

A PUBLICATION OF THE QUILLEN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE | SUMMER 2011

# Quillen Life Lines



**BUILDING  
SUPPORT  
FOR QUILLEN  
STUDENTS**

**Fund-raising  
Initiatives Focus  
on Students**

## DEAN'S MESSAGE:

# Signs of Progress Abundant on Quillen Campus

by Philip C. Bagnell, M.D., Dean of Medicine

**AS** everyone at Quillen joins in celebrating the 100th anniversary of ETSU this year, it occurred to me that the official theme of the university's celebration – “Partnerships, Promise, and Hope” – can be applied specifically to the College of Medicine campus as well. It is even illustrated in this issue of *Life Lines*. Partnerships at Quillen – among alumni, faculty, staff and students – are the lifeblood of our college. Dr. Festus Adebajo's commitment to pediatrics at Quillen is one example. The resolve of alumni to help fund a Student Study Center is another. And speaking of the Student Center, it is a sure sign of

promise that will soon be fulfilled, as construction is progressing steadily. As for hope, the 72 new medical students have arrived here with a quality that is pervasive in those who came before them; they come to Quillen hoping to make a difference – especially in continuing our mission to raise the level of medical care in rural Appalachia. It is a quality that I consider part of the bedrock at Quillen. Q



*Quillen College of Medicine Dean  
Dr. Philip C. Bagnell*

## Quillen QUICK TAKES

**Dr. John Franko**, chair of the Department of Family Medicine, testified at a congressional briefing this spring in Washington, D.C., on the importance of federal Title VII funding for U.S. medical schools. Franko was selected by the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition to illustrate the need for Title VII, the only federally funded program for primary health care education.

**Dr. Ronald Hamdy**, chairholder of the Cecile Cox Quillen Chair of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine, recently received the Clinician of the Year Award from the International Society of Clinical Densitometry for his distinguished service in the field in the areas of publication, education and leadership.

We congratulate **Dr. Priscilla Wyrick**, chair of the Department of Microbiology, for being awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Zurich in recognition of a career in which she has long been at the forefront of research breakthroughs in Chlamydia. Dr. Wyrick's research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for 30 consecutive years.

Other researchers at Quillen continue to distinguish our college. Recent developments include a grant from Autism Speaks to **Drs. Greg Ordway** and **Michelle Chandley** in Pharmacology to explore the brain pathology of young adults with autism; a grant from NIH for **Dr. Deling Yin** in Internal Medicine for his quest to find new medical treatments that would stop damage that stress and drug abuse can cause to the body's immune system; a grant from the Tennessee Department of Health for **Dr. Charles Stuart** in Internal Medicine for an innovative program at the Johnson City Downtown Clinic that aims to cut diabetes rates; and a grant for **Dr. Scott Champney** in Biochemistry to study the effectiveness of a new drug that would treat antibiotic-resistant human pathogens.

**Want to keep up with Quillen?** Find us on Facebook. There, you can connect with old classmates and see what's happening with students and faculty.

### ABOUT THE COVER:

Special thanks to Quillen medical students Nicole Colgrove and Abdul Sabri who posed for this photo-illustration.

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Summer 2011

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# Match Day March 17, 2011

Members of the Class of 2011 at East Tennessee State University's James H. Quillen College of Medicine opened their envelopes during the annual Match Day celebration to learn where they will go for residency training.

Fifty-six students enjoyed a successful match in 18 different specialty or sub-specialty fields at 32 residency sites throughout the United States. Twelve students will continue their training at Quillen, and nine other students will remain in Tennessee at other residency training sites. Approximately half of the Quillen Class of 2011 will enter the primary care fields of family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine or obstetrics and gynecology. Q



*Left: Amanda Clouse, Jacqueline Vidosh, Stuart Winkler, Chrissy O'Hara, and Misty Thompson are among five of the eight members of the Quillen Class of 2011 who will complete their residency training through military service.*

*Above (from left): Jennifer Jackson, Gabriela Kirk, Evan Hawkins, and Michael Derrick exult over their results from Match Day.*



*Left: Dr. Evan Hawkins, Class of 2011, is hooded by her mother, Dr. Sarah Carrier ('94), and Dr. Tom Kwasigroch, left.*

*Below: Members of the Class of 2011 listen as classmate Dr. Chrissy O'Hara delivers the class speech. Quillen moved graduation ceremonies from Memorial Theatre on the VA campus to the D.P. Culp University Center Auditorium on the main ETSU campus.*



# Graduation May 6, 2011

Commencement and honors ceremonies were held in the Martha Street Culp Auditorium of the Culp Center at East Tennessee State University. This was the 30th class of physicians to graduate from the Quillen College of Medicine. Congratulations to the Class of 2011! Q

HE has been blessed with the opportunity to do thousands of open-heart surgeries and he has an active list of accomplishments, yet that isn't what Dr. Richard Feit reflects on most. "It's the patients and the stories they tell that I'm most fond of," he says. "It is those patients, their families and their stories that have greatly impacted my life."

Dr. Feit is a Clinical Professor of Surgery with the Quillen College of Medicine. His former patients shared the burden of cardiovascular disease. "The reason I came to East Tennessee in 1982 was to help develop the first open-heart surgery program for the region," says Feit. Although cardiac surgery became more widely available in the mid-1960s in larger cities, patients from our region had to travel some distance for care, if able. Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery of Eastern Tennessee was established through the partnership of Dr. David Sewell, Clinical Professor of Surgery at Quillen, and Dr. Feit. "We both trained at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond," says Feit, who received his M.D. degree from Albany Medical College of Union University, New York. During the first few years of the practice he worked with Dr. Les Bryant, Chair of the Department of Surgery, and Dr. Paul Stanton, Jr. who was then Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery. "Their efforts really went a long way in helping us bring heart surgery to East Tennessee," says Feit. "It is remarkable to me that Dr. Stanton soon became departmental chair [1986], Quillen's Dean [1988] and then university president [1997]. He came from a focused career in medicine and found ways to work with the community, its leaders and politicians for the greater good of the school."

