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 GARY W. ROLLINS
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA



The
Rollins
Gift

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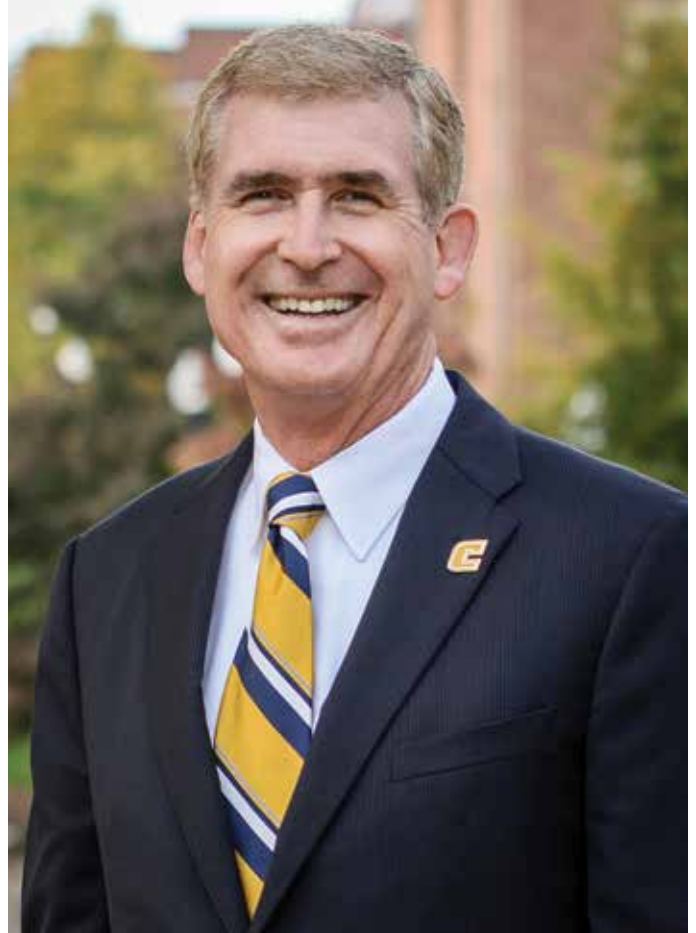
MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

This issue of *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Magazine* provides insight into who we are as a university. I have often said that UTC is a beautiful place, but at our core we are people—students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners. UTC is comprised of passionate, caring, determined people who want to make a difference in our world.

This issue features a number of stories from the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies (CHEPs), its people and their accomplishments. You will read about one UTC researcher’s significant study in brain trauma; how Renee Murley is striving to better partnerships among UTC and local school districts; one professor’s humanity for Cuba; Katie Baker, a UTC teacher education alumna and Tennessee’s lone Milken winner; the 100th anniversary of the Health and Human Performance department; and a feature highlighting the first class in our Master of Public Health program.

The current magazine provides additional insight into the students, staff, faculty, and alumni who “are UTC.” You will see a few of the many incredible things they are accomplishing as they open doors for others to follow. You will read about Mocs serving as role models by helping those less fortunate than themselves as they inspire our campus and community through leadership, determination, drive and their desire to make a difference.

I know you will be even more proud to be a Moc after reading this issue of *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Magazine*.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven R. Angle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Steven R. Angle
Chancellor



HERE TO HELP

Ranita Glenn, reading specialist, going through a lesson plan with Hardy Elementary students. Glenn, UTC alumna, was chosen as an inaugural Butterfield Fellow, as a prime example for effective and positive behavior management in the classroom. Nov. 20, 2017.

Photo by Eric M. Williams, College of Health, Education and Professional Studies

FORTY MILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE

Gary and Kathleen Rollins Provide the
Largest Gift in UTC History

BY GINA STAFFORD

Success is for sale and you can buy it with hard work. When you put forth enough effort, in fact, “It’s just amazing what will happen,” says Gary W. Rollins.

In June, history was made when the UTC College of Business was named the Gary W. Rollins College of Business to honor Rollins’ \$40-million gift to the college. Rollins is a 1967 alumnus with a B.S. degree in business. In September, Rollins and his wife, Kathleen, had their unprecedented generosity to UTC celebrated with not one but three events involving the campus, the community and other friends of the University.

During an interview prior to the festivities, Rollins was asked to share the secrets of his success, which he says aren't all that secret, and can be applied to achieving success in almost any endeavor.

"I think that, really, you buy success with work just like you buy groceries with money," Rollins said. "And another thing I believe is to 'go for broke.' I mean, once you decide what it is you want, don't be timid about it. Last, be prepared to fail occasionally; failure is part of life and a great teacher, you know. The trial-and-error method is probably the most proven and effective method of getting better and being successful."

Clearly, Rollins knows something about being successful. He is vice chairman and CEO of Rollins, Inc., a premier global consumer and commercial services company. It is a New York Stock Exchange corporation with extensive holdings including Orkin, the world's-largest pest control company. On Aug. 10, Rollins, Inc. marked an elite milestone, 50 years as a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange.

"That really was a historic occasion," Rollins said. "First of all, not that many companies make it for 50 years. They either merge or they go out, so the fact that we were there was impressive, but the thing that really made it historic was that we had two directors in attendance that were with the company when it went on the exchange and are still with the company. That, as far as the Stock Exchange was concerned, was just tremendous."

Given Rollins' expert status as a businessman, he was asked what advice he would give today's students working to become tomorrow's business leaders.

"First I want to recall what Mark Twain said about an expert: 'That's a guy from out of town,'" Rollins said with a laugh. "But I do think the first thing you need to do is really decide what you want to do, and you don't always get it right the first time. It's challenging, but you need to have a goal. When we have a goal, we succeed, and when we don't, we tend to sink, so having a goal is important."

And where did Rollins get his best advice? Who has he modeled in his approach to business?

"I would have to say that my family had the most influence over my success," Rollins said. "My grandmother was a devout Christian woman and believed in the adage of 'To whom much is given, much is expected,' and she had a lot to do with my attitude by recognizing that responsibility. My mother was very ethical, and taught me to do the right thing even though it was painful sometimes. Dad traveled a lot, so Mother really had a lot to do with the discipline and showing me the way, so to speak. My father's work ethic, business acumen, and courage were inspirational."

As an example of his father's business courage, Rollins noted that the company his father started, Rollins, Inc., was doing about \$9 million in sales in 1964, when the company bought Orkin, which at

the time did \$37 million in annual sales. "It was the first notable leveraged buyout, and was studied at the Harvard Business School," Rollins said.

"And last, my brother had a lot of influence on me. He is very meticulous and organized, and taught me how you went about fixing a failing business, and how to operate a good business.

"So I would have to say my family had more influence on me than any one individual."

And what of his time at UTC? What brought him to Chattanooga? For starters, the city is his birthplace, Rollins said, though he finished high school in Delaware. He had relatives in Chattanooga and in North Georgia and liked the idea of being close to family and an occasional home-cooked meal—though that wasn't the primary factor. "Well, the first reason was, I could get in," he said humorously. "That was a big one, and I'm very proud that I went to school here and of the education I got."

More than 50 years since graduation, Rollins said his \$40-million gift to his alma mater was inspired by seeing "an institution on the move upward." He added, "When you go back as far as I did (1967), and see today the changes and the enthusiasm and the direction of the school, it's remarkable."

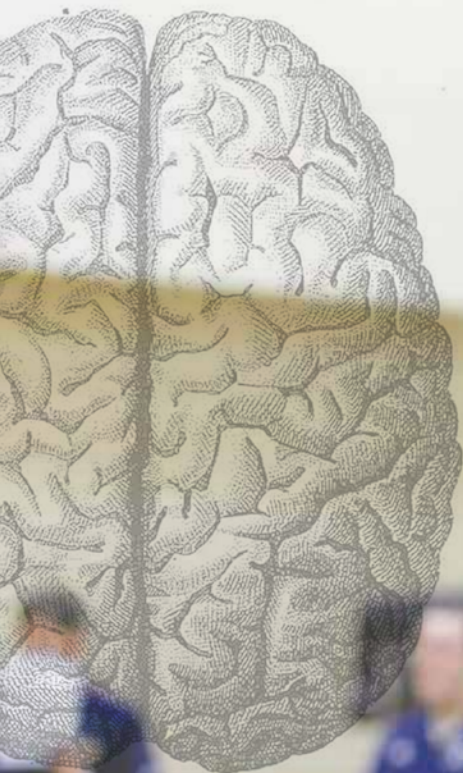
He then described his hopes for the gift's impact. "I think it will enable the college to recruit additional exceptional professors and educators. I think they will want to be at a place that's really going somewhere, and this gift will contribute to the faculty depth. Next it will enable the improvement of the facilities and many other areas," Rollins said. "I just saw an opportunity to take the school to another level. The momentum is here, and the willingness and the interest are common among the students, instructors and the leaders to be the best."

Funds of the Rollins gift are to be used for expanded scholarship offerings, creation of three new endowed faculty chairs, improved physical facilities and more applied research opportunities for students. All of which Gary and Kathleen Rollins are highly enthusiastic about.

"UTC is an exciting and impressive place to be." **C**



UT System President Joe DiPietro, UTC Chancellor Steven Angle, Kathleen and Gary W. Rollins and College of Business Dean Robert Dooley during the dedication of the newly renamed Gary W. Rollins College of Business.



IMPORTANT STUDIES

UTC Professor Wilkerson Casts a Wide Net to Study Brain Trauma



Gary Wilkerson

BY SHAWN RYAN

“Man, this is harder
than it looks.”

“This” looks like a video game. But the 18 members of the U.S. Olympic boxing team aren’t fooling around. No chips or soft drinks are on hand. This is serious stuff.

