

CHANCELLOR'S 2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE UC FOUNDATION

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE FOCUSING ON STUDENT SUCCESS





ENVISIONING THE FUTURE FOCUSING ON STUDENT SUCCESS



In the dawn of this new decade, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga remains committed to enhancing the quality of our students' collegiate experience. Our partners have helped the University carry out its vision of excellence for over a century. In this publication, we are proud to celebrate the many ways throughout the year that our campus community of faculty, staff, donors, alumni, city leaders and friends has contributed time and resources to support our students' success.

the newly-renovated Reading Room, formerly known as the Flag Room, in the Guerry Center

on the cover | exterior shot of the Guerry Center, March 2020

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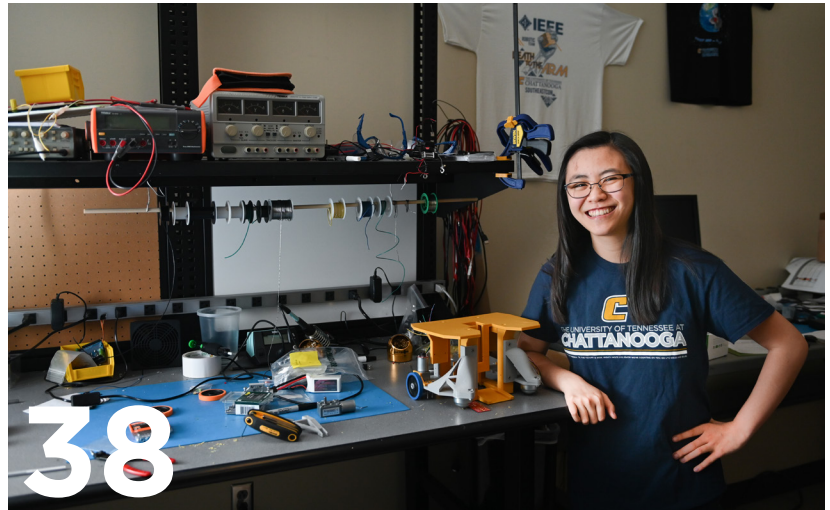
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The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is a driving force for achieving excellence by actively engaging students, faculty and staff; embracing diversity and inclusion; inspiring positive change; and enriching and sustaining our community.

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UTC EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION Richard Brown

CHIEF OF STAFF Terry Denniston

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CH

STEVEN R. ANGLE

MESSAGE FROM THE ANCELLOR

I HAVE NEVER BEEN PROUDER than I am right now to be a MOC and have the honor to serve as chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. As a campus community, we have come together in tough times to battle an unseen enemy, COVID-19. Through it all, we migrated to online learning, moved students out of campus housing, transitioned to working remotely and banded together to help each other through a difficult period. I am so impressed by the incredible effort put forth by our faculty, staff and students; they all continued “doing business as usual” at the same time the entire world turned upside down. We continue to demonstrate that we are a connected community. Together, we will get through this difficult time.

Envisioning the Future: Focusing on Student Success was selected as the theme for the 2020 Chancellor’s Annual Report to the UC Foundation long before “social distancing” and “coronavirus” were used in everyday language. The theme could not be more fitting in light of what is going on around us. Our No. 1 priority remains the success of our students. We can help our students succeed by offering scholarship aid, assisting with emergency needs related to housing and enhancing the quality of the educational experience.

Since its inception in 1969, the UC Foundation has worked hand-in-hand with the University to ensure we provide the best possible educational experience for our students. I continue to applaud the commitment and passion of past and current UC Foundation Board members in advancing the mission of our University. The emphasis has always been on student success and academic excellence. UC Foundation resources have provided a margin of excellence and exceptional opportunities for generations of UTC students.

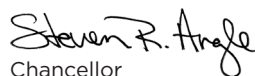
For more than a century, the Guerry family and its foundation—Hamico, Inc.—has been

committed to the growth and excellence of UTC and Chattanooga. This annual report pays tribute to the newly renovated Guerry Center, named after Alexander Guerry—the University’s seventh president and one of the family’s patriarchs.

The Guerry Center, home to the UTC Honors College, continues the strategy of establishing a central hub of activity for our students around Chamberlain Field. The transformation continues later this year with the unveiling of a nearly 107,000 square-foot makeover of Lupton Hall. The combination of the Guerry Center, Lupton Hall, the University Center and the UTC Library—bounded by the newly landscaped Oak and Vine streets—gives the University spaces for students to hang out, talk, interact, have fun and feel welcome. UTC is becoming an even more vibrant university in contributing to student success.

Other notable narratives include features on Denise and Tim Downey, who spearheaded the University’s new Student Emergency Fund; Richard Zhang, who recently created gifts touching multiple units on campus (Honors College, Gary W. Rollins College of Business, Chemistry Department, Brock Scholars); Roger and Claire Smith, both UC Foundation scholarship beneficiaries who are now giving back to help students; and Dr. Aniket Rali, who has created a scholarship at UTC to honor his parents, even though neither he nor any family members attended the University.

As you read about the impact of UC Foundation gifts and the profound role philanthropy has on our students, please know that I thank all of you for what you do for this university. It is a privilege to work with you in shaping the success of UTC students, and I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish together in the future. Thank you, and “Go MOCS!”


Chancellor

LOOKING AHEAD

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Richard Brown,
executive vice chancellor of
finance and administration

above, rendering of a
renovated Lupton Hall

Richard Brown could only laugh as the question was being asked. He knew what was coming.

“Now that Guerry Center is done, the next big thing is—?”

“Lupton,” said Brown, answering before the sentence was completed. “Lupton Hall will be ready soon, and it’s really exciting.”

Brown, UTC executive vice chancellor of finance and administration, has worked for the University since 1984. In his dual role, Brown is intimately involved in making sure master planning and strategic planning are aligned. Once the strategic plan lays out the vision—in this case, a Lupton Hall makeover—it is then handed off to Brown to oversee the building of the facilities.

In other words, he has played a vital role in managing the renovations and modernizations of Guerry Center (first built in 1958) and Lupton Hall (known as Lupton Library when it opened in 1974) and making them vibrant buildings once again.

“One of the real joys that I’ve had as the CFO and chief business officer here is seeing the campus transformed,” Brown said. “I always like to say that when we do renovations or build new buildings, they should represent or be reflective of the academic excellence of the faculty who use those buildings. I fundamentally believe we have some of the best faculty in the country, so the buildings should reflect that high quality of standards.”

“Lupton had been vacant for quite some time, and we were excited to get state funding of up to \$23.6 million to do this renovation. This is a 106,900-square-foot facility that’s been totally renovated, and we’re adding over 19,500 new square feet to the existing footprint.”

Student support space will be in abundance within Lupton Hall, continuing a University trend during the last decade of creating more areas for student engagement. In recent years, Chamberlain Field was converted

into an outdoor gathering spot for students to relax, study and participate in all types of activities. The current UTC Library opened in 2015, followed by the renovation of the Guerry Center. Now, the transformation continues with Lupton Hall's upcoming resurrection.

Add everything together, and a central hub of activity for students has been created.

"The building will serve as a bookend to our quadrangle—the new academic quadrangle with the new UTC Library anchored on the west side and the renovated old library on the east side. It will be a spectacular view and complete a strong academic presence in the heart of the campus," Brown said. "This building is iconic. What you will see are state-of-the-art classroom facilities that will rival any university in the country. We're putting in the latest technology within these classrooms. You will also have faculty offices moving into this space, significant departments like the math department and communications and some of the arts and sciences faculty.

"We're going to have food service operations within there, what we call a fresh casual concept—which is a healthy food-offering initiative. The decor is nice, too. You're going to see it themed University blue-and-gold. We expect it to be a fully animated building, almost 24/7 in terms of animation."

As part of the reopening, substantial upgrades in parking are being planned to ensure additional parking facilities are adjacent to the heart of campus.

Brown has had the opportunity to leave his imprint all over the University grounds, and there's no letup in sight. Other construction projects nearing completion include renovations of space in the State Office Building, Mapp Building, UTC Fine Arts Center and Fletcher Hall.

"And then, just when you think, 'Gosh, you're going to be able to take a breath,' we already have \$12.5 million to renovate Hunter Hall and the College of Education. So as soon as we can get Lupton opened, get it occupied and get some people moved, we will move all the faculty out of Hunter and into the State Office Building that we're renovating now," Brown said. "Call it musical chairs. But it's imperative that we renovate.

"Hunter Hall is a circa 1950s building that has not been touched with a major renovation in a while. We're going to build new classrooms, new infrastructure, new bathroom facilities, great lecture spaces, great research spaces

within the building. But there are also things that people don't think about that matter to me: infrastructure, new electrical, HVAC, plumbing systems, all those kinds of things. We're excited about having an opportunity to do that."

Call it the next "next big thing." For Brown, the work is never done. ■



top, exterior of Hunter Hall, the next building slated to be renovated on campus after current renovations are complete

bottom, view of the newly-renovated Oak Street quad from Founders Hall

BUILDING BRIDGES

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

by Shawn Ryan and Gina Stafford



UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED FOR INCLUSION BY DESIGN

For its implementation of varied programs and policies supporting diversity and inclusion throughout the community and across campus, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga won the 2019 Inclusion by Design award from the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga.

Chancellor Steven R. Angle was joined by UTC Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Brown, Angle's Chief of Staff Terry Denniston and UTC College of Health, Education and Professional Studies Dean Valerie Rutledge in accepting the award, which was presented by Ryenne McDowell, a UTC undergraduate majoring in political science.

"The Urban League is such a central fixture in our community, doing so many good and important things to inspire everyone to embrace diversity and inclusion. Receiving this award from them is meaningful and significant," Angle said. "What is important about this is that it acknowledges the contributions of the entire University. It is not about

just one or two people but the involvement and engagement of so many people who have a direct impact on enhancing diversity and inclusion.

"From sharing the history of the Martin Luther King corridor through the 'Stories of the Big 9' podcasts, to the Equity Fellows students volunteering to help the community respond to a variety of challenges, to the contributions of faculty, staff, students and alumni in countless ways to demonstrate and enhance the value of diversity and inclusion—to me, it's the breadth and depth of the University's involvement as well as its impact that are important and what is recognized by this award."

According to the Urban League, UTC's selection for the honor resulted from inclusive business practices and outreach: "As the pre-eminent four-year university in our city, the UTC administration and staff have initiated a variety of programs and policies that are supporting diversity and inclusion across campus and within our community."



Enjelica Reid, coordinator of education and youth initiatives for the Chattanooga Urban League, left, stands with Richard Brown, Chancellor Steven R. Angle, Valerie Rutledge and Terry Denniston Friday, Nov. 1, 2019, after presenting an Inclusion by Design award to University officials. UTC was presented an award for practices to encourage diversity among faculty, staff and students, as well as partnering to benefit diverse goals for the community.

Mayor Andy Berke, left, congratulates inaugural Styles L. Hutchins fellows Khadesha Gordon, Ryenne McDowell, Dominique Malone and Marquise Tate during their final presentation at Unum. Also pictured are Candy Johnson, senior advisor to Berke, and Katie Wells, employee of the mayor's office.



UTC STUDENTS JOIN CITYWIDE DIVERSITY STUDY

Out of 33 black students who graduated from UTC between August 2017 and December 2018, 19—or 58%—said they landed a job in Chattanooga.

In the same period, 277 of 425 white graduates and 15 of 23 Hispanic graduates reported working in Chattanooga. Both of those percentages are 65%.

The numbers are from a survey conducted by the UTC Office of Planning, Evaluation and Institutional Research to gather students' post-graduation information such as employment status. Not all graduates responded to the survey.

While the difference between the black graduate retention rate and others isn't enormous, the numbers are troubling to many in Chattanooga, including the office of Mayor Andy Berke and the administration at UTC. Too many black graduates are leaving Chattanooga for several reasons, officials say, including lack of employment opportunities.

To address those concerns, the Styles L. Hutchins Fellowship was created. A collaboration between UTC, the mayor's office, the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce and the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga,

the goal of the fellowship is to give black graduates more reasons to stay in Chattanooga.

A large part of the new UTC students' work will examine the talent management strategies used by local and regional employers to build a talented and diverse workforce. Among those strategies are paid internship opportunities, innovative recruitment strategies, using employee resource groups and getting employees engaged in community activities.

Four UTC students—Dominique Malone, Khadesha Gordon, Ryenne McDowell and Marquise Tate—were the historic first fellowship members during the fall 2019 semester. Senior Eric Barton and juniors Tyrese Hobbs and Ervin Fisher IV were selected for the spring 2020 semester.

PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHES IB FUTURE READY INSTITUTES AT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

A partnership agreement between UTC and the Hamilton County school system to bring International Baccalaureate Future Ready Institutes to Ooltewah and Signal Mountain high schools came to fruition in fall 2019.

Chancellor Steven R. Angle and Hamilton County Schools Superintendent Bryan Johnson signed the partnership agreement before a gathered group of officials and students from the two schools.

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate, or IB, diploma program is a widely adopted, two-year program of academically rigorous preparation for college-bound high school juniors and seniors.

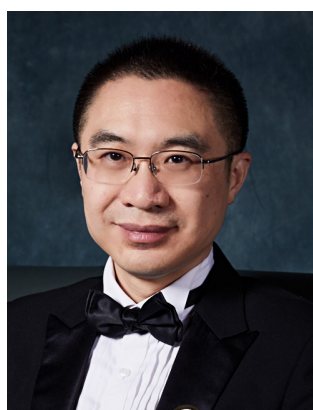
The partnership to create IB Future Ready Institutes at Ooltewah and Signal Mountain specifically involves the School of Education and the Honors College in providing advanced courses to help prepare students at both high schools for college.

Johnson told the seven high school pupils on hand—a combination of "IB student ambassadors" from both Ooltewah and Signal Mountain—he hoped and expected they would take full advantage of what the partnership creates.

"I think about my grades 9 through 12 experience, and the fact that I didn't have this type of opportunity to come on a college campus, to be engaged with professors, deans and chancellors, or for them to come and be engaged with me—to be challenged in critical thinking and problem solving," Johnson said. "I hope you take full advantage of what this opportunity offers. It is absolutely our goal that, as students, you leave here prepared for the jobs of tomorrow. The reality is, we don't know what the jobs of tomorrow will be, but what we do know is these types of experiences will position you far ahead of the pack.

"And to UTC, I can't say it enough: Thank you for your support." ■

TURNING IDEAS INTO REALITY



Richard Zhang '92

“HE LIVES IN THIS RIVER OF IDEAS AND THE WATER’S ALWAYS FRESH.”

Robert Fulton, former director of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Honors Program, eloquently uttered those words as part of a speech he delivered at the September 2019 UTC Honors Homecoming Gala. Fulton was at the microphone accepting an alumni award on behalf of Richard Zhang, a member of the class of 1992.

Zhang was the recipient of the Sompayrac Alumni Award by virtue of being a UTC alumnus who triple-majored—having graduated summa cum laude with bachelor’s degrees in chemistry, economics and accounting. But he was also being celebrated for remembering his UTC roots. With no fanfare, he had made several generous donations to his alma mater over the last year.

Months after the gala, the quote was read back to Zhang, who took a moment to let Fulton’s comments sink in.

“That was very kind of him. I appreciate that remark,” said Zhang, an equity partner and the head of Greater China operations at Apax Partners. “It’s one thing to have a lot of ideas. It’s another to turn those ideas into reality and make them happen.”

Zhang has been turning ideas into reality for a long time.

He freely admits that his path through UTC came about totally by accident.

It was the late 1980s, and 18-year-old Xike Zhang had the idea that he wanted to study abroad. China was only beginning to open up, and the Shanghai-born teenager was determined to do something that at the time was quite unusual in his part of the globe: Go abroad and explore this vast world of ours.

“I wanted to be exposed to Western culture. I wanted to learn the broader world,” Zhang recalled. “I was incredibly poor in the sense that in those days

PROFILE FEATURE

all Chinese were very poor, but I was well-educated. My parents were college-educated, even though they were only making the equivalent of \$50 a month, collectively.”

Zhang, who began learning English when he was in the third grade in school, was researching American universities. He literally stumbled upon UTC.

“To be honest,” Zhang said, “I didn’t even know there was a state of Tennessee—much less a University of Tennessee or Chattanooga—when I began looking. It was not something necessarily well planned, and it was very much by accident that I found UTC. I couldn’t afford to pay multiple application fees for different schools or a four-year college tuition. The beauty of UTC was that I was able to defer paying my application fee until after admission. So I applied.

“UTC later awarded me a Brock Scholarship, thanks to Dr. Bob Fulton. And with that Brock Scholarship, in those days, it essentially became completely free tuition. That allowed me to spend four years in Chattanooga.”

