

dean's message



I am now in my fourth year as dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences and am no less excited about the important work our students, faculty, and staff do than when I began my tenure at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. If anything, I am more excited! As you will read in the pages of this issue of *Accolades*, our newly named annual review publication, there are many new and important initiatives faculty and students are engaged in; each is central to the mission of our college and true to our motto—"Enhancing Quality of Life through Research, Outreach, and Practice."

The important work of the college is perhaps best manifested in the success our students have had after graduation. You would probably not be surprised to learn that we enjoy an almost 100-percent job placement record. Many of those students who choose not to begin their professional careers immediately pursue advanced degrees in graduate schools. Certainly, our college takes the land-grant mission of the university very seriously. One of our primary purposes is to engage the principle of supply and demand by preparing our students for professions of high need and importance, especially those that serve the citizens of the state of Tennessee.

In this regard, we continue to prepare outstanding educators to meet the ever-increasing demands for teacher quality and student learning from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Many of our graduates leave the university with degrees that have prepared them for management positions in retail stores, hotels and restaurants, and other human services occupations. Our departments and faculty help fill the need for certified public health professionals; registered dietitians; and school, mental, and rehabilitation counselors. We train exercise scientists, leisure directors, sport management personnel, and therapeutic recreation specialists. In addition, our graduate programs focus on preparing the next generation of college and university professors so that, in effect, we are "teaching the teachers"!

In this issue of *Accolades*, you will read about the very good and important work our faculty and students are doing on behalf of the college and the university. One of our feature articles is about Sarah Hillyer, a doctoral student in the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Leisure Studies, who courageously traveled inside Iran to teach young Iranian girls how to play softball. If there's a better

example of how we are responding to Chancellor Loren Crabtree's Ready for the World initiative, I would like to know what it is. You also will be updated on the work of Dr. Brian Barber, director of the Center for the International Study of Youth and Political Violence, who conducted his first international conference on this topic in Cape Town, South Africa. This is yet another excellent example of the global work in which the college is involved.

You also will be interested to learn that our college is directing the work of the Tennessee Governor's Academy for Math and Science. Under the expert guidance of Dr. Vena Long, associate dean for research and professional development, Tennessee's best and brightest students, coming from all regions of the state, are continuing their high school education right here in Knoxville.

On the topic of schools and schooling, Dr. Bob Kronick's important work in the area of Full Service Schools is profiled. And last, but certainly not least, you can read about the Tennessee Obesity Research Center, which recently received approval for operation from the University of Tennessee Office of Research. This center, under the direction of Drs. Naima Moustaid-Moussa and David Bassett, will focus on research, outreach, and practice designed to ameliorate the obesity epidemic. It's just another example of how our faculty and students impact quality of life.

As dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, I would be remiss if I did not express our sincere appreciation to you, the graduates and friends of our college, whose support makes all of the work we do possible. Thank you for your continued support of these efforts, as well as others you will read about in future issues of *Accolades*!

Dean Bob Rider
College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences