



The Torch

A Methodist Rehabilitation Center Employee Publication

Summer 2014

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Nationally Recognized Center of Excellence for Rehabilitation after a Stroke, Spinal Cord Injury, Brain Injury or Amputation

Volunteer Spotlight Dub Duperier



In October, 2011 Dub Duperier of Jackson was given a tour of MRC by his friend Charlie Lott, one of our faithful volunteers. Dub was impressed, felt he could contribute at MRC and began his service a month later. Dub comes faithfully every Monday morning, always with a warm smile and encouraging word.

Dub has been retired for about 13 years and was self-employed for the majority of his working life in sales of consumer goods and services.

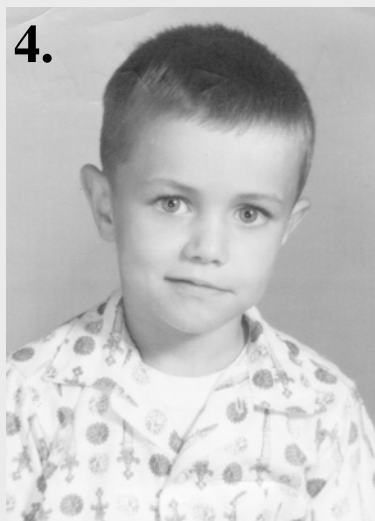
“After retirement, I felt that doing what I could to help these patients would a good way to serve God,” he said. “I had volunteered in another area but it didn’t involve direct contact with the people who needed help, so I feel very blessed to be here. I enjoy the patients very much, and the MRC employees are so friendly and helpful. It’s a very pleasant environment to work and volunteer.”

Dub and his lovely wife, Joni, have been married for 37 years. They have three children and six grandchildren. The Duperiers are longtime members of Christ United Methodist Church where Dub has been a pillar of the Sanctuary Choir for over 26 years.



Guess Who?

These are your coworkers back in the day!
Names revealed at bottom of this page.



Celebrating Bettye Sullivan



From left, Kathy Kendrick (MRC Information Services), Noel Guthrie (volunteer) and Sally Carmichael (MRC Board of Trustees and a governor of the Wilson Foundation)

Following her retirement in April, employees and volunteers gathered on June 4 to thank Bettye Sullivan for more than two decades of service. Sullivan began in January, 1993 as Director of Volunteer Services and concurrently as the first director of the Wilson Research Foundation.

“Bettye is to be commended for the all the positive things she did for us during her twenty one years of service; she will be missed by many,” said Steve Hope, vice president of human resources.



Volunteers who have served with Bettye are recognized

Guess Who? 1. Her Majesty Queen of the High School Prom Dr. Alyson Jones; 2. Linda Tynes (Assistant to the VP of Patient Care Services); 3. Greg Lauten (Biomed); 4. Mark Adams (Administration); 5. Jan Robertson (Specialty Care Center); 6. Susan Christensen (Public Relations).

Stevelyn Robinson—a young man who never quits

On March 21, MRC patient Stevelyn Robinson of Winona was honored in Oxford, Miss. with a \$75,000 gift from funds raised through the 2014 Sigma Nu Charity Bowl football game at the University of Mississippi. The gift will help his family with several needs, including making their home more accessible.

"Stevelyn's work ethic and perseverance are truly inspirational," said Paul DeForest, philanthropy chairman for the Ole Miss fraternity. "We hope to be able to help him accomplish all of his goals."

Inspired by the late Chuckie Mullins, an Ole Miss defensive back who broke his neck during a football game, the Sigma Nus have raised more than \$1.4 million for people with spinal cord injuries since the 1990 inception of the event.

An honor roll student, talented athlete and natural leader, Stevelyn had only his little sister's safety in mind when he spied a log truck bearing down on their school bus the morning of Dec. 2, 2011. While trying to shield her, he wound up at the bottom of a pile of kids and broke four vertebrae in his neck.

Though the road has not been easy, Stevelyn has a can-do spirit and continues to surprise everyone about what is possible after a paralyzing spinal cord injury. He has been through just about every rehab and support program MRC offers, both inpatient and outpatient, and he attacked every task with a special intensity.

"He's the kind of person who has had a goal all along; not just therapy goals, but lifelong goals," said Merry Claire Wardlaw, outpatient physical therapist who worked with Stevelyn for a year.