In one of the Chattanooga Convention Center’s voluminous exhibition halls, the athletes—male and female—are running through a series of visually-oriented tests to gauge how quickly their brains react when given a task that requires a near-instantaneous physical reaction as well as quick thinking.

“These issues are certainly important for athletes, but they’re equally important for anybody who does a dangerous job, like firefighters or policemen or certainly military operations’ personnel. You’re going to have to be very, very aware of what’s changing in your environment, and very often you have to make rapid decisions,” says Gary Wilkerson, a UTC professor in graduate-level athletic training and a researcher in that field for more than 25 years.

Helping athletes increase their reaction time is one goal of the testing, but Wilkerson has another, one that focuses on an injury that’s been in the national news for several years—concussions. Some of the news about concussions arises from their relationship to CTE, or chronic traumatic encephalopathy, believed to result from repeated physical blows that shake the brain.

Wilkerson wants to document how brain injuries of all types, including concussions, can affect the entire body, sometimes in “very, very subtle ways,” he says.

Through testing, he is mapping out possible deficiencies in the brains of athletes, soldiers, even dancers and others who might have suffered some type of brain injury, especially

ones whose effects are not instantly evident. Such injuries can have distinct effects on other parts of the body and not just obvious issues like memory or mental clarity, he says. By locating where the neurological problems are in the brain they can develop exercises to offset whatever physical problems may crop up.

“So what we’re working on is perfecting tests to identify when abnormalities are there. And then, once we’ve identified what the deficiency is, we know what to target and how to train,” Wilkerson says.

In his research, he has worked with such groups as the University of Alabama football team and athletes at the U.S. Olympic Village in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is now in the early stages of working with various arms of the U.S. military, including the ROTC unit at UTC. “We don’t have ‘on’ or ‘off’ seasons,” says Capt. Kevin Beavers, head of the Department of Military Science at UTC. “We train year-round to mold ourselves into the best leaders that we can be, and our training can become quite intense and injuries have occurred. We want to limit those types of injuries that might prevent our personnel from serving as commissioned officers.

“As a leader, having the ability to make command decisions during stressful environments is paramount to our success on the battlefield,” Beavers continues.

For Olympic boxers, the goal is simple: Learn to react more quickly so you hit your opponent more than they hit you. “We’re trying to get those milliseconds of reaction where we avoid getting hit and those that help us be able to hit,” says U.S. Olympic Boxing Coach Billy Walsh. “We’re looking for better foot reaction, better head and movement reaction, better hand-speed reaction.”

One part of the testing is to add a mental element to the

“Head injuries change the way your brain is processing information.”

visual tests, Wilkerson says. “The thing that we’ve done, that gives us greater precision in understanding when somebody’s got a deficiency, is we simultaneously give them a cognitive challenge where they have to think, ‘What is the right direction that I’m supposed to respond to when that light comes on? Am I supposed to go to the right? Am I supposed to go to the left?’”

“The accuracy of the responses is very much determined by the efficiency with which your brain is integrating that information,” he says.

In the boxers’ “video game” test, a white square on a field of green has two gray posts, each on opposite sides of the square, and in the middle is a smaller red circle with a figure standing directly over it. A boxer stands a couple of feet away, directly in front of the screen. When he moves, the figure on the screen moves the same way.

During the test, a line of five “arrows” pops up every few seconds (they actually look like the “less than/more than” symbols in math). The boxer must locate the direction of the center arrow—it doesn’t always point the same way as the rest—then slide that direction until he “touches” the gray pole and a “ding!” is heard.

“When we add mental workload to a requirement for rapid response,” Wilkerson says, “it accentuates deficiencies. It allows us to see people who aren’t functioning as well or not as optimally.”

Wilkerson began his career focusing mainly on knee and ankle injuries but, as time went on, he began to see wider applications. “We started seeing more and more ankle injuries after concussions. So we said, ‘Wait a minute, there’s something about these impacts to the head that are causing injuries in the other part of the body.’”

“Head injuries change the way your brain is processing information, so you can have a lower-extremity injury that affects your brain; you can have a brain injury that affects your lower extremities,” he says. “Finding ways to address neurological problems in the brain may lead to methods to prevent long-term chronic deterioration.

“We’ve got evidence that we can improve those deficiencies. We know what deficiencies are,” Wilkerson says. “We know they can help us tell the difference between those who have a concussion and those who don’t. It’s cutting-edge stuff.” **C**



Top: U.S. Olympic boxer Delante Johnson, left, and UTC graduate athletic training student Ethan Perry discuss a video test that documents reaction times, below.

CARING FOR CUBA

UTC Professor Strives to Make a Difference on Foreign Soil

BY LAURA BOND



Top: Local street market in Vedado, the central business district of Havana. Bottom: Collapsed building in Old Havana.

It was the love of historic architecture that brought Dana Moody to Havana, Cuba. And it was her passion to help—even in the smallest of ways—that brought her back. Moody, an interior design professor, first visited Cuba in the summer of 2017 as part of a four-week residency with Havana’s Unpack Studio, there to document efforts to restore the city’s crumbling buildings and other architecture.

“I was extremely overwhelmed when I first arrived,” she remembers. “Almost every single building looked like it had been through a war. Just thousands and thousands of buildings in full decay. They’re falling apart, but people are still living in them. People live in conditions that the average American can’t even imagine.”

The restoration process is slow, partly due to problems caused by the U.S. Trade Embargo, first imposed on arms sales in 1958, then expanded in 1962 to include almost all imports to Cuba. Travel restrictions were eased a few years ago, but financial sanctions still stand. Because of that, supplies of all kinds are scarce in the country, Moody says, and that includes building materials. “They’re dealing with a lack of materials, a lack of resources,” she says. “Things we think of as simple, like stringing up a chandelier, they don’t have the wire. It’s the minute things that we can go to a hardware store and get.”

Moody felt called to do something, but was unsure what she could do to help. “The entire time I was there I was constantly trying to figure out this complex puzzle of these people and how to help them. I just felt so helpless, especially as an American, because I can’t come back to the States and ship them anything. The embargo blocks anything from coming in,” she says.

When she returned home, Moody immediately began brainstorming ways to help. If she couldn’t ship anything to Cuba, she would go back, but this time with safety supplies. “What I really identified on that trip was, not only do they not have the materials to restore the buildings, these people don’t have basic safety

equipment. People would come to work sites with T-shirts wrapped around their faces just because they don't have a 50-cent breathing mask. They would work on these high-story beams with no harnesses," she says.

To help fund her idea, she participated in the faculty elevator pitch competition at ReSEARCH Dialogues, an annual academic conference held at UTC. She didn't win, but a woman approached her afterward. "As I was walking out, she stopped me and said, 'If you don't get funded, here's my card. I want you to call me and let me know.' She mentioned something about having been to Cuba. I told her I would love to hear her story, so maybe we could go to lunch," Moody says.

She ended up having lunch with the woman, who turned out to be Rebecca Thomas, a doctoral nursing student at UTC with familial ties to Cuba. Thomas presented Moody with a \$1,000 check to buy supplies for her trip. "It blew me away that other people would care because, if you don't see it with your own eyes, you don't understand it fully," Moody says. With funding secured, Moody filled two large suitcases with nothing but small, lightweight safety equipment—hundreds of masks, gloves, goggles, earplugs and first-aid kits—and booked a flight to Havana. But it wasn't all smooth sailing when she arrived in Cuba last summer.

"We were detained in customs for six hours because our supplies got marked as commerce. They thought we were planning to sell the supplies, so they ended up confiscating most of it," she says. Eventually, Moody was able to work with Unpack Studio to get the confiscated materials to local worksites. After many phone calls and meetings, the government agreed to donate the materials to the restoration of the capital building and presidential palace.

Armed with her camera and a backpack, Moody hit the streets of Havana again to document the continuing restoration process. She stumbled across a man outside his home working with a saw without any eye protection. "I pulled a pair of protective glasses out of my backpack and offered it to him," she recalls. He was like, 'How much?' I said, 'No, no. I'm not selling it. These are for you.'

"He ended up inviting me to his house. His wife made us coffee and his daughter spoke fluent English. She's an accomplished violinist who worked with the National Ballet of Cuba. That experience was facilitated by just a pair of glasses. I wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet such interesting local people if it weren't for the safety equipment. It opened the door to get to know local people on another level."

Moody now is dedicated to telling the story not only of the restoration of Havana, but also of its people. Her photographs have been featured in exhibitions around the country, and she's done several conference presentations about her time in Havana. "When I first visited, I kept thinking about how desperate I was to help the Cuban people. I felt very limited, and I hope the safety equipment made a small impact. I'm going to continue to tell their story and make people aware of what's happening there." **C**



Since returning from Cuba, Dana Moody's photographs have been featured in exhibitions in Tennessee, Georgia, Oklahoma, Mississippi, New York, California and Louisiana.



Above: City streets in Old Havana. Dana Moody Photos

FIRST CLASS

UTC's Master of Public Health Program Becomes a Reality

BY GINA STAFFORD **They didn't go to** graduate school to make history, but 20 graduate students at UTC this fall have earned themselves both a spot in university history and the nickname "2020 Pioneers."

More than half are from out-of-state, including three international students, and all are members of the inaugural class from the UTC Master of Public Health (MPH) program that launched in fall 2018.

Envisioned for years and finally made possible when the last hurdle—final approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges—was cleared in June, and the goal number for incoming students was reached by August. How? Hard work, says Marisa Colston, head of UTC's Department of Health and Human Performance, which offers the new graduate program.

"Initially, we thought we'd have six to eight months to develop the first cohort of students but, with the much shorter window, the MPH program administrators had to fan out to college campuses, walking door-to-door, meeting and talking to numerous people in a systematic and grassroots effort," Colston says. "Otherwise, I'm convinced we would not have hit those numbers, especially with high-quality students."

As work continued to achieve program approval, build awareness and recruit students on parallel tracks, so did the process of hiring someone to oversee the new program. Mark Stoutenberg began serving as program director in January 2018. "We've been told to take these 20 students and do a great job with them, and we will continue building on a great foundation," Stoutenberg says. "For us, this is an exciting opportunity to get to build something of real quality."

The UTC MPH program features a concentration in chronic disease control and prevention, a rapidly growing global health concern.

Another intentional focus in the program is student diversity, particularly in undergraduate backgrounds and career and research interests. "We thought strength would come from diversity in the types of students, and to that we can now add strength in the richness of their diverse places of origin: One student is from Detroit; another is from Queens; another is from India, and several are from around Tennessee," Stoutenberg says.



Students Kavina Patel and Kate Anderson review notes made during classmates' personal health assessments.



Nicholas Boér, left, instructs Shelby Souvannasing and Kathryn Wroth on personal health assessment measurements.

“Their undergraduate degrees range from nutrition to public health, anthropology to sociology. The faculty have been thoroughly impressed by the diversity of comments in classes. There are so many varied perspectives and cultures represented.”

What made such a variety of people willing to step into both graduate school and a brand-new master’s degree program at UTC? “Reputation of the faculty,” Colston says. “We didn’t really know what to expect in terms of application numbers. As it turned out, we could have gone higher than 20, but we need faculty dedicated solely to this program to be able to meet the rigors of student advisement and mentoring. Currently, we are pulling faculty from other programs, which then creates gaps in those areas that must be filled,” Colston says.

“We’ve had incredible cooperation and support internally from the department, Dean (Valerie) Rutledge ’74, ’79 of the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies and from Chancellor Steven Angle, to name just a few. We also have experienced strong external support from numerous community partners. Witnessing how it has all come together has been quite special. We are already working on plans to grow

as we transition our dietetics program to the graduate level, where it will be offered as a track in the MPH, hopefully in the fall of 2020.”

In addition to the program director and faculty who

Colston says have worked tirelessly to pull the program together, she praised Program Manager Francia Portacio for her dedication to the program and its successful recruitment efforts.

So what comes after grad school for the 2020 Pioneers? A wide and growing array of career opportunities. MPH

graduates are found in healthcare policy development, hospital administration, health communication or education, emergency preparedness, risk management and program planning, infectious disease prevention, research and more.

“I’m willing to bet that many of the students will go on to careers that expand beyond public health,” Stoutenberg says. “The field isn’t getting smaller, and all data points to a shortage of public health experts. Public health is growing as a field, and the future is interdisciplinary in everything we do. It intrigues people and offers a lot of opportunity to be in health-related fields without having to work in clinical practice.” **C**

Their undergraduate degrees range from nutrition to public health, anthropology to sociology.

BAKER RECEIVES MILKEN AWARD

An Educator, This UTC Grad is Tennessee's Lone Honoree

BY SHAWN RYAN

On the day she won it, the Milken Award and its \$25,000 prize was a mystery to Katie Baker. "I had never heard of the award before," she says.

She reacted with a "What?!!" when her name was announced in Chattanooga's Battle Academy gym in May 2017. "It's real," Jane Foley, senior vice president of the Milken Family Foundation, told Baker as she walked to the front of the gym at the school where she worked since graduating from UTC in 2010. She was one of 33 educators from across the country to win the award and the only recipient in Tennessee.

Graduating with bachelor's degrees in early childhood education and Spanish, Baker was a third-grade teacher at Battle until the end of this past school year. She moved to Nashville over the summer after her husband took a job as a software engineer. She landed a position as a fifth-grade teacher in reading, writing and language arts at Mill Creek Elementary School in Nolensville, located 20 miles south of Nashville.

Coming to UTC from her home in Franklin, Tennessee, was not a difficult decision in 2006, she says. The quality of the University's School of Education was obvious, especially its focus on getting students out in the real world. "At UTC, I knew I would have the opportunity to begin getting classroom experience early on in my education," Baker says. "UTC does an excellent job of creating partnerships with the elementary schools in the area. University students are volunteering and observing in schools right away and do not have to wait until their senior year to student teach."

Saunya Goss, who was principal at Battle Academy when Baker won the Milken Award, praised her work ethic, noting how she was in charge of the third grade's day-to-day operations and led the grade's weekly planning sessions.

"Baker's communications skills are an asset in forging relationships with parents; she goes beyond conferences and open houses to connect with them," Goss says. "At the beginning of the year she asks parents to write a letter about their children, sharing how they work best and where they may need help. Baker solicits information about parents'

strengths, skills, and interests to find ways to include them in classroom activities."

In presenting the Milken Award, Foley praised Baker and the way she approaches teaching. "She tailors instruction to meet her students' needs, shares successful strategies with colleagues, builds relationships with parents and plays an important role in moving the whole school forward," Foley said. "Teachers do not apply for this award. We find great teachers and award them."

As a magnet school in the Hamilton County system, Battle Academy attracts students from all across the county. Because the students have such a wide range of abilities and capabilities, the school employs a "multiple intelligences" approach with the idea that one-size-fits-all doesn't offer the best solution to education.

Baker says the system helped her "get to know students as individuals first and find their strengths and weaknesses." Some were good at math but bad at English; some the other way around. Some could memorize easily; others had to be coached more.

"Each content area found a way to incorporate their strengths and weaknesses," Baker says. "You find their strengths and concentrate on weaknesses or find their weaknesses and concentrate on the strengths."

"When I am getting to know the kids, it's more their strengths and what they're interested in that usually go



Baker says the system helped her “get to know students as individuals first and find their strengths and weaknesses.”



Katie Baker works with students in one of her classes at Mill Creek Elementary School near Nashville.

together, and you give them experience in things they aren't used to.”

Along with reading, math, science and social studies, Baker's third-graders learn another very important skill: How to critique each other's work. As students share their work in front of the class, Baker listens as their peers offer both compliments and suggestions for improvement. Baker believes she creates a safe environment where her students know they can trust her and each other. **C**



Harrison McClary photos

ENDURING DEPARTMENT

Health and Human Performance Celebrates Its 100th Year

BY SHAWN RYAN **First, this important**
academic unit at UTC was known as Physical Education. Then its name was changed to Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Then Exercise Science, Health and Leisure Studies.

Finally, (for now) Health and Human Performance.

Different names but, for the most part, covering the same teachings: How to stay healthy. How to prevent injuries and disease. How to live a quality life and teach others to do the same.

This year, the Department of Health and Human Performance celebrates its 100th birthday at the University. It began simply as physical education classes in 1918 under the tutelage of Evelyn Haring. Over the decades, it morphed into other alphabet-soup titles, incorporating new ideas and ever-changing research results. As society changed, so did the department.

Jamie Harvey '79, associate professor of health and physical education, has been in HHP—or whatever acronym it was operating under at the time—as either a student or faculty member since 1975. She says the “expansion” of the department’s umbrella is the biggest change she has witnessed in those decades.

“Adding exercise science, sport and leisure studies, blending in the outdoors, blending in nutrition. As the market changed, we branched out,” she says. “We adapted. That’s the word, ‘adapted.’”

If not for Harvey, the department’s centennial anniversary might have gone unnoticed. One morning in September 2017, she awoke with a question in her head: “How long have we been part of the university? I just had an epiphany,” she says with a laugh.

The lightbulb moment led to tons of research and eventually to her book, *Health and Physical Education to Health and Human Performance at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga: A Compilation of History and Changes from 1918 to 2018*, now in the process of being published.

The book follows the twists and turns and name changes of the department, documents all the faculty and administrative staff through the decades and features photos from across the department’s 100 years.

Harvey says she has no idea what may be changing in HHP over the next 100 years—or even the next 10 years. Change is ever-present and inevitable, she says, “and we either go with it, or question it and go with it, or we bail out.”

One thing that hasn’t changed is the department’s forward motion, she says. “We’ve done nothing but grown.” **C**



Top: Dance was one of the courses offered for women in the Department of Physical Education in 1952. Below: Jamie Harvey, associate professor of health and physical education in the Department of Health and Human Performance, has written a book detailing the department’s 100 years of existence and the changes that have occurred over those decades.

PARTNERSHIPS SHOW SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

Renee Murley Marshals an Important Role

*Renee Murley, right, with UTC
education professor Jennifer Ellis*

BY SARAH JOYNER

There is no denying
that today's teachers are under

pressure. Not just pressure to prepare and mold their students but to meet standards. From Day One they are held accountable and in the spotlight. So how can UTC's School of Education in the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies best prepare graduates to not fold under that pressure? And most importantly, how can we ensure that our community's students are reaching their full potential with a quality, effective teacher at the helm of their classroom?

Those were the questions Renee Murley faced when she joined the university's School of Education as director in 2016. A natural answer to those questions involved strengthening the University's relationships with local school districts, to find ways where both local schools and UTC could benefit each other. Luckily, Murley had just come from an institution that, as far back as 2009, had been implementing a teacher residency program that was placing teacher candidates in local classrooms early on. They were getting double and triple the amount of time in classrooms that other traditional teacher preparation programs allotted.

Murley was the person for the job.

"That extended time in the classroom was critical, I discovered," Murley says.

Historically, there has always been a gap between the end of the program and the freshly-minted teachers getting in their first classroom, but with more time and experience in the classroom, first-year teachers were performing better because they had a better understanding of their students' needs. "There was nothing that could prepare them in their college classes like the first-hand experiences they were getting with students in local classrooms," Murley says.

