



Meharry 12 South Clinic celebrates first anniversary



After only one year, Meharry 12 South Community clinic has provided over \$20,000 in free care.

**by Michael Curtis
Nashville Pride intern**

In only one year, the Meharry 12 South Community Clinic has provided over \$20,000 worth of free medical care to the people of Nashville without insurance.

Created and supervised by Meharry medical students, the clinic has been enhancing both lives of the people and the medical education for students. One of Nashville's storied institutions is in partnership with the United Neighborhoods Health Services clinic network.

"The clinic started with a few students interested in starting a free clinic so that they could cultivate a training ground for future primary care physicians and then also access to care," said Naomi Beethoven, co-

director of case management. "The services that we provide are comprehensive care, primary care for children and adults. We do referrals to social services and we recently started doing oral cancer screenings."

Meharry 12 South Community Clinic helps to both enhance the educational experience of students and to offer top-quality health care at no cost to an underserved community. Devoted student and faculty volunteers at Meharry, as well as donors and institutional support make this community clinic possible.

The clinic is open on Thursdays from 6-9 pm. Its mission is to address health care disparities within our community by providing free, high-quality care to Nashville's underserved populations and by serving

as a clinical skills training ground for students, inspiring the next generation of primary care specialists.

"We started with one day a week from six to nine," said Nick Cramer. "As our patients numbers grow, we hope to move to eventually have two physicians on at night which would allow us to see twice as many patients. Then we would move to two days a week."

The clinic is still forming its presence in the community, so it is essential to take an active approach in order to spread the word about the clinic and recruit patients. Volunteers are an irreplaceable portion of this vital part of clinical operation and development.

The goal of the volunteer is to unite with individuals, their families and their friends who are considered low-income, uninsured, or not already receiving health care services.

"It is important because we are giving healthcare to a wide range of the citizens in Nashville," said Courtney James, a second year medical student. "I think it impacts not only the community but also us as students because that's why we came to Meharry, so that we could provide healthcare to those that don't have it."

The clinic is growing more and more every week and will start giving out free flu shots as early as next week.



Born gay ...



Panelists disclaim their perspectives on same sex relationships.

by **Michael Curtis**

Are people born attracted to the same sex, or do they make a choice? Recently, the Student Election Commission (SEC) of Tennessee State University took on the heated and controversial question before an audience of students in Kean Hall. The seminar 'Whose Business Is It Anyway?' featured students representing the LGBT community and those sitting on the opposite side of the argument.

The panel often erupted into heated debates with some speakers arguing that homosexuality was a personal choice, while others believed environmental elements influenced people's decision as to which gender they would be attracted. Michaiiah Hinds was not shy about sharing his opinion and the Bible scripture to back it up.

"As a Christian, same sex marriage goes against the will and the word of God," said Michaiiah Hinds, a panelist from the seminar. "The Bible says in Leviticus 18:22: 'Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind; it is an abomination.' We live a life faced with sin and neither man nor woman is perfect. The Bible declares that we all have sinned and fallen short

of God's glory, but we thank God for His grace and mercy. Let me be the first to say that we have to daily crucify ourselves and submit to the will of God."

According to the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, a sexual orientation law estimates that nine million (about 3.8%) of Americans identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

They also report that the most broadly recognized statistic is that one in every 10 individuals is LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender); however, some research estimates one in 20. This all depends on a person's definition of 'gay' (which may vary by study) and the participant's willingness to classify as gay, bisexual, lesbian or transgender.

"Being born or not being born with an attraction to only the opposite sex is only important when the morality aspect of the act is discussed," said Daryl Ritchie, a member of GSA (Gay Straight Alliance). "The topic is irrelevant. I don't see anything wrong with the state of being homosexual. Thus, I don't see it being important as to if people are born that way or not."

According to

www.slate.com, studies have shown that men with biological brothers are likelier to be homosexual than men with older sisters or no older siblings. The likelihood of being gay increases by about 33% with each additional older brother.

It's an argument that has been going on for decades with no conclusive answer to it. It's not only a sensitive subject, but also one that has sparked intense research initiatives.

While there is much research taking place and varying opinions, the SEC says it is doing its part to bring about awareness, and expand people's opinions and create an environment of acceptance, regardless of people's differences, including their sexual preference.

"Our seminar gave the panel and audience a chance to voice and hear the perspectives of different love interests by homo and heterosexuals," said Angelina Berry, a member of the Student Election Commission. "A topic scared to be touched by most students was fully exposed and discussed in-depth, from undercover men to religious perspectives."



Nashville Predators/Metro break ground on new recreation center



Mayor Karl Dean, city officials and representatives from the Nashville Predators were on hand to break ground on the new recreation center and ice rink development at Global Mall at the Crossings.

photo: Michael Curtis

by Michael Curtis

The Nashville Predators and Metro Nashville broke ground on the brand new recreation center and ice rink development last week at Global Mall at the Crossings in Antioch, Tenn.

The rink development is an element of a public-private partnership between the Nashville Predators and Metro that will help continue growth of hockey in Middle Tennessee. This rink will aid in generating new fans, ensuring more and more children are putting a hockey stick in their hands at an early age. It will also be a contributor to economic development in southeastern Davidson County.