When Stevelyn and his family looked up in the stands at the Charity Bowl, they saw a number of members of their MRC "family" beaming back at them who made the drive to Oxford to share in this special moment.

At right, MRC employees who made the trip to Oxford to celebrate with Stevelyn, front from left, Allison Harris and Dr. Danny Burgess. Back from left, Merry Claire Wardlaw, Patricia Oyarce, Susan Christensen, Julie Walker, Suzanne Colbert and Ann Howard. Below, scenes from the Charity Bowl game and award ceremony.



Obtaining GED "feels like a million bucks"



After a paralyzing car crash during his 10th-grade year, Drew Thomas of McCool learned to adjust to life in a wheelchair with the help of MRC. But it wasn't until he moved to Methodist Specialty Care Center in Flowood that Thomas got his studies back on track.

With the help of volunteer Patricia Powers of Jackson, the 21-year-old recently became a proud GED recipient. "It was an experience I will never forget," he said. "I felt like a million bucks."

It meant a lot to Powers, too, because she had seen her own son, Roman, sidetracked by a similar situation. He was 15 when he was paralyzed by a gunshot wound and sent to Methodist Rehab to recover.

After helping her son get a diploma, Powers knew she was the one to tutor Thomas—particularly since she would also be giving back to Methodist Rehab. "It holds a special place in my heart," she said. "Drew is like my third child. He reminds me a lot of Roman."

Powers accompanied Thomas to classes three times a week at Rankin County's Adult Education Program, all the while maintaining her career as a nursing assistant and a busy family schedule. It was this above-and-beyond commitment that led her to be named as the Specialty Care Center's *Volunteer of the Year* earlier this year.

Drew plans to continue his education.

Afternoon outing



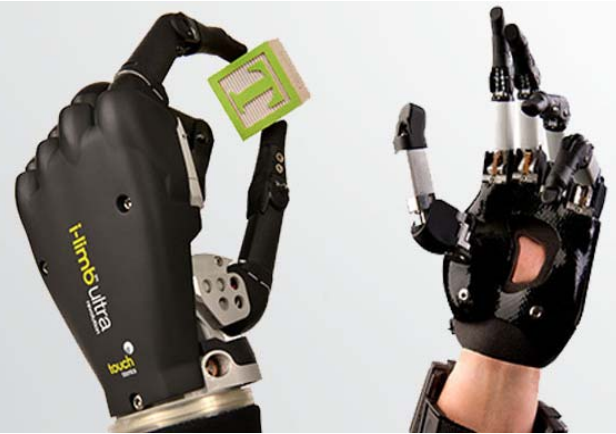
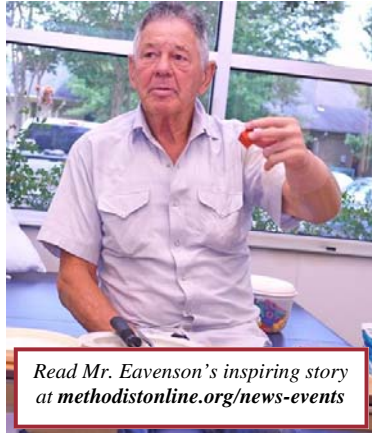
Recreational therapists (from left) Courtney Jones and Kelcey Davis enjoyed a field trip on July 10 with Jay Killen of Horn Lake. Killen was a patient at MRC about a year ago after contracting botulism that resulted in quadriplegia. In recent weeks, Killen returned for another inpatient stay.

Read Killen's amazing story in the Winter 2014 Ways & Means magazine: methodistonline.org/news-events/publications

Bionic hand gets thumbs up

On July 16, patients and Methodist's clinical care team and potential patients gathered at our east campus in Flowood to learn about advanced upper limb prosthetics. Several news media outlets covered the event.

Roy Eavenson (*right*) of Covington County demonstrated amazing five-finger functionality that allows him to tie shoes, button his pants, cut his own steak and even grip and drink from a paper cup. The futuristic i-limb hand was custom fit for Eavenson by Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics in Flowood.



Meet Bonnie Perry

Research Biomedical Engineer

Bonnie Perry, MSBME, ATP, has joined the MRC research team as Rehabilitation Engineer, a new position. Bonnie is working to advance the use of innovative rehabilitation technology and serves as an interface between research, biomedical engineering and clinical programs.

