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UT center focuses on special needs

By **REBECCA FERRAR**, ferrarr@knews.com

March 2, 2004

Chandler Sprouse is teaching a class of eighth-graders how to speak up for themselves.

Proper assertiveness will help the 14 Clinton Middle School students in school - as they select coursework, for instance - and ultimately in the work force.

About one-third of the students have special-education needs. Their training is part of a University of Tennessee program that's been strengthened to help people with disabilities find a place in the work force.

The University of Tennessee Center on Disability and Employment - formerly known as UT-Technology, Inclusion and Employment - has a new focus with its designation as a UT "center."

"It provides more status, an increased opportunity to interface with the faculty and students and more opportunity to receive funds," said Dr. Debra Martin Luecking, the center's director. "It also allows us to become a living laboratory for applied research on disability and employment issues."

Almost 70 percent of people with disabilities are unemployed, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The center works with schools, employers, state agencies and providers of services for people with disabilities to address employment barriers.

"Barriers not only come as a lack of awareness of people being able to work," Martin Luecking said. "It pertains to people not having the skills to support people in the work place."

At Clinton Middle School, Sprouse said, "We're trying to take these students and help them find themselves in the position of having to stand up for themselves and assert themselves in a positive way.

"You can line up 100 14-year-olds, and you wouldn't think they're qualified to clean the bathroom. They slouch. They mumble."

The class uses techniques that include having the students introduce themselves to the class, identify their strengths and weaknesses and secure two references, one of which must not come from family members or friends.

"They're learning self-determination and self advocacy," Sprouse said. "It's very affirming."

Another example of the center's work is at Coldwell Banker Wallace and Wallace. The real-estate company employees Kimberly Battershell, a young woman with Down syndrome who works two days a week putting together packets used by the company's Realtors.

She comes with a coach who makes sure she's on time and gets the job done. The coach is paid by a grant from the Tennessee Career Center.

"We were spending a lot of time putting together these packets," said George Wallace, owner of the company. "It's working out great because we're getting a service we need, and using her abilities is taking a demand off of our existing staff. She's doing a great job. It makes my staff feel good. It's raised morale."

The UT center's annual budget of \$2.5 million is funded by the university and federal and state grants. The state money comes from the Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The center has staff that works with classes like that in Clinton as well as 12 account representatives who work in the field with employers across the state , encouraging them to hire the disabled and teaching them how to go about it.

"We bring people together to think about issues and to come up with solutions to address issues," said Martin Luecking. "We bring information resources and a new way of thinking on how to employ people with significant work challenges. We teach people and set up demonstrations of how to work with a difficult population and then bring this to the policy makers."

In the case of employers, the center works through its account representatives in the field as well as the Career Center.

"We advocate through education, conferences, seminars and workshops to build knowledge and skills," Martin Luecking said. "We advocate for dignity and respect."

The center works primarily in Tennessee, but it also serves Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

The center also works with a new alliance between the Knoxville Area Business Advisory Council and the Workforce Investment Board. The collaboration of the latter two helps link job opportunities to potential employers.

"This partnership allows both organizations to better serve employment needs of Knoxville area residents with disabilities," said Pat Beasley, Workforce Investment Board chairwoman.

Business writer Rebecca Ferrar may be reached at 865-342-6357.

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Teachers-in-training hone their skills with UT program

College seniors able to 'jump right in' to classroom training

By **CHANDRA HARRIS**, harrisc@knews.com
March 2, 2004

To be a teacher wasn't initially Kendall Gecsei's desire.

But it became her desire as she worked with little ones through the Individualized Instruction Program at the University of Tennessee.

Instead of solely observing, Gecsei said she is able to "jump right in" and experience all grade levels as a teacher.

The Individualized Instruction Program allows UT students to begin teaching in classrooms while they are college seniors. As grad students, they complete a year's internship in the classroom.

The UT students rotate among kindergarten through fifth grade at two of four schools: Ridgedale, Dogwood, Belle Morris and Brickey elementary schools. The program, which includes special-education instruction, is one of five elementary programs students can participate in to complete their studies and gain their teacher's license.

While the other programs focus on teaching in rural and urban areas along with integrated and specialized teaching styles, the Individualized Instruction program is "different in that it moves away from teaching to group commonalities," said C. Glennon Rowell, professor and former dean of the College of Education at UT.

"Instead, (the program) focuses on teaching to individual differences and on the needs of each child," he said.

It's a philosophy Stacy Klein can relate to "because I was one of those children, who needed hands-on learning and individual instruction to be able to understand," she said.

