

UT officials encouraged by Higher Learning Commission site visit; written report expected in several weeks

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo wrapped up its site visit from evaluators representing the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools last Wednesday, and UT leaders are encouraged by the result.

“Our guests complimented the success of our merger and the resultant strength of this University, saying we are well-positioned for the challenges of the 21st century,” wrote UT President Lloyd Jacobs in a letter distributed to the UT community.

“Those words are a tribute to the efforts of every staff and faculty member, every student, every alum and everyone in the community who works so hard to ensure a strong future for The University of Toledo.”

Jacobs said it will be six to eight weeks until UT receives a written report and months until the process is finalized for this reaccreditation cycle.

Prior to the visit, the HLC consultant evaluators read the self-study UT spent several years preparing and then last week met with scores of faculty, staff and students, both in planned sessions requested by the commission and in open forums.

The HLC team reviewed UT’s success at meeting five key criteria:

- Criterion I: Mission and Integrity;
- Criterion II: Planning for the Future;
- Criterion III: Student Learning and Effective Teaching;

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Medical college names center for trustee/professor emeritus

By Meghan Cunningham

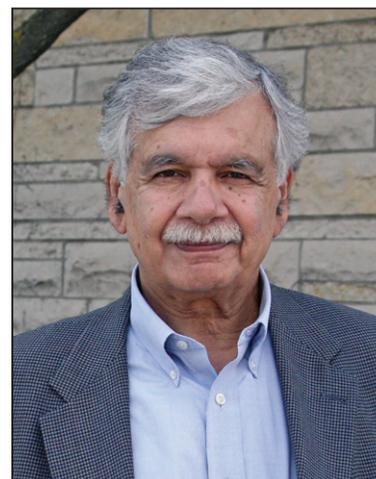
The medical college in Pakistan where Dr. S. Amjad Hussain received his medical degree recently named a new clinical skills laboratory in his honor.

Hussain, UT trustee and professor emeritus of thoracic and cardiovascular

surgery, was recognized by the Khyber Medical College in Peshawar, Pakistan, in January when the school named its new \$1.5 million S. Amjad Hussain Clinical Skills Laboratory. It is the first center at the college to be named after anyone.

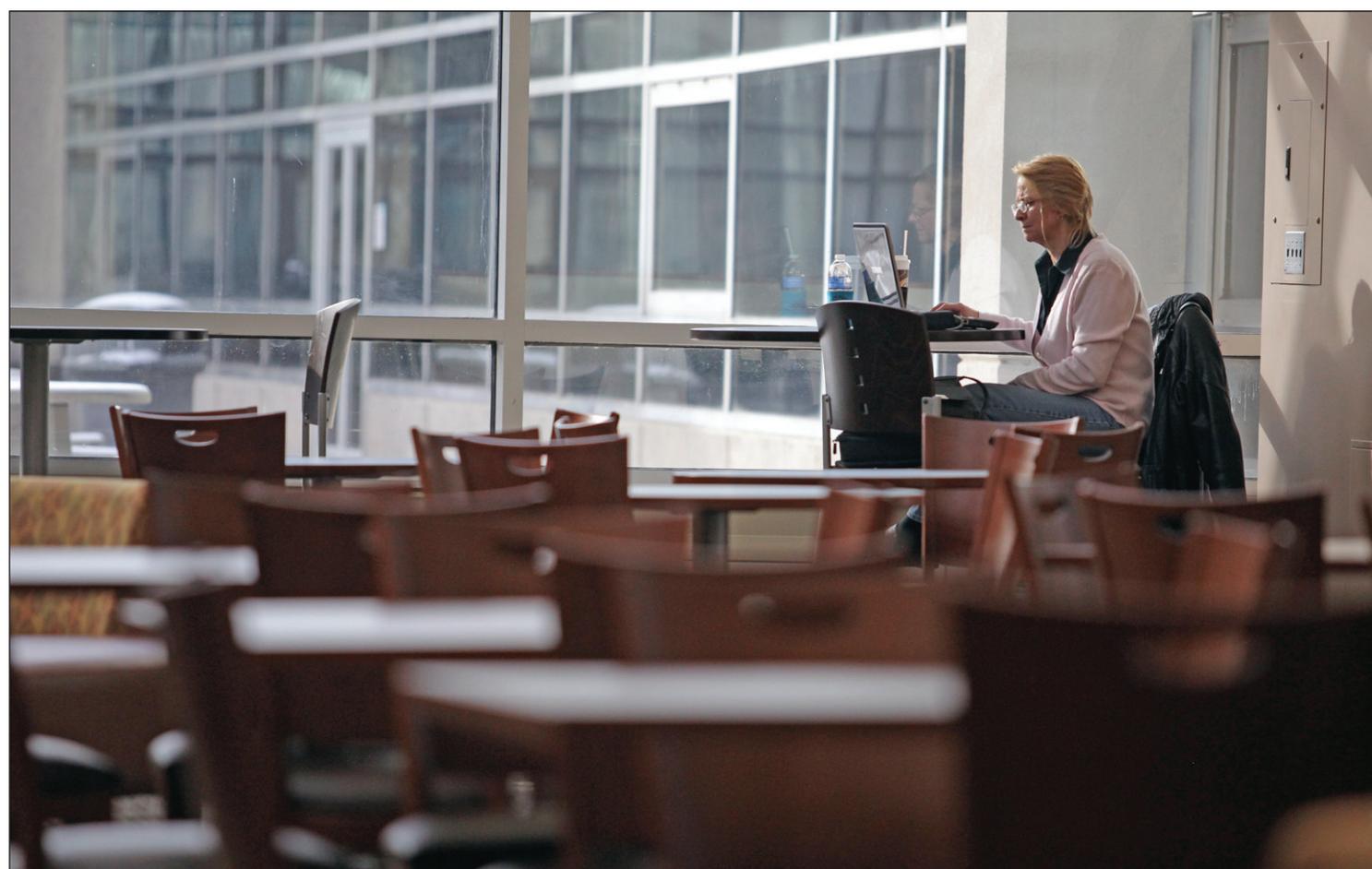
“I felt overwhelmed and humbled by this honor. I firmly believe that I did not do anything for the college out of the ordinary,” Hussain said. “I have always maintained close links with the college and have from time to time helped out, albeit in very small and miniscule ways. I did not expect anything of this nature, particularly of this magnitude.”