"It's like the medical field. Take a nursing program where students have to have clinicals in order to be relevant in their employment," Murley adds. "We think about it with doctors.

We think about it with nurses. It's got to be the same way with educators and teachers. We have to have them in classroom clinicals in the field where they can learn from the best teachers. Because I was there and I saw that experience made a huge difference for first-year teachers."

Therefore, a similar residency program for teacher candidates recently was created and implemented at UTC. Previous curriculum had called for a student to wait until the final semester of his or her senior year before being placed in student teaching. Then, their time was split with six to eight weeks at two different placements. Now, the new model puts UTC education students in the classroom for a full year. They are partnered with teacher mentors where the teacher and teacher candidate are splitting up classroom responsibilities in a co-teaching model. Students are taught in groups that offer a small student-to-teacher ratio, giving local students more one-on-one time with their teacher.

Overhauling that teacher residency program was about more than increasing graduates' preparation, Murley says. "We wanted our partnership to not just be about training the teacher but also seeing what we could bring to the classroom to better help the students locally."

That emphasis on increasing UTC's involvement in regional classrooms has led to new partnerships with local school districts, including Tennessee's Hamilton and Marion counties.

In Marion County schools, professional development and training to teachers and administrators is provided. "The partnership has definitely benefited students and educators of Marion County," says Larry Ziegler, assistant director of schools, 9-12 curriculum director and CTE director for the school system. "It has allowed more opportunities to be made available to our students. It has further developed the capacity of our teachers. Most importantly, our goal is that it opens a pipeline to hire high-quality teachers in the future." **C**



Tim Gaudin safely holds a taxidermy armadillo.

ARMADILLOS MIGRATE TO TENNESSEE

UTC Environmental Scientist Gaudin Suggests Avoiding Contact

BY SHAWN RYAN

Most of us see them

lying on the side of the road, flat as a concrete slab or an oddly-shaped lump. Armadillos. Possum in the half-shell.

Although 21 species of armadillos live in South America and never leave, one kind—the nine-banded armadillo—has made it all the way to the U.S., the only one to make it so far north. “They have a huge range, from as far north as southern Illinois all the way down to the tip of Patagonia. They’re one of the most wide-ranging mammals on the planet,” says Tim Gaudin, senior associate department head in biology, geology and environmental science and an expert on armadillos, a branch of the Xenarthan group of mammals which also includes anteaters and sloths.

“They’re weird; they’re different, and I like weird,” he says, explaining his fascination with the animals.

Gaudin has studied Xenarthans for more than 25 years and, in 2011, co-authored a research paper on the increasing number of armadillos found in Southeast Tennessee. They’re here and they’re on the move. They have been seen in the forests surrounding the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and among the Appalachian Mountains in far western North Carolina, he says.

It’s not odd that they are living in moist, forested areas, he says. Despite common perceptions, armadillos aren’t desert lovers. “They want to be near water,” Gaudin says.

Using a 1996 study of the animals’ migration patterns, he and his research partner discovered that armadillos are not only heading north and east, they’ve doubled their migratory speed—although speed is a relative term when it comes to the pokey-slow animals. While global warming may play a role in their spread, Gaudin says, he thinks other factors come into play. “I suspect it has something to do with human habitat

alterations, although it’s not exactly clear what we’re doing,” he explains. “It may be that we’re removing predators or reducing the number of competitors.”

Or it could be that we’re just better at lawn care. “They tend to go after the best lawns, the best cared-for, which drives people crazy, but it’s because the lawns are really well-watered and they’ve got a lot of insects in the soils, and that’s what they like.” Once they like the taste of your garden or your lawn, they can dig basketball-size holes and it’s difficult to get rid of them, he says.

“They’re very hard to trap,” Gaudin says. “Baited wire traps don’t work because they don’t really go for baits. They’re kind of stupid, so they’ll blunder into a trap every now and then, whether it’s baited or not.”

They don’t, however, seem interested in human garbage, he says.

In a question asked by many: Why do you see them on the side or middle of the road, dead as ... well ... roadkill? It’s their response to being startled, Gaudin says. “A frightened armadillo can leap straight up about two to three feet,” he explains, “so when a vehicle passes over them, they spring right into the undercarriage.”

That startled reflex also comes into play if a person tries to get too close. “They can jump up and break your nose and knock out teeth,” Gaudin says.

Not getting too close to an armadillo is a good idea from a different medical standpoint. They are the only mammal known to carry leprosy, which destroys nerve tissue in extremities such as the fingers, toes, nose and ears and, if untreated, can destroy those extremities. No one is exactly sure how the leprosy bacteria is transmitted from armadillo to human, Gaudin says, so it’s best just to leave the animals alone.

“Better safe than sorry,” he says. **C**

WORLD WAR 1

The University of Chattanooga &

BY NOAH LASLEY

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University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Library



Student Response

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, the student body of the University of Chattanooga quickly recognized that campus life would be dramatically altered. Even prior to the official declaration of war, the senior class met and dispatched a telegram to Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, in which nine students offered their services to the country “in case of need.”¹

Despite the national disruption, the editors of *The University Echo* newspaper encouraged students to maintain academic rigor on campus. “The war has naturally caused some confusion in all our American colleges,” they wrote. “Some of our number have already responded and others will do so shortly. But as long as we are in the college, let us keep up the spirit. While in college, let the Blue and Gold command the same spirit as the Red, White and Blue.”² Nevertheless, the 1917 summer session of classes was canceled due to anticipated involvement in war activities and by June, 80 percent of the University’s physically-fit male students had enlisted.

When classes resumed in the fall 1917, the remaining students on campus maintained a vocal and active patriotism that manifested itself through extracurricular efforts to support the cause, such as knitting articles of clothing for the Red Cross to distribute, selling thrift-stamps to support the war effort and through soliciting charitable contributions to the YMCA to support of American soldiers overseas.

Football during the War

By the 1910s, football had gained nationwide popularity among collegiate athletic programs, including the University of Chattanooga. However, United States involvement in World War I upset two seasons of football for the varsity squad. In the summer of 1917, the football program for the fall was suspended due to the absence of eligible athletes. *The Echo* reported this as a mark of pride. “It is a great honor to UC that its student body is so patriotic,” the editors boasted. “Practically every able-bodied man of military age is serving in some branch of the service.”³



¹ “Seniors Ready for War,” *The University Echo* (Chattanooga, TN), March 24, 1917. utc.edu/ready-for-war

² *University Echo* (Chattanooga, TN), April 24, 1917. utc.edu/school-spirit

³ “Athletics Get Good Start,” *The University Echo* (Chattanooga, TN), Oct. 10, 1917. utc.edu/get-good-start

⁴ “Coach Jarrett Sums up Football Season,” *The University Echo* (Chattanooga, TN), Nov. 21, 1918. utc.edu/ww1-football

⁵ Gilbert E. Govan and James W. Livingood, *The University of Chattanooga: Sixty Years* (Chattanooga: University of Chattanooga, 1947), 130.



STUDENT ARMY TRAINING CORPS FOOTBALL TEAM, 1918

For the 1918 season, a team was formed from members of the Student Army Training Corps (SATC), a predecessor program to ROTC, but performed poorly. According to a season recap in the *Echo*, the team was beset with innumerable obstacles, including: There was only one student present who had played under the former coach; all of the first-string players were overseas fighting the war, leaving just inexperienced players; the Spanish Flu epidemic and the resulting city-wide quarantine meant a late start to the practice season; and, finally, the defensive line played at a below-average weight.⁴

Campus Construction

The World War I era saw a major campus development that resulted in what is viewed today as immediately recognizable on campus. By 1917, the university's oldest building and architectural icon Old Main suffered from increasingly severe structural issues and was demolished during the fall semester. To take its place, the university began work on two new buildings: Science Hall (renamed Hooper Hall in 1950) and the distinguished campus landmark, the John A. Patten Memorial Chapel. Although construction on both began in 1917, the work proceeded slower than usual due to inflation in the wartime economy. Instead of contracting a firm to complete the projects, the university instead decided to hire a superintendent of construction to oversee the completion of the new buildings.

Opposite is an image of Old Main. From this structure, brick and stone were salvaged and reused in building Hooper Hall and Patten Chapel. Completion of the new chapel and science building was greatly anticipated throughout the war.

Student Army Training Corps (SATC)

In October 1918, a unit of the Student Army Training Corps was organized and posted in the partially-completed Science Hall. At the same time, the old medical building, which was located near the site of present-day Brock Hall, was utilized as a teaching center by a company of U.S. Army medical trainees from the nearby Camp Greenleaf in Chickamauga Park. Although the group was discontinued shortly after the armistice, historian Gilbert Govan notes that both of these short-lived military programs had a twofold

significance for UC: They afforded an opportunity for the University to make meaningful contributions to the war effort, and they provided a source of revenue. For hosting the SATC unit, the University received \$12,609 in compensation from the U.S. War Department, which helped keep the unit running through the economic hardships caused by the war.⁵

In the 1919 *Moccasin* yearbook, there is a memorial page to the UC students who died in World War I. The page

pays tribute: "The worth of an education may be measured only by its results. The worth of a college may be measured by the men it produces. The high rank of both was proved indisputably by the war. The University's service roll includes one hundred and eighty names. Five of her sons gave their lives. What more could be given?" **C**



RUNNING THE DASH

Catching up with Necole Jones

BY LAURA BOND

Necole Jones '99

has missed only two UTC

Homecomings since graduating almost two decades ago. Making the annual trip from her hometown of Memphis to Chattanooga has become one of her favorite events of the year. "I make sure to stop by campus to look at all the different buildings that have been built. It's just amazing to see the growth year after year," she says.

