

# THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA



## Provost's Page

*December 14, 2011*

As we wrap up another successful semester and begin to enjoy this holiday season, I am reminded once again of how great it is to be involved in higher education. Despite the challenges we face, we have enviable jobs with daily opportunities to make a difference in the lives of our students. All typical measures of student success indicate that we are doing a pretty good job at this now and getting better all the time. However, these typical measurements are ultimately inadequate at determining our impact on each individual UTC student. This Saturday at our 2011 December commencement exercises, I will have the pleasure of shaking the hands of about six hundred graduates as they are appropriately recognized for their academic achievements. Every one of them has a story, and everyone represents a positive impact made by UTC faculty and staff. Thank you for all that you do to keep our focus on why we are here: **our students**.

As usual we have too much going on to cover in this newsletter, but I do want to highlight a few items of broad interest. First, let's take a minute to celebrate the news of our reaffirmation of accreditation by SACS for another 10 years. Congratulations to all of us, but especially to the steering committee of Karen Adsit, Linda Johnston, Jocelyn Sanders, Fran Bender, Dick Gruetzemacher, Terry Denniston, DeeDee Anderson, Mary Tanner, Vicki Steinberg, and Teresa McKinney whose incredible effort and leadership made our collective efforts successful. Sorry, but 60 seconds is all we get to enjoy this one because, unlike in the past, accreditation is now a constant process of evaluation and improvement. We now immediately turn our full attention to the implementation of our *Think Achieve* QEP. To that end, we have already recruited two new staff members to support the QEP implementation. In five short years, we will have to report to SACS regarding the success of the QEP.

It has already been announced that Dean Burhenn will be stepping down as Dean of Arts and Sciences at the end of this academic year. A search committee has now been formed and will begin the process with the goal of having the new dean in place by July 1, 2012. A diverse group of faculty to serve on the search committee was nominated from within the College with the assistance of Faculty Senate. Dean Robert Dooley (College of Business) will chair the search and will be joined on the committee by Roland Carter (Music), Matt Greenwell (Art), Tom Rybolt (Chemistry), Vicki Steinberg (Foreign Languages), Chris Horne (Political Science), Felicia McGhee-Hilt (Communication), Irv Resnick (Philosophy and Religion), Katy Rehyansky (English), Amye Warren (Psychology), and Sean Richards (Biology).

At the October meeting of the UT Board of Trustees, we received enthusiastic approval

to proceed with the development of the University Honors College. An external advisory council will be co-chaired by former Chancellors Fred Obear and Bill Stacy. Shortly we will initiate a national search for the founding dean to lead the further development of the new college. The dean will work with all interested colleges, departments, and faculty to more fully define the specific goals, structure, and relationships for the college.

Lastly, it has been a long-term goal of our strategic plan to significantly enhance and expand UTC's on-line programming through Continuing Education and in cooperation with the Walker Teaching Resource Center. I am pleased to announce some administrative changes in Continuing Education and the Walker Teaching Resource Center.

To expand UTC's distance and online learning, we will be forming a new department to coordinate those functions and to serve both faculty and students better. We have begun a search for a Director for Online/Distance Education programming as we move to a more coordinated vision for that programming. This new department will combine some of the services formally offered through Continuing Education and the Walker Teaching Resource Center.

The Walker Center for Teaching and Learning will continue to focus on improving teaching and learning and the use of technology in the classroom. Karen Adsit has been appointed into a new position as Dean of Lifelong Learning, responsible for Continuing Education, Outreach and Non Credit Programs, Online/Distance Education and the Grayson Walker Center for Teaching and Learning. Ginny Reese has been named the Director of Outreach and Non Credit Programs (Continuing Education). This area will still offer programming for UTC's non-credit programming and outreach efforts.

Below are announcements and a briefly annotated list of additional current initiatives. As always, please feel free to contact me directly at [phil-oldham@utc.edu](mailto:phil-oldham@utc.edu) with any suggestions, questions, and/or concerns you may have regarding any university-related issues.

#### CURRENT INITIATIVES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Joan Dunn- Please join us as we celebrate the contributions of **Joan Dunn**, Assistant to the Provost, who is retiring after more than 28 years of dedicated service to UTC. We will have a breakfast reception in the foyer of Founder's Hall on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please come to express your appreciation to Joan and to wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.
- December 2011 Commencement- All faculty members are encouraged to attend commencement exercises scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 17, 2011 in McKenzie Arena. Professor Pedro Campa will be the commencement speaker. We expect more than 600 graduates.
- New Programs Proposed- Two new academic program proposals are working their way through the approval process. One is an undergraduate program in Integrated Studies and the other is a doctoral program in Occupational Therapy.
- Academic Affairs Move- To gain efficiency by consolidating the entire academic affairs staff, the Provost's office and academic affairs staff plan to move into the Oak Street house in early January. Please stop by once we get settled.
- TERA-PAMS- Tennessee Electronic Research Administration (TERA) is a web-based information system that supports research and sponsored program administration through the

Proposal and Award Tracking and Management System (PAMS). This application, recently implemented on all UT campuses, allows for greater integration and collaboration among sponsored program offices across the UT-University system. For more information, please see the web site at:

<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/PartnershipsAndSponsoredPrograms/TERA/TERAHelp.php>

or contact the Office of Partnerships and Sponsored Programs at 425-4431.

- New CIO- Our new Chief Information Officer, Thomas Hoover, should be joining us January 2, 2012.