Bonnie holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Engineering from Mississippi State University and a master's degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of South Florida. She is also a certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP).

Bonnie is evaluating and promoting the use of rehabilitation technology at MRC through collaboration between research and clinical programs. She will also participate in research projects, specifically related to evaluation of technology for diagnosis and treatment of neurologic conditions. She will serve as a link between Methodist's research, biomedical engineering department and clinical services.

"Bonnie is a great asset to our entire hospital," said Dr. Boba Stokic, administrative director of research. "She is the 'go to' person when it comes to understanding operation of different technologies used in



Bonnie Perry (*standing*) looks on as student interns Daniel McClung and Jordan Hester interview research subject Lynn Gaddis. Lynn is an employee of Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics.

therapy. She is also available to provide education to therapists that goes beyond typical in-services and manuals provided by manufacturers."

Researcher Howard departs for Atlanta, credited for contributions

Charla Howard began with MRC in 2010 as a research associate dedicated to prosthetic limb-related studies. Charla left MRC in June for Atlanta with her husband, Joel, who is beginning a pediatrics medical residency following his May graduation from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Charla will continue her research affiliation with MRC on a part-time basis that includes regular trips back to Jackson.

"Charla has made significant contributions," said Dr. Boba Stokic. "She was the lead author on two peer-reviewed papers and has made three presentations at the national and international orthotics and prosthetics conferences, one of which was 'by invitation only'. She was part of the team that secured a \$100,000 grant from prosthetics manufacturer Össur and she served as lead investigator on that funded study until her departure.

"Charla's work ethic and spirit inspires coworkers and volunteer research subjects alike," Stokic continued. "She is always willing to take on the most challenging tasks. She projects enthusiasm and makes everyone feel comfortable and wanting to be a part of the discoveries. As a testament to this, we achieved 100 percent retention of research participants in a recent study that requires weekly visits over 3.5 months. She has also served as an instructor to student interns who always spoke highly of her leadership skills and guidance."

"Having a dedicated researcher has added a new dimension to our Orthotics & Prosthetics division," said Chris Wallace, director of Methodist O&P. "It demonstrates our commitment to the betterment of this field and has improved the patient care we provide. Charla has been a dynamic and vibrant team member who



Charla Howard (*front right*) poses with MRC research coworkers (*from left*) Anthony Smith, Yolanda Pannell, Karen Skeen, Tony Hayes, John Chow and Heather Maloney.

helped establish MRC's credentials within the O&P research community and her efforts have helped us improve relationships with key manufacturers and research partners. I foresee even greater opportunities to build upon this foundation that has been laid as we move forward."

Spinal Cord Injury Navigator program

funded by the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation

Methodist Rehabilitation Center has been awarded a three-year grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation for a new program that will help persons with a spinal cord injury ease the transition from hospital to home. MRC was selected as one of four nationally recognized rehab institutions to receive a Neilsen Tier II Multi-Year Quality of Life Initiative Grant.

Methodist Rehab's aptly named Navigator program provides guidance to the newly injured as they continue to recover and strive to remain healthy and active in their communities.

"A spinal cord injury is a life-changing event and in the blink of an eye it can affect almost every aspect of a person's life," said Dr. Sam Grissom, MRC medical director and Navigator program co-director. "We know that going home is a tough adjustment for many patients. Each person faces different challenges, but we've found that most need help to maintain healthy and fulfilling lives."

"Our recent community health needs assessment identified a myriad of issues, including concerns about medication, supplies and

equipment, therapy, home modifications, transportation, finances and returning to work or school," said Dr. Boba Stokic, MRC administrative director for research and Navigator program co-director.

"For one thing, many have no primary care relationship prior to their injury, and this disconnect tends to continue after they leave rehab."

Arash Sepehri, M.A., on staff for six years in Methodist Rehab's Department of Neuropsychology, has taken on the new role of Care Coordinator for the Navigator program. Arash is working with a team that includes physicians, nurses, therapists, psychologists, social workers and case managers to help Navigator participants access the appropriate resources, provide injury-specific education, and to meet health and lifestyle goals.

"Helping people find resources and empowering them to overcome hurdles is the major focus of my job," said Sepehri.

The Navigator program is initially being offered to those with spinal cord injuries who are admitted to MRC for inpatient care. The program will expand to include former patients and those engaged in other MRC outpatient programs.

For information,
call 601-364-3315 or visit
methodistonline.org/navigatorprogram



Arash Sepehri



West Nile Virus Research Network established

Eleven years ago, Methodist Rehab researchers made a groundbreaking discovery as we were the first to link West Nile Virus to polio-like damage to the spinal cord. MRC has since grown into an internationally recognized center for research as well as the diagnosis and treatment

of the neurological complications of WNV infection, attracting patient referrals from as far away as the states of Washington and Virginia.

Thanks to four generous donors, the Wilson Research Foundation has new commitments totaling \$615,000 for promising new research over the next three years to elucidate how West Nile virus affects the nervous system. Other pledges are being sought with a goal of raising up to \$1 million for this work.

With these gifts, MRC has established The West Nile Virus Research Network to conduct clinical (patient-focused) research, provide support services, and collaborate with scientists from the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) and University of Southern Mississippi (USM) for basic science research.

"Our clinical observations over 11 years are driving this important research," said Dr. Boba Stokic, Network Co-Director.

"The virus lives only for a few days before our bodies defeat and kill it, yet it can cause lasting neurological problems, some which do not manifest until many months later. We need to understand the steps the virus takes to attack the nervous system with the hope we will discover a way to block some of those steps and prevent damage," Stokic said.

Fengwei Bai, Ph.D. at USM is investigating the attack of the virus on



Drs. Dobrivoje (Boba) Stokic and Art Leis

the nervous system during the brief time the virus is alive in a human body. Parminder J.S. Vig, Ph.D. at UMMC, is studying the cascade of neurological events that can occur after the virus is no longer alive.

"We will do this in parallel with our clinical research and support services for patients who continue to struggle long after West Nile virus infection," said Dr. Art Leis, who also serves as Network Co-Director.

"We are confident that this bridge between basic science and clinical care is the only way to accelerate discoveries and improve health of people affected by this unusual disease," Leis said.

For a great story on MRC's first decade of groundbreaking WNV research and clinical care, check out the cover story in the Winter 2013 Ways & Means magazine: methodistonline.org/news-events/publications



LaQuanda Turner,
Stroke Program

Celebrating Nurses Week

Each year, Nurses Week is celebrated in the U.S. from May 6-12 to honor nursing staff for their incredible role in recovery and restoration for millions of Americans who need healthcare services. The dates coincide with the birthday (May 6) of Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing.

At MRC, Nurses Week is a chance to express our profound appreciation for the dedication and skill of our nursing staff that includes 23 Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurses, 24 nurses with ACLS certification and a wonderful support staff. Our nursing staff provide care 24/7, year-round to help each patient overcome obstacles and recover to his/her fullest potential. And they do a tremendous job preparing and educating patients and their families for life after rehab.

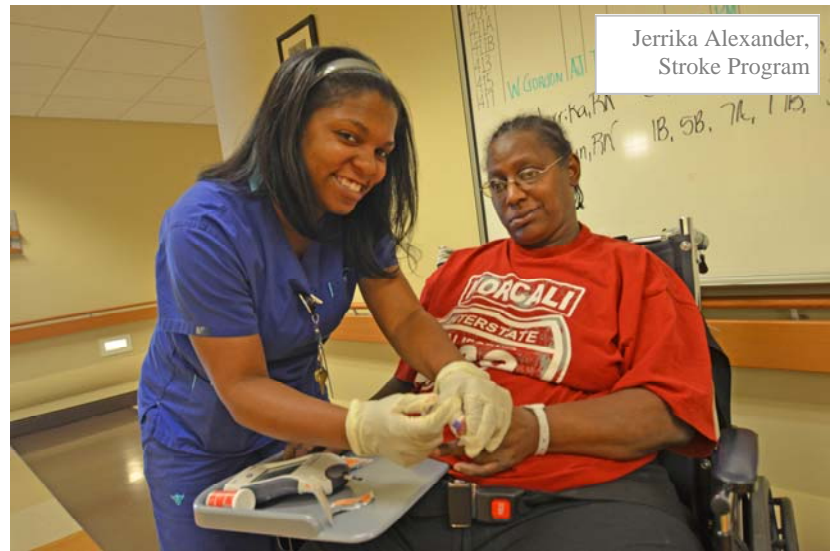
At MRC, nurses fulfill the roles of nurse manager, staff RN, staff LPN, shift manager, charge nurse, patient care supervisor, preceptor, case manager, community outreach nurse, outpatient clinic nurse, employee health and infection control, wound care and urology coordinator, radiology nurse, nurse educator and vice president for patient care services.