Jones has done her fair share of growing, too. When she graduated from UTC, she was unsure about her career path. Now, she's an accomplished human resources professional with more than 15 years' experience advising some of the world's largest companies. With previous stints with Coca-Cola and Lowe's under her belt, she currently works as a human resources business partner at Smith and Nephew, a multinational medical equipment manufacturing company.

As a political science major, Jones long had law school on her mind, but a chance opportunity with a member of her church who owned a childcare facility changed her path forever. "She had received several grants from the Tennessee Department of Education and needed someone to handle a number of HR initiatives like managing compliance with the different staffing requirements. She basically created a position for me," Jones says.

The self-described "people person" quickly fell in love with the world of HR and never looked back. Jones describes her work as serving as the company's "equilibrium." "HR serves as the conduit between management and employees. We don't take sides. We're only on the side of doing the right thing," she explains. "Regardless of whether it's going to be something that negatively impacts management or negatively impacts employees, we always have to do the right thing. HR is like the conscience of the company."

According to Jones' manager, Emily Simpson, the human resources senior director of Smith and Nephew's global marketing and global research and development divisions, Jones has always been good at working with others.

"Necole is very solution-oriented. She will point out an issue, but she'll also come up with a solution," Simpson says. "She's very collaborative, which is important for her

role. Necole can flex her communication style to work effectively with her clients and business partners, as well as other HR professionals."

Though Jones didn't follow a traditional career path for her major, she says she still uses what she learned in her UTC classes to this day. "I utilize a lot of things from a legal perspective in doing my job, whether it's employer relations, terminations or reductions in force. I remember doing business-case scenarios and at the time thinking, 'Why is my professor giving me this assignment?' But it really helped build my analytical skills."

Jones not only graduated with marketable skills, but with 18 new best friends after she joined Delta Sigma Theta sorority during her junior year. "It was a great experience. It taught me so much about sisterhood," she says. "To be away from home, it was exciting to meet people who were like-minded. We helped each other grow into womanhood. I still talk to them to this day.

"As I get older, I realize it's important to rely on those relationships," Jones continues. "When my father passed in 2014, my line sisters and other friends from UTC were there to text me to find out how I was doing. It's just reassuring to have the friendship and sisterhood to help you go through your trials and tribulations."

For Jones, it's important to give back to the people who helped change her life. She's still actively involved in Delta Sigma Theta, serving in various positions at the Shelby County alumnae chapter. She's currently the state coordinator for Tennessee, providing guidance and assistance with chapter management, fiscal oversight, compliance and membership matters.

"I want to make sure that, whenever I leave this Earth, there's a legacy," she says. "One of the past Delta national presidents often talked about 'running the dash.' The dash is time between your date of birth and your date of death. It's the most important part of who you are. If you don't do anything impactful in your dash, then what have you contributed to this world? For me, it's about giving back to the organizations and people and institutions that have helped me become who I am today." **C**

A woman with dark, wavy hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a black, short-sleeved dress with a white Peter Pan collar and a multi-strand pearl necklace. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The background is a bright, modern office space with large windows and contemporary furniture.

**“I want to
make sure that,
whenever I
leave this Earth,
there’s a legacy.”**

Allen Gillespie photo



EARNING ARTISTIC SUCCESS

Not a Typical Song and Dance Life for
Award-Winning Alumnus Ben Williams

 utc.edu/Ben-Williams

BY SARAH JOYNER

This theatre

alumnus made a beeline to New York City after graduation. His onstage experiments have gained attention, attracted awards and landed him on the cover and in the pages of *American Theatre Magazine*.

Ben Williams '03 was studying abroad at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, when he fell in love.

It was during that year overseas when he saw *Kral Oidipus*, by a company called HaDivadlo, for the first time, and then four more times. Although it was staged in a small theater, the show felt expansive and dreamlike, like “something between a fairytale and a sci-fi film ... it blew my mind,” Williams says. After that, there was no turning back. He was chasing after the possibilities afforded by experimental theater.

Any attempt to stage a show without a script and with the artistic freedom rarely given to Broadway productions is how Williams describes experimental theater—the genre in which he has seen so much success, with accolades to prove it. Most impressive is the recognition he received with an

Obie Award, Off-Broadway's equivalent of a Tony, for his sound design work with Matt Tierney on *The Select* (*The Sun Also Rises*).

Described by *The New York Times* as a "motley assortment of sounds," the audio design for this production inspired by Ernest Hemingway's novel was managed by performers onstage instead of by a crew in a box at the back of the theater. Williams and Tierney controlled the sounds for fight scenes, dropped bottles, music and more from behind a bar or desk onstage, all without breaking character.

Williams pulled double-duty again in *This is the Color Described by the Time*, where he created the sound design and performed it live from the stage while playing character Thornton Wilder. During the show, the audience wore

headphones to really get inside the main character's head, says Williams. "It's a more experiential kind of production, one that makes simple acts like reading, writing, cooking, eating and even thinking a very visceral encounter," he adds.

When he's mastering sounds for a production while also performing onstage or touring extensively across five continents, Williams embodies how the potential for what can be done on stage is limitless and tosses traditional expectations out the window.

"As a working artist, I don't have a day job. I see my profession as a form of protest, which doesn't mean that my work has to be overtly political."

Sometimes, Williams says, he's in your face, but other times his commentary sneaks up on you. He recently worked

with UTC alumnus Brian Cagle '97 to create *Mind on Heaven*. A hybrid show, Williams says, it's "part documentary, part conjuring, part performance" and inspired by his and Cagle's late friend Dennis Palmer, a self-taught Chattanooga artist and musician.

Presented in both New York City and Chattanooga, the impetus behind the show was to find "simple, disarming ways to talk about racism," Williams explains. "A recurring theme in the show is how Southern artists represent Native Americans, African-Americans and the Civil War." Alongside Palmer, Williams and Cagle pulled from old videos and created original animations. They broke plates and performed a dance originally created by a 1930s vaudeville actor to explore Southern racism, inclusion and the "messy, nuanced area between." **C**



Ben Williams kicked off his career as an actor, director, sound and video designer in New York City with the Wooster Group, an experimental theater company known for their original works in theater, media and dance. Photo courtesy of *The New York Times*.

FATHER, STUDENT, LANDSCAPER

Heath Luallen Has a Lot on His Plate



*Patrick
and Heath
Luallen review
homework.*

BY SHAWN RYAN

Heath Luallen is going for the trifecta. He's

pursuing undergraduate degrees in philosophy and religious studies at UTC. He works full-time as a supervisor on the University's landscaping crew.

And he's a single parent raising a 13-year-old son.

That's a lot of balls to juggle, he admits, but he takes steps to make sure none of them hit the ground. "I drink lots of water; I exercise a lot. That keeps my stress level down," he says. "I'm out here in nature eight hours a day, so I have a very good serotonin level. I get that mix of nature and nurture. And also with my education, my brain is active."

Luallen has worked at UTC since 2009 and is taking six credit hours a semester, a drop from his original course load. "As a full-time employee and full-time single parent, I wasn't making A's as I like to do," he says. He now plans to graduate in December and wants to pursue a master's degree and perhaps a Ph.D. so he can be a professor, Luallen reports.

Luallen must be at work at 7 a.m., so each weekday he wakes up his son, Patrick, then he must leave the house before the teenager catches the school bus to Tyner Middle Academy. But Luallen is confident that his son—who currently wants to be a computer programmer—has it all

together and makes sound judgments. "Now that my son is 13, he's very responsible and he's a very independent guy. I get him up and get him started. He has his clothes ready the night before; his books and da da da and all of that, so I have to leave him and he has to get to his bus stop by himself."

It may seem surprising to have a conversation with a landscaper who quotes famous philosophers and historical figures, but that's the way Luallen likes it. "I quote Nietzsche and Aristotle and most people I come in contact with are like, 'Whoa, I didn't expect that at all,'" he says. The drive to "better myself," he says, is grounded on his son, whom he calls "my inspiration. I'm 43 and when he sees me still struggling to accomplish degrees, he's like, 'Wow, my Dad doesn't quit.'"

Luallen doesn't just focus on classroom knowledge, says Tom Ellis, assistant vice chancellor for operations. "He has shown great initiative in improving his knowledge of landscape development and care over the years," Ellis says. "Heath's efforts have been vital to presenting the best possible exterior environment for our campus community."

Gretchen Potts, who taught Luallen in a general chemistry class years ago, describes him as "the employee that everyone strives to be. He doesn't just do the job, he does the job well," she says. "He cares that things look good. I've seen him pick

“...when he sees me still struggling to accomplish degrees, he’s like, ‘Wow, my Dad doesn’t quit.’ ”

up trash if he sees it on the ground, do a lot of the little things that others might not.”

The quality of his work is even more impressive considering that much of the year he’s working all day in the summer sun, she adds. “Heath embodies what we all should be,” she says.

Luallen says Potts is one of the reasons he feels that everyone on the campus is part of a large family. “Although we have faculty members and we have staff, I really don’t feel the difference that much,” he says. “And I had it brought to my attention the other day.”

He and Potts were passing on the sidewalk and he said, “Hi, Dr. Potts. And she replied, ‘Heath, stop doing that. We are colleagues. Call me Gretchen,’” he recalls. “That’s one of the greatest things I like about here,” he says. “Everybody makes you feel as if we’re equal and nobody’s superior to another.” **C**



Heath Luallen at work.

 utc.edu/father-student

Everyone in Chattanooga knows what a beautiful campus UTC has. Now that beauty has been recognized nationally.

The website *College Consensus* has picked UTC as one of the Top 30 schools in the country in the category of Most Beautiful College Campuses in the Fall.