In 2005 Dr. Feit retired from 23 years of practice and became fully absorbed in the education of Quillen students. "Part of the reason I'm still involved at Quillen is the people," he says, alluding to the collegiality created by the Dean, Dr. Philip Bagnell, and the faculty and staff of the College. "Dr. Bagnell's thinking was to get clinicians more involved in the basic science education of the first- and second-year medical students. That vision made volunteering and giving something back to the profession an easy fit for me." Dr. Feit describes the first steps into the lecture hall as being more intimidating than those into the operating room. "Engaging bright students in a

large lecture hall can be a daunting experience." Nevertheless, he's now in his comfort zone, integrating real-life experiences in unique course involvement, one such being *The Practice of Medicine*. "It's a major introduction to physical diagnosis which provides hands-on experience with clinical aspects." Students work with standardized patients in a staged clinical environment. The 'patients' learn a scripted medical history and respond to students who complete the patient history and physical exam. The students do research, determine a diagnosis, and present their findings to the clinician who provides guidance. Other experiences involve small groups working through clinical scenarios created by Dr. Martin Eason and Dr. David Linville in the Human Patient Simulation Lab. "I'm still

amazed to watch how the students work beyond the artificial nature of it. This is a wonderful way to provide students with clinical exposure to the basic sciences. They really get an extension of their education in terms of clinical material."

The passion inspiring Dr. Feit to teach is directly linked to the powerful impact of his former patients. While greatly engaged in the clinical facets, it's also the ethical and professional side of the profession and the importance of the physician-patient relationship that he hopes to illuminate. "I'm very interested in how physicians relate to their peers, patients and hospital staff," he says. "How physicians view themselves begins when that white coat is put on. It can have a tendency to elevate status, diminish equanimity, and change the way one might see other people...this may not be conducive to good physician relationships." The most rewarding moments in his practice, Feit tells students, are not necessarily the good outcomes to surgical challenges. "That realization came later in my career, while sitting down with my patients and hearing them tell their stories, seeing them as individuals in a complex social fabric," he states. "Clinical settings are those times which can certainly test a physician. There are always difficult situations, emotional circumstances that arise in patient care where your skill dealing with the physician-patient

## The Stories Patients Tell... *And the impact they had on a physician*

by Jill Fair

*"The Stories Patients Tell" continues on page 16.*

**Left: Dr. Les Bryant (l) and Dr. Richard Feit (r) performing heart surgery in the early 1980s.**

**Right: Dr. Richard Feit, Clinical Professor of Surgery, is an educator with a clinician's viewpoint.**



# From AFRICA to APPALACHIA

by Jill Fair

**I**N a word, it was *hope* that inspired a boy from the distressed countryside of Africa's west coast to become a physician. That inspiration launched a dream that tomorrow's children would not live in a world filled with sickness and death.

"I was born in Nigeria in 1931," says Dr. Festus Adebajo, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Quillen College of Medicine. It was a time of disease, political unrest and challenges. The governing Warrant Chief System of Indirect Rule had collapsed violently in 1929. Even so, he recalls playful moments with childhood friends. "But frequently," Adebajo explains, "I'd play with a friend one day, then I wouldn't see him any more. He would simply disappear and I didn't understand why."

Dr. Adebajo now knows that a wide variety of diseases which are controlled with vaccines or other preventative measures probably caused the deaths of his friends. An epidemic of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness, showed its first peak during 1931-1940 when more than 370,000 persons were diagnosed, according to *Science World Journal*. Other diseases frequently reported included cerebrospinal meningitis and relapsing fever; tuberculosis, pneumonia, bronchitis, dysentery and malaria. Many children died from a severe form of protein malnutrition called Kwashiorkor, which means *the disease of the displaced child*.

At age 17 Adebajo, too became ill. "There were very few doctors. One day when my doctor came to me I asked, 'Why are people like me dying?' He couldn't explain it...he didn't have an

answer," Adebajo remembers. "That was the real point when I knew I wanted to be a physician." Upon finishing medical school at Yale University followed by a pediatrics residency at Yale New Haven Hospital, Adebajo had accomplished that dream of his youth. "Then I went back to Nigeria," he says.

He had a simple plan: go back and try to make the difference he had dreamed of. But the political climate was changing. Nigeria had gained independence from Britain in 1960, but a civil war was now looming. "When I went back, the Nigerian mentality was still British," explains Adebajo. "Although I had accomplished the title of pediatrician in the U.S., and was recognized not only in pediatrics but other specialties, they [Nigerian officials] refused to accept my credentials. They simply would not grant me an appointment as a pediatrician." He returned to the U.S., frustrated and disappointed.

The desired opportunity finally came in the form of an appointment at the University of Ife, a government-owned and operated Nigerian medical school. Still, Adebajo wasn't able to completely fulfill what he hoped for. "Soldiers were in control at that time," he says. In 1980 he joined Cornell University as Professor of Pediatrics. He later served as Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania and then as Chair of Pediatrics at Meharry Medical College, Nashville.