Klein, a UT senior in the program, said it has "allowed me to figure out my own learning styles and what I like and don't like about teaching."

Once a pre-med student, Klein, who now wants to be a first-grade teacher, said, "It's nothing like seeing the look on a child's face when they finally learn how to do a math problem or how to



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
SENTINEL

Kendall Gecsei works with Brenda Denton's fourth-graders at Dogwood Elementary School to create papier mache globes.

spell a word.

"It's a feeling no paycheck can fulfill."

Gecsei and Klein said being in the classroom, creating projects and interacting with children makes one realize the need for good teachers.

"From day one of the program, they are in the classroom," Rowell said. Students spend three half-days per week at various schools. After the pre-internship phase, students are instructing every day during the school year.

Both Gecsei and Klein spend classroom time at Dogwood and Ridgedale schools.

"We are given the chance to make learning fun," said Gecsei.

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BUSINESS NEWS

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Story last updated at 12:37 p.m. on February 24, 2004

Pro2Serve adds Madia and Fisher to board of directors

Today shareholders of Pro2Serve Professional Project Services Inc. elected Bill Madia and Homer S. Fisher to three-year terms and reappointed Robert I. Van Hook to his second term on the company's six-member board of directors.

"We are very fortunate to have such high-caliber individuals serving on Pro2Serve's board of directors," said L. Barry Goss, Pro2Serve's president and chairman of the board. "We may be a small business, but our board of directors rivals that of large companies."



Fisher

Other members of Pro2Serve's board of directors are Gen. Henry H. "Hugh" Shelton,

retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Paul Martin, former Internet Pictures Corp. and Pro2Serve chief financial officer.

Madia is the former director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and current executive vice president for Laboratory Operations for Battelle, a world leader in science and technology. Last November the East Tennessee Economic Council adopted a resolution recommending him for the University of Tennessee presidency.

He is currently responsible for Battelle's Laboratory Operations business, including the management or co-management of four Department of Energy national labs, Brookhaven National Laboratory, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, PNNL and ORNL. In addition, his portfolio includes Battelle's Strategic Project Management Business and various lab-based commercialization initiatives.

Madia has been nominated for the National Medal of Technology. He received ETEC's Muddy Boot award on Feb. 13 for being a trailblazer in developing ways for the nation to commercialize national laboratory developed-technology and spark economic growth. He was given the Meritorious Service Award by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. He was named "Laboratory Director of the Year" in 1999 by the Federal Laboratory Consortium. He serves on numerous civic, charitable, and corporate boards.



Madia

Homer Fisher, currently UT's senior vice president emeritus, spent 38 years working in higher education, including 22 years at UT, before he retired in 1999. He was UT's lead in forming UT/Battelle and winning the ORNL management and operating contract. He served in several key leadership positions at UT, including as senior vice president responsible for coordinating university-wide academic affairs, student affairs, sponsored research programs and academic planning and assessment.

Fisher continues to represent UT in Oak Ridge, working closely with UT-Battelle and a number of community organizations. He is a member of the Oak Ridge Chamber of

Commerce board of directors; board member and former board chairman of the East Tennessee Economic Council; board member and former Chairman of Technology 2020; board member and former board chairman of the Tennessee Technology Development Corp.; Board member, executive committee member, and past chair of the Greater Knoxville Mental Health Association; and board member, executive committee member; and former council president of the Great Smoky Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Robert I. Van Hook is the former president of Lockheed Martin Energy Systems where he guided operations of the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant for DOE. Before becoming president of LMES, Van Hook was deputy director of the ORNL and executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Energy Research Corp. His ORNL career spanned more than 29 years. During that time, he served as director of ORNL's Environmental Sciences Division and also director of the Center for Global Environmental Studies.

Van Hook currently serves on the Board of the Tennessee Nature Conservancy and the Roane County Forestry Association. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, the East Tennessee Economic Council, the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce and Tennessee's Resource Valley.

Founded in 1996 and headquartered in Oak Ridge, Pro2Serve has eight offices nationwide. It provides critical technical and engineering services to government and private industry in support of national security efforts. In 2001, it ranked as the nation's 78th fastest growing private company and in 2003 as the nation's 18th fastest growing defense company on the Inc. 500 listing. Pro2Serve was recently recognized as the third largest Knoxville area engineering firm.

More Funding Misuse at UT?

There could be more problems concerning the possible misuse of funding at the University of Tennessee.