"I think the biggest thing here was two areas," said Terry Crisp, a worker on the

project. "We needed more ice services for the kids here to grow and learn about the sport of hockey—and I think they felt that this was a great location that was available and has a future to it."

Mayor Karl Dean and representatives from the Nashville Predators were present. The 86,000 square-foot hockey center will also serve as a practice facility for the Predators. The Predators organization will monitor and maintain the rink, which will be accessible for community use and to help increase youth hockey programs.

The \$14-million hockey center will be two stories and will include two multi-purpose ice rinks, team rooms, meeting rooms and an observation mezzanine.

There will be space for concessions, as well as an ice skate rental and repair center. A covered walkway will connect it to the library and community center.

"I think it's great because you've got one rink out in Franklin and one downtown so this is like an area in the middle of the city," Duane Duke, a fan of the Predators said. "I know it's hard to get ice time especially for the little ones to go over and practice. I think this would get people more interested in hockey too."

The city also plans to construct a new library branch and state-of-the-art fitness center next to the hockey facility.

The complete project is scheduled to be open in the fall of 2014.



New math and writing programs offered at TSU

by Michael Curtis
The Meter

TSU has a new way for freshmen to get better at their writing and increase the capability of their math skills.

M.A.D. (Math After Dark) and W.R.A.P. (Write Revise And Perfect) are interactive programs focusing on creating different ways for students to grasp the basic concepts of math and writing. The classes are instructed by full time faculty. Only first-year students are eligible and the programs are completely free of charge.

"What we wanted to accomplish with these programs is for the students to find avenues in order to learn basic concepts of math and writing through things like poetry, story writing and dominoes for the math portion," said Tiffany Freeman, director of Residence Life. "You need basic writing skills if you're going into marketing. You need basic math skills if you're going into chemistry."

M.A.D. is every second and fourth Tuesday of the month and W.R.A.P. is every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Both are held in Wilson Hall. The program will run throughout the academic year and is optional. It is recommended that students become engaged with the creative aspect of the programs.

Tutoring is done in a group setting. The faculty will use innovative methods to teach foundational math

and writing concepts. There is no one-on-one help. If students need one-on-one service they will be directed to the academic success center.

"I think the M.A.D. and W.R.A.P. programs are good for freshmen, especially those that struggle with math like myself," said Cierra Smith, a freshman from Atlanta. "It's great that the university is creating different ways to interact with students and have unique programs to help them succeed. Some students don't respond to the standard tutoring methods so that could be an alternative for them."

TSU's standard tutoring program is the 'TSU-In-Review' tutoring program, which is designed to provide college-level, academic support in various subjects, utilizing tutors and computer-based, supplemental materials. 'TSU-In-Review' is located in the Student Success Center in suite 202. Tutoring hours are 4:30-8 pm, Monday through Friday.

Recently TSU had a writing program in place called The WRITE (Write Reflect Integrate Transfer Excel) program with a goal similar to that of W.R.A.P.'s.

The desired learning outcomes are that students understand basic math and writing principles so that they are able to take them to college algebra and freshman English. There is no cap limit of students for the program. Classes have already begun. For more information contact tsulivinglearning-communities@gmail.com



TSU collects for the holidays

**Michael Curtis,
Nashville Pride**

The Student Government Association of Tennessee State University along with president Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover is giving back for the holidays with the first annual H.U.A.H. (Huddle Up Against Hunger) campaign.

In the past, TSU has helped needy families, but this year's goal is to give back and help an entire community. Donations of toys for girls and boys (ages 6 and up), toiletries and personal items will be accepted. Gift card contributions as well as cash donations will also be accepted.

From November 4th – 22nd non-perishable food items will be collected and donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. The goal of this drive is to collect 700 food items.

"Huddle Up Against Hunger is a campaign I initiated to further implement my platform 'Strengthening unity, voice, and success amongst the student body'," Erica Smith, executive vice president of SGA said. "What better a way to show the local and surrounding areas we are united than by showing that we can come together to help those less fortunate than ourselves?" Smith added.

All three branches of SGA in addition to registered student organizations and clubs are participating in this campaign.

Erica Smith said she hopes that this initiative will have a huge impact on the community and will continue with future administrations.

"As the advisor to the Student Government Association, I am proud to see over 50 organizations under the general assembly working together to collect food for the less fortunate," Dr. Ja'mel Hodges, director of student activities said. "I think it is a great opportunity for student organizations to work together as a community to give back to a greater cause," Hodges added.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee's purpose is to provide a central distribution center for groups and individuals who wish to help provide food for the hungry.

Today, Second Harvest Food Bank is one of the major and most comprehensive of more than 200 food banks and food dispersal centers countrywide.

"We must value the opportunity to be a blessing to those who are not as fortunate as others," said Brett Jackson, representative at large. "Huddle Up Against Hunger is most definitely a great initiative and I'm glad to be a part of it," Jackson added.

According to the USDA, an estimated 50.1 million Americans are at risk of hunger, and 16.7 million U.S. children under 18 are deprived of food. One in four children in the state of Tennessee suffers from hunger.

If you would like to donate, drop off your canned goods in the SGA suite which is located on the second floor of the Floyd Payne Campus Center or go to any of the drop-off boxes on the main and downtown campus.