Nursing support staff includes rehab technicians, therapy technicians, transporters, orderlies and unit clerks. In addition, every department at MRC works in some way to support nursing.

We appreciate our excellent nursing staff!



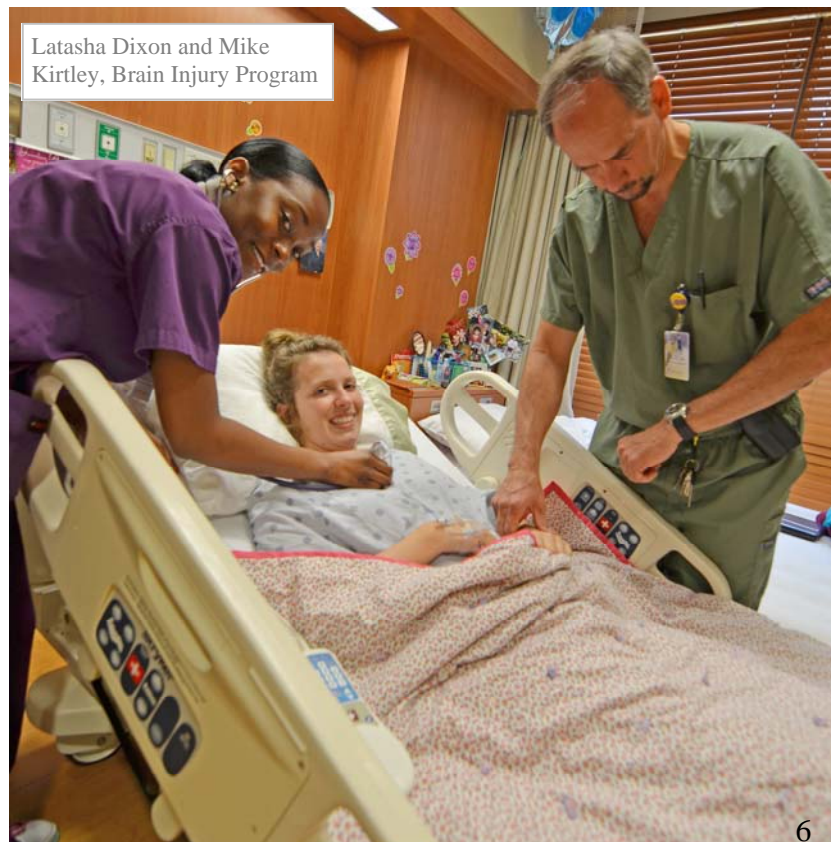
Rebecca Hudson,
Jessica Johnston and
Reagan McElroy,
Brain Injury Program



Jerrika Alexander,
Stroke Program



Jennifer Averett,
Spinal Cord
Injury Program



Latasha Dixon and Mike
Kirtley, Brain Injury Program



Yolanda Carter, Latisha Hull
and Matthew Harmon,
Spinal Cord Injury Program

Meet Mississippi's first elite BCS-S swallowing disorder specialists

Methodist Outpatient speech-language pathologists Kim Boyd and Heather Wise are now Board Certified Specialists in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S), the first in Mississippi to achieve this elite designation.

Board certification follows a rigorous three to five year process that includes 75 hours of Continuing Education and significant experience in evaluation and treatment of patients. Also, the candidates must distinguish themselves in one or more ways such as research, leadership and educational accomplishments.

There are only 250 BCS-S in the nation. Large population states such as Florida and California have as many as 20 each, but there's only a few such specialists in smaller states. MRC is very proud to have the first and only BCS-S specialists in Mississippi.

"This is a very big deal and Kim and Heather worked extremely hard to achieve this," said Joe Jacobson, director of Methodist Outpatient Services.

From left, Heather Wise and Kim Boyd



Rocket science meets rehab

Anti-gravity treadmill lightens the load for patients and athletes sidelined by injury

The same rocket-science technology that helps elite athletes get off the disabled list is putting people back on their feet at Methodist Rehab Center Outpatient Services in Flowood.

