



Scoop



Friday, July 24, 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. GABEL, AUGUST 14

Dr. Jeffery Katz, chairman of the Dept. of Anesthesiology, has announced a memorial service will be held for **Dr. Joseph Gabel** on Friday, August 14 at 4 p.m. at Hermann Hospital's John Dunn Chapel. A reception will follow in the Medical School's Fifth Floor Gallery. Dr. Gabel, who died on June 27, was chairman of the Medical School's Department of Anesthesiology from 1980 to 1991.



EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Dr. Benjy Brooks tribute, Thursday, July 30, 3 p.m., 3.001.**
- **Early Career Development Award** of \$15,000/year applications now being accepted by the Office of Research Services through **August 3**. Call 500-3075, UCT 1025B.
- **Career Awards in the Biomedical Sciences** applications now being accepted by the Office of Research Services through **August 3**. Six candidates are being sought. Awards range from \$38,000-54,000. Call 500-3075, UCT 1025B.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"Communicating with Power!" class, Wednesday, **Aug. 5, 1998, 10-11:55 a.m.**, MSB 2.135 or Thursday, **Aug. 20, 1-2:55 p.m.**, MSB 2.135, sponsored by the Employee Relations Committee (ERC). Learn: How to build bridges to people of any communication style in any business situation to make a healthier work environment; your own communication style; other communication styles and how they interact. Register via e-mail with **Deborah de Clairmont** at ddeclair@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu or by phone with **Sherry Dunn** at 500-5505 no later than **July 31**.

DR. BREWER BEGINS COOPERATIVE CANCER STUDY

Dr. Molly Brewer, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, will be collaborating with **Dr. Michele Follen Mitchell**, Gynecologic Oncology, M. D. Anderson, in a six-month study to learn more about early detection of ovarian cancer. Entitled "Chemoprevention Trial of OCP, 4-HPR, and Ovarian Fluorescence in the Rhesus Monkey," the study will begin in mid-August. The investigators will be using tumor markers and fluorescent imaging agents in reproductive-aged female monkeys and then measuring differences using oral contraceptives and 4-HPR, a retinoid.

One in 70 to 80 women will develop ovarian cancer. It is the leading cancerous cause of death in the female reproductive system. It is diagnosed in 26,800 American women each year, and 14,000 women will die annually from the cancer. Women at increased risk include those with a positive history of ovarian cancer in their family, women never having children, as well as possibly infertile women who have taken a lot of fertility drugs. "What we don't know," said Brewer, "is how oral contraceptives decrease the risk of ovarian cancers. Ovarian cancer by its nature is usually well advanced before it is discovered. It is an asymptomatic disease. Seventy per cent of the women with this disease are in stage three or four before it is diagnosed; their five year survival rate after detection is 5-15%. Treatment is surgical staging and tumor removal, and a combination of chemotherapies."



Questions the researchers hope to answer are what is the mechanism for the chemopreventive effects on the ovary? And what can we learn about susceptibility to ovarian cancer by increasing our understanding of the mechanism of prevention? According to a report recently issued by the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists (SGO), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Office on Women's Health in the Department of Health and Human Services, ovarian cancer death rates have remained the same for almost 50 years. The top priority, said **Dr. Karl Podratz**, president of the SGO and a professor at the Mayo Medical School and Clinic, should be the education of both the physician and patient to recognize the early warning signs. The good news is that women who have breastfed, who take oral contraceptives, and who have had multiple births, have 50% less risk of contracting ovarian cancer.

For more information about ovarian cancer, contact **Gail Hayward**, the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition for educating women and doctors, 1-888-682-7426 or the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Hotline, 1-800-873-9569. *Conversations!* is a monthly support network newsletter, offering hope, humor, and tips on treatments; contact **Cindy Melancom**, 1-806-355-2565, PO Box 7948, Amarillo, TX 79114.



UTMS FITNESS CENTER

The UTMS Fitness Center is here to help you stay in shape with their upcoming weight training sessions.

