. A 41-year employee of the University of Tennessee, he began his university service in Facilities and has served on numerous university boards and committees.

With a staff of approximately 215, and a budget in excess of $19 million, Bradshaw provides leadership to all full-time, part-time and temporary university employees working within the department. His responsibilities include oversight of more than 40 campus buildings, which entails building systems maintenance, operations, capital outlay and capital maintenance construction, in-house construction, logistics, grounds, transportation and custodial services.

Bradshaw completed the Limited Residential Contractor License Course at Chattanooga State Technical College and has been an independent contractor for more than 25 years. He has honed his skillset by taking courses from various industry organizations like the American Institute of Architects, and has successfully completed the

Memphis Business Development Contractor’s Management Course. He has also participated in Tennessee Vocational Education Electricity/Electronics and Fundamentals of Project Management Fred Pryor Seminars.

GARY WHITE

White, who joined UTHSC on June 29, is a member of the American Institute of Architects. He will serve as the campus architect and be the initial point of contact for renovation and remodeling requests, as well as for the current drawing database for the UTHSC main campus in Memphis.

As the architect of record, White is responsible for the qualitative development of the Memphis campus, as well as for the implementation, monitoring and evolution of the more than 3.5 million square feet of space in more than 40 buildings that comprise UTHSC in Memphis. He serves as the liaison between the university and professional design and construction consultants, and maintains contacts with governmental agencies, professional organizations and other educational institutions to aid and foster physical planning activities.

Previously, White led master planning efforts for FedEx Express hubs located in Memphis, Paris, France, Frankfurt, Germany, and Guangzhou, China.

Born in Seville, Spain, and raised in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, he holds a Bachelor or Architecture degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, as well as a Master of Business Administration degree from Western Governors University.
The above definitely reflects Charles Walker. In his final semester of the newly revived Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at UTHSC, Walker is showing no signs of slowing down. A native of Memphis and the son of Barbara and William Walker, he graduated from White Station High School in 2010. Walker then enrolled at Rhodes College, where he was a biology, anthropology and sociology bridge major.

“This was an interdisciplinary major not formerly offered, but was drafted in an attempt to create a connection between the biological sciences and the people that it impacts,” Walker said.

Although engrossed in academia, volunteer work played a vital role in Walker's undergrad experience. He was a part of the Bonner Scholarship Program where he participated in 10 hours of community service per week. Over the years, Walker also worked with numerous organizations such as the Regional One Health, Evergreen after school program, and Globemed, an organization that partners students with grassroots organizations to address health disparities, and educates and trains student advocates for global health equity.

Walker became a representative for the organization and was able to spend time in Ghana and Nicaragua. It was during this time that he cemented his passion for health care not only as a career, but a human right.

“Each year, the Rhodes College chapter raises $10,000 to send to a Ministry of Sharing Health and Hope (AMOS) in Nicaragua to fund a water filtration project,” said Walker.

“Many children and adults suffer from preventable diseases like diarrhea and dehydration and die because of their lack of access. I spent six weeks in Nicaragua: three of those at the AMOS headquarters and three weeks in the field with the community members. As interns, our task was to assess the efficacy and utilization of the water filters in the community and at the end of the six weeks, present our data to the foundation.

“During that time in Nicaragua, I met a nurse from the United States working at the clinic. Seeing her direct patient interaction in the clinic and getting to know her over the course of six weeks inspired me to apply to nursing school and use that knowledge to travel to other developing countries to provide health care.”

Walker was also a track and field athlete at Rhodes. He participated in the 800-meter dash, 400-meter dash, and got the chance to anchor the men's varsity track and field team to a two-point victory over their rival college in the 2014 Southern Athletic Association Conference Championship. He was also a member of the distance medley relay team that currently holds the school record.

“Service and sports played an integral role in my college career, and are still important to me today. I try to get involved whenever and wherever I can,” said Walker. After graduation, he decided to continue his endeavors in health care-related studies. When it came to choosing a school, UTHSC immensely appealed to him.

“One of the big draws to UT was the accelerated pace,” Walker shared. “I finished my first undergraduate degree just under two months before beginning the BSN program here at UT. When looking at schools, I considered factors such as location, tuition and higher educational programs offered.

“Even before applying to BSN programs, I knew that I would eventually continue my education beyond that, so I wanted to choose a program that had a breadth of disciplines to offer.

“I had also heard that UTHSC had great clinical relationships with many of the hospitals in Memphis, so that made the choice much easier for me.”

Given his track record, involvement came naturally for Walker. He serves as the president of the Nursing Student Government Association and as a member of the student government executive council. He previously served as a BSN class representative and is currently a student representative for the BSN admissions committee, where he helps recommend changes and revisions for the current BSN program, and assists the UTHSC admissions team with creating suggestions for prospective BSN students.

Asked about the importance of student involvement, Walker said, “Student involvement is important to me. I want to have a voice in what goes on in my college, and if there are changes that need to be made, I take pride in playing a role in that and being an advocate. I also tend to be more productive when I have numerous activities going on. It has been a great venue for me to meet students that I may have never come into contact with and learn a lot about the different activities UT provides for its students.”

Jamie Overton, MAEd, director of Student Affairs for the College of Nursing, had great things to say about Walker, said, “Charles has helped to bring student awareness of various activities on campus and within the community to increase CON student participation.”