Sight unseen, Zhang made his way from Asia to North America. He was laughing as he recounted his less-than-direct, halfway-around-the-world route to UTC, starting with a train from Shanghai to Hong Kong—followed by flights to Detroit, Memphis and Chattanooga.

“I arrived in Chattanooga and fell in love with the place,” he said. “I thought it was just a terrific, friendly city, and it exposed me to a lot of the wonderful Southern culture.”

He was known by his given name of Xike back then. He chose to go by Richard upon entering the workforce after receiving a master’s degree from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, and it became his legal name when he was naturalized as a United States citizen.

Zhang immediately immersed himself in the city, the culture and—of course—his studies.

Tom Rybolt, a UC Foundation professor of chemistry and one of Zhang’s first UTC instructors, quickly saw the learning capacity his young protégé possessed.

“Xike knew a lot of chemistry from his high school experience, and at some point, I asked him about doing research. He was interested in that,” Rybolt said. “There was a rich tradition within our chemistry department of faculty having undergraduates perform research with them. One benefit was publishing papers together—as Richard and I did.

continued on next page

"I also recall this one other time when some of the research we were doing was in programming—and it was in a language called Fortran, which you don't hear much about anymore. Xike was going on a bus trip to Chicago and some other places. He asked about the programming, so I gave him a book that he took with him to read on the bus. He knew an awful lot by the time he came back just from reading that book. It was quite striking in terms of his ability to learn and apply things."

"I'm a deep believer that education changes lives. Education creates lifelong impact on the betterment of an individual. I have this deep passion for education and toward making high-quality education accessible to anyone and everyone."

That one-to-one relationship resonated with Zhang. He spent multiple years working on projects with Rybolt.

"I had an opportunity that very few undergraduate students, even at the Ivy League universities, receive—this experience of working so closely on a research project with a tenured professor," Zhang said. "To be an undergraduate like I was and to be able to work with a tenured professor doing cutting-edge research, being able to publish papers, speaking at an international conference. That kind of unparalleled opportunity was just unique. Dr. Rybolt and I formed a strong friendship. He had a huge influence on me."

Although he initially came to UTC to study chemistry, Zhang figured out the free market system very quickly—both inside and outside of the classroom.

He landed a job as a resident assistant and soon parlayed it into an assistant resident director position. As a result, he received free housing.

He found on-campus part-time jobs working at Lupton Library and in the

cafeteria. Zhang looks back fondly at his time working in food service.

"I found the cafeteria job to be particularly exciting because you get free food. That, by the way, significantly reduced my budget," he said. "I basically could live on roughly \$7 per week. At the cafeteria, there's plenty of excess food for employees to eat, and that was quite helpful to me. And by working there, I ended up meeting a diverse group of people from all ethnicities, races and backgrounds."

"Frankly, I was poor, but I didn't feel poor; I actually felt enriched. There was a lot of learning, lots of new opportunities, and lots of great people to meet. And I never spent a single day hungry."

As a member of the Honors program, Zhang took elective courses introducing him to the concepts of economics and accounting. Like everything else he did at UTC—his many activities included participating in Student Government Association as a senator, becoming chair of SGA's academic and ethics committees, serving as an officer in various honor societies and organizing resident hall programs—he dove into it headfirst.

"I took a lot more credits than I needed to graduate," Zhang said. "Once you take your required course load, you didn't pay extra tuition for additional courses. I was like, 'Why not?' It's like, 'Buy one, get one for free.' I admit that I took advantage of the free market mechanism and that benefited my learning."

"I went to UTC to study chemistry because it's a scientific discipline, but everywhere, science is the same. Quickly, I became fascinated by economics, by the market economy, by the Western way. I ended up taking economics as well as accounting as majors. I was passionate about learning new things. It was overwhelming, but there was so much to learn. Every day presented new challenges; I found it both intellectually challenging and personally rewarding."

And his eyes were opened to a different way of thinking.

"I was reasonably good at math and science when I came from China, but the whole liberal arts side—the understanding of the Western culture—was new to me,"

Zhang said. “Bob Fulton introduced me to it and gave me an incredible foundation. He provided me, first and foremost, with the opportunity for a world-class education that I otherwise could not have afforded. He introduced me to a new way of thinking—to be independent—and becoming a critical thinker has benefited me throughout the rest of my life. And he gave me a liberal arts foundation, which I was lacking.

“Dr. Fulton fundamentally changed my life by giving me this education. If he hadn’t awarded me the Brock Scholarship, there would have been no way to complete four years of college in Chattanooga—or anywhere, for that matter.”

At the Honors Gala reception in fall 2019, Fulton had people laughing as he reminisced about first meeting Zhang.

“My first impression of him as a student was his manner of speech,” Fulton said. “You were face-to-face with this guy, and what was in his mouth was a machine gun; the words were coming out staccato—‘bit-bit-bit-bit-bit’ like that—and I pretty soon figured out why. The guy had so many ideas in his head; he had to get them out. It was amazing.”

Zhang has never forgotten the roles that Fulton and Rybolt have played in his life. Likewise, he fondly recalled John Fulmer, the associate dean of the College of Business when he was in school, who introduced him to the world of business and finance and encouraged him to pursue a career in the field. Zhang also waxed eloquent when he spoke about Honors College Dean Linda Frost—“she is enormously passionate, energetic and taking the Honors College to a new exciting level”—and Gary W. Rollins College of Business Dean Robert Dooley.

“Dean Dooley is just an incredible, charismatic and visionary guy who gets great things done; he’s very inspiring,” Zhang said. “The Rollins College’s naming and the huge gift is setting the stage for the business school to become one of the best in the country under Dean Dooley’s enormous leadership. It just made me feel that this was the time to start to contribute back.”

During spring 2019, Zhang returned to Chattanooga for the first time in more than two decades to establish multiple gift

agreements with UTC. For him, it was an opportunity to repay the University for what it had done in changing his life’s trajectory.

Zhang created the Robert Fulton and Richard X. Zhang Endowed International Exchange Scholarship Fund; the Tom Rybolt and Richard X. Zhang Endowed Undergraduate Research in Chemistry Scholarship Fund; the Richard X. Zhang Endowed Business Professorship Fund; and the Richard X. Zhang Annual Honors College Scholarship Fund.

“I just felt it would make sense for me to make some contributions to each of those things—each of which I benefited from when I was at UTC,” he said. “I’m a deep believer that education changes lives. Education creates a lifelong impact on the betterment of an individual. I have this deep passion for education and toward making high-quality education accessible to anyone and everyone.

“My motivation was simple: To contribute back to the University that gave me the quality of education that changed my life. I also wish to see the University become an even stronger force with an ever-increasing national prominence and global impact.”

As for Fulton’s assertion of his former student’s living in a river of ideas, “I recognize that it’s important to turn ideas into reality,” Zhang said. “I’m hoping with these gifts that I’m helping in some small way.” ■



Richard Zhang, far right, pictured in the 1991 Moccasin yearbook along with the other members of the Student Government Association



HONORING OUR HISTORY FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE

When the building was first dedicated nearly 55 years ago, it immediately became a jewel of the former

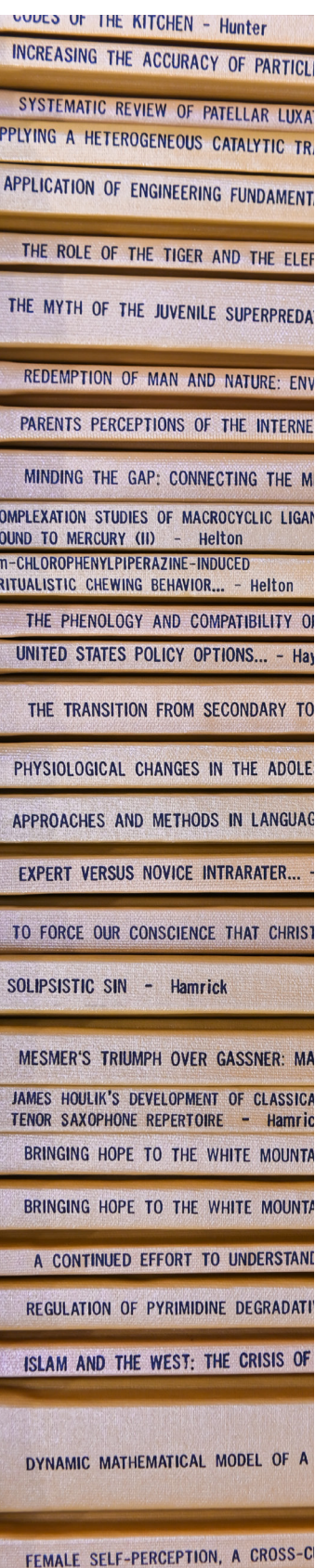
University of Chattanooga campus.

“Student Center Named for Dr. Guerry” was the headline readers saw when they looked at the front page of the Jan. 15, 1965, edition of the *University of Chattanooga Echo*. The subhead read, “President Preserved UC in Depression.”

The unveiling of the Alexander Guerry Center, the University’s student/faculty/alumni facility, was a significant campus event. It honored the memory of Guerry, who—while serving as the University’s seventh president from 1929-1938—played a pivotal role in keeping UC financially afloat during the Great Depression. While guiding the University through rough waters, Guerry’s legacy included expanding the UC summer school program, introducing evening classes, eliminating the deficit in the athletic program and improving the grounds and buildings on campus.

While the plaque on the outside of the building shouted “STUDENT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHATTANOOGA 1958” in all caps, it had simply been known for generations on campus as Guerry Center. *continued on next page*

HONORING OUR HISTORY FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE



UTC Honors College
departmental theses

As students returned to campus for the start of the 2019-2020 school year, they were soon to be greeted by the renovated Guerry Center.

When it formally opened in September, the new Guerry Center became a shiny new gem in the central hub of activity for University of Tennessee at Chattanooga students encircling Chamberlain Field. Now the home of the UTC Honors College, the Guerry Center's renovation followed the opening of a new campus library five years earlier. A renovated Lupton Hall (the former Lupton Library) is set to open in fall 2020.

The Guerry Center grand reopening, ribbon-cutting and rededication immediately followed Chancellor Steven R. Angle's 2019 State of the University address presented to a capacity crowd in Guerry's Reading Room. The event and Guerry's debut were among the highlights of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the University of Chattanooga's affiliation with the UT system, becoming the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1969. Luminaries attending the rededication included Zan Guerry and Alexis Guerry Bogo, grandson and great-granddaughter of Alexander Guerry; interim UT President Randy Boyd; Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke; Tennessee state representatives Patsy Hazlewood and Yusuf Hakeem; and former UTC chancellors Roger Brown, Fred Obear and Bill Stacy.

"We are here today in the renovated Guerry Center, named for a Chattanooga family that has led the University, spearheaded numerous campus physical improvements and invested in our educational mission," Angle said in his address. "The Alexander and Charlotte Guerry Professorships started in 1961, a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of the University's seventh president and his wife."

The Guerry Center has been on campus since 1955, and the renovation—first in the building's history—was an \$8-million, two-and-a-half-year "extreme makeover."

Work included asbestos abatement, HVAC system replacement, upgrading plumbing, replacing building electrical

systems, solving drainage problems and replacing building finishes.

Now home to the Honors College, Guerry has classrooms, conference rooms, offices and meeting spaces for all UTC students, with after-hours, swipe-card building access just for Honors College students and faculty.

"What I have been most excited about with the Guerry Center is having the ability to welcome our honors students to hang out with us in a place centrally located on campus—and the Guerry Center is in the heart of campus," said Linda Frost, dean of the Honors College. "For the students to be able to come and do work and socialize in a central space is critical; none of that happened during the renovation period. Our students need to be able to interact casually with the honors administration and their faculty. It's terrific once again to be in a space where all of this can happen."

Frost noted that honors programs and colleges are often located in historic buildings on campuses across the country. "This building," she said, "was the student union for the University of Chattanooga. It has stained-glass windows and images that reflect the University's history. The University of Chattanooga is essential historically to this campus, and the University of Chattanooga Foundation is part of what makes our University so unique—to have such a significant and robust foundation for a University of our size and our type is highly unusual. Thanks to the new building, the University of Chattanooga connection is preserved and made apparent in that space. It's important to the campus because it's our history."

The Reading Room, more commonly known on campus over the years as the Flag Room, remains a focal point—although its signature flags have been removed and will be relocated elsewhere. New light fixtures complement floor-to-ceiling glass.

In addition to offices and classrooms, Guerry's coffee bar and ample open space for students give it a library-like ambiance. The addition of a touch-screen monitor and museum-quality speakers in the reception area will help showcase the

“For the students to be able to come and do work and socialize in a central space is critical; none of that happened during the renovation period. Our students need to be able to interact casually with the honors administration and their faculty. It’s terrific once again to be in a space where all of this can happen.”

contributions of various families and people who have donated to the Honors College by featuring filmed interviews of and about the College’s donors.

“Many of our donors were and are major players in Chattanooga history and development,” Frost said. “Scotty Probasco donated a fund to the Honors College that we use to support student research and study-abroad programs. The Brock family and others created an \$8-million endowment to honor William E. Brock Jr., and those funds provide scholarships for our Brock Scholars. Of course, the center is called the Guerry Center for Alexander Guerry, and we received \$1 million from the Guerry family’s Hamico, Inc. to start the Honors College.

“The cool thing about this monitor is that people can access stories about our donors. If I’m a student and I’ve been given the Barbara and Robert Oldham Endowed Scholarship, I’ll be able to go and learn about who these people are. Or if I’ve received the Dorothea Obear Scholarship—which is in honor of Fred Obear’s mother—I can learn about Fred being a chancellor emeritus here at UTC and listen to Fred describe his mother. You can learn a lot about Chattanooga from the stories of our donors.” ■

▼ Guerry Center ribbon-cutting at the 2019 State of the University



DENISE AND TIM DOWNEY STUDENT EMERGENCY



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
BREAK GLASS

The UTC Office of Student Outreach and Support oversees the Denise and Tim Downey Student Emergency Fund. To donate and assist students in need, please visit give.utc.edu/sef.

IF THE CORONAVIRUS HAS TAUGHT

PEOPLE ANYTHING, it's the reality that an emergency can occur at any time. It's a reminder of how quickly life can change.

Now, imagine that you're a student with limited financial resources. What would you do in an emergency if you couldn't afford books or you needed assistance paying utility bills in your off-campus apartment?

Denise and Tim Downey put a lot of thought into this. The Downeys—who both attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga—wanted to ensure students in need of emergency financial assistance that they had a place to go for help.

In 2019, they created the Denise and Tim Downey Student Emergency Fund to provide limited emergency help for UTC students experiencing monetary hardship. The fund was formed to alleviate unexpected student expenses, like essential academic needs, last-minute airline tickets and one-time, non-recurring medical costs—expenditures that could force a student to have to forgo academic studies.

"We don't want students to have a situation that causes them to drop out of school," said Tim Downey, the founder and chief executive officer of Southern Land Company—a Nashville-based real estate development firm. "That's what I think is the most dangerous part for students. If something goes wrong, they might end up dropping out. That would be the worst thing that could happen, right?"

His wife concurred, saying, "I feel good about being able to give back to these kids, especially when they're in dire situations." Denise Downey received a bachelor's degree in home economics from UTC in 1981. She cited some of the examples of what the fund can be used for. "When they don't have the money for books, or their car breaks down, or all the other things that can happen that

EMERGENCY FUND

you're not prepared for—especially when you're young and you have no money. Students work so hard. Tim and I, we're fortunate that we can pay it back a little bit. If students need help, they have a place to come and get it."

The gift they created is specifically earmarked to assist students facing financial hardships that would otherwise interfere with their success at UTC. The fund provides limited emergency awards to currently enrolled students who experience unexpected or temporary difficulty. The fund supports the campus-wide priority of retaining and graduating students on time and with minimal debt.

The fund is administered by the UTC Office of Student Outreach and Support. Students in need of assistance are asked to fill out an online application.

"We like to help people in the community, and UTC is a good arm to help us," Denise said. "This fund is available to all students. If they have an emergency or if they need something and don't have the means to take care of it, that's when they need to ask for help."

While, as students, the Downeys didn't need any emergency funding, they know what it's like to pay your own way through school. They arrived on campus in the fall of 1977 and met after their freshman year—eventually getting married in September 1979.

"Back then, your parents just didn't write checks to help you out," Tim recalled. "We had to pay our rent. We had to pay for our gas. We had to pay for our books and our tuition. If something went wrong, we didn't have a place to go—unless it was family.

"We did have family that would have helped us if we needed it, but I think we're helping a lot of people who don't have family that can just write a check. We had a failsafe, but they don't. Looking back, \$50 could have been an emergency for us way back when."

Tim began running an office cleaning business during his time as a UTC student. He was paying

his own way and ended up leaving college early; work became more time-consuming than his school studies could accommodate. His business eventually led him to cross paths with people who suggested he think more broadly.