A department at UT's Knoxville campus is now undergoing an internal audit to see if its leaders are misusing tax dollars. **WVLT VOLUNTEER TV News' Kelli Parker** reports.

The latest investigation targets UT's Department of Medical Genetics, which is housed inside a physicians' office complex at UT Medical Center. UT's internal audit office reports this is not a routine audit; instead, it's the result of possible billing issues brought to the auditors' attention. Sources in the audit department tell **WVLT VOLUNTEER TV News** the field work is complete and they are still checking to see if there has been inappropriate use of money.

Auditors are not saying at this point how much money is in question or how it was spent. We spoke with the head of the Department of Medical Genetics, Dr. Carmen Lozzio. "I've been with the university for 38 years," she says. "This is a routine audit, and they will find nothing wrong."

We do know that the findings of this audit should be released before the end of the month.

UT Interim President Dr. Joe Johnson says he knows nothing about this latest audit. The same goes for the trustees we contacted on Monday.

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Poll: UGA faculty low on Adams

Academic 'erosion' fears cited

By [KELLY SIMMONS](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Published on: 03/01/04

ATHENS -- A poll of UGA's College of Arts and Sciences faculty shows a majority do not have confidence in President Michael Adams' leadership.

Seventy percent of the 474 faculty members who voted said "No" to the question "Do you have confidence in President Adams as the leader of UGA?"

Fifteen percent responded yes, and another 15 percent abstained.

About 66 percent of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences faculty participated in the online survey. Franklin is the largest of the University of Georgia's colleges, with 25 percent of the total university faculty.

Nancy Felson, the Faculty Senate's presiding officer, said she hoped the vote would help initiate dialogue between faculty and the administration as well as the chancellor and Board of Regents of the University System.

"We hope it's taken very seriously," said Felson, a classics professor. "The faculty has a very strong contribution to make in setting forth the values for a university like this one."

Franklin College Faculty Senate members issued a statement last week critical of Adams, saying they feared an "erosion of academic excellence" because of his leadership. They cited his lack of communication with faculty members and a recent audit that accused him of mispending UGA Foundation dollars.

Adams, who was in Miami on Monday for a conference, responded to the poll in a written statement that said he would take the vote as "constructive criticism" and would work with faculty to address their concerns.

"As we grow in mutual understanding of our concerns and those we face together as an institution, I trust that confidence in our direction and decision-making processes will grow," Adams said.

While the faculty poll and statement have been confined to the Franklin College, some Senate members hope to move the issues into a campus-wide forum. The faculty senate planning committee may send the poll responses to the University Council, which represents UGA faculty and administrators. Committee Chairwoman Elois Ann Berlin said the group could identify the positive aspects of the faculty's relationship with the president, and try to address the concerns.

"I don't think anybody wants it to be a destructive thing," said Berlin, an associate professor of anthropology.

American Council on Education attorney Sheldon Steinbach predicted the vote would have little impact on Adams. Usually, presidents have the support of their employers — in this case the Board of Regents — by the time a grievance has reached a vote, he said.

"A vote of no confidence is the last card that a faculty has to play," Steinbach said. "In 21st century academe it carries significantly less weight than it did 50 years ago."

UGA faculty gives vote of no confidence in president

The Associated Press

AT H E NS, Ga. — The University of Georgia's arts and sciences faculty has issued a "no confidence" vote on President Michael Adams' leadership.

In Internet voting sponsored by the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate, faculty members voted 331-to-72 on the question: "Do you have confidence in President Adams as leader of UGA?" There were 71 abstentions, giving the "no" votes a majority of almost 70 percent. On its Web site, the Faculty Senate said Monday that about 64 percent of those eligible cast ballots. The voting took place over about 10 days, said Nancy Felson, the group's presiding officer.

The Faculty Senate vote stems from a controversy that began when Adams, who grew up in Chattanooga, refused to extend the contract of popular athletic director Vince Dooley, who will retire at the end of June.

A statement adopted by the Senate says publicity from the controversy and other events has diverted national attention from the university's positive achievements and "debased its academic reputation."

The no-confidence vote and the Faculty Senate statement are not officially binding. Only the state Board of Regents has the power to fire Adams, and the board has stood by him.

"This is simply an expression of the opinion of the faculty," said Felson, noting that the Franklin College is the university's largest division, with more 720 faculty members.

The preface to the statement said the faculty wished to disassociate itself from the controversy surrounding Adams and Dooley. However, one of the seven paragraphs in the statement was devoted to other controversies in the athletic department.

