



# Scoop



Black History Month

Friday, February 5, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

## EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Dean's Lecturer, Dr. Michael J. Welsh,** Wed., **Feb. 10,** 4 p.m., 3.001.
- **Valentine's Day Sale,** Thurs., **Feb. 11,** 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Fri., **Feb. 12,** 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Leather Lounge.
- **Go Texan Day,** Frito Pie Sale, Fri., **Feb. 12,** 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Webber Plaza.
- **Ninth Annual Preventive Cardiology Forum,** Sat., **Feb. 13,** 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 3.001.

## 'JUMP START DEADLINE IS MARCH 1'

The Office of Faculty Affairs is accepting applications, due **March 1**, for short-term support (2-6 weeks) for faculty members. This is to obtain additional training or experience needed to begin new basic or clinical research projects or to redirect ongoing studies. The program is especially designed for mid-career faculty who may be changing research directions. Up to \$2,000 will be awarded for such expenses as course registration fees, travel and housing. Instructions and the application are available from the Office of Faculty Affairs or from the department chairs. For more information, contact: **Mary Cole**, 713-500-5100 or **Dr. Henry W. Strobel**, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, 713-500-6078.

## UTmost Interest

The new UT-Houston Nursing and Biomedical Sciences building recently won a **1998 Award of Excellence** from *Canadian Architect* magazine. The work of Patkau Architects and Ove Arup, the building concept was complimented for "the most sophisticated environmental design solution submitted this year."



Hot News

## JUDGES NEEDED TOMORROW

Students are urgently needed to help with the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition **tomorrow**, Saturday morning, **February 6**, 7 a.m.-noon, DeBakey High, 3100 Shanandoah (288 at S. MacGregor Way). "We desperately need judges for veterinary assisting. We would be most grateful," said spokeswoman **Brenda Coleman**, who can be reached at 713-732-3442.

## PUBLIC FORUM ON THE AGING BRAIN MARCH 16 & 20

**Dr. James A. Ferrendelli**, chair, Department of Neurology, and **Dr. Nelson Gruber**, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, will make presentations at a free public forum on "The Aging Brain," Tuesday, **March 16**, 5:30 - 7 p.m. and again on Saturday, **March 20**, 10:30 a.m. - noon. Both sessions will be on normal aging as well as diseases and disorders associated with the aging brain. The forum, in its fourth year here, is held in conjunction with Brain Awareness Week, a nationwide campaign of the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives. A question and answer period will follow. Community resource and support groups will be present to distribute information detailing their services. For more information, contact **Sharon Pepper**, 713-500-5540.



## DR. GLENN KNOTTS IS PURDUE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

**Dr. Glenn Knotts**, executive director of the Hermann Eye Fund, will receive a 1999 Distinguished Alumni Award from Purdue University on **April 9**. The award will be presented by Purdue's School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences from which Knotts holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees. His many accomplishments in medical education and publishing include leadership positions at the American Medical Association and American School Health Association. From 1972-1975 he was professor and coordinator of graduate studies and research at Kent State University while receiving two honorary doctorates for his national contributions to medical education. Academic and professional appointments at The University of Texas-Houston include administrative leadership and the executive editorship of M. D. Anderson Cancer Center's professional journal, *The Cancer Bulletin*. He also served as director of development at UT-Houston from 1985 - 1988. He came to the Hermann Eye Fund in 1989 to work with **Dr. Richard Ruiz**, chairman of the UT-Houston Medical School's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science and president of the Hermann Eye Fund.

## COMMENCEMENT AWARDS TO CONCENTRATE ON HUMANISM

For the first time ever, nominations are being solicited from faculty and students for a new \$2,500 faculty award, "Humanism in Medicine Award," to be given to a faculty member this coming spring. The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey is sponsoring the award and it will be presented at the Senior Awards Ceremony and acknowledged at Commencement.

Nominations for the faculty award must include at least a paragraph explaining why the nominee merits the award. Criteria include: consistently demonstrates compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients; serves as a role model and illustrates professional behavior by example for students and colleagues; approachable and accessible to students; welcomes opportunities for one-on-one mentorships with students, and displays effective communication and listening skills. Nominations need to be directed to the attention of **Dr. Margaret C. McNeese**, associate dean for student affairs, MSB G.106. The deadline is **March 1**, 1999.