MRC is the only center to offer AlterG Anti-Gravity Treadmill training to the general public. The NASA-inspired system off-loads as much as 80 percent of a person's weight and is now FDA approved for functional rehab and a training aid for everyday athletes.

"It allows people to exercise before they have the strength or endurance to support their own weight," said Joe Jacobson, director of outpatient services. "They can exercise at an aerobic level, and it's not painful."

Realizing the treadmill's potential for getting players off the sidelines, the Nike Oregon project signed on to be a prototype tester for the device in 2005. Today, AlterG counts the Washington Wizards, Green Bay Packers, Texas Rangers and U.S. Olympic Training Center among its customers.

"It took off in sports because athletes who got injured could begin rehab a lot sooner," said Jason Parnell, a regional account manager for AlterG. "Soon after, we began to incorporate our Anti-Gravity Treadmill into the physical therapy setting."

During an AlterG session, the lower body is encased in a waist-high plastic chamber filled with load-lifting, pressurized air. Treadmill controls adjust the pressure, creating a low-impact workout zone for anyone with weight-bearing issues.

Jacobson said the system can help therapy patients recovering from leg or joint surgery, and it's a good tool for anyone too weak or unsteady to walk unsupported. The clinic also offers the treadmill as a training resource for local athletes at a rate of just \$15 per 30-minute session.

"It's a way for injured runners to keep their base and continue to run without the pounding that goes with it," Jacobson said. "If you want a progressive return to weight bearing, the treadmill is the way to do it."

Take it from Curtis Brown of Jackson, who wishes the AlterG had been around when he first began rehab. He wasn't even able to stand after a workplace fall ruptured the tendons that connect the quadriceps to the knees.

"I was in a wheelchair for three and a half months and couldn't walk without leg braces," said Brown, who appreciates the AlterG's impact on his recovery. "It feels like you're an astronaut walking on the moon," he said. "It lifts you, takes the weight off your body and



Avid runner John Sewell of Jackson demonstrates the AlterG at Methodist Rehab Outpatient Services in Flowood.

takes the pressure off my knees for sure. So I was able to walk and jog and do things I couldn't normally do.

"I would recommend it to anybody who has my injury for sure and for knee replacement, patella problems, ACL and MCL injuries—that's the machine."

Methodist Rehab physical therapist Sara Gibson tried out the system, and the triathlete and distance runner says she's excited about the possibilities for patients and athletes alike.

"I thought it was a great tool," she said. "As a runner, there are times when you're coming back from running-related injuries. Anytime you can start running without as much pounding is good."

Interested in trying AlterG? Call (601) 936-8888.

Nursing Home Week



Nursing assistant Karen Curtis serves at Methodist Specialty Care Center's annual cookout held during National Nursing Home Week.



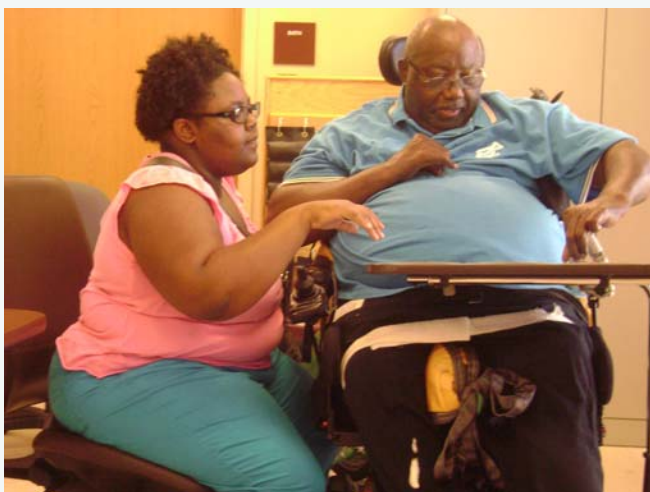
Spa Day at Methodist Specialty Care Center!

One way we celebrated National Nursing Home Week was through spa treatments! Many residents and staff enjoyed being pampered courtesy of the wonderful cosmetology students from Virginia College. At left, Ms. Archie, resident, receives a manicure.

Nurses Week and Nurses Assistants Week celebrated



Bingo with Brenda Thames, PT and Margaret Parker, resident during National Nursing Home Week.



Bingo with Keandra Robertson, volunteer and Oscar Hicks, resident during National Nursing Home Week.



