College of Arts and Sciences
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
2010-2011 in the College

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Bob Swansbrough—“A legacy of integrity, intellect, and kindness”

UTC veteran faculty member and long-serving associate dean Dr. Robert "Bob" Swansbrough died this past February. He was 72, and he’d served the UTC family for 40 years.

Swansbrough was born in Chicago. Bob was still young when his family moved to Southern California. He received a B.A. in history from California State University at Long Beach, and later, both the M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Dr. Swansbrough served in the United States Navy from 1961-1965 as a junior officer on the destroyer U.S.S. Braine (DD630). After release from the Navy, Bob was selected one of twelve Congressional Fellows of the American Political Science Association. He taught at the College of William and Mary, and he served as a legislative assistant, congressional aide, and campaign manager for seven congressional campaigns in Tennessee and California.

Dr. Swansbrough joined the UTC Political Science Department in 1971. He served as head of the department from 1981 to 1991. He was named Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1990, and Associate Dean in 1992. In 1993, he completed the Harvard University Management Development Program.


Dr. Swansbrough served as president of the Tennessee Political Science Association in 1987-1988. He consulted as a political pollster. He was a highly visible TV political analyst, panelist, and show host. His comments and political observations appeared often in newspaper and broadcast stories.

Bob was instrumental in the return of Military Science to UTC, and for his efforts, the U.S. Army Cadet Command recognized Swansbrough with its prestigious General William E. DePuy Award.
Only one other individual has been singled out for the honor.

A highlight of Bob’s professional career came the year before his death in 2009-2010 when he was named a Fulbright Scholar to China. During the Fulbright year, he taught courses at Sichuan University in Chengdu on American Government and United States Foreign Policy. He also delivered guest lectures at a number of campuses throughout the country. During his year away from Chattanooga, he kept people back home informed with a regular and often personal blog of his activities and observations.

Bob is survived by his wife Mary and his children James Raymond and Christina Marie.

As was written about him shortly after his death, “Bob leaves behind a legacy of integrity, intellect, and kindness for the countless students, colleagues, and friends who he affected over a lifetime of teaching. He was a gentleman, scholar, and role model to his devoted wife, children, and siblings throughout his full life.”

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With son James at the Great Wall during Bob’s Fulbright year in China

Bob and a group of Sichuan University students during his 2009-2010 Fulbright experience
Dean Herbert Burhenn

Our new program with the long name, UTeaChattanooga, was launched last fall and has gotten off to a fine start. We enrolled 29 students in the first course in the fall and 32 in the spring. Nineteen of the 29 students continued with the second course in the spring. These initial courses provide immediate experience in classroom teaching and are designed to help students decide whether they have a serious interest in a teaching career. This fall we shall begin offering the advanced courses that will prepare our students, along with the completion of their major, for teaching secondary math or science. It is our hope that the program will significantly increase the number of certified teachers that we graduate in these fields.

This year our Theatre program applied for accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Theatre. A visiting team from the Association was on campus in November, and we received the good news in the spring that our program received accreditation on the first try. All of our fine arts programs—Theatre, Music, and Art—are now accredited by their respective associations.

This issue of the College newsletter features an extended tribute to Bob Swansbrough, who died at the beginning of February from a heart attack. Bob had served as Associate Dean of the College for many years and as editor of this newsletter. His unflagging enthusiasm for teaching and for the world of politics is deeply missed. We are seeking to establish an endowed scholarship in his honor. If you would like to contribute, please send a check, designated for the Swansbrough Scholarship, to the UTC Development Office, Department 6806, 615 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403.
From the Departments

English Professor Dr. Richard Jackson Receives Eric Hoffer Award

Dr. Richard Jackson, University of Tennessee National Alumni Association (UTNAA) Distinguished Professor of English, is the recipient of a 2011 Eric Hoffer Award. The award each year recognizes outstanding writing in a variety of categories for works published by small, micro, and academic presses. The winning stories and essays are published in *Best New Writing*. *The US Review of Books* announces and reviews the winning books. The Eric Hoffer Award, a memorial to the American philosopher Eric Hoffer, was established in 2001 with the purpose of “opening a door to writing of significant merit.”

An internationally recognized writer, Dr. Jackson is the author of ten books of poems, most recently *Resonance Unauthorized Autobiography: New and Selected Poems* and *Svetovi Narazen: Selected Poems*. He has also published several chapbooks of translations, a book of criticism and one of interviews, and several edited books of Slovene poets and anthologies of Slovene poetry.