Hussain graduated from Khyber Medical College in 1962 and after completing his medical training in the United States, returned to Khyber for four years. Later when he moved back to the United States, Hussain continued yearly visits to Pakistan, where he



Hussain

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REFLECTIONS: Bridget Luman worked on her laptop in the cafeteria in January while waiting for a family member who had an appointment at UT Medical Center.

Photo by Daniel Miller

Higher Learning Commission

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- Criterion IV: Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge; and
- Criterion V: Engagement and Service.

“Our current accreditation cycle is winding down,” Jacobs wrote, “but our efforts to continuously improve the ways we educate

students, conduct research and engage the communities around us are forever ongoing. Processes like these bring institutions together, and I am very proud of what we were able to show the Higher Learning Commission that we’ve collectively accomplished.”

Jacobs also used the letter to thank the hundreds of people both inside and outside the University who spent time preparing for the visit and offered special thanks to HLC Liaison Dr. Penny Poplin Gosetti, vice provost for assessment and strategic planning, and faculty and staff who helped lead the HLC

effort: Dr. Thea Sawicki, Dr. Tom Sharkey, Dr. Charles Blatz, Bryan Pyles, Dr. Constance Shriner, Dr. Charlene Czerniak, Dr. Mojisola Tiamiyu, Dr. Bill Davis, Dr. Jamie Barlowe, Jolene Miller, Dr. Brian Randolph, Marcia King-Blandford, Heather Huntley, Jim Winkler and Barbara Monger.



Photo by Daniel Miller

Celebrating the conclusion of a positive Higher Learning Commission site visit were UT faculty and staff who led the multi-year preparation effort, from left, Jolene Miller, Dr. Bill Davis, Dr. Charles Blatz, Dr. Jamie Barlowe, Jim Winkler; Dr. Penny Poplin Gosetti, Dr. Tom Sharkey, Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, Dr. Brian Randolph, Dr. Constance Shriner; Dr. Thea Sawicki, Dr. Charlene Czerniak, Heather Huntley and Bryan Pyles. Dr. Mojisola Tiamiyu, Marcia King-Blandford and Barbara Monger were not able to be in the photo.

Trustee/professor

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taught classes in surgery at Khyber Medical College. He also performed surgeries at the university hospital until his retirement in 2004.

“I made a commitment to myself that I would go back every year to teach,” Hussain said. “I received an almost free education and

that education helped get me to somewhere. I feel an obligation to pay back the moral debt I owe to the college and to the people of Pakistan.”

Hussain also endowed a visiting professorship between his alma mater and the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences,

enabling young Khyber faculty members to travel to Toledo to learn new teaching and research techniques. Nine people have benefited from that program. He also has sponsored research projects at Khyber Medical College as well as the University of Peshawar.

Hussain, whose accomplishments and philanthropy long have been recognized by Pakistan, also had been offered university presidency positions at two institutions near his hometown, but circumstances did not allow him to accept.