Another paragraph addressed an October UGA Foundationfunded audit attacking Adams' spending. Some foundation board members began questioning the president's spending one month after Adams, amid much controversy, refused to extend Dooley's contract.

This story was published Tuesday, March 02, 2004

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v50/i26/26a00101.htm>

States Move to Limit Increases in Tuition

Colleges say raising fees is the only way they can make up for budget cuts

By ALYSON KLEIN

With tuition increases at public colleges reaching record highs, state lawmakers nationwide are feeling pressure from constituents to curtail rising costs by imposing caps on tuition increases or adopting other means of making increases predictable.

In many cases, the proposals pit legislators against public-college officials who say tuition is their only means of compensating for cuts in state aid that colleges have endured during the recent recession.

Although tuition-increase limits are popular with lawmakers, who say the policies force universities to look for efficiencies to keep spending in check, college officials say the caps lead to questionable budgeting techniques. For instance, institutions may raise tuition to the highest levels allowable even when times are flush to make up for possible future shortfalls.

The conflict is likely to play out in state legislatures across the country this spring. One proposal in Maryland, where tuition at public institutions has risen about 19 percent on average over the past year, would cap increases at the rate of inflation. Michigan is considering similar legislation. And at least five other states, including Indiana, Iowa, and Kentucky, are weighing bills similar to one that passed last year in Illinois, which would freeze tuition or allow only slight increases for each incoming class for the four years after its initial enrollment.

This is hardly the first time tuition rates have been the cause of friction between colleges and lawmakers. "It's a silly game that is utterly predictable," said David W. Breneman, dean of the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia.

Governors and state legislators cut funds from state colleges knowing the cuts can be made up through tuition increases, he said, and "the public starts to squawk about affordability." Then a newly elected governor or legislature "comes in on a white horse and says, 'You awful universities; you're squeezing people. I'm going to turn around and cap you.'"

A Turnaround in Ohio

Ohio has visibly struggled with that pattern throughout the last decade. Public colleges there operated under a 6-percent cap on tuition increases for nearly a decade until 2002, when the General Assembly removed it.

The cap, said Robert B. Glidden, president of Ohio University, encouraged colleges to set tuition at the highest possible rate because they would be unable to make up for lost revenues if there were a sudden drop in state aid.

The same year the cap was eliminated, a shortfall in state revenues caused the legislature to make massive cuts in the university system's budget. Tuition at nearly every state institution rose about 10 percent. Lawmakers scolded university officials for the jump in costs, said Mr. Glidden, and restored the cap.

Although Mr. Glidden called the tuition limit "very reasonable," he said he was still concerned about how the lack of state funds would ultimately affect the quality of academic programs at Ohio University. In the late 1990s, when state funds to the university increased, Mr. Glidden said he did not raise tuition to the highest level allowable, and regrets that decision now.

"I learned my lesson the hard way: By keeping it down, we could never make it back up," Mr. Glidden said. If other states impose similar caps, "the tendency will be to raise tuition to whatever that cap will be," he said. "It's just human nature that you're going to look forward and see increases in cost."

That means caps will not necessarily spare undergraduates from having to pay higher tuition, even when states' finances bounce back, said D. Bruce Johnstone, a professor of higher education at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Caps can lead to other kinds of "aberrant behavior," Mr. Johnstone said, including raising tuition before the cap takes effect, making up for lost revenue by raising part-time tuition and other fees, and admitting more students who are unaffected by the cap, such as those from other states.

"Anything immune from the cap will draw the attention of the university if they need the money," Mr. Glidden said.

Inflation Limits

Still, in the face of dramatic tuition increases, lawmakers in Michigan and Republicans in Maryland's lower house are proposing bills that would limit increases in student costs to the rate of inflation.

In both states, lawmakers point to a lack of efficiency within the universities, saying that administrators see raising tuition as an alternative to difficult budget choices.

"I don't think they've really worked to reduce employee-student ratios," said the Michigan bill's sponsor, State Rep. Leon Drolet, a Republican. He mentioned privatizing janitorial and food services as possible ways of cutting costs.

"Universities have become miniature cities that seem to not like interacting with the outside world," Mr. Drolet said. "They look at budgets with disdain, as if it's intellectually beneath them to budget."

However, seven of Michigan's fifteen universities have already accepted a proposal from Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm that would restore a substantial portion of funds cut in December in exchange for a pledge not to raise tuition beyond the rate of inflation this year.