Dr. Jackson was the recipient of the 2009 Association of Writing and Writing Programs (AWP) George Garrett Award for Outstanding Teaching and Community Service in Literature and the Order of Freedom Medal for literary and humanitarian work in the Balkans by the President of Slovenia, as well as Guggenheim, NEA, and NEH awards, two Witter-Bynner and Fulbright fellowships, and five Pushcart Prizes. In addition he has won awards from *Prairie Schooner Magazine*, *Crazyhorse Magazine* and other publications. He has won teaching awards at UT-Chattanooga and the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program and is a regular workshop leader and reader at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Prague Summer Programs, Vermont College MFA Programs and other venues.

UC-UTC veteran English Professor Tom Ware was feted this spring with a reception recognizing his more than 40 years of teaching at UTC. Dr. Ware formally retired in 2007 from his full-time faculty position, and

Rick Jackson, Hugh Prevost, and outgoing English Department Head Verbie Prevost sharing observations at a recent English faculty dinner
with the close of this spring semester he ended four years of part-time instruction in the English Department for a total of 44 years of classroom and administrative services to the university.

Professor Welsh also directed the senior thesis of Chelsea Cooper, a Humanities major, whose work on phenomenology helped her win the most outstanding senior award.

Geology

Japanese and Spanish earthquakes and their devastating aftermaths—tsunami, mudslides, billions in property damage, and thou-

sands of lost lives dominated the UTC Geology faculty this year. Tennessee contains two significant earthquake zones, The New Madrid in the west and the Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone (ETSZ) stretching in the east from north of Knoxville to the south of Chattanooga. With more than twenty applications for nuclear facilities pending in the eastern United States, events in Japan and Spain focused public attention on the ETSZ, the second most active area in the eastern part of the country. UTC faculty are incorporating into their instruction information and lessons from the events in Japan and the relevance of those lessons to our part of the world.
Department Head and UC Foundation Professor Habte Giorgis Churnet said one must “be careful of those who do not catch up with others, they may later cause tremors!”

Chemistry

Chemistry is back home this year in a refurbished but still venerable Grote Hall. The department now occupies fully the third and fourth floors of the modernized facility.

Dr. Greg Grant received national recognition this year from the American Chemical Society with the ACS Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution. The highly competitive and prestigious honor is sponsored by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement. The award underscores the importance of research with undergraduates with national recognition of a chemistry faculty member and researcher whose work in an undergraduate setting contributes significantly to chemistry and to the professional development of undergraduate students.

The department also this year celebrated 25 years of its annual summer research program for undergraduate students. During the summer program, chemistry students undertake at least ten weeks of research with faculty members.

Communication

Communication students and faculty are active and engaged inside the classroom and out in the 2010-2011 academic year. More than 70 communication majors this year completed internships in a number of professional settings—news, web content management, public relations, advertising, marketing, corporate communication, and sales. Importantly, the Volkswagen Group of America is now sponsoring a paid internship in media and community relations for UTC Communication students.

Communication instructor and production manager Mike Andrews is overseeing student video services for a number of university and community clients, including the UT Chancellor’s Office, the College of Business and School of Nursing.
University Relations, the Admissions and Records offices, Volkswagen, Woodbridge Foam, and Chattanooga Women’s Leadership Institute. Andrews also coordinated a long-needed upgrade to the department’s production facilities. The upgrade provides students with digital facilities in the production control room and the audio-video edit bays.

Communication students remain active and engaged in campus media, including The University Echo, the on-line Mocs News, and The Perch, the university’s streamed radio station. The Perch celebrated its one-year broadcasting anniversary in March 2011.

Department head Betsy Alderman and colleagues Felicia McGhee-Hilt and Mike Andrews began work in the spring on a documentary on the desegregation of the University of Chattanooga in the early 1960s. Drs. Alderman and Hilt interviewed Dr. Horace Traylor, the first African-American to graduate from the then-UC, as well as other black graduates and civil rights leaders. The documentary will be screened in November as part of the university’s 125th anniversary celebration.

Foreign Languages

This past year has been one of accomplishment for the people in Foreign Languages and Literatures. Enrollment increase continues and the faculty curriculum revisions in Classics, French, German, Latin, and Spanish are strengthening the programs and giving the department greater breadth.

Professor of Romance Languages, Dr. Pedro Campa, was recognized by a Festschrift in his honor for his achievements in the field of Emblem Studies. Dr. Campa also coordinated the university’s faculty honors dinner, during which classics professor Joshua Davies was announced as this year’s outstanding teacher in the college.

The department continued its emphasis on study abroad this past summer with Spanish Assistant Professor Dr. Lynn Purkey leading a student adventure to Spain to study at the Franklin Institute of the University of Alcalá.

Military Science

Army ROTC is alive and well at UTC! The MOCS Battalion, 65 Cadets strong, proudly commissioned seven Second Lieutenants into the Active Duty and Reserve Forces during the 2010-2011 academic terms. Congratulations to Second Lieutenants Jeremy Davis, John Dennis, Alistar Fider, Randal Kizziar, Daniel Ley, Joshua Standifer, and Mark Vines.