Not to be confused with Nursing Home Week, Specialty Care Center also recently celebrated National Nurses Week (May 6-12) and National Nursing Assistants Week (June 12-19). A festive breakfast and lunch was provided and nurses and nursing assistants received a backpack from the facility.

At left, Byron Brooks CNA (front), Karen Curtis CNA (middle), and Tamala Tucker,

See more Specialty Care Center news on page 11

Methodist Specialty Care Center in Flowood provides long-term specialized care for severely disabled younger residents. To learn about volunteering at the center, contact Robby Scucchi at (601) 420-7769 or rsucchi@mnrcrehab.org



This year, our Walk & Roll Corporate Sponsors contributed over \$20,000 to the effort:

Gold Sponsors: BankPlus, Barefield Workplace Solutions, C-Spire Foundation, Fox Everett and Horne LLP.

Silver Sponsors: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, Canizaro Cawthon Davis Architects, First Commercial Bank, Mid-State Construction, Mobility Medical, Trustmark National Bank, Wise Carter Child Carraway, Atmos Energy and TEC.

Bronze Sponsors: Baptist Health Systems, Biggs, Ingram & Solop Attorneys, The Bike Crossing, Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes PLLC, Brown Bottling Group, Custom Medical Solutions, Hederman Brothers Printing, LogoStore USA, MMI Dining Systems, St. Dominic Health Services and Worth Thomas Consulting.

The 2014 Walk & Roll held on April 5 raised a record \$65,051 for the Wilson Research Foundation at MRC.

Team Karen raised \$8,235 thanks to the efforts of Karen Skeen (Research Dept), her friend Keith Ferguson (former MRC patient and Karen's longtime friend since high school) and their many family members and friends.

Team Outpatient Rehab raised \$3,102, and Team Rally for Research raised \$2,845. Individual honors went to Karen Skeen for personally raising \$5,875 of the Team Karen total. And Luly Johnson (O&P) came in 2nd place in individual fundraising with \$1,430 raised.

*Below, scenes from the Walk & Roll. We are so thankful for the big turnout, the gorgeous spring weather, and our many sponsors and donors. Special thanks to **Mobility Medical** for providing a wonderful ramp for our "rollers"!*



The Torch is published periodically. Contributors to this edition include: Juanita Lester, Ginny Boydston, Susie Haseloff, Joe Jacobson, Heather Wise, Marcia King, Boba Stokic, Robby Scucchi, Carey Miller, Courtney Jones, Talamieka and Charles Brice, Luly Johnson, Jennifer Long, Susan Greco, Susan Christensen, Linda Tynes and Chris Blount. Submit stories/photos for future editions to cblount@wilsonfoundation.org or call 601-364-3598

Sports & Therapeutic Recreation



Team Methodist rules Endeavor Games!

Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics had another stellar showing at this summer's Endeavor Games in Oklahoma City. The competition for athletes with physical disabilities is a U.S. Paralympics "Gateway to Gold" program. Kenny Buford (O&P employee) took gold medals in powerlifting, shot put and javelin. Josh McCarty nabbed gold in swimming. And Cooper Blair (*photo at right*) brought home the gold in the 100m, 200m and 400m race while setting two new national records in the 400m and 100m. *"I just want to say thank you for supporting me and cheering for me and helping me become the national champ in the 100m,"* Cooper said to MRC on Facebook. *"Before I race each time I pray and thank God for making me the way he did and giving me the chance to do these races. I can do all thing through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13."* Cooper also won silver in sitting volleyball. Tyler Jones won bronze in archery and the 100m, and gold medals in discus and archery. Zach Odom scored bronze in table tennis and sitting volleyball. **Check out our 3-minute video recap on Facebook: #endeavorgames**



Cooper Blair



Kenny Buford



Jennifer Long, Kristie and Zach Odom, and Taylor Hankins

Medals sweep



MRC fencer Josh Russell reigned supreme at the

State Games of Mississippi Wheelchair Fencing Tournament on June 21, 2014, sweeping the medal rounds and winning gold in all three categories (Foil, Sabre and Epee). It was only a year ago that Josh fenced in his first international tournament, selected as part of Team USA at the World Championships in Hungary along with veteran MRC fencers Ryan Estep and Joey Brinson.