He became a developer, starting Southern Land, and moved the company's headquarters to Nashville.

As the business took off—becoming a national company—the Downeys made sure to think about others and give back. Philanthropy is important to both, who say they believe in the philosophy of performing one random act of kindness a day.

"Every city we do business in, we try to let a few charities know about what we're doing," Tim said. "UTC is our connection to Chattanooga. Denise and I both went there. We were supporting ourselves while we were in school and we know what it's like to barely get by."

As Denise said, "It feels good to help out. UTC was a wonderful experience. It's a great University and it serves the community so well. We love Chattanooga. It's a beautiful city, a great place to raise your family and your children." ■



Tim Downey and Denise Downey '81, benefactors and creators of the Denise and Tim Downey Student Emergency Fund



DENISE AND TIM DOWNEY
student**EMERGENCY**fund

NATIONAL

opposite top, Ximena Leon, an Innovations in Honors biology major and recipient of the 2020 Goldwater Scholarship and an Amgen Scholar

opposite bottom, Dell Zimmerman, an Innovations in Honors chemical engineering major and recipient of the 2020 Goldwater Scholarship

When she first set foot on the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga campus in January 2018, Leslie Pusey was determined to change the culture.

"It takes time to build a culture around competitive national scholarships," said Pusey, the director of the Office of National Scholarships for UTC. "It's all about encouraging students to engage in the process. Every year, I want to have more applicants."

You can't win a national honor if you don't apply for it, and a big win for a UTC student took place a year ago. During the spring 2019 semester, Simone Edwards learned she was a winner of a J. William Fulbright U.S. Student Program award. A political science major, Edwards was the University's first Fulbright recipient since 1965.

Consider that the launching point.

"Once you have a student win a competitive scholarship, it grows from there," Pusey said. "It's kind of a hard thing to explain; we measure success by how many students are engaged in the process of applying for national scholarships. Everyone who goes through the process is a winner, but some see success and earn awards."

This spring, it's been one award after another.

Ashwyn Sam, an engineering and computer science senior at UTC, was one of 83 winners out of more than 6,000 applicants to receive a prestigious Knight-Hennessy scholarship to Stanford University. After graduation, Sam will head to Stanford for two years of work on a master's in aeronautics and astronautics and three more years of doctorate work in the same subjects. The first three years are covered by the Knight-Hennessy scholarship, while other scholarships will cover his final two years.

Senior Hannah Horton extended the UTC Fulbright winning streak to two years. A political science major and a member of the Innovations in Honors program, Horton will pursue a master's in Korean

Studies in Seoul after being selected as a Fulbright Scholar to South Korea. Two others, senior secondary education major Sara Baluch and graduate English student Tiffany Herron, were chosen as Fulbright alternates—while biology alumna Hannah Hightower reached the semifinal level.

"Just moving forward through the national screening committee and becoming a semifinalist is a challenging and significant accomplishment," Pusey said. "As a university, going 4-for-4 in reaching the semifinals is a major accomplishment."

A pair of Innovations in Honors program scholars, biology major Ximena Leon and chemical engineering major Dell Zimmerman, were both awarded a 2020 Goldwater Scholarship—marking the first time UTC had two students receive this scholarship in the same year. Leon and Zimmerman were the first UTC students to win the award since 2008. The scholarship grants up to \$7,500 for educational expenses and is one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships for students studying the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics in the United States. The Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 to honor the lifetime work of Barry Goldwater, who served the country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman—including 30 years in the U.S. Senate.

"Whereas many of these awards are post-graduate school funding, this one is for undergraduate STEM students," Pusey said. "It's pretty coveted to be named a Goldwater Scholar. These students were recognized by movers and shakers in the scientific community that they're going to be future movers and shakers."

The Goldwater Scholarship wasn't Leon's only accolade. The junior joined fellow biology major Tiffany Harvey in being offered admission to the highly competitive Amgen Scholars, a summer research program. Amgen Scholars are funded by the Amgen Foundation, an affiliate of an international biotechnology

Read more about Ashwyn Sam on page 24

NEWS

UTC STUDENTS LAND NATIONAL AWARDS

company that seeks to inspire the next generation of innovators in science. Before spring 2020, only one UTC student had been an Amgen recipient.

Itzel Guzman Hernandez, an Innovations in Honors alumna who received a degree in biology in December 2019, was appointed to an assistant language teacher position in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. JET, the only teaching exchange program managed by the Japanese government, has sent more than 70,000 participants from around the globe to work in schools, boards of education and government offices throughout Japan.

Former Brock Scholar and Innovations in Honors Scholar Mae Stuart, who graduated from UTC in 2018 with degrees in political science and humanities and a minor in French, was selected for a MITRA scholarship. MITRA is an interdisciplinary bilingual (French and English) master's degree program dedicated to the study of migratory phenomena on an international scale.

Mackenzie Scott, a senior English major and member of the Brock Scholars, was accepted into the Columbia Publishing Course through Columbia Journalism School. Since its inception at Columbia University in New York City 73 years ago, the six-week Columbia Publishing Course has been recognized as the premier training ground for those aspiring to work in book, magazine and digital publishing.

Audrey Lawson, a junior majoring in political science, became the first UTC student to be awarded a Semester at Sea scholarship through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. The Gilman Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is an undergraduate program for U.S. citizens of limited financial means to enable them to study abroad and better prepare to thrive in the global economy.

"It's worth noting that Gilmans are for Pell-eligible students. Often, this is their first interaction with competitive scholarships," Pusey said. She pointed out that competitive scholarships are open to all students who meet award-specific eligibility requirements. "A number of the Gilman applicants I work

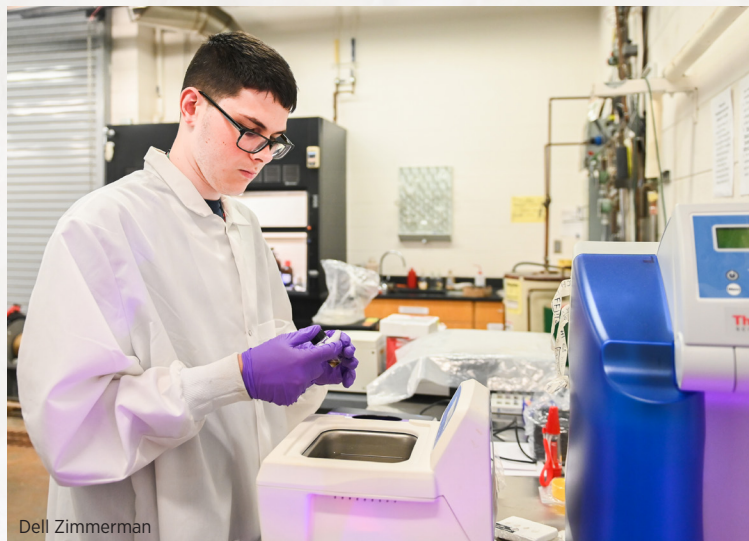
with are not in the honors program, and three of the four semifinalists for the Fulbright were not in honors."

After all the good news connected to scholarship-winning UTC students, Pusey admitted she was sad that announcement season had reached its end.


"It's been two years of exciting success," she said. "Working with students is satisfying and fulfilling. It's great to see their hard work come to fruition and to see their work be rewarded. It's nice to take it all in and celebrate with them." ■



Ximena Leon



Dell Zimmerman



Ashwyn Sam

LAUNCHING INTO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

UTC UNDERGRAD RECEIVES FULL RIDE TO STANFORD GRADUATE PROGRAM

by Shawn Ryan

Ashwyn Sam admits it: He's kind of a procrastinator. "I like to think that I like to work slow, but it's actually procrastination," he said with a smile in his voice.

His drive to "work slow" is why, when he decided to apply to be one of the prestigious Knight-Hennessy Scholars for 2020—a scholarship worth about \$50,000 annually, covering all costs of graduate education at Stanford University, including tuition, housing, meal plan, books, fees, supplies and local transportation, among others—he waited until the last week before the deadline to decide to fill out the lengthy application. He waited until the last day to record his required

video presentation, the last two hours to transmit the online form and the last 15 minutes to send the second—and critical—recommendation letter.

"They recommend sending the application in at least two months before the deadline," said Sam, an Honors College student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a double major in mechanical engineering and mathematics.

Despite the cut-it-to-the-bone timing, Sam is one of 83 selected out of more than 6,000 applicants for a Knight-Hennessy scholarship. After graduating in May, he heads to California in the fall, where he'll start two years of work at Stanford on a master's

degree in aeronautics and astronautics followed by three more years and a doctorate in the same subjects. The first three years are covered by the Knight-Hennessy scholarship, while other scholarships will cover the final two, he said.

He received notification that he'd won in a phone call from John Hennessy, former president of Stanford, a current member of the board of directors of Google and an acknowledged genius in computer science.

"I was shocked. I didn't know what to say. It was probably the most awkward phone conversation ever. I couldn't speak coherently. I had to tell myself to breathe, so there were

a lot of long, awkward pauses,” said Sam, a member of the UTC Rocket Mocs team that set a world record with a launch that reached 17,267 feet.

But he almost didn’t apply to be a Knight-Hennessy Scholar in the first place.

“If you asked me a year ago if I was even going to apply, I probably would have laughed and said, ‘Absolutely not. There’s not a chance of me getting into Stanford.’”

It took the prodding of his parents and two members of the Honors College faculty and staff to convince him. One was Trevor Elliott, UC Foundation assistant professor in mechanical engineering and Sam’s faculty advisor.

“There are people that enter your life that make you a better person just for having known them,” Elliott wrote in his recommendation letter to Knight-

“People know him and want to follow him because he’s kind, smart, engaged and gracious.”

Hennessy. “In the academic setting, there are students that enter your classroom, research laboratories or special projects who possess the intellectual capacity and thirst for knowledge that set them apart from all others. I have had the privilege of working with one such student that embodies these qualities, Ashwyn Sam.”

Leslie Pusey, the director of the Office of National Scholarships for UTC, was another “prodger,” telling him that, while the Knight-Hennessy is a ‘unicorn’ prize that’s hard to get, there’s no reason why he shouldn’t apply and give it a shot.

Pusey said Sam’s personality and accomplishments in the Honors program and the Rocket Mocs made the Knight-Hennessy “a good fit for him.”

“Ashwyn is humble, genuine and an understated leader. What I mean by understated leadership is that he is not overly gregarious and certainly not loud or demanding, but he still subtly commands attention from others,” Pusey said. “People know him and want to follow him because he’s kind, smart, engaged and gracious.”

She wrote the second recommendation letter for Sam’s Knight-Hennessy

application—the one transmitted in the last 15 minutes, and it almost didn’t get sent at all.

Sam already had the letter from Elliott in hand, so two hours before the application deadline—yes, two hours—he walked into Pusey’s office and asked her to write the second letter. She agreed and had finished the letter when Sam went to the electrical outlet to unplug his laptop, but he pulled the wrong plug.

“I unplugged what I thought was my computer and her monitor goes black,” he said. “At this point, we’re freaking out. Literally, there go my chances out the window. I could see in her eyes my chances literally disappearing.”

Luckily, he had only pulled the plug on her monitor, so when it was plugged back in, the screen lit up and her letter was still there.

In the hours before approaching Pusey, he also went to the Knight-Hennessy website to record his video presentation, cutting short a dental cleaning appointment to do so. Under the rules, he had only five tries to get it right.

Procrastination had reared its slow-moving head again.

“I hadn’t even started on it. I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to say,” Sam said. “I thought, ‘Do I really want to do this? There’s no way I’m going to get into Stanford anyway. I’m doing everything at the last minute.’”

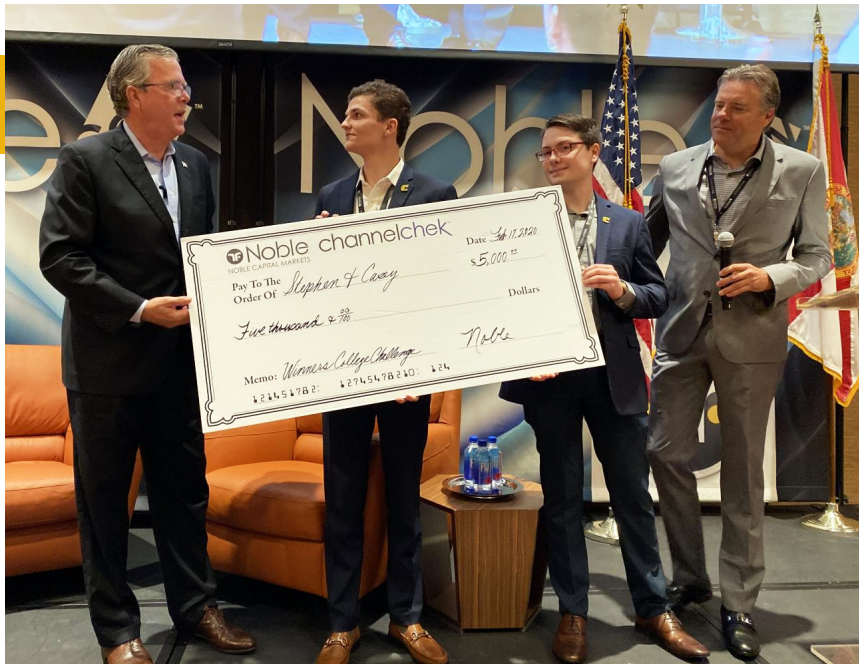
He went ahead despite his doubts and was happy with the version from his third try.

After earning master’s and doctoral degrees, Sam said, he wants to stay in academic research and become a professor. Maybe. He’s sure, though, that his time at Stanford will result in many new ideas and possibilities, so his future is kind of hazy—while success seems clear.

In his recommendation letter, Elliott said the same.

“I would like to let you know my assessment of Ashwyn is that he possesses the three most desired qualities for his success within your program and at Stanford: The thirst for knowledge with the intellect to use that knowledge to its fullest potential; the initiative and drive to see any work through to completion; and a service-centric approach and mindset that will always better all of those around him.

“He is exactly the type of student that will be in graduate courses, working on cutting-edge research, and solving the world’s most complex engineering problems.” ■



SMILE FUND TEAM WINS EQUITY RESEARCH COLLEGE CHALLENGE

from left to right, Jeb Bush, Casey Szatkowski, Stephen Zurlo, and Nico Pronk, CEO of Noble Capital Markets

opposite, DeAris Neal, recipient of the Cam Busch Art Therapy Annual Scholarship for 2020 and current graduate student in the UTC Counselor Education Program

Seniors Stephen Zurlo and Casey Szatkowski will have a lot of fond memories of their time at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and with the SMILE Fund (or Student-Managed Investment Learning Experience). Winning the first-ever Equity Research Report College Challenge will sit high atop the list.

The College Challenge, sponsored by Salem Media Group, Tribune Publishing, NetworkNewsWire, Kelly Staffing, NASDAQ, E.W. Scripps and Channelchek, focused exclusively on small and microcap emerging-growth companies featured on Channelchek.com. The two researched SmartBank, an East Tennessee-based company.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush awarded Zurlo and Szatkowski the cash portion of their prize at the Noble Capital Markets' 16th-annual emerging growth investor conference in Miami in February.

"Stephen and Casey represent the best of our students at UTC," said Hunter Holzhauser, a Robert L. Maclellan and UC Foundation associate professor of finance and the faculty director of the SMILE

Fund. "My relationship with both of them goes back several years when they joined the SMILE Fund as freshmen. I immediately recognized their talents, but I think winning the Equity Research Report College Challenge says more about their drive and hard work. I could not be more proud of them.

"Both are extremely dedicated to honing their craft. They have done a spectacular job of leveraging the wonderful opportunities that UTC and the Gary W. Rollins College of Business have to offer."

Zurlo and Szatkowski are finance majors on an investment track, and they worked their way up the SMILE Fund ladder from junior analysts to lead analysts to officers. In 2019, they served the SMILE Fund as president and vice president of fundamental analysis, respectively. They also were two of the four members of the 2019 Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Research Challenge team that won the regional competition in Nashville.

"This victory is the perfect feather in their cap, the culmination of endless hours in the Bloomberg Lab," Holzhauser said. "When you do things the right way, good things happen.

"Stephen and Casey did not get lucky. They put in the work. I can't recall how many times I left the office late at night, and they were both still in the lab. They have sacrificed lots of nights, weekends, spring breaks and holidays to get to this point. In fact, they are in the lab right now, staying late to help other SMILE Fund students with their research. Stephen and Casey aren't students who want a lot of praise, but at least now I can say, 'Alright, world champions, be sure to turn off the lights when you leave.'" ■

CREATIVE COUNSELING

A few years ago, Carole Ann McGovern “Cam” Busch created a scholarship at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to recognize and encourage students pursuing a career in the field of art therapy. It exists to honor those who are working toward that goal.