“UTC’s campus—120 acres of urban forest—is a handsome, natural haven in the heart of the city, just blocks from the Tennessee River,” the website writes. “The UTC Arboretum is home to more than 60 species of tree, more than 2,000 specimens in all, including old-growth trees that were there before the college. Of course, around early November, the entire campus is lit up by some of the most beautiful fall foliage imaginable.”

To make its lists, *College Consensus* gathers rankings and survey information from such sources as *U.S. News*, *Forbes* and *Wall Street Journal*. Its lists include such categories as

- Best Regional
- Best Public
- Best Private
- Best Christian
- Best Historically Black
- Best College Dorms and Dining Halls
- Most Affordable



To see the rankings for Most Beautiful Campuses in the Fall, go to

 utc.edu/most-beautiful-campus

A DEVELOPING CAREER

And Life in Chattanooga



Thomas Connolly at one of his construction projects.

BY GINA STAFFORD

For native West

Tennessean Thomas Connolly, living and working in his adopted hometown of Chattanooga is enhanced by his status as a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Connolly, a Chattanooga real-estate developer, is bringing residential and retail property to trendy downtown neighborhoods after establishing his own firm in 2017.

“One of my first projects is East By Main Townhomes, across from Velo Coffee on Chattanooga’s Southside. That was my first project on the property-development side and, since then, we’ve just finished 22 apartments and about 4,000 square feet of retail space,” Connolly says. “I’m currently either in construction or beginning construction on about 30 residential properties on the Southside.”

He is a member of the 2015 class of Chattanooga Protégé, a chamber-sponsored effort to cultivate leadership and opportunity for young professionals. That experience, he says, is among multiple advantages resulting from being a member of the UTC class of 2008. “Chattanooga is a special city. It’s large enough that you always have opportunity, but small enough that you can connect with the right people to bring opportunities to fruition,” he says. “Being a part of UTC alumni and living in Chattanooga makes that even better because of how plugged-in you are to the community.”

Before he chose to attend UTC, Connolly knew nothing about the campus or the city. His decision to traverse the state from its northwest corner in Dyersburg and come to Chattanooga was influenced by a high school friend who did the same a couple of years earlier. “I’m a first-generation college graduate, and I had no preconceived ideas of how

college was supposed to be or not be,” he says. “After my buddy raved about it, I visited campus and thought it looked like a great school in a great city. In fact, I think UTC was the only school I applied to, and I was sold on my first visit.”

As is the case for a lot of students leaving home for the first time, Connolly, who eventually majored in psychology at UTC, wanted to feel independent, to get out of the shadow of home. “I guess I went about as far from Dyersburg as I could and still be an in-state student,” he says, “and my experience as a student helped me in a few different ways. You learn about operating as an adult in society, and when you’re thrust into a new place for the first time—300 miles from home—you’re forced to develop problem-solving skills, time-management skills and to get along with all different kinds of people.”

Connolly’s first job out of college took him to an Atlanta real-estate firm. He soon realized real estate and property development was the career path for him, and he went to night school at Georgia State University in Atlanta to earn an MBA with a concentration in real-estate finance and investing. Soon after, he also realized the constant traffic and other realities of mega-city life were not for him.

“Chattanooga felt like home, and I’d had such a great experience on campus and in the community—with the diversity of people, so many things to do, such an outdoor-oriented place—that I loved getting to come back here,” he says. “Not to mention, it’s been a lot of fun to watch the revitalization of the Southside and North Shore communities. I’ve also gotten back to going to Mocs football and basketball games, and that’s brought the whole experience of being connected to my university and to my city together for me, and it makes living in Chattanooga even more special.” **C**

FIRST IMPRESSIONS?

Psychology Professor Rogers' Research Takes a Look

BY SHAWN RYAN

You've never met the

person before, so you spend some time chatting with him, getting to know him a bit, his likes and dislikes, his interests. Then the conversation ends and he walks away. "Wow," you think, "that person has some issues."

You're probably right.

Kate Rogers, an assistant professor in UTC's Department of Psychology, has spent several years studying whether first impressions are truly accurate and if some of us are better at it. In general, she says, "first impressions are typically somewhat accurate."

"That's not to say they are perfect, but it's also not very common to be incredibly wrong," she explains. "If we were universally horrible at it, why would we do job interviews or decide not to pursue a relationship after a first date?" Rogers' study, done in a partnership with her graduate advisor, Jeremy Biesanz from the University of British Columbia, indicates that there are people who are "good judges" of character on first meeting.

But the skill is somewhat two-pronged.

While good judges are skillful at picking up verbal and visual clues, the person being judged also must be a "good target," someone who is honest and forthcoming in conversation and also gives visual clues that are fairly easy to pick out, Rogers says. "It's pretty easy for us to tell how talkative someone is, so talkativeness would be easy to observe. But we have a harder time telling how much someone worries because worrying is something that mostly goes on in your head.

"Finally, one of the most consistent connections to the good target is psychological adjustment—mentally healthy, stable emotions, good self-esteem—because individuals who are well-adjusted tend to be more consistent and behave more in line with their true selves."

But studies show, and her research backs up, that a "good judge is also able to get more information from a target."

To gather data for the study, Rogers and Biesanz pored over previous research, trying to determine whether the former studies were well-designed so their conclusions could be trusted. But they also did experiments of their own with 3,105 participants placed in groups and basically told: "Just introduce yourself and try to get to know each other." They concluded that while finding someone with the deductive skills of Sherlock Holmes is rare at best, still there are those who "are better than others."

"Being significantly better or exceptional at forming accurate first impressions is relatively uncommon. That's mostly because people don't vary all that much," she says. **C**





Billy Weeks photo



Allie Schrenker (with ball)

DISCOVERING HER UNIQUENESS AND BEAUTY

UTC's Schrenker Competes in International Rugby

BY LAURA BOND **Why did Allie Schrenker**

decide to sign up for the women's rugby club team at UTC despite never having played before? "I just wanted to hit people," she says with a laugh. "I just walked up to a booth at orientation and asked, 'Women can play rugby?' I had no idea. I signed up right there."

What started as a way to get out some aggression has turned into a full-blown, self-described obsession and future career. A senior majoring in communications, Schrenker is co-captain of the UTC women's club team and spent a week this past summer competing in an international tournament in Mexico City.

After completing a grueling tryout process with USA Rugby South, the 20-year-old was selected as the second-youngest player to join the team in the Rugby Americas North 10s championship. "It was unreal to be in another country playing the sport that I love, surrounded by so many like-minded people. It was honestly a dream come true," she says. Schrenker and her teammates went on to win the tournament after facing off against squads from the Bahamas, Mexico and Jamaica.

Schrenker loves to win but for her, rugby is more about the camaraderie. She spent her childhood playing multiple sports such as swimming and basketball in her hometown of Bristol, Tennessee, and feels that she's found true, lifelong friends in her rugby teammates. "There is this intense bond in rugby that I've never, ever come close to experiencing in any other sport," she says. "Rugby is such a cultural sport. Every player has so much respect for the game and for their teammates and opponents. It's the only sport I've ever played where you can dominate a team and then have a beer with them after the game.

"The high intensity of the sport demands respect. You get hit so hard and you don't think you can get back up, but you have to. And you do it over and over and over again. It is a challenge in every sense of the word. It takes a certain kind of person to play rugby, and I think every single rugby player knows that. That's where the respect comes from."

The women on the rugby team are now some of Schrenker's best friends. "They're wonderful people, so relentless and loving. I know that any one of them would do anything for me because they already have during practices and games. I sprained my wrist last fall and had to be taken out of a game. I was crying so hard. I was in a lot of pain, but I was mostly worried about not being able to continue to play the sport I love.



“I had so many teammates come up to me crying afterward. I was like, ‘Why are you crying? Are you hurt, too?’ They said, ‘No, we thought you wouldn’t be able to play anymore. We know this is your dream.’ It was amazing to realize that many people understand you so well and will be there for you like that. I have goosebumps right now just remembering it. I love them so much. I really do.”

Rugby has given Schrenker more than a sense of community; it’s helped her with self-acceptance as well. At 5-9, 187 pounds, she dominates on the rugby pitch—what the field is called in the sport—but fitting in with her high school peers wasn’t so easy. “Before rugby, I had never really been that confident in myself. I come from a small town where all the popular girls were small and feminine. In rugby, everyone is encouraged to be themselves. Being a ‘big girl’ is admired in the rugby community. Ever since I started playing, I’ve become so much more confident in who I am. Not to be cliché, but rugby has really shown me that my uniqueness is beautiful.”

Schrenker encourages women of all shapes and sizes to try rugby. “All body types are necessary in rugby. The team needs someone who’s very small or 6-foot-tall or 300 pounds to fill all the positions,” she explains. “For my position, you have to

“There is this intense bond in rugby that I’ve never, ever come close to experiencing in any other sport.”

be big. You have to have force. But there’s another position where the person needs to be tiny to really excel. Rugby needs everybody, and we appreciate everybody. No other sport really offers that.”

For now, Schrenker is finishing up her bachelor’s degree and hopes to try out for some professional rugby teams in Europe after she graduates. “I knew I loved playing rugby since my sophomore year, but I had never allowed myself to think that I could do something with it,” she says. “It seemed like a frivolous idea to me until my coach told me about these upper-level camps I could go to after I graduate. He said I could have a legitimate rugby career. I remember calling home that night and saying, ‘Mom, I think rugby is going to open a lot of doors for me.’ And it has.” **C**



Head Coach Travis Filar

Travis Filar Gains 100th Career Win with UTC Women's Volleyball

Head Coach **Travis Filar**, left, earned his 100th career head coaching victory Sept. 29 when the Mocs volleyball team swept Furman, 3-0. Filar, in his eighth season at UTC, led the Mocs to their first Southern Conference regular season title in 2015. Under his guidance, the Lady Mocs completed back-to-back SoCon Tournament championship appearances in 2015 and 2016.