ROTC participated in the October 2010 Military Appreciation Day MOCS Foot-
ball game ceremonies. Chancellor Brown got in on the action and fired a round out of the salute cannon in celebration of one of the many Home Team touchdowns!

Congratulations to Mr. Josh Philpott for gaining acceptance into the UTC School of Nursing. Mr. Philpott, upon completion of the nursing program, will commission as UTC’s first Army Nurse since the reintroduction of Army ROTC on the UTC Campus in 2007.

History

UTC’s Department of History continued this year efforts to serve the discipline with scholarship and outreach. This past fall the department, with support from Provost Phil Oldham, hosted the annual meeting of the Western Theater Historians Association. Membership in the association is limited to published scholars who study the Western Theater of the U. S. Civil War. This year’s meeting resulted in association members voting to meet in Chattanooga every other year beginning in 2012.

History faculty led by Dr. Andrea Becksvoort continued to host and to sponsor the annual Tennessee History Day secondary school student research competitions. History Day is a national initiative to encourage and to support the study of history in secondary education. History faculty and senior students served as paper and presentation judges during the day’s events. After this year, the department will support UTC’s College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies’ School of Education in a joint History Day effort in southeast Tennessee.

In April, UTC’s chapter of the National History Honor Society (Phi Alpha

Several participants from the annual meeting of the Historians of the Western Theater, hosted by the UTC History Department, visited Sherman’s Reservation, the northern extreme of Missionary Ridge. Left to Right: Sam Elliot, James McDonnough, David Powell, Jim Ogden, Jean Marszalek, John Marszalek, Beth Murray, Smith Murray, Kit Rushing
Theta) welcomed to campus the Seventh Annual Southeastern Tennessee Student History Conference. UTC History faculty members served as panel chairs for research presentations from 19 students from UTC, Covenant College, Southern Adventist University, Lee University, and Bryan College. The conference papers were on subjects that included “Elizabeth [I’s] Androgynous Image as Reflected in Shakespeare’s Comic Heroines,” “Cherokee Civilization, Land Rights, and National Sovereignty, 1825-1828,” “Civil War Attitudes as seen in Children’s Media and Toys,” and “Mohammad Mossadegh and the July 21 Uprising.” UTC’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has participated at the annual conference since 2006; this year marked the second time UTC served as host.

This coming September, the History Department is organizing the annual Tennessee Historians Conference. This year’s conference will be the first time UTC has invited the state’s historians to meet in Chattanooga. The meeting will include panels and presentations focusing on current history scholarship by historians who live or work in Tennessee.

The department experienced this year its five-year program review. The external reviewer commented in his report that UTC’s history department has “enormous potential” and that the department’s activities are impressive.

### Theater and Speech

UTC’s Theater Department is accredited! The department hosted this year a successful accrediting visit from the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). With the recognition as an associate member, the first step to full NAST status, our UTC department is now one of only 168 accredited theater programs in the United States.

Theatre and Speech faculty and students this year produced four mainstage shows, two student honors projects, and...
three studio series shows. One of the main-stage production was a musical directed by theater major Blake Harris.

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**Biology**

Biological and Environmental Sciences continues to grow and now has over 700 majors. This year brought the retirement of Dr. Charles Nelson, long serving leader of the department. Dr. Nelson made many contributions during his 42 years at UTC, including serving as Department Head for 25 years, Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for one and a half years, and co-chair of the UTC Strategic Planning Committee in 2006-2007. John Tucker, current Department Head, said of Dr. Nelson, “He has enriched his students, his colleagues, and his university through his professionalism, wisdom, dedication, and support. He shaped one of the most productive departments in the College as measured by student enrollment, research, publications, and collegiality. We have all benefited immeasurably from his tenure at UTC.” Dr. Nelson plans to continue to engage in research and publication.

Department faculty and students continued to acquire external grant funding, conduct research, and disseminate findings through professional presentations and publications. Many research projects involve environmental quality and human health in the Chattanooga region, including evaluating effects of large animals on a threatened plant (large-flowered skullcap), documenting native plants of the Ocoee River Gorge in response to plans to modify Highway 64, measuring levels of toxicants in human placentas to help determine whether this is a cause of low weight births, documenting levels of pharmaceuticals (drugs) in the Tennessee River, investigating the genetics of colon cancer, deafness, and abnormal bone and muscle development, studying salamander populations in the Enterprise South industrial park, studying the effects of urban development on fish assemblages in local streams, evaluating the habitat value of urban green space (Greenway Farm) for migratory songbirds, and use of Algaewheel® systems to treat TVA fossil plant aqueous pollutants.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA

College of Arts and Sciences

2010-2011 News and Information

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Newly named head of the UTC English Department Joe Wilferth accepting Philosophy head John Phillips' congratulations during a meeting of the college department heads.