Correction

A story in last week’s issue about studying abroad in China this summer had the wrong deadline date to apply for a travel grant. Students interested in the educational trip are encouraged to apply for the Center for International Studies and Programs Travel Grant for funding up to \$1,200 by Thursday, March 8. For more information, go to utoledo.edu/cisp/travelgrant.

In memoriam

Dianna L. Hennig, Toledo, who worked at UT from 1986 to 1996, died Feb. 23 at age 60. She was assistant director for operations in the Office of Special Event Management.

Patricia Zomkowski, Toledo, a secretary in Institutional Advancement, died Feb. 29 at age 59. She started working at UT in 1992 and joined the development staff in 2003.

Social worker's mission trip to Kenya was eye-opening experience

By Paul Webb

Kenya is a beautiful East African country that is well-known for its safaris and diverse wildlife reservations. But if you talk to Katie Chisholm, a social worker at UT Medical Center, she might tell you a different story about the living conditions for citizens of the country.

"60 percent of Kenyans live in extreme poverty, without adequate food or shelter," she said. "Hunger and malnutrition are common, especially among the children."

Last summer, Chisholm embarked on a mission trip to Kenya that changed her life. Working for Global Health Partnerships, an Albuquerque-based organization that provides humanitarian aid and health care for the poor in Kenya, she traveled to the village of Kisesini to give assistance to the people often called the "poorest of the poor."

"Katie's work was instrumental for the development of the nutrition and hygiene education program that Global Health Partnerships is implementing for families in the region," said Dr. Angelo Tomedi, president of Global Health Partnerships. "We applaud Katie for all of her hard work."

While in the country, her main responsibility was a project to help prevent and treat child malnutrition. To document the issue, she accumulated data regarding



REACHING OUT: Katie Chisholm posed for a photo with a woman and her babies in Kisesini.



WEIGHING IN: Katie Chisholm weighed a child in the village of Kisesini during a mission trip to Kenya last summer.

birth weights and dietary habits and food intake by mothers and their children.

"To qualify for food supplement, the babies had to be 'severely malnourished' as judged by Kenyan government regulations," Chisholm said. "There was a day that I weighed 76 babies and only four of them received the supplement. All of the children we weighed were malnourished, but the government's regulations and qualifications of 'severely malnourished' did not agree. It was one of the most sad things I have had to experience."

The malnutrition problems were only complicated by the severe drought that Kenya was in the midst of during Chisholm's visit.

"Some women would have to walk for two hours to get to what they called 'the river.' Once they were there, they would have to dig three to six feet to get to water. This was a full day's work for someone searching for a drink," Chisholm said. "Once they actually get water, it is very dirty and it causes severe illness unless they have the means to treat the water, which most do not."

Water wasn't the only resource that was extremely difficult to come by — it was all forms of nourishment.

"We had one meal a day that consisted of rice and potatoes," Chisholm said. "The closest market was a two-and-a-half-hour drive, and most people that wanted to go had to walk. Some people just didn't have access to food."

But even with all the hardships she saw in Kenya, Chisholm was able to bring a great message back to work.

"As a hospital social worker here at UTMC, I assist with patient's discharge needs. There are many times that I feel I have exhausted all of my resources and feel as though I cannot help patients get what they need," Chisholm said. "Every time I feel like I have a case that is a lost cause, I remind myself of the sick children and individuals in Kenya and how they have nothing, so I keep trying until I am told there is nothing else I can do for that patient."



Photo by Becky Johnson

SPLASHING! Members of the UT swimming and diving team showed off their 2012 Mid-American Conference Championship trophy they won Feb. 25. Five UT swimmers earned first-team All-MAC honors and two received second-team All-MAC accolades. After the meet, MAC Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher presented UT Coach Liz Hinkleman with the conference Coach of the Year award. This is the second conference championship in three years for the Rockets, and the first under the helm of Hinkleman, who is in her second year as head coach. The team also received Scholar All-American status for fall semester from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America. The team posted a combined 3.450 grade point average during fall semester. "These girls represent the true meaning of being a student-athlete," Hinkleman said. "We are proud of their success both in the classroom and in the pool."



Photo by Steve Johnson



MVP: Mid-American Conference Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher gave Emma Kertesz the Women's Most Valuable Performer Award at the 2012 MAC Indoor Track and Field Championships Feb. 25 in Akron. The UT junior won the mile with a time of 4:47.96, breaking school and MAC Championship meet records, and she came in first place in the 5,000-meter race with a time of 16:53.76. Toledo placed second, a program best.

Photo from University of Akron Athletics Communications

UTNEWS

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Daylight saving time to begin

Don't forget to turn clocks ahead one hour
Sunday, March 11.