After capturing wins over Wofford and Furman during opening weekend conference action, the squad took on a challenging schedule that has seen the Mocs compete against six 2017 NCAA Tournament participants. Two of those teams are nationally ranked.



Ryan Gebelein



Dani Szczepanski

The volleyball team finished the first half of Southern Conference play with a 4-4 record and sat in third place in SoCon standings at press time. The squad's overall record is 8-13. UTC captured a pair five-set, comeback wins over Wofford and Samford inside Maclellan Gym so far this season. Junior **Dani Szczepanski** (Oct. 15) and freshman Jaquelyn Langhaim (Oct. 8) earned back-to-back SoCon Offensive Player of the Week honors. Szczepanski leads the team with 177 kills and a hitting percentage of .376, while Langhaim leads in assists with 556 and services aces with 22.

Personal Bests, Overall Improvement in Cross Country

Through two meets in the early part of the 2018 season, the Mocs cross country teams coached by Andy Meyer showed rapid improvement as they sped toward the Southern Conference championships at the end of October.



Emily Poole

The men placed 12th at the Vanderbilt Commodore Invitational led by **Ryan Gebelein**, while the women, behind **Emily Poole's** lead-setting pace, finished 15th. The Mocs' second race of the year was at the prestigious Greater Louisville Classic. Chattanooga faced off against top competition both regionally and nationally in the Gold Division race.

Gebelein, Mark Britt, Jonathan Boyd and Ryan Phillips each ran personal record times in Louisville, while all the returning runners improved their times from the same meet last season. Poole improved her time at Louisville while Sophia Neglia, Rebekah Wich and Abby Bateman each posted career-best times.

Mocs' women are ranked 15th in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) South Region. The women won the Berry College Invitational. Emily Poole placed second and nine placed in the Top 25. The men finished second. Mark Britt passed Nathan Watson in the final stretch to place seventh. Watson was ninth. UTC had three in the Top 15.

Tyrell Price



Football Mocs Raced to Early 4-0 Record

The second Mocs football season under Head Coach Tom Arth got off to a hot start. The Mocs went 4-0 out of the gate and climbed as high as No. 20 in the national polls. A 27-20 victory at home against No. 17 Samford on Sept. 22 gave UTC a 4-0 mark for just the sixth time in school history.

While there have been contributions all over the field, the brightest star through the first half of the season is sophomore receiver Bryce Nunnelly. Through six games, he led the Southern Conference and was third in the nation with 128 receiving yards-per-game. He also led the league and stood at No. 4 in the FCS with six receiving touchdowns. Nunnelly has twice garnered SoCon Offensive Player of the Week honors, including National Player of the Week recognition after posting 10 catches for 268 yards at The Citadel. Nunnelly is one of the top students on the team, carrying a 3.85 GPA as a mechanical engineering major.

Junior quarterback Nick Tiano has also been impressive. Just past mid-season, he was third in the SoCon and No. 18 in the FCS with 269 passing yards per game. His 10 passing TDs are in the top 25 rankings among college quarterbacks in the U.S., and he had thrown just three interceptions in six games.

Defensively, UTC had allowed just 20 points per game, which was second in the SoCon and No. 20 in the FCS. Senior defensive linemen Isaiah Mack and Derek Mahaffey led the team up front, while junior linebacker Marshall Cooper was second in the SoCon with 9.2 tackles per game.

The Mocs hit a rough spot in games 5 and 6, falling to the top two teams in the league. They lost at ETSU 17-14 on Sept. 29, and at home to No. 6 Wofford 21-10 on Oct. 6.

At press time, the Mocs were 5-2 and 3-2 in the SoCon.

Arnold, Shields Lead Mocs Soccer

The Mocs soccer team is making strides under Head Coach Gavin McKinney as the team makes its way through the UTC record books this fall. The squad is headed for a spot on the Mocs' top five all-time wins list, as well as bests for shutouts and fewest goals allowed.



Chloe Arnold

UTC played stout in non-conference action that included past conference champions and NCAA Tournament participants. At press time, the Mocs were in fourth place in Southern Conference standings. Just past the halfway mark in the season, the record is 8-6-2 overall and 4-2-1 in the SoCon, good for fourth place in league standings.

Chloe Arnold and Ashton Shields are making waves individually. Arnold, the reigning SoCon Freshman of the Year, leads the conference in goals scored and ranks among the top three in points, assists, shots and game-winning goals. Shields leads the league in shutouts and saves percentage and has the best goals-against average. Both rank high in the NCAA. Arnold is ranked in 12 statistical categories and is 10th for most goals and 11th for total points. Shields ranks among the leaders in four categories, including 11th for saves percentage.

Simonsen Paces Men's Links Efforts

The men captured their first win since the 2013 Southern Conference Championships at the Memphis Intercollegiate. The 2-stroke triumph over the host Tigers was fueled by sophomore **Oliver Simonsen** with timely help from junior Will Porter and freshman Alex Cobb.

Coach Mark Guhne reported that Simonsen set UTC's 54-hole scoring record with a 21-under par 195, winning individually by 13 shots at Colonial Country Club. He saved the best for last, playing his final nine holes at 29 (-7), including an eagle-birdie-birdie finish. Porter was third with a career-low 7-under 209. Cobb shot 3-under 69 in the pressure-packed final 18, ending his round with birdies on 17 and 18 to help clinch the win.

Simonsen finished runner-up the next time out at the Hummingbird Intercollegiate. He shot 8-under over the 54 holes, extending his streak to six straight under-par cards. The last time a Moc turned in six or more par or better cards was current PGA TOUR member Stephan Jaeger '12 in 2012 with eight in a row from the LSU National Invite through the NCAA Bowling Green Regionals win. Simonsen set a new school record for career rounds of 65 or better with three such rounds. All have come this fall and in his last nine rounds of play. He has three top 10s in four starts with one win and is 24-under par.



Oliver Simonsen

Women Golfers Improving

The women's golf team began the 2018-19 season with one of the youngest squads of Coach **Colette Murray**'s tenure (12th year). Just two student-athletes return from last year to go with a junior transfer from St. John's, a sophomore transfer from the Czech Republic and four freshmen.



The women started with tough events at UT Knoxville and Vanderbilt University finishing 15th and 14th, respectively. Senior **Monica San Juan** led the way in both tourneys.

San Juan, an All-Southern Conference pick in 2017 and 2018, tied for 31st in Knoxville, leading the event in pars with 39 over 54 holes. She tied for 15th at 1-under. The final round was cancelled after 10 holes due to rain after San Juan had moved into the top 10, only to see it washed away.

Junior **Maddy McDanel** earned her first career top 5 shooting 2-under par 208 at the Princess Anne Invitational. The 208 is the second-lowest round in school history behind Emily McLennan's 205 winning the 2015 Fall Invitational.

The Mocs are working toward a sixth SoCon Championship. The team has finished first or second in each of the last 10 championships.



LEGENDS AND LEADERS EVENT

The UTC 2018 Legends and Leaders banquet in September saw honored graduates and community partners recognized for their career work and success in a variety of endeavors.

Distinguished Alumnus Award

TIM ARNOLD '84, '88

When Tim Arnold received the letter from UTC telling him that he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, he thought there had been a mistake. "Surely, this cannot be right," he said. "Surely they meant to send me the unpaid parking fines notice and this letter was intended for someone else."

No, the letter went to the correct address. As president and CEO of Colonial Life, Arnold has helped turn the company into one of the nation's largest life and accident insurance firms.

Having earned a UTC degree in business management in 1984 and a master's in business administration in 1988, Arnold immediately was hired by Unum, a Chattanooga-based Fortune 500 company. After 26 years with Unum, he joined the senior team of Colonial Life, a member of the Unum Group family of businesses. He took over as CEO of Colonial Life in January 2015, and he and his wife Edie now live in Elgin, South Carolina, where the company is headquartered. "I learned so much here about the value of an education, about how to lead and how to be part of a team," he said during his acceptance speech. "I'm so proud of the way the school has grown and the reputation that the school continues to have."

When living in Chattanooga, Arnold worked with Girls Inc. and First Tee of Chattanooga, which introduces golf to kids and teens, who often live in economically disadvantaged areas. In his current home, he is board chair for the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families and for the American Heart Association.

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

KINO BECTON '03, '08

Education was not the first thing that popped into Kino Becton's head when he made his initial trip to UTC in 1999. "Man, the women are really beautiful here," he remembers thinking.

The first recipient of the newly-created Outstanding Young Alumnus Award, Becton has a background in local community relations and federal congressional responsibilities as well as corporate public affairs initiatives and state legislative agendas. In 2003, he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in criminal justice in 2008.

"I walked onto this campus 20 years ago, a young black kid from Memphis, not knowing exactly where I was going and not knowing what the future held for me, not knowing the people that were going to be helping to build a foundation that I call home," he told the audience during the awards ceremony. "They were really the foundation that allowed me to go out to do the things that I really wanted to do."

Before joining the private sector, Becton worked for former U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp from Tennessee's Third Congressional District. He spent five years serving as an aide to the congressman in his Chattanooga office and was responsible for managing a variety of tasks related to government relations and federal issues. Most recently, he served as the senior director of national government and regulatory affairs with American Water, handling the company's day-to-day collaborations with the U.S. government.



From left; Steven Angle, UTC chancellor, Tim Arnold, Kino Becton, Diane Wolford, John Thornton, award recipients, and Donna Lawrence, UTC alumni president.