*Hope* revisited Adebajo, encouraging him to visit a new place with a familiar mission. "This place attracted me," he says of the Quillen College of Medicine. "It was a relatively new school, 10 years old. I had applied for the Dean's position, but upon meeting Dr. Stanton, the Interim Dean,

**Currently serving as Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at Quillen College of Medicine, Dr. Festus Adebajo's leadership has greatly impacted pediatric health in our region. Adebajo helped lay the foundation for what is now Niswonger Children's Hospital and achieved the establishment of Quillen's Pediatric Residency Program.**

I quickly withdrew my application. I decided that he was really the one for the job." Dr. Adebajo was impressed with the school's mission to effect change and improve health care in Northeast Tennessee and the surrounding Appalachian Region. He joined Quillen in 1988, beginning his ten-year appointment as Chair of Pediatrics.

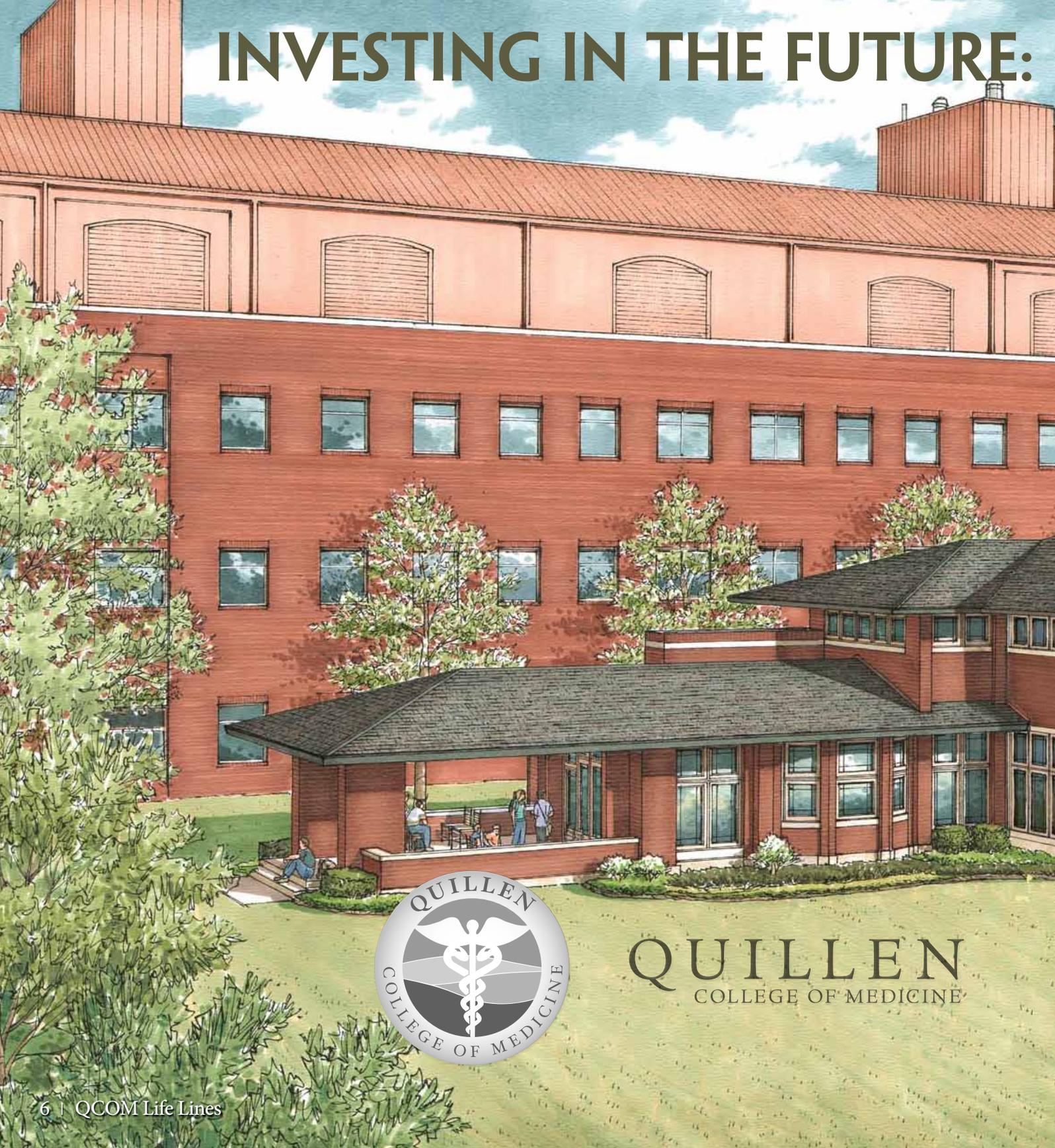
"There was much to do," Adebajo says. "We didn't have a residency in pediatrics and that was a big challenge." He recruited pediatric gastroenterologist, Philip Bagnell, current Dean at Quillen, and David Kalwinsky, current Chair of Pediatrics and director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. "After this initial recruitment, we submitted the residency program application and succeeded, with the first resident in 1992." He chuckles as he describes the recruitment of Dr. Bagnell. "When I didn't hear a response right away, I called his wife and said, 'Heather...tell him he needs to come over here!'"

Dr. Bagnell says, "Festus had a clear vision for pediatric care for the region, the academic background to understand the importance of addressing these regional needs in the context of a solid academic department, and the national credibility to be able to pull all of this together."