Steep climb up Lake Cavalier hill



Randy Lavender (above) is one of a growing number of avid handcyclists who represent MRC. In June, Randy placed first riding at the Froglevel Festival in the Lee County community of Pratt. And in May, Randy rode with fellow handcyclists Wiley Clark and Chris Roberts as part of MRC's Team Rehab for The Bike Crossing's Mayhem ride benefit for the Wilson Foundation.

Also at the Mayhem ride was volunteer Rusty Hampton of Madison. Hampton was impressed with the strength and fortitude required to handcycle the hills of west Madison County. He posted the above photo on Facebook showing Randy climbing the infamous Lake Cavalier Road hill, and said, *"Next time I face a tough task and don't think I can do it, I'll think of Randy Lavender who rode his handcycle 50 miles during today's ride, and I will get the job done. My hat's off to all those who rode this event to raise money for Methodist Rehab, but I salute Randy and the other handcyclists who participated."*

North America Cup



Above left is Dejuan Surrell, a longtime member of the MRC Blade Rollers team, fencing foil at the North America Cup in Virginia Beach, Va. "Dejuan is so faithful, comes to every practice and is always well prepared for competitions," said Ginny Boydston, MRC director of sports and therapeutic recreation. Below, Dejuan shows medals earned with fellow Blade Roller Joey Brinson.



Wheelchair fencing clinic for juniors



Jonathan Elliston, Tes Williams, Jordan Drake and Gabriel Roth

Above, Ginny Boydston instructs the juniors about wheelchair fencing. Assisting in the clinic were members of MRC's Blade Rollers Fencing Team. Above is Josh Russell and Ryan Estep (third from left).

MRC held an introductory fencing clinic in June for members of the Mississippi WheelCats Junior Basketball Team.

"This is the off season for basketball and these very accomplished student athletes were looking for other sport enrichment experiences over the summer," said Ginny Boydston, MRC director of sports and therapeutic recreation. "So we decided to put on a fencing clinic specifically for juniors which will hopefully build interest in fencing for some of these kids down the road," she said. "They are highly invested in basketball, which is great, but they showed aptitude for fencing."

Members of MRC's Blade Rollers helped conduct the clinic.



Ryan Estep with Tes Williams and Jonathan Elliston.

Specialty Care Center News
continued from page 8

Volunteers Recognized



Members of the Junior Auxiliary of Rankin County were recognized with the *Outstanding Volunteer Award* at Methodist Specialty Care Center. From left, Tracy Short, Kathy McDill, Nikkie Robinson, Dana Byrd, Melinda Palmer and Elizabeth Wilson. (Not pictured are Kelli Nicholson and Brandi Stuart.)

Right photo, from left, Karen Edwards and Keandra Robertson received the *Volunteer Spirit Award* for service at Methodist Specialty Care Center (not pictured is recipient Tecola Bradley.)

The highest volunteer honor, the *Volunteer of the Year Award*, was presented to Patricia Powers—see story and photo on Page 3.



EDUCATION EVENTS

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KTI

(Kinesiotaping Association International) advanced courses:

KT4

Specialty Sports/Ortho Concepts*
September 20, 2014

KT4

Specialty Neurological Concepts*
September 21, 2014

* Prerequisites: completion of KTI courses KT 1, 2 & 3

Bike Crossing ride benefits Wilson Foundation

The Bike Crossing, located in Ridgeland on West Jackson Street, named the Wilson Research Foundation at MRC as its charity beneficiary for the '100 Miles of Mayhem' ride which was held on May 17, 2014. The event raised over \$14,000.

Many MRC employees helped out by either riding or volunteering at one of four "rest stops" with food and beverages along the 100 mile course. Employee-volunteers went all out with creative rest stop themes such as *Beach Party*, *Hippies* and *Mexican Mayhem*. Others volunteered behind the scenes helping set up tents, baking cookies and more. Gary Armstrong (exec. vice president and CFO) coordinated the volunteers.

"Our employees were amazing and we want to thank everyone who helped out," Armstrong said. "Everyone has told me that they had a blast."

"These proceeds will allow us to purchase needed equipment for therapy and research studies to help our stroke patients," said Chris Blount of the Wilson Foundation. "We want to thank The Bike Crossing and everyone who came together to make this a fun event that will help our patients for years to come."

At right, The Bike Crossing presents a check for \$14,000 to the Wilson Foundation. Below, MRC employees riding or volunteering at creatively themed rest stops.