Outstanding Service Award 2018 JOHN “THUNDER” THORNTON

When John “Thunder” Thornton picks up the phone and calls his friends, asking them to contribute to UTC, regardless whether the money is for a building fund, a scholarship or any other program, “It’s easy,” reports the 2018 Outstanding Service Award recipient. “People want to give to winners and they do it without question and because they have confidence in the leadership of this university,” he said. “So really, it’s not hard to get on the phone and raise money. I thank you all for this great award. I am undeserving,” he said at the ceremony. “I’ll do everything I can to help this university.”

Thornton knows money. To say he is a real-estate developer is like saying the Super Bowl is just a football game. He built his first luxury development in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in 1991 and now has other such developments in eight states. His earlier career success came when his company, American Rug Craftsmen, became the nation’s largest producer of decorative floor mats and was a supplier to Wal-Mart. Under Thornton’s direction, American Rug was twice named Wal-Mart’s Vendor of the Year.

His contributions to UTC have been recognized before. In 1999, he was one of the first inductees into the UTC Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, and he has served on the UC Foundation and the UTC Chancellor’s Roundtable. Thornton chaired the capital campaign for the Joseph F. Decosimo Success Center in the Gary W. Rollins College of Business and was a driving force behind the development of the Wolford Family Strength and Conditioning Center.

Outstanding Service Award 2017 JAMES “BUCKY” WOLFORD ’69

Awarded Posthumously

Coming to UTC on an athletic scholarship in the late 1960s was the first step in developing two lifelong loves for the late James “Bucky” Wolford. One is UTC itself; the other is his wife Diane. Mrs. Wolford was presented her husband’s 2017 Outstanding Service Award at the Legends and Leaders banquet in September.

“You go to school here and everything about it just means so much to you and, in Bucky’s case, he had a scholarship that provided him his education, and he always felt like he owed the university something back,” Diane Wolford said. “He loved this university and was truly honored to serve it. He really loved it.”

Added John “Thunder” Thornton, one of Bucky’s lifelong friends, “Bucky embodied this university. He was the guy. If I was a grain of sand, he was the whole beach in comparison.”

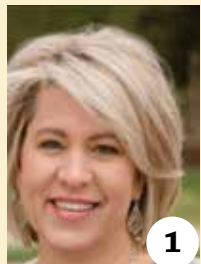
Wolford was a successful businessman in his lifetime with leadership positions at Chattanooga’s CBL & Associates Properties and with his own company, Wolford Development Inc. He continued his connection to UTC by serving on several boards, including the UC Foundation and, most recently, as Chair of the UC Foundation Board. He also is a member of the UTC Sports Hall of Fame and Gary W. Rollins College of Business Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame.

Wolford’s legacy is seen on campus through the Wolford Strength and Conditioning Center. The family name will be even more visible when the new Wolford Family Athletics Center, a 70,000-square-foot addition and renovation to McKenzie Arena, is completed. **C**

HERE AND THERE

Denise Cook '17, '18 was appointed to the position of court director for Hamilton County Juvenile Court. She previously served as the court's social services supervisor, where she managed staff as well as all of the court's volunteer services. Cook earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's of public administration from UTC. [Photo 1](#)

Justin Smith '05 was hired as client advisor at Patton Albertson & Miller, a financial management firm



providing comprehensive wealth management and trust services to individuals, families, institutions, physicians and business owners. Smith currently is a member on the UTC Planned Giving Advisory Council. [Photo 2](#)

W. Adam Izell '05 has joined the Chattanooga law firm of Duncan, Hatcher, Holland and Fleenor, P.C. He practices in the fields of criminal defense, commercial litigation, personal injury, probate/estate litigation, civil rights defense and construction litigation. [Photo 3](#)

Allison J. Plattmier '15, executive director of Educare, a nonprofit that specializes in mental health and substance abuse recovery services, was selected as one of *Nashville Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 Class of 2017 and as the magazine's Employee of the Year for Community Impact. She also was named as one of 2018's Outstanding Young Professionals by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, as a Rising Star by NonProfit PRO magazine and a 2018 National Youth Activist Awards Outstanding Achiever by the Man-Up-Against-Bullying nonprofit.

David Geyer '10 was promoted to director of corporate procurement for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. He directs strategies and policies governing the acquisition of goods, services and contracts for BlueCross.

Jay Dale, '94, '01 was named as market president for First Tennessee Chattanooga, where he oversees the bank's 23 area offices and more than 225 employees. [Photo 4](#)

Dacey Cockrill '15, '18 has joined the law firm of Eric Buchanan and Associates as an associate attorney. She has worked for the firm for more than three years as both a client assistant and a law clerk. Before law school, she graduated summa cum laude from UTC with a bachelor's degree in political science. [Photo 5](#)

Ashley Trantham '11, '15 has joined CHI Memorial Medical Group as a nurse practitioner at CHI Memorial Family Practice Associates in Chattanooga. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from UTC. [Photo 6](#)

LBMC, one of the Southeast's largest accounting and business consulting firms, has promoted three UTC graduates in Chattanooga. **Brent Jolly** '05 has been named manager in the audit department. [Photo 7](#)

Barry VanDelinder '14 has been named manager in the Transaction Advisory Services Department. **Kris Kawalski** '15 has been named senior in the Audit Department.

Caroline Shepard '18 has been appointed marketing specialist for the early childhood learning program known as Chattanooga Basics. The program covers five evidence-based parenting and care-giving principles that can benefit children from all backgrounds. Early Matters Chattanooga is a team of the community-wide coalition Chattanooga 2.0.

Jill Langston '89, '96 has been promoted to director of corporate governance and corporate secretary at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. She will manage and coordinate the business of the board of directors, which oversees Tennessee's biggest health insurer. In addition

to a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from UTC, Langston earned a master's degree in public administration.

Amy L. Jackson '89 will be the new president of the Catoosa County Georgia Chamber of Commerce starting in January. She has served as the chamber's ambassador and been membership coordinator for the past two years.

Bobby Stone '85 passed away in August in a boating accident. Well-known in Chattanooga's creative community, he co-founded Atomic Films in 1987, a multimedia outfit that won dozens of awards for its work on TV commercials and marketing campaigns, music videos and promotional videos for local organizations such as Blood Assurance and Siskin's Children's Institute. [Photo 8](#)

Yancy Freeman '92, '98, '18, UTC's vice chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Success and interim vice chancellor for Student Affairs, has been named to the board of directors for the Public Education Foundation. He has been with UTC for 24 years. [Photo 9](#)

Betsy B. Alderman, former head of UTC's Communication Department and professor emerita, has been inducted into the Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications Hall of Fame. She retired from UTC in 2016 but has continued to teach as an adjunct professor in the Communication Department. "It's very humbling to join the ranks of some very famous journalists and communicators," Alderman said. [Photo 10](#)

Julia Bursch '15 is now director of operations and special projects at River City Company. She has previously worked for WayPaver, Lamp Post Group and Bellhops.

Seven new board members have been appointed to the UTC Alumni Board of Directors:

- **John Harbison**, '79, '16, lecturer at UTC's Learning and Leadership doctoral program
- **Darrin Ledford**, '94, owner of ImageWorks Printing + Graphics and a member of the Chattanooga City Council
- **Kevin Lusk**, '98, director of Public Relations and Physician Outreach at Vascular Institute of Chattanooga
- **Veronica Peebles**, '94, manager of communications and marketing at CARTA
- **Scott Rowe**, '96, hospital administrator at Healthsouth
- **Ashley Williams**, '07, '14, program coordinator for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
- **Jacob Yost**, '07, educator and coach at the McCallie School

Amie Haun, '07, has joined Forensic and Fraud Investigations as an investigator and director of training and education. She is an accounting lecturer in the Gary W. Rollins College of Business.

VISIT UTC.EDU/ALUMNI FOR ADDITIONAL ALUM





New Mocs Tennis Facility Opens

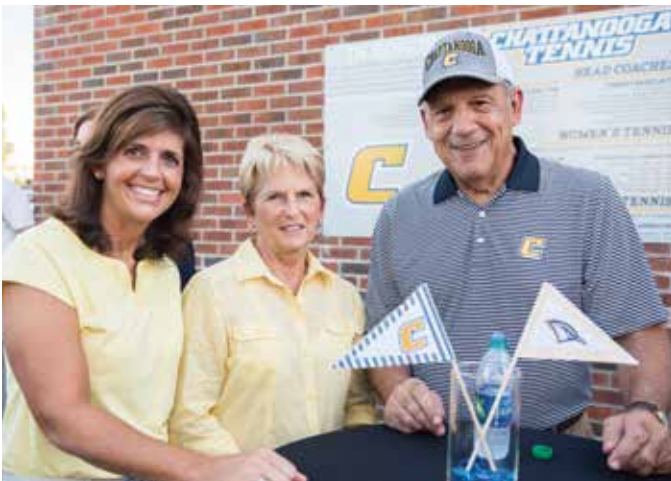
The Athletics Department dedicated the new UTC Tennis Center on Friday, Oct. 5. Situated on the location of the original courts in the heart of campus, the new center features six courts, coaches' offices and locker rooms for both men's and women's programs.

The day after the dedication, alumni players of both UTC men's and women's teams returned to face off in friendly competition.

Men's Coach Chuck Merzbacher used the dedication ceremony to thank administrators and friends of the program for their support, noting that the first official event at the new complex—featuring alumni and current players—was as it should be. Women's Coach Chad Camper agreed, saying the players benefited greatly from stories and time with former players.

Along with Merzbacher and Camper, Chancellor Steven Angle and Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Mark Wharton welcomed the community to the dedication event and commended tennis team student-athletes for their commitment to excellence on the court and in the classroom.

*Left; Amy Long,
Jill '68 and Angelo "Nubby" '69 Napolitano*



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