Another challenge presented itself upon Adebajo's first visit to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Johnson City Medical Center Hospital (JCMCH). "I remember walking into a very small room with three or four cots," Adebajo says. "And the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) was nonexistent. I began talking

**"From Africa to Appalachia" continues on page 16.**

# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE:



**QUILLEN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

# The Student Study Center at Quillen

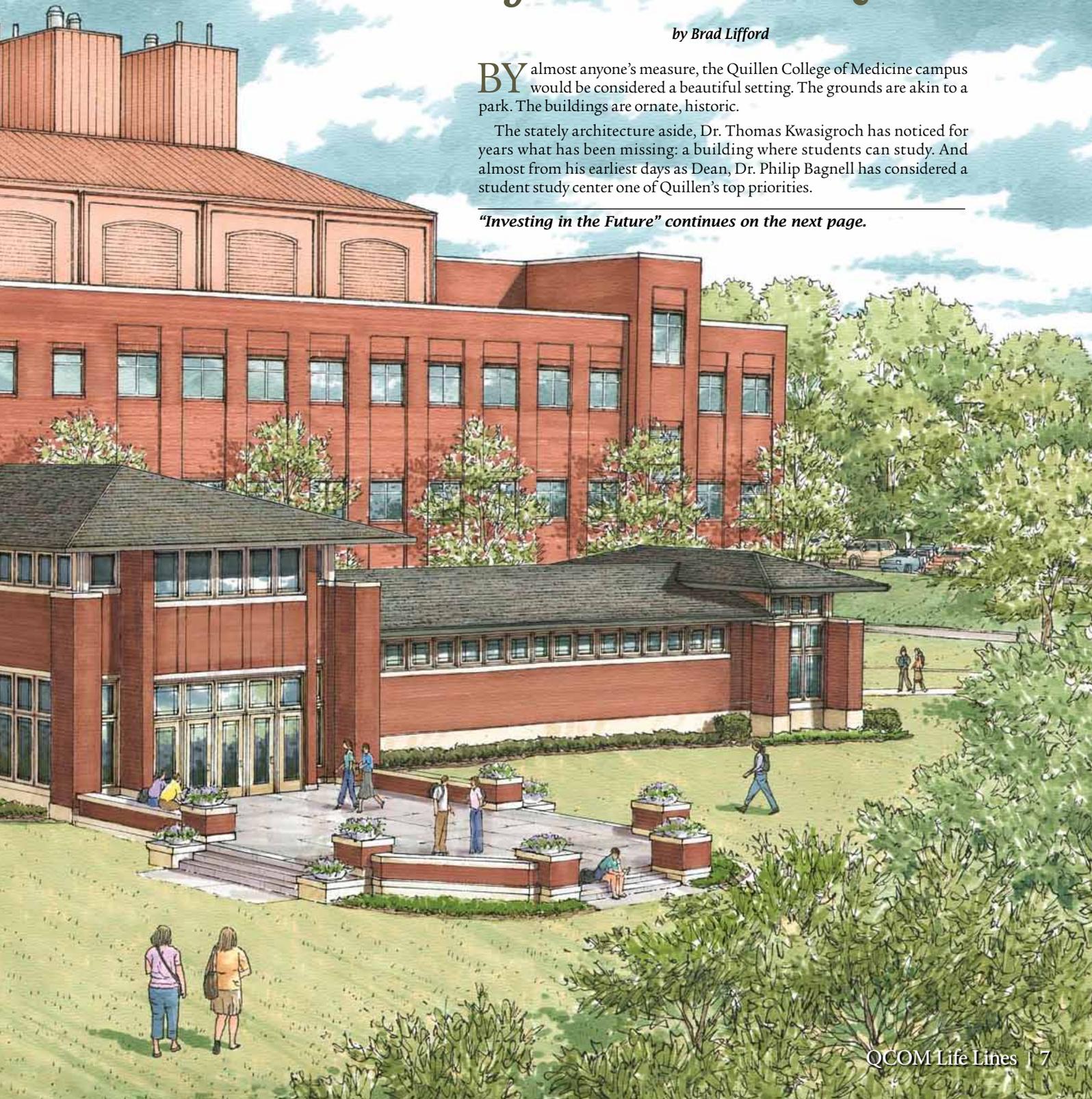
by Brad Lifford

**BY** almost anyone's measure, the Quillen College of Medicine campus would be considered a beautiful setting. The grounds are akin to a park. The buildings are ornate, historic.

The stately architecture aside, Dr. Thomas Kwasigroch has noticed for years what has been missing: a building where students can study. And almost from his earliest days as Dean, Dr. Philip Bagnell has considered a student study center one of Quillen's top priorities.

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*"Investing in the Future" continues on the next page.*



***“Investing in the Future” continued from the previous page.***

“We HAD to have a student study center,” says Quillen’s Associate Dean of Student Affairs, known by most, simply, as Dr. Kwas. “It’s been the biggest missing element on our campus for the longest time – and now we’re close to adding that element.”

The student study center at Quillen will in fact become reality sooner rather than later.

Construction on a building site, behind Stanton-Gerber Hall, is well under way. Quillen alumni who return to campus in the fall of 2011 will be struck by a state-of-the-art student center that has come together thanks to the generosity of far-sighted medical students, as well as through private funding from Quillen alums and members of the faculty.

Three years ago, Quillen students breathed life into the project with a self-imposed fee that would pay for a version lacking some amenities and extra space. Even that center would be far better than the makeshift study areas used by students now – empty lecture halls in Stanton-Gerber, a desk at home, a corner in the library. Additional funding through private gifts and donor pledges has made it possible to build a bigger, better facility that will more fully meet student needs.

Medical students came through with \$1.24 million to fund the basic facility. Quillen officials and ETSU’s Office of University Advancement are now appealing to college alumni, philanthropists and business leaders in East Tennessee to donate in order to help retire the student debt. University Advancement is seeking gifts of any size for the center, and donors can have naming rights for such areas as a small study room for \$10,000, up to naming the whole building for \$1 million.

“The students came through,” says Dr. Kwas. “Some of them who are paying for it won’t even be here when it’s finished, but it means that much to them.”