DeAris Neal, the recipient of the 2020 Cam Busch Art Therapy Annual Scholarship, is excited about getting the chance to thank Busch in person for being a role model—and for the scholarship aid, too.

Neal, a member of the UTC Counselor Education Program, is on pace to receive a master’s degree in mental health counseling in December. In addition to his college course load, he also has an internship with Georgia HOPE—a community-based non-profit providing mental health and family preservation services.

Neal said his life goal is to become a counselor in the mental health field working with children and adolescents. In spring 2020 at Georgia HOPE, he counseled students ranging from first graders to eighth graders and integrated art therapy into his work.

“If they’re not taught to talk about things emotionally, they’ll just hold it in, and that builds a lot of internal mental stress. Counseling is therapeutic talking one-on-one, but I’ve decided to add in that twist of art therapy,” Neal said. “I mainly focus on CBT—cognitive behavioral therapy. I’m trying to get them

to understand themselves mentally so they can see how things can affect behavior. Since I’m dealing with kids, just talking face-to-face can get very boring for them, so I’m adding in some type of drawing aspect. They seem to like that and enjoy it.

“You have to be creative in reaching some kids. Art is a way of expressing themselves, and that’s what I tell them. I let them know it’s self-expression, and there are no rules to it. It’s their drawing.”

The goal is to get the young children out of their shells.

“It’s an excellent bonding activity,” Neal said. “When they focus on something on paper, they’re subconsciously talking—so they’re distracted in a way. But it’s stress-relieving at the same time.

“It helps them a lot. They don’t see it as being serious when they’re drawing and talking about their feelings. They’re kind of hanging out

in a sense, and it helps them want to come to counseling, too, because ‘I get to go draw.’ They don’t look at it as going to talk about emotional or traumatic things.”

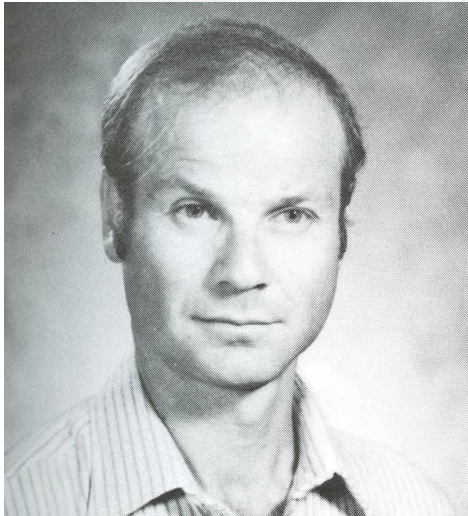
He admits he doesn’t know much about Busch, who received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UTC. Busch works to build bridges for the arts in health through creative arts therapies, visual and performing arts, and holistic nursing. In 1990, she became the first professional practicing art therapist in Chattanooga.

Neal relishes the opportunity to sit down with Busch and learn from her.

“I would love to learn about all of her art therapy experiences,” he said. “I want to hear her stories of how she related to other people and how that bettered other people’s lives. I can take that aspect and apply it to my counseling.” ■



DeAris Neal



▲
Clive Kileff, former
UTC professor of
anthropology, from the
1980 Moccasin yearbook

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Life is full of teachable moments, and Clive Kileff has found a way to keep teaching long after his days as a University of Tennessee at Chattanooga professor. The concept of making sure students get the best education the world has to offer has been ingrained in him.

One way he continues to impart knowledge is by taking students out of their collective comfort zones.

Kileff, an anthropology professor at UTC from 1970 to 1998 and a lifelong world traveler, took a less-than-direct original path to Chattanooga. He was born in Rhodesia—then a British colony in southern Africa.

His parents, Pete and Doris Kileff, were tobacco farmers whose families emigrated from Europe due to early 20th-century unrest in that part of the world. Although neither had formal education beyond high school, both of his parents—particularly his mother—were determined that Clive and his brother and sister would get the best possible education.

A passage found on page 91 of *Lives of Valor, Leaves of Gold: The Pioneering Life and Legacy of the Kileff Family* offers a glimpse of his motivation: “Neither Clive nor Brian would forget the lengths their mother went for their education. She personally knew their teachers

from kindergarten through the last year at Prince Edward and pointed them both to the world’s most prestigious colleges. She was insistent they get the best education the world could offer, and they did.”

Clive Kileff initially set a course to attend Cambridge University in England before deciding to go to school in the United States. He attended Harvard University, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1966, and went on to receive a doctoral degree in anthropology from Rice University in Houston.

After completing his thesis, which involved living for a time with Africans in Rhodesia to study their society, he arrived in Chattanooga to begin his teaching career.

“Growing up in Rhodesia—now Zimbabwe—I was exposed to different cultures,” Kileff said. “There was a lack of understanding between races, and I thought if I learned more about cultural differences and ways of helping bridge the gap, that would be a positive and very interesting thing for me to study. So my studies at Harvard and Rice were based on that principle.

“One of the programs they had at Harvard was an interdisciplinary program: Sociology, Anthropology and Psychology. When you combine those three topics to solve problems, you’re

COLLEGES, DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS

much more likely to come up with a useful answer than with one area on your own.”

His passions, which included social and cultural injustice, politics and history, became the teachings that generations of UTC students learned from him. To this day, Kileff continues to be fixated on how anthropology can serve business people globally by helping them to be able to relate to different cultures.

Although it has been 20-plus years since he last taught at UTC, he comes back to campus periodically to discuss ideas. In recent years, one of those ideas was to create a specific study abroad opportunity for anthropology students. That is where the novel concept of taking students out of their comfort zones takes root.

“It ties into what I was trying to do at UTC; I was trying to increase cultural understanding between people from different backgrounds,” he said. “That was one of my goals as a teacher. When I retired, the goal was to continue that by exposing students to different cultures through travel.”

Through the UC Foundation, he created the Dr. Clive Kileff Fund for International Travel for anthropology students in the Department of Social, Cultural and Justice Studies at UTC. As part of the gift agreement, it was his intense desire that the geographic areas considered as destinations for these international trips be those that provide the participating students with meaningful opportunities to explore and learn from different cultures, as opposed to locations considered vacation destinations or areas of leisure.

“The goal is to expose students to different ways of thinking, and hopefully, to understand the rationale about why people behave the way they do,” he said. “When they come back to Tennessee, they’ll have something to contribute to the community because there will be more understanding of people from other places.”

An essential component of his gift is that these international opportunities are

educational. Students are required to produce a report documenting their experiences.

After a recent Kileff-funded international trip to China, “They invited me to come and listen to the presentations,” he recalled. “Each student gave a presentation on one aspect that they studied. They also talked about how much it had meant to them and how it had changed their lives. It was gratifying to hear that it had been such a positive experience.

“Along with the oral presentations, several wrote ‘thank you’ notes going into detail about the impact of the experience on them—and those were interesting to read. I have those in a file and I go over them again from time to time. So there were two ways in which I received excellent feedback.”

Helping UTC anthropology students see the world continues to be of immense importance to him. “There are so many places that would be good for them to visit,” said Kileff, who hopes to join UTC students on a future tour. “Costa Rica is a very interesting place because they don’t have a national army and they put a lot of their budget into sustainable projects; they’re very environmentally conscious. That would be an intriguing trip to contemplate. As far as I know, it’s one of the safer places to travel.”

For trips like that, it’s imperative to have a great instructor leading the way. Kileff continues to provide reminders that life is full of teachable moments.

“There is an advantage of going with a UTC professor who is from a specific country,” Kileff said. “For example, (UC Foundation professor of anthropology) Zibin Guo was the leader of the expedition to China, and he knows exactly what the rules are, and what to do and what not to do. He has the experience of knowing the culture, and there wouldn’t be any cultural misunderstandings. Most importantly, he prepared students ahead of time for what to expect. Without Zibin Guo and his expertise, this particular experience couldn’t have happened.” ■



GOING BACK

▲ APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING.

Jim Fry, first-ever recipient of the UTC Retirees Annual Scholarship, speaks at the 2019 UTC Retirees Banquet

People often see silver-haired Jim Fry on the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga campus and mistake him for a faculty member. It makes him smile, but then he explains that he's a junior majoring in history. At 53 years old, Fry is the true definition of a non-traditional student.

He had been a student at UTC for only a couple of months before people began taking notice of his work in the classroom. After arriving on campus in fall 2019 as the reigning Tennessee Board of Regents Outstanding Community College Student of the Year, Fry became the UTC Retirees Association first-ever scholarship recipient.

"This is truly an honor to be recognized. It was sort of fun for me because I was thinking how ironic it was that they had selected somebody close to retirement," Fry said with a laugh. "My commitment [to education] isn't driven by this kind of recognition, but it certainly continues

to inspire me to do the best I can do. I'm motivated from inside, but I'm also proud of the motivation that I receive from knowing that other people are investing in what I am doing."

Raised in upstate New York, Fry initially had little interest in attending college. Music was his calling, and he couldn't see how algebra or writing essays or studying science had anything to do with becoming a musician. Then his father was diagnosed with colon cancer.

"Things became tough at home, and I was involved in helping take care of him," Fry said.

Seven months into his freshman year at Schenectady County Community College in New York, he put aside college to put his family first. After his father got better, Fry pursued his passion and began a career in church music. By the time he was at his peak, he was playing for some of the largest churches in the area, which



then led to a long stint as a minister in the Methodist church.

Early on, he met his wife of nearly 30 years, Peggy. The Frys have four children: Nick, who graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, with a degree in physics; Nate, who graduated from Pratt Institute in New York City with a degree in industrial design; Sam, who graduated from Alfred University in Alfred, New York, with a degree in mechanical engineering; and Allison, who graduated from the State University of New York at Albany with degrees in sociology and English.

Fry had the opportunity to share in his family's academic successes, but it often bothered him that he didn't have a degree of his own.

"Sitting through all of those graduations put the bug in my ear to go back to college," he said. "I was proud of the kids, and I'd seen how hard they had worked,

but there was always a nagging feeling that I never did that. I never graduated from college. I never got the opportunity to put on the cap and gown and walk across the stage."

Not long after his daughter's graduation, he decided it was time to make his own journey. Jim and Peggy relocated to Chattanooga several years ago after his wife was offered a position as a compliance officer at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. Fry was nearing 50 and ready for the challenge of going to college.

"I was sort of at a period where I had achieved many of the goals that I had set for my life with one exception, and that was education," he recalled. "As I said, I'm incredibly proud of the kids, but it was just at that moment I said, 'I think I have the time. I think I have the motivation. I think I'm certainly much more mature now. I'm going to give it a real college try, as they say, and do the best I can. The outside pressures that were there years ago weren't there. With the support of my wife, it's been a thrill to go back and to see such great results."

Fry resumed his studies at Chattanooga State Community College, earning an associate's degree and graduating with a 4.0 GPA. Financially, he benefited from the Tennessee Reconnect Act, which establishes scholarships for adults to attend a community college tuition-free.

At UTC, his college expenses are primarily out-of-pocket. Fry said the Retirees Association scholarship was much appreciated.

"I'm not qualifying in years three and four for a Tennessee Reconnect program or a HOPE scholarship or a Promise scholarship. My wife and I are pretty much just paying for this out of our checking account," he said. "This scholarship has a significant impact as I continue to shoulder the expense of going to school without the typical scholarship help that might be available for younger folks.

"I can't express how much [this scholarship] means to me and how exciting it is to be part of this university. Being part of the campus has made me feel much younger, and it's really exciting to be around that kind of energy of learning new things and being part of new experiences." ■



Jim Fry and classmates work together in Angela Dittmar and Laurie Allen's Innovations Lab in Guerry Center

GROWING IMPACT

PLANTING SEEDS.

In July 2018, the College of Business at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga received an historic, \$40-million gift from Gary and Kathleen Rollins. It is the largest single donation to UTC in the University's history. As a result of that contribution, the college—from which Gary Rollins graduated in 1967—was renamed in recognition of his vision to elevate and advance the business program.

The roots of that gift are beginning to sprout. Over the past year, the college has moved forward on several initiatives connected with the Rollins gift. The initial cohort of 20 Rollins Scholars just completed its freshman year. Three faculty chairs were created with part of the gift; one of those, in sales and marketing, was recently filled. The renovation of Fletcher Hall is to be unveiled for the fall 2020 semester. The college is undergoing a transformation, and Rollins' generosity was the first step.

"This is a period of transition for us," said Robert Dooley, dean of the Gary W. Rollins College of Business. "If you think about the nature of this gift for the college, for the University and the campus—and even in some ways for the city—it is unprecedented in terms of both size and its immediate impact; but it really has laid the foundation for us to dream

bigger than we ever have before. The Rollins gift is allowing us to recruit world-class faculty. It has enhanced the quality of students coming to campus and the profile of the college itself."

Before the start of the 2019-2020 school year, 20 freshman students were selected through a competitive process to become Rollins Scholars for up to four years of study. Rollins Scholars are equipped for high-impact leadership and academic success while making lasting connections with leaders on campus and in the Chattanooga business community.

"With the Rollins Scholars, we have another avenue to recruit top students from around the state and across the region," Dooley said. "We created special curriculum programming for them. They take courses together. They have specific activities together to engage them in the business community. They live together in the dorms.

"The end number of Rollins Scholars we'll have is 80, with 20 freshmen added each year. As we have recruited for the second cohort of Rollins Scholars, the number of applicants doubled from last year—so it already has become highly selective."

Meanwhile, when the renovation of Fletcher Hall is complete, "We are, effectively, going to be moving into a brand-new building," Dooley



rendering of Fletcher
Hall fourth floor
classroom renovation

said. “Additional capacity has created more student areas, more computer labs and more meeting space.”

The makeover was just the start from a physical standpoint. Late in 2019, the college began planning for a second building.

“Mr. Rollins set aside a portion of his gift to go into a second building fund,” Dooley said. “We started programming for what an additional 85,000-to-90,000 square feet of building will look like. The emphasis of the building will be student-focused and will also engage the community. The design of the building is to create opportunities for the business community to come in and interact with the students. There will be greater opportunities for students to interact with each other. It will include significant shared space for several Centers of Excellence designed to encourage collaboration, exchange of ideas and innovation. It’s going to be a great space.”

In addition to the new building, the Rollins gift is being leveraged to build strength across the college while simultaneously developing areas that align with institutional priorities and market demands. Dooley and his academic team also will continue to assess opportunities afforded by Chattanooga’s continuing evolution.

The development of these new programs will require high levels of engagement and generous philanthropic support from alumni, friends and companies—including established businesses and fast-growing start-ups.

“The Rollins gift is the launchpad for a second major phase that will require substantial new investment,” Dooley said. “The Rollins gift is magnificent, but it alone will not do everything.”

The Rollins gift has attracted the attention of other highly successful alumni, most notably Richard Zhang—a 1992 UTC graduate with a triple major: economics, accounting and chemistry. In 2019, Zhang established multiple significant gift agreements with his alma mater, including an endowment earmarked for the business college.

“Richard is an example of somebody who appreciated what the Rollins had done and said, ‘You know, I want to be a part of this,’” Dooley said. “I think Richard very quickly realized the impact of the Rollins gift and what it meant. Having individuals recognize the impact and wanting to be a part of it is critically important. We expect other alumni will see this, as well, and want to be a part of this upward trajectory of the college.”

The Rollins gift planted the seed. Dooley is helping cultivate it into a growing, flourishing Gary W. Rollins College of Business.

“We continue to dream bigger than we’ve ever dreamed before,” Dooley said. “Even in the current climate, the college has a tremendous opportunity to grow—not only in terms of number but in the quality of students coming to our college. I see us growing nationally recognized programs. I see us extending our reach in terms of the students we’re recruiting and the quality of the students. And I see us continuing to build the profile of our faculty.

“While we put these pieces in place for strategically thinking about what the future looks like, it focuses on how we solicit greater levels of support and engagement from our alumni. The Rollins gift is propelling us to think about things we’ve never thought about before.” ■



Melissa Mueller

SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES

Being in the right place at the right time might have transformed Melissa Mueller's career trajectory. It certainly has enriched her experience at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she now has a spot in history.

It was early in the fall 2018 semester when Mueller, then a sophomore, was sitting in an accounting class. She had just transferred to UTC from the University of the South (also known as Sewanee)—where she was a volleyball scholarship athlete—and was navigating the waters of being new to campus.

Inspiration entered the classroom in the form of Hunter Holzhauser,

faculty director of the SMILE Fund (or Student-Managed Investment Learning Experience) and UC Foundation associate professor of finance. Joining Holzhauser was Roman Mak, the fund's student president. They visited Mueller's accounting class to remind students that SMILE Fund applications were due the following day.

Their entrance piqued her curiosity. Mueller learned that the SMILE Fund provides select UTC undergraduates the opportunity to manage real money in a real stock portfolio for an actual client, the UC Foundation. The fund was designed to teach students portfolio management, investment strategies

and equity valuation techniques. Unlike in a classroom setting, SMILE Fund managers make real-world, real-time stock investment decisions. They are expected to meet or exceed their benchmark—the S&P 500 Index.

