

ORGANIZATION OF FACULTY WIVES & WOMEN FACULTY



The University of Texas Houston Medical School

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Link to our web site: <http://med.uth.tmc.edu/administration/development/FWWF/>

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UPCOMING ART TOUR

WHAT: Craft in America: Expanding Traditions

WHERE: Houston Center for American Craft
4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

WHEN: Saturday, April 12, 10:30-11:30am

RSVP: 713-728-1368 or emilysteiner@sbcglobal.net

Emily Steiner has organized this fascinating expedition. Please join us for a guided tour of *Craft in America: Expanding Traditions*, at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, an exhibition that showcases the best in American craft over 200 years. The docents are trained and they are also working craftsmen. In addition to the current show which surveys 200 years in American crafts over all mediums, there's an opportunity to visit the on-site studios of the craftspeople, and shop the beautiful retail store. There are ample possibilities for lunch in the Midtown area. Parking is available behind the museum but carpooling is always a good idea.

And while we are on the subject of art, there are artists among us! Donna Buja and friends are exhibiting their watercolors at "Watercolor Facets", a show running from April 1-29, at the Cloister Gallery, Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas (between Fannin and San Jacinto), Houston 77002. The Gallery is open from 11am-2pm Monday-Friday, and on Sundays 8-10am and 11am-2:30pm. There is an opening reception on Friday, April 4, from 6-8pm, with free parking at the garage at Prairie and San Jacinto (use the entrance on San Jacinto).

BOOK CLUB INFORMATION

April Book Club

WHEN: Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 7:00 pm

WHERE: Change of venue!

At the home of Julie Knobil
2610 Glen Haven, 77025

Change due to construction around Judy Fred's house on Marlive.....

RSVP: 713-666-4926

BOOK: *The Lay of the Land*, by Richard Ford

The Lay of the Land completes a trilogy that began with *The Sportswriter* and was followed by *Independence Day*. It returns Richard Ford after a decade to the voice of Frank Bascombe, a voice already among the indelible creations of contemporary fiction: rooted in New Jersey suburbia, shot through with quiet comedy and capable of sudden, wrenching pathos.

May Book Club

WHEN: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 7PM

WHERE: To be determined

BOOK: *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy

In a barren, ashen landscape that was once the United States of America, a weary man and his young son are traveling south in search of the ocean. They scavenge for food and shelter, and they must constantly avoid marauding bands of fellow survivors who would prey on them. The one thing that sustains them on their way is their ferocious love for each other. *THE ROAD* is the story of their heartbreaking journey.

Save the Date!

The Spring Luncheon is set for Thursday, May 8, from 11:30-1:30, at Tony's. You will shortly be receiving an invitation (an "evite!"). The cost will be \$35.00.

We are delighted to have Dr. Peter J. A. Davies is our featured speaker at our luncheon.. His topic:

"When the Center of the Universe Shifts - Biomedical Research in the 21st Century".

Peter is the Executive Vice President for Research at UTHSC-H and a Professor of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology at UT Medical School. He completed MD-PhD training and medical internship at the University of Miami in 1975, followed by four years at the National Cancer Institute working with his mentor and colleagues on the search for the abnormal genes that cause cancer. He then joined the Pharmacology Department of the UT-Houston Medical School in 1979. He was one of the founders of the Medical School's MD/PhD program, serving as its director for 10 years. His research interests are focused on a specific class of hormone-like molecules (derivatives of vitamin A called retinoids) and how they can be used to affect the behavior of both cancer and pre-malignant cells that are at risk of turning into cancer. Those interests led him into a long and productive collaboration with pharmaceutical biotech companies focused on developing new drugs for treatment and prevention of cancer. More recently, he has worked with colleagues to search for new avenues for treating diabetes and also to better understand how to treat symptoms associated with menopause. In addition, he has led a team of scientists at UTHSC-H who have been developing sophisticated core technologies that can be used by the faculty to discover which molecules cause specific types of disease and new drugs that may be useful to treat these diseases once their causes are identified.

As the UT Health Science Center's Executive Vice President for Research since 2003, he works with Dr. Willerson to develop new research programs, particularly those that bring together researchers from different UT Health Science Center schools as well as from different Texas Medical Center institutions, supporting their efforts to advance the understanding of human disease and the search for new ways to treat and prevent disease in this exciting time of revolution in the fields of biology and biomedicine.

Introducing....Claire Brunson!

The FWWF group first met Claire Brunson, Director, Management Services at the Medical School, in late November 2007 when she gave us a marvelous tour of the new Research Facility before it was opened to the public. And we wanted to know how she got to play such an interesting and critically important role in UTMS development.

Claire started at UT in 1987, and moved into the Office of Management Services in 1995, becoming the Director the 2003. She acts as a liaison between academic departments, the Dean's Office, Facilities Planning and Engineering, students, and employees, and deals with all scheduling and emergency facilities issues, as well as being a tour guide for visiting dignitaries and prospective faculty members. The difficulties and challenges of this job were compounded by the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 which involved huge reconstruction projects.

Claire graduated from Baylor University in 1977 with a degree in Home Economics Education and got hooked on space planning and architectural design while working as an office manager for an interior design firm. In 2000, she decided to get a Masters degree in Healthcare Administration from TWU, but because of the load of work from the Tropical Allison recovery, this degree was not completed until 2006, an understandable delay. Claire has been married for 30 years to Mark Brunson, an English teacher and basketball coach at Elkins High School, and they have two children, both A&M graduates.

If you would like to see a picture of Claire, go back and look at the December/January issue of this newsletter and you will see Claire with the FWWF tour group.