Gifts and pledges have since made a difference in the project scale. Donors’ pledges helped bring about the addition of an 800-square-foot porch, a 1,000-foot terrace and full furnishings for the facility. Most importantly, students will realize a 35 percent increase in study space over the initial design.

Keith Hollister will never grace the center as a student, but that makes him no less emphatic about its necessity. Recently graduated and now beginning a surgical residency, Hollister reflects on the construction behind Stanton-Gerber.

“For me personally, it’s nice to know that part of the legacy that today’s Quillen students are leaving for tomorrow’s students is an environment in which the already-strong “family” culture that exists within each class can be bolstered by a facility and physical space that will offer even more time for group study, bonding friendships, and most of all, fellowship,” Hollister says. “What I find particularly gratifying is that even though the classes of 2011 and 2012 will not get to personally enjoy the benefits that the space will undoubtedly offer, there has not been one single person who has complained that they were not going to be the ones who would reap the rewards of their input.”

For a medical student, there’s a stark difference between dedicated study space and improvised space.

Large lectures halls don’t make for the most conducive study environment. And home isn’t necessarily a sanctuary.

“Students can try studying at home, but that doesn’t always work,” Dr. Kwas says. “You get a bag of chips and you put your feet up on

the desk, and you start thinking about all the things you need to do or can do at home. Then your spouse comes in and reminds you it’s time to take the trash out or asks what’s for dinner.”

Stephanie Hart, Class of 2012, longs for space at Quillen that has one purpose: student study.

“Purposed study space being minimal at Quillen, I spent a majority of my first two years stowed away at the end of long hallways, in windowless rooms, away from the distractions of life, sometimes jockeying for prime study space with fellow classmates,” Hart says. “I’m excited to see the student center come from the ethereal world of committee meetings to the bricks and mortar of real life.”

Before the project began this winter, Bagnell would sometimes walk out back of Stanton-Gerber and envision the possibilities. He’s excited that nowadays, he need only walk there to see definitive progress.

“Medical school is challenging, especially that first year when students have to learn so much in a limited amount of time,” Bagnell says. “They need a consistent place to study and interact with their classmates. A lot is asked of them, and there isn’t a lot of downtime to go home or go find another place to study in between classes. A study center will help them achieve and reach their fullest potential as medical students and later, as doctors.” Q



**Dr. Thomas Kwasigroch**



# GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

## The Student Study Center at Quillen

# Q

### NOVEMBER 18, 2010

Construction is progressing on the Student Study Center, and it all got started in late 2010 with these shovel-bearing dignitaries (see below) who helped break ground.



*Left: Attendees examine the architectural rendering.*

*Below (from left): Dr. Ken Olive, QCOM Exec. Assoc. Dean, Academic Affairs; John Fisher, Fisher & Assoc., project architect; Dr. Jane Jones, ETSU Chief of Staff; Greg Wilgocki, QCOM Exec. Assoc. Dean, Finance & Admin.; Bill Rasnick, ETSU Assoc. VP, Facilities Mgmt.; Dr. Wilsie Bishop, VP for Health Affairs & ETSU COO; Dr. Paul E. Stanton, Jr., ETSU President; Dr. Philip C. Bagnell, QCOM Dean; Dr. Tom Kwasigroch, QCOM Assoc. Dean, Student Affairs; Dr. Jenny Rose, QCOM Class of 2010; Jennifer Wellington, M2 student; Dr. Theresa Lura, Past Pres. QCOM Alumni Society; Dr. Richard A. Manahan, ETSU VP University Advancement; Nick Anand, M2 student.*

*Right: Dr. Stanton (above) and Dr. Bagnell (below) speak during the groundbreaking.*



## CIRCLE OF GIVING

Dr. Charles E. Adams, III ('89)  
Anonymous  
Dr. David Baldinger ('89)  
Dr. Martha Bird  
Dr. William & Mrs. Pattie Browder \*\*  
Dr. George Brown  
Dr. Lauren F. Chiles ('03)  
Dr. Tom Clary, III ('82) &  
Mrs. Debbie Clary \*\*  
Dr. Kyle T. ('92) & Mrs. Mary Colvett \*\*  
Drs. Philip S. & Joan C. Coogan \*\*  
Dr. Danny Cox ('84)  
Department of Psychiatry,  
East Tennessee State University \*\*  
Dr. Robert F. ('84) & Mrs. Nancy Elder \*\*  
Dr. Tony ('84) & Mrs. Diane Emison \*\*  
Dr. Richard A. & Mrs. Carol Feit \*\*  
Dr. Joseph A. Florence IV  
Dr. John & Mrs. Donna Franko \*\*  
Dr. Phil ('86) & Mrs. Cindy Hoffman \*\*  
Dr. Tom & Mrs. Linda Jernigan \*\*  
Dr. Paul Kelley  
Drs. Thomas E. & Christine N. Kwasigroch  
Dr. Ray Lamb ('82) \*\*  
Drs. David ('87) & Patricia ('87) Lee \*\*  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Manahan Family \*\*  
Dr. Merry Miller  
Dr. Norman Moore  
Dr. Tamara Lea Musgrave ('84)  
Dr. Kenneth E. Olive  
Dr. Gregory Ordway  
Mr. John W. Parrott  
Dr. Rakesh Patel  
Drs. Joshua ('04) & Dianna Puhr  
Drs. Clark M. ('93) & Cynthia Pollitt  
Dr. Patricia E. Robertson  
Dr. Kathryn Ellen Shipp ('09)  
Dr. Patrick and Mrs. Carol Sloan  
Ms. Barbara J. Sucher  
Drs. Manisha ('98) &  
Sanjay P. ('00) Thakur \*\*  
Drs. Clinton A. ('01) & Heather Wight

\*\* Indicates a room naming gift/pledge

List complete as of 06/07/11

# Donors Step Up to Support Student Study Center

Quillen College of Medicine extends a very special THANK YOU to the listed donors who have made gifts and pledges totaling nearly \$200,000 to support the expansion of the new Student Study Center to the original scope and size envisioned by the medical students. We appreciate all who stepped up during the initial phase of the campaign for expansion. Because of them, the campaign was successful and the building is under construction!