The UC Foundation's objective in establishing the SMILE Fund is that undergraduate students get real-world, practical education managing money toward preparing them for their future careers.

"Finance has always been something I've loved," Mueller said. Her interest in investment strategy began while listening to family members talk at the dinner table, as her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother all did their own investing. "When Roman and Dr. H came and talked to my class that day, it was the first time I heard of the SMILE Fund."

The idea of being involved in real investments spurred her into action. She scrambled that night to apply and was soon interviewed for the program, landing a coveted spot. "If it weren't for them making that presentation, I wouldn't be here today," she said.

When she first came to UTC, Mueller thought she would pursue an investment track, but the SMILE Fund has introduced her to research and analysis. It also immediately placed her in a position where she was working and collaborating as part of a group. It helped fill the void of no longer being on an athletic team.

"As an athlete my entire life, I always loved being part of a team. And when I transferred here, I really missed that team aspect," Mueller said. "When I joined the SMILE Fund, I realized it was a big team, and it's become more like a family to me. The longer I've been in it, the better I get to know everyone. They are not only my friends, they're all my best friends. We do everything together outside of the SMILE Fund. It gave me back that team aspect that I had lost, and it has helped me with every aspect of my college experience."

A little over a year after discovering the SMILE Fund, Mueller now finds herself atop the organizational chart. In January, she took the helm as the fund's president and chief investment strategist.

"When I first joined, it wasn't my goal to be the president that fast. I actually wanted to be the vice president of market analysis

"As I started the first semester of my junior year, I realized I don't have that much time left here. I needed to take that big step and get over my fear of becoming a president too fast. The opportunity was there, so I just took it."

and do more macroeconomics," said Mueller, who also is captain of the 2020 Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Research Challenge team. There's an annual CFA competition, in which college groups—mostly comprised of graduate school students, unlike UTC's all-undergrad squad—analyze a company's financial strength, document it in a professional research report and present their research to a panel of judges who ask tough questions. For the fourth straight year, UTC's SMILE Fund team won the CFA regional level competition and advanced to New York for the Americas Regional and the finals.

"As I started the first semester of my junior year, I realized I don't have that much time left here. I needed to take that big step and get over my fear of becoming a president too fast. The opportunity was there, so I just took it."

Doing so made her the SMILE Fund's first female president, though she doesn't see herself as a trailblazer. "I've always been one of the guys," she said. "I know I should maybe make it a bigger deal than it is, but to me, personally, it isn't. I've never faced something where I haven't felt comfortable in a certain position because I am the only girl."

She is accustomed, however, to doing whatever it takes to stand out.

"When I played volleyball, I always was the shortest of my teammates by at least 8 inches; 5-foot-8 is on the shorter side for volleyball, and I'm only 5 feet," Mueller said with a laugh. "I learned right away to keep chugging along and keep pushing and you'll get there."

Of course, it helps to be in the right place at the right time. ■

GIVING FROM THE HEART

TO SAY HE'S A CARDIOLOGIST MOTIVATED FROM THE HEART IS MORE THAN A PLAY ON WORDS.

"I'm never going to be able to give back to my parents the amount of love, compassion and support that they have given my brother and me," said Dr. Aniket Rali, who is pursuing a one-year fellowship in critical care medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "To be able to honor them and tell them how much I appreciate what they have done was very special to me."

Rali's principal supporters are his father, Shital, the facility manager at Arch Plastics Packaging in Chattanooga, and his mother, Sujata.

To honor his parents, Rali created a scholarship gift with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The story behind the gift comes straight from the heart and is full of emotion.

"My brother and I were academically very bright in India. We were doing very well in school," Rali said. His brother, Aditya, also is a doctor and is pursuing his ophthalmology training at Emory University in Atlanta. "But in India, education is such at times that even though you may be doing well, there are other factors that play into how successful you can be. The element of luck is higher than it is here in the United States. For my dad, it was always his vision that he wanted to bring both of his children to the United States for our higher education. He gave up a very comfortable and very successful professional life that he had back in India."

The Ralis emigrated from India in 2003. After living with family in the

Philadelphia area for a few months, they moved to Cleveland, Tennessee. A few years later, shortly after Aniket began his undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, the family moved to what has become their adopted hometown of Chattanooga.

"My parents went through a lot of struggles that immigrant families go through as they try to establish themselves in a new culture and a new country," Rali said. "My dad went from being the person in charge of running an entire division of one of the largest companies in India to working at a gas station in Chattanooga. From an early age, he instilled in us that work is work. There is no such thing as small work, and no such thing as trivial work."

As Rali's educational training progressed to the UT College of Medicine to Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, to the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City to Baylor and soon back to Vanderbilt (where he will begin a one-year fellowship in heart failure and heart transplantation later this year), a thought continually gnawed at him: How could he honor his parents for the sacrifices they made for his education?

That's when the concept of creating a scholarship took shape. Rali worked in conjunction with development officers from UTC and the College of Engineering and Computer Science to create the Shitalkumar S. Rali Scholarship. Even though none of his family members attended UTC, the University was an essential part of the equation to Rali as the local educational institution. Chattanooga was vital because of the manner



in which the city embraced his family. The engineering angle: His father is an engineer by trade.

The best part? Rali surprised his parents by presenting the scholarship as part of his father's birthday celebration.

"I wanted to dedicate the scholarship to two things: My dad's commitment to our education and my mom's commitment to our family. Without their unconditional love, support and sacrifices, I would not be what I am," Rali said. "Ever since my brother and I left for college, my parents had a little bit of a void in not having kids at home. By doing this with UTC, it allowed for whomever the scholarship recipient is to become that son-like or daughter-like person in my parents' lives. They could meet and follow the trajectory of that student in the same way they have closely followed mine and my younger brother's. They could be involved with the recipient a little bit more at a personal level."

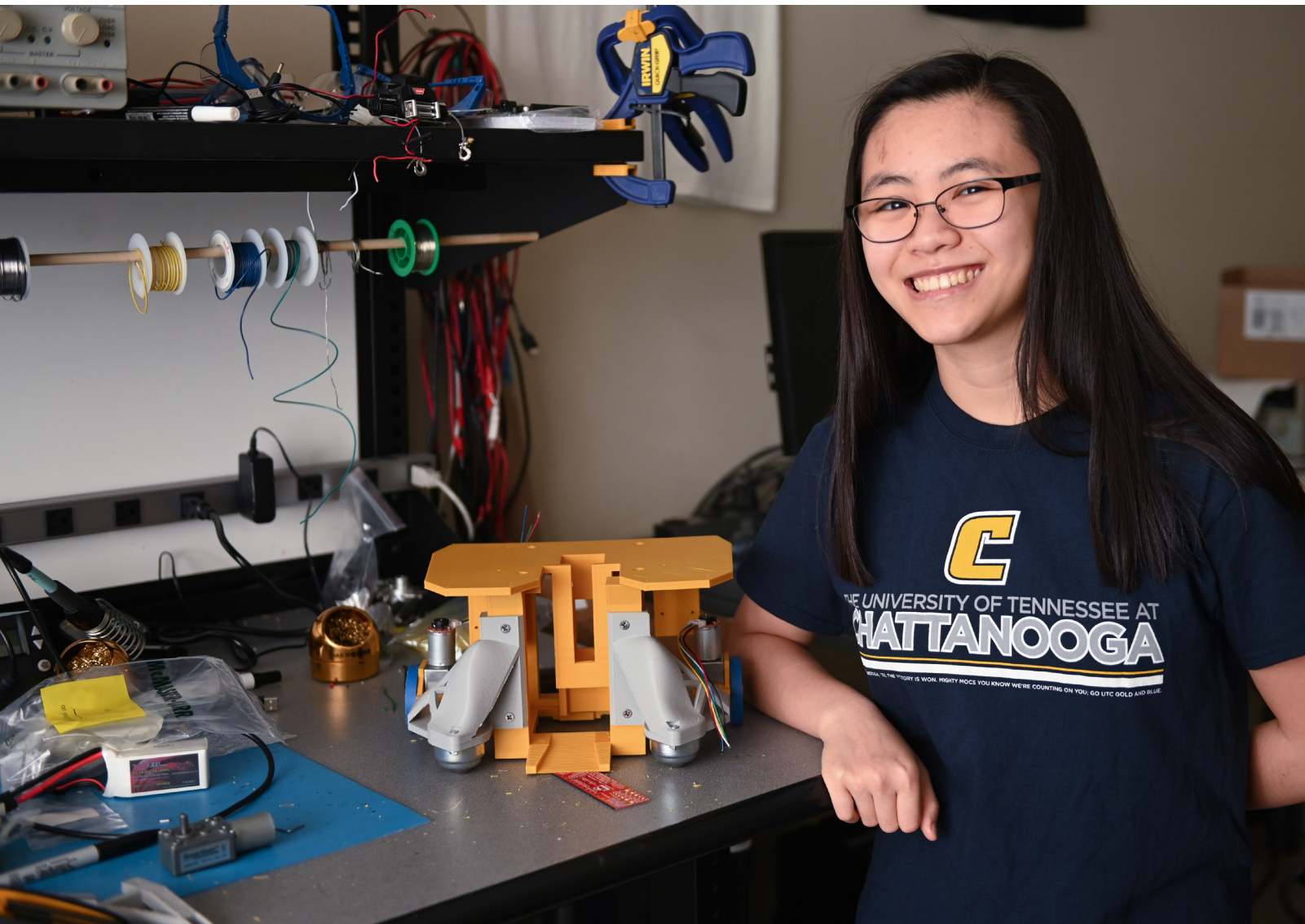
In addition to being able to thank his parents, another motivation was that he

had been the recipient of scholarship assistance. Rali knows the power of what a scholarship provides, and he wanted to pay it forward as a gesture of gratitude for those who supported him.

When his father received the gift, "He was moved to tears. He did not say much; he just hugged me," Rali said. "This was a metaphor for us, thanking him for all the sacrifices that he has made and all the hardships that he had to go through in re-establishing himself as a professional. For our parents, personal glory was never as important as the vision they had for their children. I do appreciate what they have done, and I don't take it for granted one bit. That was my motivation in starting the scholarship.

"I hope that in the years to come, as we continue this scholarship and perhaps even expand it to other areas, this will link young trainees at UTC to my parents and allow them to benefit from who my parents are and the wonderful things they have to offer." ■

▲
from left, brother
Dr. Aditya Rali,
grandmother Chhaya
Shah, father Shital
Rali, mother Sujata
Rali, Dr. Aniket Rali



Caroline Lee, a 16-year-old junior at UTC majoring in electrical engineering

Chances are most 16 year olds are motivated to obtain a driver's license and borrow a family car. Hopefully, some believe school is important, too.

But for 16-year-old Caroline Lee, being educated in electrical circuits, electromagnetism and robotics are the topics that drive her. Despite her young age, Lee is a University of Tennessee at Chattanooga junior majoring in electrical engineering.

You read that right—a junior in college at age 16.

Lee is the third member of her family to attend UTC at an accelerated pace. Both of her older brothers, Alexander Lee and Christopher Lee,

are recent graduates of the cutting-edge UTC electrical engineering program. Alex, 23, received a bachelor's degree in 2016 and went on to earn an MBA from UTC in 2019. Chris, 21, received a bachelor's degree in 2018.

"The fact that Alex and Chris both went to UTC helped familiarize me with the environment," Caroline Lee said. "I occasionally went with them to school. I watched them do projects, and I watched them walk across the stage (at graduation). Things like that brought a sense of familiarity. I liked the university and the people I met along the way. That's why I chose UTC."

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Lee arrived on campus in August 2019 as the bearer of a UTC ASSETS scholarship (Academic Intervention, Social Supports and Scholarships for Engineering Transfer Students), which provides awards of up to \$7,400 annually to help transfer degree completion for students majoring in civil engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. She transferred to UTC after spending two years at Chattanooga State Community College.

"There was a time when all three of us were going to college at the same time, so receiving this scholarship helped my parents a lot," said Lee, who was just 13 when she initially enrolled in community college. "All three of us landed scholarships that helped relieve some of the financial stress. I'm thrilled that I was fortunate to help out financially by getting the ASSETS scholarship and other scholarships."

Just a few years ago, Lee was a middle-school student on a seemingly conventional path. Then, a very non-traditional thing happened: she skipped high school. "It all happened really, really fast. People think I was home-schooled, but I actually went to public school from kindergarten to eighth grade," Lee said. "When I was in seventh grade, I was already taking advanced courses. In eighth grade, a couple of months before graduation, I started taking classes at Chatt State. I did that because Chris was attending Chatt State, and he found this opportunity where I could take Pre-Calculus I. At the time, I thought I would just take that class because it sounded fun and then (I planned to) go to high school.

"But I finished Pre-Calc I in one month. And then I took a full semester of classes from June to August that summer at Chatt State. I made my decision to continue my education at Chatt State spontaneously."

Lee admitted going directly from an eighth-grade classroom to taking college courses was daunting, but she had a guardian angel by her side in big brother Chris.

"During my first semester at Chatt State, I was taking some classes with him, and he helped me get used to the environment," she said.

Fast forward a couple of years, and Lee now finds herself in the second semester of her junior year at UTC. She had no qualms adjusting to the classroom setting, landing on the Dean's List in the fall. UTC has brought a whole new level to her college experience, she said.

"The fact that I'm on campus all the time has given me the opportunity to interact with students," she added. "Whenever I have a question, for example, I can ask them, 'Hey, what'd you get for so-and-so?' I have enjoyed interacting with other students because it's helpful whenever you're trying to overcome challenging tasks—both within and outside of school."

Like many college students, Lee may not yet be able to answer the question of what she wants to do after college. "Honestly, I don't know," she said, "but I do know what I want to work toward, which is to help my community in a meaningful way through electrical engineering."

For Lee, age is just a number, although turning 16 did mean she could take the driver's test. "I got my license in July and I drive to campus," she said with a laugh. "Sometimes, I forget my age. I know that it sounds weird. The past two or three years have been a blur, but I know that I've changed a lot since eighth grade.

"I've learned a lot, too, and I'm happy about how much I have grown socially, mentally and physically. I might be young, but I don't think anyone here has treated me like a little sister. They treat me as an equal." ■



Michaela Gorman

HEALTHY DESIGN

IT SOUNDS LIKE A REALITY TV SHOW PREMISE.

Cue the off-screen announcer: “Three teams of interior designers are tasked with putting together proposals for a new holistic/integrated medicine clinic. The teams are asked to design a lobby, fitness area and teaching kitchen. They must come up with plans for physical therapy and occupational therapy space, too. Who will take home the top prize?”

But there was no excitable voice making that statement. This happened in real life—to the benefit of University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Department of Interior Architecture and Design students.

Late last year, Dr. Keith Helton had the outside-the-box idea of sponsoring a design contest. Helton, a 1987 graduate of UTC and the chief executive officer of One-to-One Health—a workplace healthcare provider operated by physicians—had bought a 27,100-square foot building to house a new state-of-the-art wellness clinic in Chattanooga. Along with bringing the facility to life, he wanted to create a partnership opportunity with his alma mater.

“Dr. Helton reached out and said, ‘I have an idea that I believe would benefit not just your college but also some of the students in your college,’” recalled Valerie Rutledge, the dean of the UTC College of Health, Education and Professional Studies.

Helton figured a meeting would focus on potential uses for physical therapists, occupational therapists and nutritionists—all programs that Rutledge oversaw. “But as we were talking through the concepts,” he recalled, “Valerie said, ‘We have the interior design school, too.’ I said, ‘Great, let’s do a competition.’

“I know how to design buildings effectively and efficiently for providers, but I don’t know the best design for patients. I thought, ‘Let’s get young people involved.’ I wanted students engaged in the process of what a patient-centric interior design should look like—and thinking about the patient throughout the facility. What’s the most cost-efficient, effective way of laying



Claire Johnson

out colors and designs to make sure that the patient feels well-received and has an enjoyable experience?”

Rutledge brought his concept to the attention of Eun Young Kim, an assistant professor of interior design. Coincidentally, Kim’s senior commercial interior design class had spent the fall 2019 semester learning how to do hospital design.

“They understood how they could develop the whole design concept, and how they were to plan each room by implementing the client’s mission and design concept,” Kim said. “It worked well because the students had already worked on hypothetical design projects. They had spent the whole semester designing healthcare centers, so they already had researched patient-centered healthcare design and how technology can support the patients in medical spaces.”

Three teams of students created presentations based on the space, and the designs were shared with Helton. The participants received scholarship money

from a grant he funded. “He got the benefit of the plans and the students got the benefit of having contributed,” Rutledge said. “It was a win-win.”

Students participating in the competition had one month to conceptualize and design different areas and spaces in the facility.