"We're working very creatively and very efficiently to keep our costs down and our tuition increases well below the Midwest and national average," said Michael A. Boulus, executive director of the president's council for the State Universities of Michigan.

But not all proposals for capping tuition see wasteful spending as a primary area of concern.

In Maryland, a bill introduced by Democrats in the State Senate, would require the governor to finance the public-college system at a fixed rate so that steep tuition increases were not necessary. Specifically, the proposal would require that appropriations for public universities increase 5 percent per year, while capping tuition increases at 4 percent annually.

A Guarantee in Illinois

Other states think Illinois has found a viable compromise in freezing tuition for each incoming class and plan to follow its lead. State university officials in Illinois supported the law, which provides predictability for students by guaranteeing that tuition will not rise during their four years at a public college in the state.

"The benefits to our students outweigh the issues for people like me," said Chester S. Gardner, vice president for academic affairs for the University of Illinois system.

Under the new law, the system will have to predict inflation rates and state support over a four-year period, Mr. Gardner said. He said he decided to "make this work" when he listened to students' enthusiastic responses to the proposal. "They talked about this providing them with the ability to plan carefully."

In Indiana, State Rep. Terry Goodin, a Democrat, used Illinois's law as a model for a bill he has introduced, which stipulates that tuition increases for current students should not exceed increases in the median state income. A similar bill has also been introduced in the State Senate.

"I don't think we question universities' efficiency," Mr. Goodin said. "We want to keep our universities open to everybody. We're about to price out some poorer folks."

Even so, some higher-education experts say that while such laws may ensure predictability, they can create the same kinds of problems as traditional caps. "If you're going to freeze a single cohort's tuition for four or five years when the underlying costs are going to go up inexplicitly, you've got to get enough tuition to bank two or three years' worth," Mr. Johnstone said. "You've got to bump tuition up for that first year higher than it otherwise would have to be."

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<http://chronicle.com/daily/2004/03/2004030106n.htm>

Johns Hopkins U. Settles Federal Charges of Overbilling on Research Grants

By [JEFFREY BRAINARD](#)

The Johns Hopkins University agreed last week to pay \$2.6-million to settle claims that scientists there had overstated the amount of time they were spending on medical-research projects financed by the federal government.

The university agreed that its researchers had promised the government they would spend a greater percentage of their time working on particular clinical-research projects than they actually did. The university also conceded that it had overcharged costs for fringe benefits. In a written statement, however, the university denied any wrongdoing and said it was settling the case only to avoid lengthy legal proceedings.

The charges were first brought by a whistle-blower, E. Faye Grau, who still works at Johns Hopkins. She had worked as an office supervisor for an addiction-treatment program run through the university's Bayview Medical Center. She filed a complaint stating that a researcher at the center, Robert K. Brooner, had billed several federal grants for time that added up to more than 100 percent of his available work time and had promised that the grant would support work by other employees that was never performed.

That triggered an investigation by the National Institutes of Health, which had provided some of the grant money. The Justice Department then sued to recover money from the improperly handled grants. Federal law allows whistle-blowers like Ms. Grau to collect a portion of settlements arising from their complaints. The settlement gives her about \$440,000.

To avoid similar lawsuits, legal experts have increasingly been urging universities to carefully perform "effort reporting" -- closely tracking whether researchers are fulfilling their time obligations on federally supported projects. Federal regulations require researchers who are supported by grants to spend the promised amount of time working on those grants, and their institutions must keep records to show that they did.

Grant-making agencies, like the National Institutes of Health, use the information when deciding how much money to award.

Last week's settlement covers federal grants made to Johns Hopkins researchers from 1994 to 2000. Ms. Grau began the supervisor job in 1988. In her complaint, she said that she brought the overbilling to the attention of Mr. Brooner and other superiors but that no corrective action was taken. She said Mr. Brooner demoted her in 1997.

She brought a separate lawsuit for that demotion, which resulted in another settlement reached last week, said her lawyer, Robin Page West, of Baltimore. The terms were not disclosed,

The \$2.6-million settlement agreed to by Johns Hopkins covers additional researchers, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Baltimore. A spokeswoman said the office would not release further details.

Mr. Brooner, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Hopkins, could not be reached for comment on Friday. His office referred questions to Bayview Medical Center's press office.

In its statement, the university noted that during the years in question, researchers with faculty appointments were employed by a corporation, Bayview Physicians, whose financial accounts were not part of the university's central payroll system. Universities use payroll records to help track effort reporting. Bayview Physicians has since merged with the university, and the researchers are covered by a centralized payroll accounting system.

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