As we enter the second phase of the campaign, we will be raising funds to assist the medical students in retiring the debt on the building so that student fees can be reduced. The cost of a medical education continues to rise and reducing fees even a small amount will help. If you would like more information about making a gift/pledge or naming a room in the new facility, please contact Carol Sloan at 423-439-6142. Q

*Thank you!*

## Colvett Determined to Help Make Studying Easier for Quillen Students

by Brad Lifford



Kyle Colvett, class of 1992, has fond memories of his student days at Quillen.

But his memories of trying to find a place to study? Not so fond.

"Quillen students," says Colvett, "have never had an ideal central study and gathering place. We have always borrowed and 'made-do' as best we could."

Colvett and his wife, Mary, live in Jonesborough with their six children and remain closely tied to the College of Medicine. Kyle, a radiation oncologist in Johnson City, is a clinical professor in the departments of

Surgery and Internal Medicine and is president of the Quillen Alumni Society.

Though his medical school days are in the rear-view mirror, Colvett plans to do what he can to help those study-space struggles become a thing of the past. So he and his wife have decided to sponsor and name a four-person study room with a philanthropic gift to ETSU's Office of University Advancement.

University Advancement is seeking gifts to augment the proposed student study center; medical student fees will pay for a \$1.24 million center, but an additional \$1.2 million in private gifts would add needed amenities and expand study space by 35 percent.

"Mary and I are happy to support this exciting project," Colvett says. "We now have an opportunity to build an attractive, comfortable and modern facility that is dedicated to medical student life. Modern medical education requires teamwork and collaboration, and I believe that this center will be a tremendous asset for the future of the medical school." Q

# Steve Loyd '99 Presents at 2010 Reunion

Stephen D. Loyd, M.D., Quillen Class of 1999, presented the Third Annual Quillen Alumni Society CME lecture on August 7, 2010. Steve presented to a full house of reunion attendees and local physicians on "Physicians Prescribing Narcotics." Steve also presented the inaugural Alumni Society lecture in 2008.

Steve is dedicated to academic medicine and is currently Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center and an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at Quillen. Prior to his employment at the VA, Steve was the Internal Medicine Residency Program Director and Clerkship Director of Primary Rural Care Track at Quillen. Since 2008 he has also served as Faculty Advisor for the Internal Medicine Student Interest Group.

A class president while a student at Quillen, Steve is now an honored professor. He has been selected as the "String of Pearls" Lecturer by the graduating medical students six times and he has been chosen for the Scarlet Sash Society six times. In addition, he has been awarded Mentor of the Year by the Caduceus Club four times. In 1999 Steve received the Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Waldron Memorial Award for the Outstanding Graduating Medical Student in Internal Medicine and the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey Humanism in Medicine Award. In 2000 he was named a Harrison's Scholar at Quillen. Steve is also a member of Alpha Omega Alpha.

Steve is a native of Johnson City, Tennessee, and a graduate of University High School and the University of Tennessee. He and his wife, Karen, continue to make Johnson City their home with their two children, Heath and Hayley. Steve and Karen organized and hosted the Class of 1999 reunion in 2009 and they continue to keep in touch with classmates and friends.

Of his time at Quillen, Steve says, "My "family" includes my Quillen classmates. The majority of us stay in contact via Facebook during the year and exchange photos of our families during the holidays. When we started Medi-

cal School, my son Heath was 1 year old. He is now a junior at Science Hill. My classmates helped raise him. I keep our class composite picture taken on the first day of school in August of 1995 on my wall and I never hesitate to pick up the phone and call one of them when I have a problem in their area of expertise and we are always magically transported back in time to Quillen and our roles as classmates. I love them and miss them."

The 2011 Alumni Society CME lecture was presented by Professor Emeritus, Dr. J. Kelly Smith on Saturday, August 6 at 8:30 a.m. He presented one of his well-known "Medical Mysteries" lectures. Q

**For more information on the CME or Quillen reunions**, please email [qcomalumnisociety@etsu.edu](mailto:qcomalumnisociety@etsu.edu).



*Steve Loyd, Class of 1999*



*Steve and Karen Loyd and Class of 1999 Reunion Attendees.*

Quillen Fall 2010  
**REUNION WEEKEND**



*Ray Lamb '82 and guest, Donna Wilkerson, enjoy the Friday evening dinner at The Ridges.*



*Doug and Vickie Taylor reconnect with Tom '82 and Debbie Clary on Friday evening.*



**QUILLEN**  
 COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
 ALUMNI SOCIETY  
 EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



*Kyle Colvett '92 and wife, Mary, review plans for QCOM Student Study Center.*



*Barry Brasfield '85 and wife, Terry, enjoy the reunion festivities.*

**Quarter Century Club Presentations**

*Kyle Colvett presents Quarter Century Club pins to reunion attendees.*



*Tom Clary '82*



*Ray Lamb '82*



*Bob Elder '84*



*Nancy Malin '85*



*Stephen Clark '05 discusses QCOM's progress with Ken Olive, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.*



*Jim Wojcik's '85 son, Matt, enjoys a picnic by the pool on Saturday.*

## QCOM 2010 Reunion Weekend Highlights

**THE** College of Medicine Alumni Society hosted a successful Reunion Weekend on August 6th and 7th, 2010. Reunion classes included the Classes of 1985, 1990, 2000, and 2005. Each year members of Quarter Century Club are also invited including the Classes of 1982 through 1985. Events in 2010 were held at The Ridges Golf and Country Club in Jonesborough.