“We all went to the site,” Kim said. “The students took measurements and photos so they could understand the client’s mission and the physical condition of the existing space before beginning the design. They were ready to implement what they already had learned and turn it into an actual project.”

But it was more than just a project—it was a competition. “Dr. Helton wanted a ‘wow’ kind of feel from the students,” Kim said. “He wanted new ideas.”

The first-place team was comprised of Michaela Gorman and Claire Johnson.

“It was pretty exciting,” said Gorman, a senior from Spring Hill, Tennessee. “It was a refreshing change to be able to have a real

continued on next page



Michaela Gorman and Claire Johnson's rendering of the welcome area for the One-to-One Health clinic



Michaela Gordon and Claire Johnson's renderings of the clinic's physical therapy area (top), nutrition center (middle), and medical offices (bottom)

client and do something that matters—a project that revolves around healthcare that impacts people. Healthcare can be tricky; people can be very stressed when they go to the doctor's office. Being able to contribute to the design with a new kind of innovative idea that reduces stress was a pretty cool opportunity.”

Gorman and Johnson focused on biophilic aspects in their design, as studies have shown that the use of plants and nature increases healing rates in patients. The students wove comfortable furnishings and home-like atmospheres into their presentation, emphasizing patient comfort.

“We took a lot of inspiration from their website and their logo,” Gorman said. “We used a lot of blues and greens, but we didn’t want it to be overbearing. Having too much color can also be a little overkill. A lot of our design ended up being wood tones and natural plants and greenery—as well as the blues and greens in their logo that were incorporated in a subtle and soft way.”

Helton was asked what stood out in the Gorman/Johnson design. “We principally liked their simplicity and their color schemes and what it would feel like,” he said.

That was music to Johnson’s ears.

“That’s good to hear. That’s what we were hoping for,” said Johnson, a junior from Memphis. “We wanted to keep it simple and not be overwhelming, especially since this is a place that has so much going on with all the different types of care they offer. We wanted to make it comfortable and welcoming to everyone.

“In our class projects, we all talk to each other the whole time to see what everyone’s doing and help each other out. One of the hardest things in this experience was that we knew everyone who was participating in the competition. We had to focus on what we were doing and just worry about our vision for the project.”

Helton was pleased with the results of the competition.

“There’s rarely anything that’s ever presented to me that I don’t incorporate in some way, but the two that won did an outstanding job,” he said. “All the students came at this creatively and from the outside-the-box side of things.” ■

PERFECTION TIMES THREE

The College of Health, Education and Professional Studies at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga always has reasons to brag about students and faculty, but the achievements were ratcheted up a notch over the last year.

In April 2019, the UTC School of Education achieved a 100% pass rate for students taking the Tennessee licensure test for teachers. Known as the edTPA (Educative Teacher Performance Assessment), the exam is taken in the final semester of student teaching and must be passed to teach in the state. In spring 2019, 51 UTC students took the exam.

In August, for the second straight year, new graduates of the UTC Department of Physical Therapy achieved a 100% pass rate on their first attempt at the National Physical Therapy Examination. A total of 35 new graduates took the exam, which must be passed to earn a license to practice physical therapy in Tennessee.

After posting a 98.7% pass rate in 2018, UTC School of Nursing graduates achieved a 100% pass rate on their first attempt at the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX, in 2019. Sixty-seven students who earned 2019 undergraduate nursing degrees took the exam, about half in February and the others in June and July. Passing the NCLEX is required for a license to practice nursing in Tennessee. ■



top, teaching candidate Christopher Davis reading to children at Brown Academy

bottom, nurse practitioner student Erika Payne checking vitals of a "patient" in a simulation lab

CELEBRATING
FIVE YEARS

The 30-second elevator speech was in an index card-sized format, attached to a keepsake bookmark:

On January 29th, 2015, the UT Chattanooga campus community celebrated the grand opening of the UTC Library at 600 Douglas Street in Chattanooga.

This 185,000 sq. ft. facility was designed to meet scholarly needs in the 21st century while incorporating historical elements from UTC's distinguished past.

In the first 5 years of being open, the UTC Library garnered over 3 million visits from students, faculty, staff, alumni, researchers and members of the community.

There is just a tinge of irony in that those words were attached to a bookmark. The UTC Library is known for a lot of things, but in today's digital world, hard-copy books may not even crack a Top 5 list among this library's benefits.

"I always talk about the physical building, but I'm just as likely to brag about the services and collections we offer students,"

said Theresa Liedtka, UTC Library dean. "For example, we offered 833 instruction sessions and workshops last year. About 150 of those were individual workshops: 'Let us help you with Excel. Let us help you with Photoshop. Let us help you learn how to write a letter to your faculty member.' We also meet with students one-on-one for individual research consultation or your AV needs with our studio folks—if you need to make a podcast or a movie or a three-minute public service announcement.

"Another important project is our Affordable Course Materials Initiative. The ACMI works to improve student success by partnering with faculty to lower or eliminate the cost of course materials. In Fall 2019, UTC students taking ACMI-revised courses saved over \$100,000. Since 2016, we have converted 31 courses, taught by 26 faculty members, representing all UTC Colleges."

To date, the initiative has impacted more than 3,200 students and resulted in more than \$440,000 student dollars saved.

Liedtka first came to the University in 2004 and was a vital member of the 35-person committee that oversaw the \$50 million UTC Library project. Along with watching the building grow from the ground floor up, she has seen—and has been an active participant in—the continual evolution of what the library should be for a UTC student.

As the five-floor, glass-encased campus skyscraper was being built, “What we didn’t realize was what an event center this building would become,” she said. “We have 50-plus rooms in here. Some are self-booked, but we’re continually hosting events. That’s just the popularity of the building.

“We were having campus Christmas parties in here before we opened. The physical space has been a real boon and something we’re proud of.”

While the word “library” might evoke images of wall-to-wall bookcases—and yes, the UTC Library does have a plethora of them—today’s library is geared toward the overall student experience.

Liedtka was asked what the role of the library is in leading institutional transformation.

“That’s an interesting question,” she said. “Our general philosophy is to try and meet the students’ needs, and we start with a culture of ‘Yes.’ We are here to support the students, and if we can help you make what you need to do happen successfully, that’s where we derive our success and pleasure.

“I remember doing a presentation in the middle of all the building, and I finished by saying, ‘Give the students what they want.’ That comes from our culture of ‘Yes.’ We’re a library that wants to be engaged with our community, not to impose rules that may or may not be relevant in the 21st century. We’ve been lucky in that we’re ahead of the curve; so few libraries get the opportunity we had to build a new building in this day and age.”

By thinking outside the box, the UTC Library has become a hangout over its first five years. The gate count from the old Lupton Library to the new library has almost doubled. The highest attendance year in the old library was in the 400,000 range, whereas the current UTC Library averages close to 750,000 a year.

“In reflection, this big of a jump is something we never expected,” Liedtka said. “For instance, we circulated 27,000 keys to rooms for our little campus community last year. When you break it down, it’s like, ‘Wow, that means just about everybody got a couple of rooms here at different times.’

“I’m thankful that the campus has continued to support us. Students want more hours here. Students want to be in this space. We partner with the SGA (Student Government Association) a lot; we meet regularly to talk about how we can do things better.”

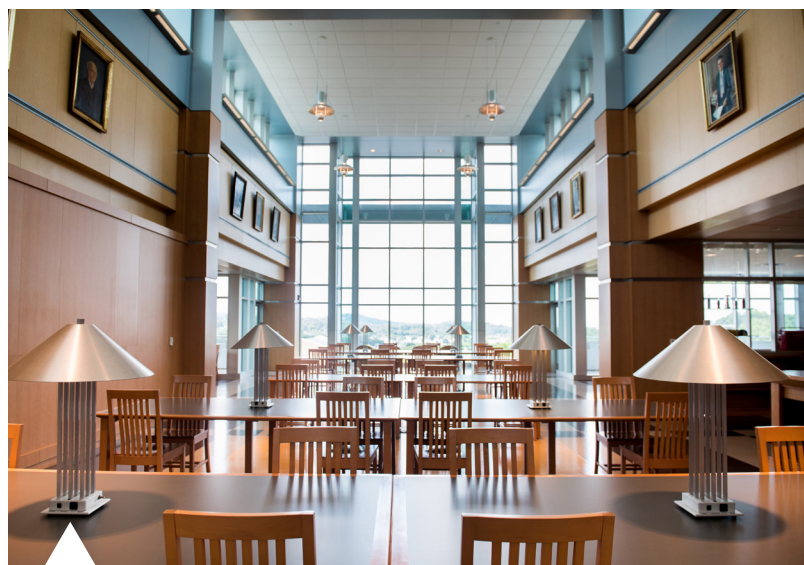
Now that the UTC Library has celebrated its fifth anniversary, Liedtka looks at her digs as being one-half library, one-half University Center and one-half classroom space. That’s not bad math, by the way; it’s her way of talking up the building’s multiple purposes.

The Library Studio is a dedicated workspace geared toward innovative technology and media creation. The Writing and Communication Center helps students, faculty and staff with writing and communications projects, while the Information Desk helps with research and basic technology questions. Library workshops are in abundance.

And when they’re needed, books and special collections are there en masse, too. The library has 600,000 print and eBooks, more than 30,000 digital journals and 150-plus indexes and databases.

After all, it is a library.

“Our job is to stay engaged with students and our campus colleagues and just try to be less linear than libraries are historically known to be,” Liedtka said. “We love our faculty, but ultimately, we’re here for the students.” ■



view of the Roth Reading Room on the library's fourth floor



Emily Blackman,
assistant vice chancellor
for athletic academic
enhancement

DEGREES OF SUCCESS

When Emily Blackman joined the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga athletics department 10 years ago, she inherited an academic support situation for student-athletes that was basically in a survival mode of keeping them eligible and on the field. There was no real plan for the entire student-athlete experience.

Back in 2010, UTC's graduation success rate (GSR) stood at 48%. The GSR is a measurement developed by the NCAA to more accurately quantify the success of Division I student-athletes as part of its academic reform initiative.

The mission was plain to see: Turn the athletes into student-athletes.

"First and foremost, it was essential to me that our focus become graduating students with a meaningful degree. If you stay on track for that, then you're, by default, going to be eligible for the NCAA," said Blackman, who is now UTC assistant vice chancellor for Athletic Academic Enhancement. "The idea of silos—putting student-athletes in just a few specific majors to stay eligible—doesn't fit in with what the student-athlete experience was meant to be.

"Students who are in degrees that they love and feel passionate about typically do better in their coursework because it's a topic they enjoy learning

about. I'd rather have a student-athlete in a challenging class and learning something they love rather than being in an easier class in something they dislike. Students typically get a higher grade in the more challenging class of what they love."

In those early days, Blackman had a team of only three advisors. Her area had 12 computers—with no guarantee that all were functional—for nearly 300 student-athletes. Study hall took place in the corridors on the fourth floor of McKenzie Arena. Football players couldn't come to study hall during the day because they didn't have space for them, "and we would tell the other sports that



they couldn't come at night because football was up here," she recalled. "Hallways were not always the most conducive, especially when there was a rock concert going on in the arena."

Over the last decade, thanks to Blackman's vision and leadership, the Student-Athlete Academic Enhancement Center has more than doubled its advisor staff, including the addition of a learning specialist. It now has dedicated second-floor space at McKenzie Arena, complete with 58 computer stations and two study halls, and has invested in communications software that

helps the student-athletes balance their study and practice schedules.

In the NCAA's most recent cohort review released in October 2019, UTC's GSR had risen to a program-best 87%. The overall grade-point average for UTC student-athletes during the fall 2019 semester was a program-best 3.197. A school-record 169 student-athletes made the Dean's List, including 46 who recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA, which tied a program mark.

UTC student-athletes have come a long way, academically, over the past 10 years.

"My staff and I talk every week about the fact that our job is to graduate students with meaningful degrees, and at the end of the day, you have to have a group that buys into the mission," Blackman said. "It takes years to move the needle. And it takes a lot of people to make this all happen. After a couple of years, the faculty and staff on campus saw what we were trying to do and bought in. We now have such great partners, and Chancellor (Steve) Angle has been fantastic. He's such a great supporter of what we do over here."

"One of my favorite moments is helping a student apply to graduate. Not too long ago, I sat down with this one male student-athlete, and he broke down and started crying when we went to fill it out. I asked him, 'Why are you upset?' And he said, 'I'm not. I'm happy. I was always told I was nothing more than an athlete, and now I'll have a degree. No one can ever take that away from me.' Those are the moments that keep you doing what you're doing." ■

FALL 2019 UTC SCHOOL RECORDS

3.197

OVERALL GPA

13

TEAMS WITH 3.0
GPA OR HIGHER

46

STUDENT-ATHLETES
WITH A 4.0 GPA

169

STUDENT-ATHLETES
ON THE DEAN'S LIST

87%

NCAA GRADUATION
SUCCESS RATE





PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

from left, Niklas Gerdes (tennis), Ben Stacey (wrestling), Hayleigh Weissenbach (softball), McClendon Curtis (football), Fabian Gutierrez (wrestling), and Nick Pollard '14 '15 (former football player and member of the UBS team volunteering to help with the Career Development Institute)

Over the last decade, the Student-Athlete Academic Enhancement Center has grown more important in directing all facets of academic guidance given to University of Tennessee at Chattanooga student-athletes.

Lee Roberts, UTC associate athletics director for development, has a goal to take the center to the next level.

"My vision would be that we have an academic center that helps all 300-plus student-athletes get a meaningful degree and prepare them for getting a job when they leave Chattanooga," Roberts said. "We're doing a great job of increasing grade-point averages and our graduation success rate, but where we can do more for our student-athletes is prepare them to enter the workforce and help them secure meaningful jobs that they're excited about."

To that end, the Career Development Institute was launched in fall 2019. The institute is funded through Mocs Club donations.

"We invited 20 high-performing junior and senior student-athletes, with at least one from each sport, to participate in a two-hour professional development training session," Roberts said. The session included four stations: a resume/cover letter workshop, dinner etiquette, dressing for success and speed networking.

"Each student-athlete was able to bring a teammate with him or her, as well. The event incorporated people from various parts of campus, as well as members of the local community."

During the spring semester, the athletics department took a deeper dive into each subject with the same student-athletes. Monthly workshops were held, including Putting It All Together: Review of Job Application; "Moc" Interview: How to Sell Yourself; and Post-College Benefits: What You Need to Know.

"I have loved being a part of the Career Development Institute," said junior Allison Swinford, a pitcher on the UTC softball squad majoring in professional writing. "I look forward to all of the events because I always leave with something learned about 'after college' life. They have helped me tailor a resume, write a cover letter and dress professionally. They are singlehandedly preparing not only me but all student-athletes that are taking advantage of this opportunity for the world that lies beyond a college classroom. I could not imagine a better program."

"This institute gets student-athletes thinking. Our mindset—especially juniors and seniors—is starting to shift to adult and work life. It's scary but exciting. The CDI helps with all of those emotions." ■



honorees and award winners at the 2020 Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony: back row, from left, Ronnie Powe '81, Emma de Groot '11, Lara Newberry '10, and Lakelyn Bouldin; front row, from left, Derrick Kirce, Movita Steiner, Cary Waller, and Debbie Ingram

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Athletics Department and the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs honored the UTC Athletics Hall of Fame class of 2020 inductees and award winners in February. Recognition went to former Mocs student-athletes and longtime supporters of Chattanooga athletics.

The class of 2020 honorees are Derrick Kirce (basketball 1989-1991), Lara Newberry '10 (volleyball 2005-2008), Ronnie Powe '81 (football 1976-1979) and Cary Waller (wrestling 1979-1983). 2019 Hall of Famer Emma de Groot '11 (golf 2007-2011), who was unable to attend the 2019 ceremony, also was honored.

Kirce was a two-time All-Southern Conference performer for the Mocs. He averaged 19.5 points per game—the highest average in UTC history—in his two seasons with the University. He was the fastest Moc in school annals to record 1,000 points, hitting that mark in just 45 games.

Newberry was the NCAA career digs record holder and a two-time national Libero of the Year. Over four years, she collected 3,176 digs and led the NCAA with a single-season record 942 in 2007. A three-time All-SoCon selection, she twice led the nation in digs per set.

Powe was an All-American defensive tackle for the Mocs. He led the team in tackles as a freshman, earning honorable mention All-America honors from the Associated Press. He was second in tackles as a sophomore. UTC posted a 25-6-2 mark in his four years and won or shared three Southern Conference titles.

Waller was a three-time Southern Conference champion wrestler, winning league titles in 1980 (142 pounds), 1981 (150) and 1983 (150). He was an NCAA

qualifier each of those years and helped lead the Mocs to a school-record 14th-place finish in 1983.

Special awards went to Lakelyn Bouldin, Henry Dickerson, Movita Steiner and Debbie Ingram.