“His leadership skills, professionalism and positive outlook are evident when interacting with his peers, faculty and staff.

In what spare time he has, Walker enjoys running, watching FOX's "Empire," eating his body weight in Huey's cheese fries, hanging out with friends, and taking in the musical stylings of Tori Kelly and Beyoncé.

Walker, who graduated in December, advised incoming students to be open to change.

“It is so important to be flexible and willing to learn in new ways. I would also suggest that you develop a strong support network, whether that be a spouse, significant other or partner, or family member.

“Nursing is such a team-oriented profession, and it is so important to have people that can encourage you during this time. It takes a village to raise a nurse, and you will soon learn the value in your professors for knowledge, your family and friends for emotional support, and especially your fellow classmates. It is a difficult journey, but I can say that I am glad I chose it.”

Upon graduation, Walker plans to work for a few years with the intent of narrowing down his focus before matriculating into a doctoral-level program. Once he completes the program, Walker has his sights set on using his knowledge and training to educate people and be an advocate for people who are unable to advocate for themselves.

“I think that it is so important for nurses to make sure that their patients get the most quality care possible, and by the same token, it is also important that nurses are treated fairly and are supported by their hospital network,” said Walker.

“I am not sure where exactly I will be 10 years from now, but my hope is that I will be able use my knowledge and passion for social justice to impact the health care system on a larger scale.”

“Life is a journey, not a destination.”

–Ralph Waldo Emerson

Walker receiving his white coat.

Charles Walker
UTHSC Earns Praise from UT System

Linda Hendricks Harig, vice president for Human Resources for the University of Tennessee system, was in Memphis for a managers’ training event on July 15. She liked what she saw.

“At a recent visit to the Health Science Center, I had the opportunity to meet with the HR and Diversity teams,” Harig said. “I was so impressed with the progress they are making in becoming an Employer of Choice. They are expanding their services to faculty and staff to meet the needs of their workforce. Their work teams are professional, committed and clearly excited about what they do.

“I am especially proud of UTHSC being named one of the top workplaces in Memphis by The Commercial Appeal. Congratulations and keep up the great work!”

As vice president, Harig develops and implements HRs strategic plan, assuring alignment with the university and its entities; develops HR policies and guidelines and works closely with the UT System, campus and institute human resource leadership to link the university’s strategies and policies to faculty and staff. Her responsibilities in equity and diversity include setting statewide strategy and initiatives, providing training and best practice research and ensuring the university’s compliance at each entity. For both areas of responsibility, Harig serves as a resource for additional support, guidance and advocacy from the president’s staff.

UTECHSC Raises $16,000 for Heart Walk

UTHSC was a big supporter of the 2015 Mid South Heart Walk on Nov. 7, raising more than $16,000 and serving as a $5,000 sponsor. On top of that, UTHSC’s Heart Walk T-shirt, designed by David Meyer, editorial and design specialist in UTHSC’s Communications and Marketing Department, was the T-shirt contest winner.

1,900+ Flu Shots Given

Second-year Pharmacy student Lewis Jackson, left, got a flu shot in the lobby of the Madison Plaza on Oct. 5 from Josh Newell, also a second-year Pharmacy student. UTHSC gave an amazing 1,900 shots on flu shot day and went on to give more than 350 shots in the days following.

UTHSC Enjoyes Fall Weather, Food Trucks

A new tradition, Food Truck Day, was embraced by faculty, staff and students at UTHSC once a month, weather permitting.

Preventive Medicine Gets Renovation

On Nov. 3, Teresa Waters, PhD, left, chair of the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine, took Dr. Ken Brown, right, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer, on a tour of the newly renovated offices at 66 N. Pauline. Emile David, associate vice chancellor for Facilities Administration and Architecture and Planning, is in center.

UTHSC Communications & Marketing Wins Awards

The Communications and Marketing Department earned major recognition for four entries in the 2015 MarCom International Awards.

A Platinum Award went to UTHSC for support and promotion of “LIVE! Just As We Are,” a breast cancer awareness initiative focused on African-American women and designed to tackle racial disparity in mortality rates. The campaign culminated in a community summit in February that drew more than 500 women to campus.

A Gold Award went to UTHSC for the Summer 2015 issue of Dentistry Magazine. The featured article gave an in-depth look at the needs of adult dental patients with special needs and the opportunity the college has to put into place a special-needs clinic.

UTHSC also earned Honorable Mentions for “Campus Master Plan Revealed” and “The College of Pharmacy Applicant Guide.”

The 2015 MarCom competition drew more than 6,500 entries from throughout the United States, Canada and more than a dozen other countries. The awards program is administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, an international organization of several thousand creative professionals.

To view the winning entries, visit http://www.uthsc.edu/communications-marketing/awards/.

Earlier this year, the UTHSC Communications and Marketing Department received a Gold Award for two entries in the 2015 Hermes Creative Awards, and was a winner in the 2015 Communitas Awards. In the Hermes competition, the UTHSC team picked up a Gold in the Pro Bono category for the “LIVE!” breast cancer campaign, and a Gold for the College of Pharmacy 2014 alumni magazine. The “LIVE!” campaign also won the Making a Difference category of the Communitas Awards.

This fall, the “LIVE!” campaign was selected as a finalist in the Public Service Category in the 2015 Vox Awards sponsored by the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.