The weekend's activities began on Friday afternoon with Golf with "Kwas" at The Ridges outstanding golf course. On Friday evening, the group enjoyed a dinner buffet and an evening of reminiscing at The Ridges Club House. The group was officially welcomed back by Dr. Kenneth E. Olive, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Kyle Colvett, President of the Quillen Alumni Society. Dr. Olive gave the group an update on progress at Quillen. Following the dinner, members of the Class of 1985 were inducted into the Quarter Century Club. Dr. Tom Kwasigroch, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Professor of Anatomy, presented exciting information about the plans for a new dedicated Student Study Center immediately behind the Stanton-Gerber Hall. He encouraged alumni to support the efforts of the current medical students by pledging their support for the new facility.

On Saturday morning, the Third Annual Alumni Society CME event was presented by Dr. Stephen Loyd at Stanton-Gerber Hall. (See related article.) A family pool party and picnic followed on Saturday afternoon at The Ridges pool. It was a fun-filled weekend of events and we hope to continue to grow and increase alumni attendance annually.

The Alumni Society hosted the 2011 ETSU Centennial Reunion Weekend on August 5th and 6th. The coming year's reunion classes include 1991, 2001, and 2006 and joining the Quarter Century Club this year is the Class of 1986! If you would like to be the class agent for your class please contact Carol Sloan at 423-439-6142 or by email at qcomalumni-society@etsu.edu or sloanc@etsu.edu. Special thanks to Phil Hoffman, Class Agent for the Class of 1986 and Nick Thornton, Class Agent for the Class of 2001! Registration materials are in the mail. If you did not receive information, contact Carol. Q



*Above: Livingston Brien '95 and his children, Celia, Peyton, and Corinne, enjoy the Saturday pool party.*



*Right: Hillary Hoffman Haley '05 and Sam socialize with Micah Hooper Krempasky '05 and the newest addition to her family (and the youngest reunion attendee) Lily.*



*George Blikken '85*



*Barry Brasfield '85*

# Maryville Alumni Gathering - November 12, 2010



*John Abercrombie '96*



*Chad & Amber '06 Hampton*



*Dean of Medicine, Dr. Philip C. Bagnell*



*Ulyana & Chuck '89 Adams*



*Harold '87 & Lee '88 Narramore*



*Clint '01 & Heather Wight*



*Curtis Catron & Teresa Salazar-Catron '00*



*Katie & Joseph '99 Payne*



*Wilma '88 & Jim '89 Proffitt, Nancy Garza '02, & Tom Kwasigroch*



*John & Cheryl '83 Coleman*



*Russell '85 & Martha Smith*



*Doug Taylor & Phil Hoffman '86*

# Dean of Medicine and Alumni Society Hosting Events Across the State

**I**N an effort to build interest and enthusiasm among Quillen alumni, the Dean of Medicine, Dr. Philip C. Bagnell, and the Alumni Society are planning to host alumni events across the State of Tennessee and into Georgia in the coming year. After well-attended events in Knoxville on August 19, 2010, coordinated by Dr. Bob Elder, Class of 1984, and Maryville on November 12, 2010, coordinated by Dr. Phil Hoffman, Class of 1986, the Dean and the Alumni Society are planning events in the coming fiscal year in the Chattanooga, Nashville, Jackson and Memphis, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia, areas in addition to the reunion event in Johnson City in August. The Maryville event generated interest in organizing a Blount County alumni society chapter with an annual meeting there.

Long-time faculty and staff members, Dr. Tom Kwasigroch and Doug Taylor, attended both events sharing many fond memories with alums of their time at Quillen. The Maryville event also served as a “surprise party” for Doug thanks to the efforts of Dr. Kwasigroch, Dr. and Mrs. Bagnell and Doug’s wife, Vickie.

Dean Bagnell said, “I’ve been very pleased with the response we’ve received from our alumni to these events. We will continue to reach out to our alums across Tennessee and south to Georgia in the coming year and to other areas in the future.”

To that end, Dr. Tom Kwasigroch and Associate Vice President for University Advancement

for Health Sciences, Carol Sloan, have visited with alumni in Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Crossville Tennessee, as well as Dalton, Atlanta, and Warner Robins, Georgia, this spring to plan the 2011/12 Alumni Gatherings in those areas. Due to flooding in the Memphis area, a planned visit there was postponed, however alumni in Memphis have agreed to assist with planning a future event.

“It has been a personal pleasure to for me to reconnect with our alums and to hear what’s happening in their lives. We have also been very pleased to hear how much their medical school

experience meant to them and to have them express an interest in mentoring our current medical students and residents who are locating in their areas,” said Dr. Kwasigroch.