- ◆ Aug. 4 - Sept. 15, Muscle-of-the-Week class, Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Aug. 5 - Sept. 9, Muscle-of-the-Week class, Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Register by July 30; \$5 per person.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

UT - Houston Development Council Making A Difference

Editor's note: *The UT-Houston Development Council working with the UT-Houston Office of Development supports the Medical School in many ways. Here's a photo/spotlight on one of the many creative and behind-the-scenes efforts during 1998. While this event took place early in the year, the benefits to the Medical School and community alike are year-round.*

Heather and David Koogler, founding members of Houston FunRaisers (pictured left in photo), present a check for \$30,000 to **Dr. L. Maximilian Buja**, dean of the UT-Houston Medical School, and **Dr. Maria Ferris**, medical director for the K.I.N.D.E.R. Clinic (Kids In Need of Drug Evaluation and Rehabilitation). The funds will benefit the medical needs of children exposed to alcohol, drugs and/or HIV during pregnancy. Houston FunRaisers is a non-profit organization comprised of young business professionals who raise funds for local charities and causes.



What began in 1985 as a Halloween costume party for friends has evolved into a major Houston effort by business professionals to select charity needs and develop innovative party events that raise money for good causes. In recent years such events as "Boo at the Zoo," "The Enchanted Forest Masquerade," and the "No Pants Dance," (featuring costumes, suits, black tie and the finest boxer underwear), have

made Houston FunRaisers one of the most interesting and effective fund raising organizations in the community. Dr. Ferris, a member of the UT-Houston Medical School's Pediatrics Department founded K.I.N.D.E.R. Clinic in 1994 on a shoestring budget. Four years later, over 800 children and families have benefited from this UT-Houston Health Science Center/ Hermann Hospital outreach clinic. A total of \$45,000, including \$15,000 in matching funds from Positive Helpings was raised as a result of a February party and dance attended by over 200 Houston FunRaisers and friends. David Koogler has been a member of the UT-Houston Development Council since 1997.



Need Help With That Inventory? Just Ask

With the end of the fiscal year upon us, time is running out for all UT-Houston departments to locate and report all capital equipment. Says **Bonnie Geppert**, director of Capital Assets Management, "As we gear up for the next Legislative Session in January, it is critical that UT-Houston not be the state institution with the most unlocated capital equipment." She adds that the House General Investigating Committee is currently examining the level of unlocated assets at state agencies for preparation for the upcoming Legislative Session. All property data is submitted to the Comptroller's Office quarterly and becomes a matter of public record. "It is important that UT-Houston assets are located and the departmental inventories are completed by **Aug. 7, 1998**," reminds **Geppert**. For more information or assistance with inventory, call Geppert at 500-5817 or e-mail <bgeppert@admin4.hsc.uth.tmc.edu>.

UT's Dept. of Pediatrics Teams Up With Enron For Literacy

The Department of Pediatrics and Enron, invite you to a special session, "Enron's Prescription for Reading, A Reach Out & Read Program/A Pediatric Clinic Approach to Improving Literacy in Children," featuring **Dr. Perri Klass**, Medical Director, Reach Out & Read, Boston, on **Tuesday, July 28**. The schedule of events includes:

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| 8 - 9 a.m. | Grand Round Lecture - Medical School, Room 3.001 |
| 9 - 10 a.m. | Breakfast Reception -- lobby outside 3.001 |
| 10 a.m. - noon | A Reach Out & Read Workshop - John Freeman Bldg., Rooms G707 and G709 |
| 2 p.m. | Rusk Clinic Kick-Off Party - 2805 Garrow, Houston |

Directions from outside Medical Center: From Loop 610, take Fannin Street exit, travel north on Fannin (2.5 miles) to M. D. Anderson Blvd., turn right, enter TMC Parking Garage #7 on right. Park, cross M. D.

Anderson Blvd. and enter UT Medical School John Freeman Building. R.S.V.P. by July 24 (**today**) to **Missy Stevens**, (713) 853-5115.



Grand Opening of People Helping People Community Clinic, July 25

There will be a series of health workshops **tomorrow** to kick off the grand opening of People Helping People Community Clinic, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., 7405 Almeda. Presenters will include: **Dr. Carlos Herrera**, UT-H Medical; **Paula Knudson**, Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects; and **Faye Howard**, Ethnic Diversity in Research. Call 500-3765 for further information.