Bouldin, a current UTC basketball player with a 3.46 GPA in biology, received the A.C. “Scrappy” Moore Award, which honors the Mocs student-athlete who best personifies the athletic department’s mission of equipping for success in the classroom, competition and the community.

Dickerson, UTC’s men’s basketball coach from 1997-2002, was honored with the Joe Morrison Award—which recognizes a former student-athlete or coach for notable accomplishments and life experiences.

Steiner, who supports UTC student-athletes through the Mocs Club and other athletic department initiatives, was honored with the Gordon Davenport Award—given annually to the individual who has shown outstanding commitment to the Mocs athletics program. The owner of Chattanooga’s Ruby Falls, she has a passion for supporting women’s basketball with an endowed scholarship established in memory of her late husband, Jack Steiner.

Ingram retired from UTC in spring 2020 after 30-plus years of service to the University, including the last eight as the Mocs’ NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative. She also is a past member of the NCAA Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct Committee. As a big thanks for her service, she received the Harold Wilkes Award, which recognizes a volunteer, coach, staff member or University administrator who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in furthering the vision of Chattanooga athletics. ■

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS



2019 SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

▲ top left from left, students Josh Chacko and Haley Johnson, Chancellor Steven R. Angle, student Pamela Wyatt, donor speaker Debbie Ingram, donor David Ingram

top right from left, donor Jane Guthrie, student Quin Crumb, donor John Guthrie

bottom right, student speaker Emily Wilson

Emily Wilson sat in the crowd, listened to the speaker at the podium, and envisioned herself behind the microphone. She could see herself making that speech.

“I was thinking about how incredible of an impact that speech had on other people, and I thought about how interested I would be in doing that,” recalled Wilson as she reflected on the address that student Tessa Ross delivered during the 2018 Scholarship Luncheon. One year later, it was Wilson’s turn to make that speech.

A junior majoring in marketing with a minor in communications, Wilson was a featured orator during the 2019 Scholarship Luncheon at McKenzie Arena. The 4th annual event brought donors, faculty, staff and more than

100 students together to honor the generosity of donors and celebrate students’ academic achievement as scholarship recipients. The luncheon gave students a unique opportunity to say “thank you” to their supporters.

Wilson spoke about the impact of scholarships on her life and others. “Receiving the scholarship not only gave me a financial advantage, but it gave me friends for a lifetime,” Wilson said. “It led to me becoming a member of Kappa Delta sorority because one of my roommates was in there. It improved my ability to be able to have intellectual conversations. It helped introduce me to some of my best friends.”

Wilson is the recipient of the Joyce Ireland Cook Scholarship and a member of the William E. Brock Scholars program

SAVE THE DATE

**5th annual Scholarship Luncheon
scheduled for September 16, 2020**

within the UTC Honors College. Brock Scholars live together as freshmen in Stagmaier Hall as part of the college's living-learning community, and Wilson continues to live close to her Brock Scholar-mates.

"The Brock scholarship was life-changing," she said. "If I hadn't received that scholarship, I don't know who my friends would even be. That was the beginning and the basis of all my friendships here in college."

Wilson was excited about getting the chance to meet various donors. "I think any opportunity to meet a new person is one that you should never pass by," she said. "I love meeting new people, especially those who are so generous to give to students like me."

Debbie Ingram, who retired in May 2020 as UC Foundation professor in the physical therapy department and longtime department head, spoke on behalf of donors. She conveyed a story from her early days at UTC when a student became emotional in her office. The student was worried about amassing significant debt in college. Ingram went home that night and told her husband, David, about the conversation, and they decided to fund a scholarship.

In reflecting on her speech, Ingram said it was an honor to have the opportunity to talk with students about their future. "I wanted to make sure they understood that there are a lot of donors who want to support students who need scholarships," Ingram said. "When these young students finish their education, they need to think about committing to giving something tangible back to the University. It starts with getting in the habit of making a commitment to an annual gift."

"I feel very strongly that we need the next generation to help support these scholarships. If they give something back after they graduate, their gift will benefit future generations of students." ■



top, student scholarship recipient Germyah Bates

bottom, student Kayley Russell and donor Deborah Arfken



Watch an overview here!
bit.ly/UTCScholarshipLuncheon2019



▲
Roger Smith '73 and
Claire Smith '74

AFFINITY. It's a feeling of closeness and understanding. It's an attraction to something or someone.

For Claire and Roger Smith, their affinity for each other began as students at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. "I picked him out in an art appreciation class," Claire said, then started laughing. Roger also laughed, shaking his head in mock protest. "We were friends back-and-forth through the school years but did not get engaged until after he had graduated—when I was a senior."

An affinity for their college, UTC, has been a shared point of pride for them since their first days on university grounds. It is this attraction to their alma mater that keeps them coming back to campus.

"We are fortunate that we're able to give resources, but I think what's more rewarding has been that we're able to put in time at UTC," Roger said. "We both enjoy getting back to campus and being involved."

The Smiths grew up in different areas of Chattanooga. If the then-private University of Chattanooga never became UTC—a public institution—their paths may never have crossed.

You can say that one union eventually led to their union.

In 1969, the University of Chattanooga united with Chattanooga City College and joined the University of Tennessee system of statewide campuses. As a result of that merger, the University of Chattanooga Foundation was created to enhance educational opportunities for students.

One of the first student beneficiaries of UC Foundation generosity was Roger Smith, a senior at Chattanooga High School during the spring of 1969. He was about to become a first-generation college student, and the University of Chattanooga was out of his price range, but all of that quickly changed.

"We grew up when UC was a private school and it was more expensive than going out of state," he recalled. But after the merger, to entice local students to go to the hometown college, "the UC Foundation started giving scholarships to try to get students from Chattanooga to stay home and come here to school."

He was among the initial group offered a UC Foundation scholarship, convincing him to remain in town. "I accepted the scholarship, and it changed my life."

One year later, it was Claire Marshall's turn to be recruited. She also was

FOUNDATION OF STRENGTH

looking to become a first-generation college student upon her graduation from Brainerd High School.

"I had planned to go to UT (Knoxville), but I changed my mind and decided to stay local. I then received a phone call, and the person wondered if I might be interested in attending the University on a UC Foundation scholarship. Honestly, I didn't know what it was," she said. "Remember, it was the second year of being a public university, and the Foundation had not been presented to us at high school or through any sort of advertising.

"I did not know much about it. Of course, I said, 'Yes' and 'Thank you very much.'"

Roger and Claire met during her first semester on campus in the fall of 1970. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1973, and she received a bachelor's degree in education in 1974. Shortly after her commencement, the two were married.

The Smiths stayed connected with UTC in some fashion through the years—mostly as basketball season ticketholders. Instead of settling in as empty-nesters after their own children moved out of the house, a return to college was in the cards for them.

Roger, a retired vice president of BB&T Huffaker Insurance, became involved with the Gary W. Rollins College of Business at UTC 20 years ago and is now chair of its Dean's Advisory Board—where every board member is a donor. Along the way, he re-established ties with the UC Foundation. He was named to the Foundation's Board of Trustees in 2018 and is currently the chair of the real estate committee.

His return to University life includes serving as a student mentor. It's a role he relishes.

"I get as much out of it as they do," he said. "These kids are super and they're above where we were. They are sharp and they have goals. It's fun to watch them grow.

"It's funny, but I've tried to explain to people about some of the students I've mentored. They don't listen to their parents, just like our kids didn't listen to us. It's almost like getting another chance to be a parent, except this time they want to hear what you say."

After working in various roles in education, Claire moved into the real estate field. Her blue and gold runs deep; she is now on the UTC Alumni Board for the second time, and she remains devoted to her sorority, Chi Omega. She also works closely with the UTC athletics department, uniting with Mocs Sports Properties in fall 2019 to become an official real estate partner of UTC athletics.

"It's fun to be able to connect folks who might be new hires to the University and find perfect places for them to live in our city," she said. "It's an exciting connection—a marketing niche and something I know—and it's one more way for me to be able to promote the University."

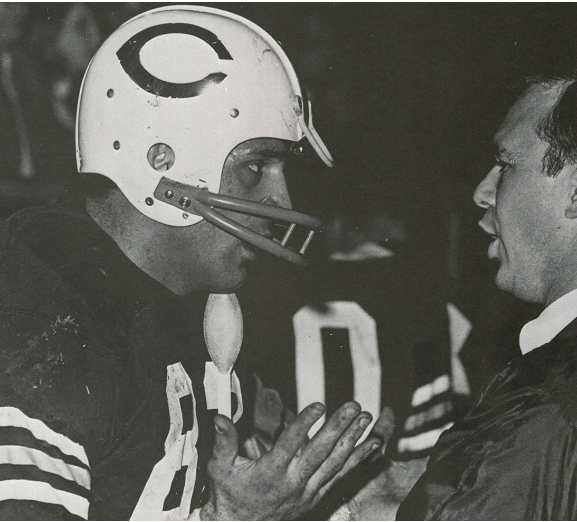
The Smiths have never forgotten the generosity extended to them by the UC Foundation, and they continue to give back through scholarship assistance, student mentoring and service.

"When we went to the scholarship luncheon last fall, we were sitting with some students talking about the scholarships and I thought, 'You're at that age when it's helpful, but you might not understand the impact it can have on your life to receive that honor.' It's one of those things that grows on you," Claire recalled. "I think the older you get, the more you look back and appreciate it.

"When you're 18, sometimes you don't know it's a big deal. You welcome the stipend, but maybe you don't understand the symbolism of the offer. Looking back, getting that phone call for the UC Foundation scholarship, I realize what a big deal it was."

It's where the affinity with UTC began. ■

CLASS OF 1969 REUNION



Nubby Napolitano '69, member of the Class of 1969 Reunion Planning Committee

photo courtesy of the 1969 Moccasin yearbook

SAVE THE DATE

Class of 1970 Reunion and
UTC Homecoming scheduled
for October 24, 2020

NUBBY NAPOLITANO TALKS PASSIONATELY ABOUT HIS TIME AS A STUDENT AT THE FORMER UNIVERSITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

When Napolitano first arrived on campus from his native New Jersey, the school was still known as the University of Chattanooga. In 1969, his senior year, the University affiliated with the University of Tennessee system. While the June 1969 graduation program read University of Chattanooga, the name on his August 1969 commencement booklet now said the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

“What a great memory, being part of something great at the time that has transitioned into something even bigger now,” said Napolitano, a star Mocs football player who spent his playing days right in the middle of campus on Chamberlain Field. “We had a lot of pride in our University and we had a lot of success from an athletic standpoint. We were the last class of Chattanooga, and that has resonated and stayed with us.

“But the growth potential of becoming a public university outweighed the idea of the small community that was here. Sure, we loved the fact that you knew most people around campus; when you went into the student center, you knew everybody that was there. We had to look beyond to see what the growth was going to be at the University. I think that the people I went to school with appreciated that.”

As a graduating senior, Napolitano was given the option to take either a UTC diploma or a UC diploma. He took the UC diploma.

Over the final weekend of September 2019, members of the Class of 1969 returned to campus for the 50th anniversary of the University of Chattanooga’s last year.

Thanks to the added historical significance of that graduating class, the reunion planning committee and the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs provided a nostalgic, exciting and fun-filled weekend. In particular, the planning committee facilitated one of the University’s most massive 50th-anniversary celebrations, with multiple opportunities for alumni to interact with former classmates and current faculty, staff and students.

Highlights included a reunion lunch in the Chickamauga Room of the University Center, a campus tour, a reunion dinner in the Roth Reading Room of the UTC Library, the 50-Plus Club induction at Patten Chapel, and a Class of 1969 tailgate before UTC’s homecoming football victory over Western Carolina.

“For the people coming back, I don’t want to say ‘shocked’ is the word, but they were quite pleasantly surprised to see how the University now looks,” said Napolitano, a member of the planning committee. “The physical plant itself has expanded, and they could see what the University has been doing.

“The 50-year reunion was wonderful. We saw some faces that came back, some people that we hadn’t seen in a while. They’ve done well, and they looked back on their time at the University with pride. There were a lot of memories shared, a lot of talk about what you’ve done and where you’ve been in your own life, and then you see what the University has done. I think it was terrific for our class to see.” ■

PLANNED GIVING LEAVING A LEGACY

THROUGH LEGACIES LEFT IN ESTATE GIFTS, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has scholarships to award and support for its programs. Gary Litchford's estate gift to the UC Foundation established his legacy to UTC, although it comes with a story.

While Litchford knew he was leaving his estate to UTC as a gift, the UC Foundation didn't until after his death in November 2019 at the age of 85. That's when a letter from the executor of his will made Litchford's intentions known. Why Litchford was covert with his plans is a secret literally taken to the grave.

Quite simply, it's something that hardly ever happens.

Robert Gary Litchford began teaching at the University of Chattanooga in 1965. Over a 42-year career with the University, culminating with his retirement in 2007, he is credited with creating the environmental science master's program at UTC. He was a longtime member of the Graduate Council and the University Honors, Library and Faculty Research committees.

Litchford is best remembered for his work as the head of the geographic information system for the biological and environmental sciences department and as an adjunct professor in sociology, anthropology and geography. His obituary pointed out his deep interest in coral reef ecology and his love of scuba diving—both for study and enjoyment. He donated 38 years of service as an environmental consultant and was well-known in the community for his work with Special Olympics.

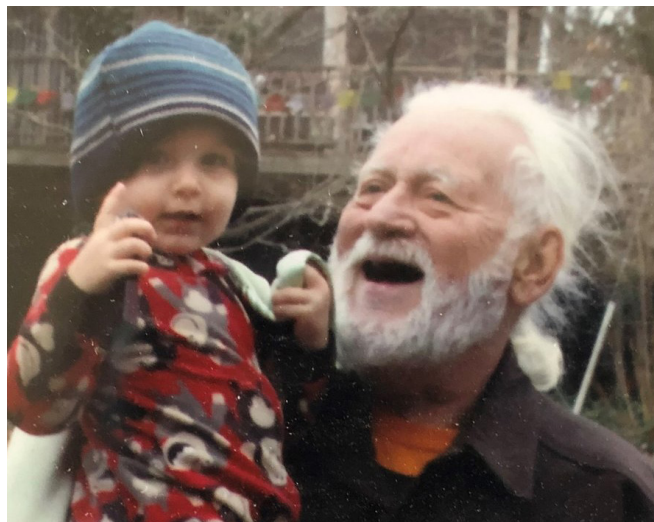
He had already shown a disposition toward gifting the University, establishing a pair of Joyce Litchford Memorial Scholarships in 1976. The scholarships were twofold and in memory of his wife, who died earlier that year. One was designated to be used for an outstanding pre-medical student with financial need at the end of his/her junior year; the other went to a junior or senior member of the UTC wrestling team.

Shortly after Litchford's passing in November, the UC Foundation learned via a letter that Litchford was leaving his entire estate to the Foundation. The retired professor donated approximately 100 acres of property in Van Buren County, Tennessee, including the buildings on the property and all contents. The primary purpose of the gift was to provide student support via scholarship funds, specifically for the biological and environmental sciences department.

"Dr. Litchford loved the University and southeast Tennessee," said attorney Howard Upchurch, the will's executor. "He wanted to do something to honor his wife and impact the students of UTC."

The unexpected gift to the Joyce Litchford Memorial Scholarships means generations of UTC students will be assisted, further enhancing her legacy.

For now, Litchford's motivation for not disclosing his intentions until after his passing remains a mystery. While he can't be thanked in person, his memory and contributions will live on through the many students his legacy will benefit. ■



▲ Gary Litchford, former head of the UTC geographic information system for the biological and environmental sciences department, creator of the University's environmental science master's program, and benefactor of the Joyce Litchford Memorial Scholarships

GLENN DRAPER

1928-2019

by Andrea Perry Lyons '90 '18

When parents send their children off to college, they send with them their hopes for academic success and for a sense of well-being and belonging. They want to see their children thrive and become independent as young adults but also to have a soft place to land when life happens and mom or dad can't be there.

For me, that sense of belonging, acceptance and stability came in the most unexpected way and from a truly gifted man: Dr. Glenn Draper. Dr. Draper lived a life dedicated to his faith, his family and a profound desire to influence lives through his love for music. He passed away in June 2019, but the legacy he left and the lives he touched span generations of music lovers and students, alike. I feel incredibly blessed to have called him both teacher and friend.

My first meeting with Dr. Draper occurred in April 1986. I was a nervous high school student auditioning for one of the coveted spots in a UTC choir. I remember trying to remain calm as I walked up the steps to Cadek Conservatory, but my hands were shaking and my feet felt like lead bricks. I cautiously made my way to the end of the hall and into Room 310. To my surprise, a man carrying a yellow legal pad and a red felt-tip pen bolted from his chair and vigorously shook my hand.