For more information or to host an alumni event in your area, please contact Carol Sloan at 423-439-6142 or at sloanc@etsu.edu. (See related photos.) **Q**



**QUILLEN**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
ALUMNI SOCIETY  
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Dr. Tom Kwasigroch meets with Alums in Tennessee in May. Clockwise from top:**

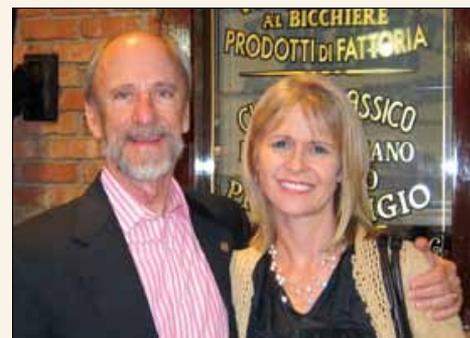
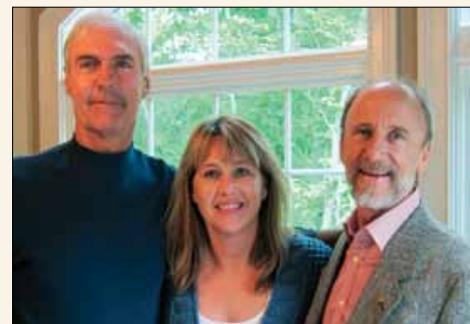
**Dr. Jim Wojcik, '82 & Mrs. Gail Wojcik in Crossville;**

**Dr. Susan Douglas, '98 in Nashville;**

**(from left) Dr. Bernie, '88 and Mrs. June Burgess; Drs. David & Yolando Chatman, '89 in Nashville;**

**(from left) Mrs. Shannon & Dr. Scott Guthrie, '99; Mrs. Diane & Dr. Tony Emison, '84; Dr. Mark, '85 & Mrs. Jennifer Bateman in Jackson;**

**(from left) Dr. Monique Casey-Bolden, '99; Drs. David & Amelia Self, '91; Dr. Ravis, '00 & Mrs. Trina Curry; Mrs. Rachel & Dr. Thulani Stewart, '00 in Jackson.**



with Lou Gump, then Chairman of the Board, about the concept of a hospital within a hospital.” A trip to Nashville afforded Adebonojo the opportunity to personally introduce Gump to an effective children’s hospital at Vanderbilt, separate yet functioning within the primary hospital. At that time approximately 20 percent of the population within a 50-mile radius of Johnson City were children, which confirmed the need. “It was a long process and many people were involved,” he says. “When the hospital within the hospital started at JCMCH, the NICU was expanded and a 20-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit was created. Today that is now a 44-bed unit and there is an additional 20-bed Pediatric Intensive Care unit in the hospital.”

“I didn’t have a clear picture in the beginning of what I could do,” Adebonojo says. “I feel so fortunate, and I thank God for the opportunities I’ve had. I am very proud of Quillen. This school is a true blessing to this area.” Educators at the Quillen College of Medicine are also grateful for the dream that brought Dr. Festus Adebonojo to East Tennessee from across the seas. “The region and more than a few of us in pediatric health care owe Festus a great debt of gratitude,” says Bagnell. **Q**

**Footnotes:** Dr. Adebonojo has lived an exemplary life despite suffering hardships and disappointments in his native land of Nigeria. For his many years of service and for his many contributions to the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University, the **Dr. Festus Adebonojo Pediatrics Professorship Endowment** has been established bringing *hope* to a new generation of medical students to carry on his legacy. Dr. Adebonojo was honored by the Tennessee Pediatric Society as Senior Pediatrician of the Year in 2001.

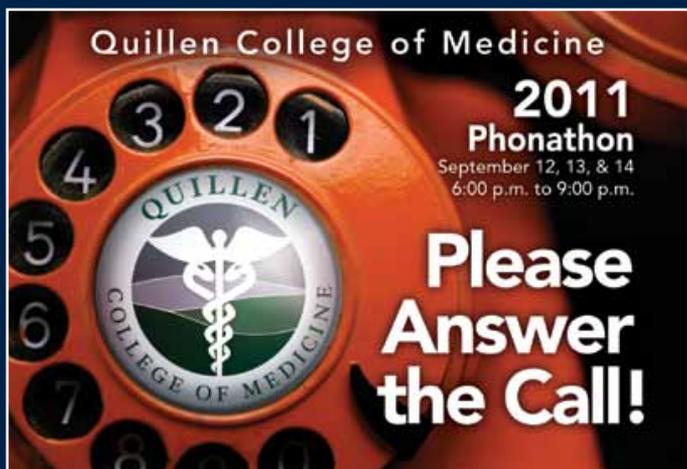
*“The Stories Patients Tell...” continued from page 4.*

relationship is most significant.” Dr. Feit believes that the Quillen environment nurtures and supports this skill set. “Unfortunately, there are many physicians in the profession who may not see its importance.”

When the door of the exam room opens and the conversation turns to diagnosis and treatment, Dr. Feit believes it is likely the human touch of the physician—the expressed genuine interest and care—that matters most. While a quality physician-patient relationship is what the patient expects and deserves, it can also bring immeasurable satisfaction to the physician. Today, Dr. Feit still receives cards from some of his patients. “I

remember most... maybe not the details of their operations, but definitely how the conversations we shared during their recovery made me feel, whether they were with a Big Stone Gap Italian immigrant who called me ‘Richie baby,’ or the kind words from Congressman ‘Jimmy’ Quillen. It makes it all quite worthwhile,” he says with a bright smile. **Q**

**Footnotes:** Dr. Richard Feit, M.D., F.A.C.S., holds faculty positions in Surgery, and Cardiothoracic Surgery; is Clinical Professor in Medical Education; and is Adjunct Professor in Physiology and Anatomy. He received the Caduceus Club Award for Professor of the Year and was named to the Scarlet Sash Society for excellence in teaching.



Current medical students will be calling alumni on these three evenings in September. We hope you will answer their call. They’ll be calling to:

- update your contact information, especially email;
- let you know what’s new at the Quillen College of Medicine;
- ask that you make an annual gift to the college.

If you aren’t available, we will leave a message. Please respond to our students’ call!

Your support and involvement in YOUR College of Medicine is needed now more than ever. Stay connected!

Just send us an email to [qcomalumnisociety@etsu.edu](mailto:qcomalumnisociety@etsu.edu) and we’ll add your name to our email broadcast list.

**Thank you for answering the call!**



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