"Hi, I'm Glenn Draper. Golly, I sure am glad to meet you, young lady!" My anxiety quickly turned to amusement. "Who IS this guy?" I thought to myself. Within just a few short minutes, my nervousness faded and I sang my way into a music scholarship as a member of both the Chattanooga Singers and Singing Mocs.

The years that followed were nothing short of an adventure that had a profound effect on my life. I was suddenly thrust head-first into a world of incredible music performed by some of the most amazing young voices I had ever heard and led by a man who demanded excellence but at the same time inspired each of us to give it.

Whether singing Verdi's "Requiem," show tunes from "Les Miserables" or the "Chattanooga Choo Choo," Dr. Draper taught us that we weren't just singing words; we were evoking emotion and ultimately transforming the heart and mind of the listener.

I would witness this transformation time and again as we toured across the United States and throughout England, New Zealand and Australia. The most memorable occurrences for me happened not in a grand hall or auditorium but during those impromptu performances on airplanes or in airports, restaurants and the occasional tourist attraction. As we sang songs like the "Star-Spangled Banner" or "Precious Lord (Take My Hand)," I watched in amazement as people's moods were lightened and some tears were even shed because Glenn Draper felt called to create a musical shift in the atmosphere.

Dr. Draper's mastery of music was eclipsed only by his immense kindness and generosity toward his students. He and his lovely wife, Lounelle, both had this remarkable ability to connect with each one of us in a way that helped strengthen our character at such a vulnerable time in our lives. They accepted me as part of their family and showered the same love and guidance upon me as my other "siblings." During my freshman year, I was selected to go on my first overseas tour to England. My excitement was quickly replaced by despair as I wondered how I would afford such a trip. Knowing that several of us likely needed financial assistance, Dr. Draper arranged for us to sell ads in our concert program booklet to defray the cost. He then encouraged an anonymous donor to give toward the effort, which further made it possible for us to go on the tour. His positive attitude toward life and music was truly infectious, and his persistence and determination made it hard for people to say "no" when requesting help to offer experiential learning opportunities for his students. If Glenn Draper believed it was possible, you looked for it to happen.

IN MEMORY



▲ Glenn Draper poses for his feature story in *Tennessee Alumnus* magazine

◀ from left, Andrea Lyons '90 '18, Glenn Draper and Gretchen White during 2011 tour of The Glenn Draper Singers

Years after I graduated, I would get an occasional phone call which always began, “Andrea, this is your friend Glenn Draper. How in the world are you doing?”

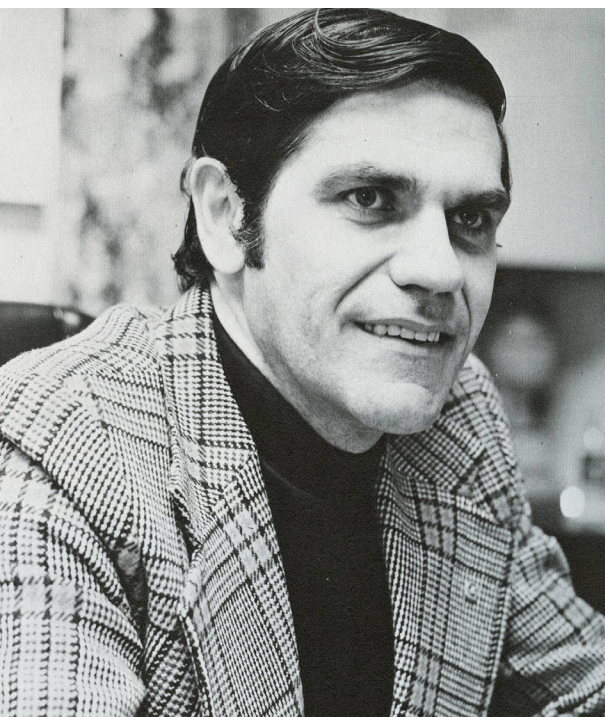
He may be calling to check on me or ask me to sing on an album, at a concert or yes, go on another tour. He often contacted several of his former students to participate with his own ensemble, the Glenn Draper Singers. One of these events was a benefit concert in February 2002 to recognize Dr. Draper’s more than 30 years as the head of vocal music at UTC. Nearly 200 of his former students and friends attended the fundraiser, which raised more than \$17,000 for the Dr. Glenn Draper Endowed Scholarship in Music at the University. It was an honor for me to participate, to reconnect with my musical family and to see my mentor and friend receive

such a distinguished honor. My last performance with him was for a smaller benefit dinner in 2016. Being well into his eighties, Dr. Draper conducted each selection from memory with no sheet music—just passion, heart and that same big smile I saw years ago when I first met him.

Because of Dr. Draper’s impact on me, personally, I have now been the conductor of my church choir for more than 25 years. I often catch myself repeating some of the same things he used to say to inspire us as students, and I smile to myself each time. I have great respect for the gifts he shared with us, and it fills me with pride to say he touched my life.

Thank you, Dr. Glenn Draper. ■

Andrea Perry Lyons ('90 '18) is associate director of alumni affairs for UTC.



ROCKY RENNEISEN

1930-2019

UTC Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs from 1970-1998

For nearly 28 years, Charles “Rocky” Renneisen was an advocate for UTC students.

Renneisen, who passed away in November 2019 at the age of 89, joined UTC in 1970. As vice chancellor for student affairs, Renneisen wore many hats covering many sectors of student life. Along with supervision of several deans, he oversaw placement, the counseling center, the University Center and the racquetball center. He served on numerous student-related committees, often managing the budgets for student organizations, and he worked closely with the Student Government Association, the *University Echo* staff and the UTC Honor Court.

Renneisen also made it a point to eat lunch in the cafeteria, creating opportunities for direct contact with students.

When he first arrived at UTC, Renneisen sought to be near the students and had his office set up inside the former Guerry Hall student center. “One of the rewards of this job was not being tied up with administrators all day,” he told the *University Echo* in a November 1997 story announcing his retirement.

During his time at UTC, he served under chancellors William Masterson, James Drinnon, Fred Obear and Bill Stacy.

“If an issue is important to the students, then it is important to Rocky. I have been impressed with his unceasing advocacy of student interests,” Stacy told the *Echo* in the retirement story. “Rocky’s tenure at UTC has demonstrated exemplary service. His foresight and vision have been crucial factors in UTC’s development as a metropolitan university.”

Renneisen grew up in the small town of Jasper, Indiana. After serving two years in the United States Navy, he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics at Indiana University. His professional career began as a combination math teacher/basketball coach/baseball coach at a pair of small high schools in Indiana.

His collegiate journey to UTC began at Michigan State University, where he earned a doctoral degree while serving as head resident adviser for a pair of dormitories. Renneisen was dean of men at St. Louis University for two years and dean of students at Virginia Commonwealth University for five years before coming to Chattanooga.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Phyllis, and five children.

To honor Renneisen, his daughter and son-in-law Karen and John Cicala created the Dr. Charles “Rocky” Renneisen Endowed Scholarship in Education at UTC. ■

Charles “Rocky” Renneisen

photo courtesy of the 1974 Moccasin yearbook



James Kennedy Jr., former life trustee
of the UC Foundation

JAMES KENNEDY JR.

1924-2020

A Poetic Gift

James Kennedy Jr. had a soft spot in his heart for written words. He even went to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for two years to study English literature and fine arts—while in his seventies.

But his heart truly belonged to his late wife, Dorothy Hellerstedt Kennedy, a UTC graduate who was an accomplished student of poetry and a published poet.

Kennedy passed away in February 2020 at 95 years of age. He left four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The Chattanooga native was the co-founder of what is now known as Kenco, a fully integrated logistics provider.

Kennedy had a long association with the University. A former chair of the UC Foundation board, Kennedy was inducted into the Gary W. Rollins College of Business Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame in 2002.

In 2019, the Kennedy Foundation, Inc., pledged \$1 million to the UC Foundation for the benefit of students studying poetry at UTC. The gift agreements, known as the Dorothy Hellerstedt Kennedy Endowed Scholarship in Poetry Fund and the Dorothy Hellerstedt Kennedy Endowed Professorship in Poetry Fund, will be used to provide endowed tuition assistance to qualified students attending and studying poetry at UTC and to endow a professorship within the College of Arts and Sciences for the study of poetry.

And it was all inspired by Kennedy's wish to honor the memory of his wife.

"She learned at an early age the magic of the written word," he was quoted as saying. "She knew how a well-turned phrase or line of verse could bring happiness or reflection, sadness or laughter." The Kennedys were married 57 years before she died in 2005.

Kennedy also supported UTC through the Kennedy Foundation for the annual Kennedy Lecture in Shakespeare. Just one week after his death, "Shakespeare: From Page to Stage," a lecture by United Kingdom actor/director/lecturer Nick Hutchison, took place on campus at Derthick Hall. ■

UC FOUNDATION GRANTS COMMITTEE

FY19-20 FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants supplemented more than 1,700 scholarships through the Chancellor, Provost and Leadership funds; music performance awards; student-athlete scholarships; and graduate assistantships.

FINAL SEMESTER COHORT ASSISTANCE

Twenty-one upper-level students with small balances averaging \$340 received assistance. These grants were awarded just in time to aid with December 2019 graduation or allow students to re-enroll for Spring 2020.

FIRST GENERATION STUDENT PROGRAM

Funding received was used to help support First Gen Mocs LLC, the First Gen Mentor Program and First Generation College Celebration Week.

COMPLETE COLLEGE

Funding was used in targeting approximately 1,000 students to complete college via a re-enrollment campaign. Funds also will be used for a continued launch of a comprehensive second-year experience program.

JOINT MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DATA ANALYTICS

Fourteen masters of science students enrolled in the first year of the program, which attracted high-quality students by covering partial tuition of six students starting in Spring 2020.

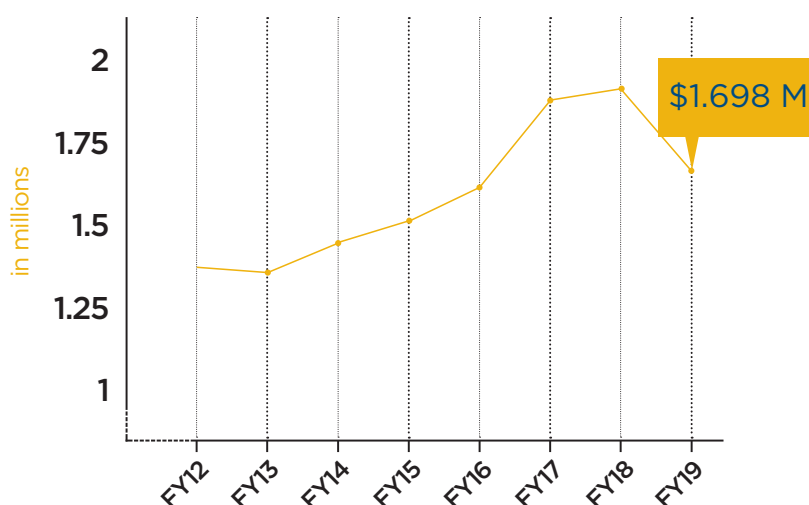
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHATTANOOGA FOUNDATION GRANTS COMMITTEE

awarded nearly \$1.7 million in grants from the unrestricted endowment for the 2019-2020 academic year. These grants provide student scholarships, enhance executive partnerships, increase faculty development, and support opportunities to capitalize on strategic initiatives.

GRANTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Doug Brown '85, chair	Edna Varner, Ed.D. '71 '82
Corinne Allen	Roy Vaughn
John Foy	Dr. Andy Walker III '81
Dr. Keith Helton '87	Jo Ann Yates
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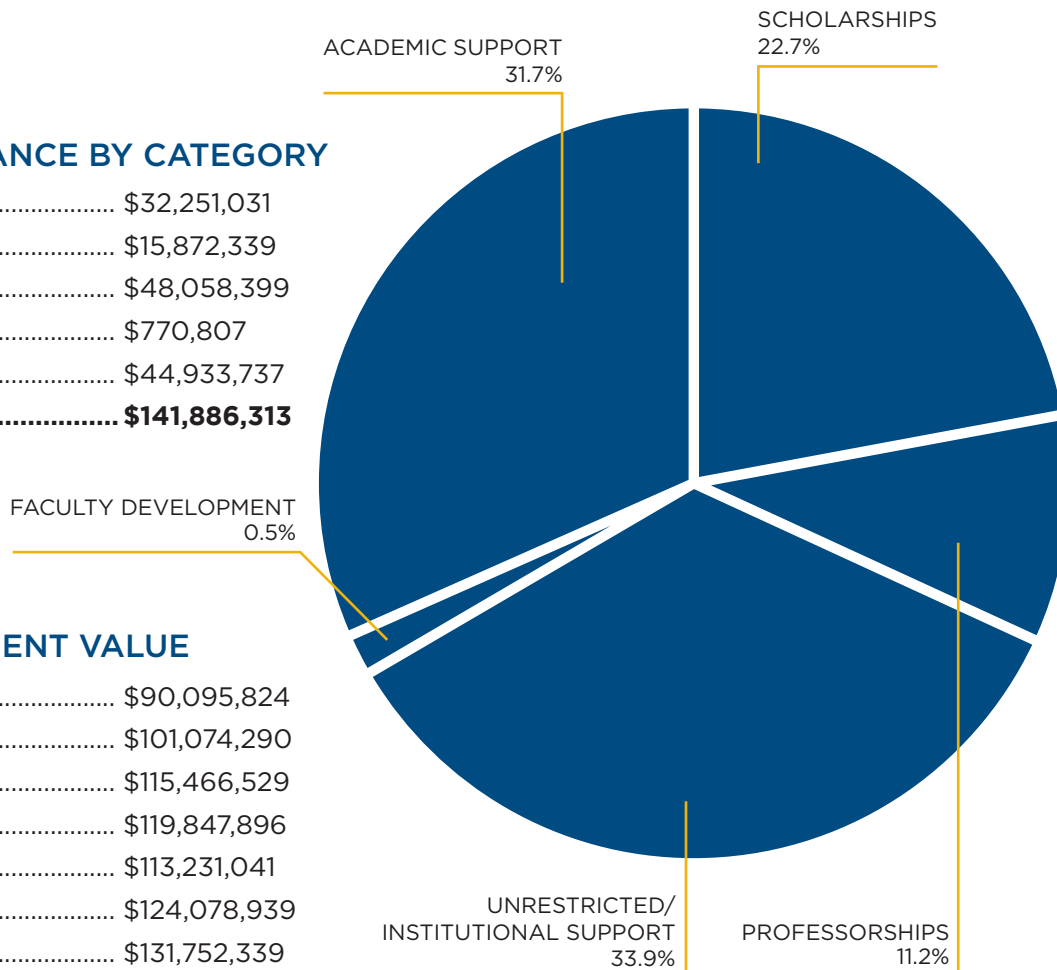
HISTORICAL GRANT FUNDING



THE UC FOUNDATION

FY2019 ENDOWMENT BALANCE BY CATEGORY

Scholarships	\$32,251,031
Professorships	\$15,872,339
Unrestricted/Institutional Support	\$48,058,399
Faculty Development	\$770,807
Academic Support	\$44,933,737
TOTAL	\$141,886,313



UC FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT VALUE

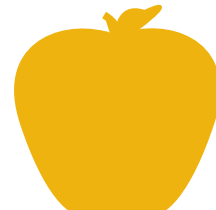
FY 2012	\$90,095,824
FY 2013	\$101,074,290
FY 2014	\$115,466,529
FY 2015	\$119,847,896
FY 2016	\$113,231,041
FY 2017	\$124,078,939
FY 2018	\$131,752,339
FY 2019	\$141,886,313



**NEW GIFTS TO
ENDOWMENTS
TOTAL OVER
\$8.14 MILLION**



**242 ENDOWMENTS
PROVIDE
SCHOLARSHIPS TO
1,294 STUDENTS**



**42 ENDOWED
PROFESSORSHIPS
SUPPORT
UTC FACULTY**

MEET THE NEW TRUSTEES

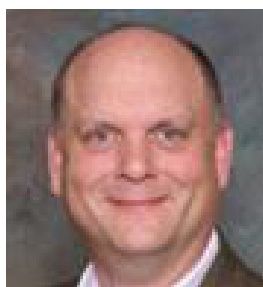
The mission of the University of Chattanooga Foundation is to provide resources that support distinctive programs and promote bold initiatives that enrich the educational experience at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Our trustees are invaluable resources at the UC Foundation. Without their time and efforts, we would not enjoy the shared successes that we all celebrate today.

On behalf of the UC Foundation Board Chair D. Michael Costello '75 '96, Interim Executive Director of the UC Foundation and Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs Lofton Stuart and UTC Chancellor Steven R. Angle, we welcome these new trustees who have joined our efforts to enrich the educational experience of every UTC student, and we look forward to working alongside them in this venture. ■



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