The Foundation is also sponsoring a cash acknowledgment to be given to the winner of the Truman G. Blocker, Jr. Gold-Headed Cane Award, given annually to a graduating student selected by the class and based on the student's interest in the welfare of the patient. The Gold-Headed Cane Award's motto is "humility, humanity, and fidelity."

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

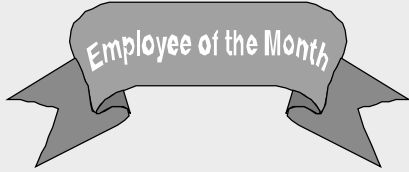
L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean  
Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., Assistant Dean  
Colleen O'Brien, Editor  
e-mail: [cobrien@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu](mailto:cobrien@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu)  
FAX: (713) 500-0597  
E-Scoop online: <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>



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## February Employee of the Month - Karla Lewis

"Karla Lewis is a veteran TUFIMS user who has a crisp memory for over 40 account numbers, a department customer's individual purchase history, and each of the principal investigators' grant specifications. She has strong customer service skills and is often happy to stop whatever she is doing to assist anyone who needs help," asserted **Che Kelly**, DMO of Neurology about our February Employee of the Month. A grants administrator in Neurology, Karla will be celebrating 10 years with the Medical School this coming August.



"I started in psychiatry and transferred into Neurology nine years ago," she reflected. Karla oversees all the contracts and grants for neurology, from pre-award to post-award, for faculty and staff totaling 75. What does she do when she's not busy with the Office of Sponsored Projects, Legal Affairs, with drug studies and NIH deadlines? This mother of three grown up sons laughed, "Well I dream about my four acres where deer and fox still roam in the San Marcos area." She's up there every other weekend, planning where the garden will go and visiting with her brother **Dickie** and his wife from Denmark, **Lene**, and "the loves of my life," her twin nephews **Andrew** and **Oliver**.

"She is meticulous about the details of her work and shows initiative in learning new aspects of her job. Since March 1998 she has been an integral part of developing the contract and grant management procedures for Neurology, and contributes in her 'team work' manner to the successes that the administration has accomplished in the past few years," concluded her supervisor. For a Houston native (born in Hermann Hospital), and a 'Texas Proud' one at that, the familiar face at UT Chili Cookoffs has her own memorable style.



## Collaborative Effort Spurs CARS Reading Program

UT's Center for Academic and Reading Skills (CARS) and the Texas Education Agency's Region XIII Education Service Center will receive a \$1 million contribution from AT&T Foundation, the Meadows Foundation and Houston Endowment Inc., **Governor George Bush** announced Feb. 3, 1999, in Austin. The money will fund a collaborative effort of UT-Houston and the Texas Education Agency. The centers will take the best models of training and instruction for early intervention to help second-graders who need specialized assistance to learn to read. **Dr. Barbara Foorman**, Pediatrics professor and CARS director, and **Dr. Jack Fletcher**, Pediatrics professor, are principal investigators on a NICHD five-year "Early Interventions for Reading Difficulties" grant.



Dr. Barbara Foorman

## A Physician's Desk Reference For Herbs

Physicians and other health care providers can now access a comprehensive guide to natural remedies, *Physician's Desk Reference for Herbal Medicines*, when patients quiz them about the interaction of their herbal medicines with their prescriptions. Based on *The Complete German Commission E Monographs: Therapeutic Guide to Herbal Medicines*, Europe's principal source of information on unregulated natural substances, more than 600 remedies are included. There's also a review of available information on dosages, precautions, adverse reactions and recommended emergency treatment. As the popularity of natural remedies grows, doctors are faced with questions about alternative medicines and their drug interactions with prescribed medications.



## ERC Offers Work/Life Balance Seminar Here

The Employee Relations Committee for the Medical School offers the following popular seminar through its Professional Development Series. "Work/Life Balance" will be presented by **Jo Greathouse** (UTHHSC Employee Assistance Program) in MSB 2.103 on Wed., **Feb. 10**, from 10-11:30 a.m., and again on Tues., **Feb. 16** from 2-3:30 p.m. Topics will be: *What is work/life balance,? Achieving work/life balance, Barriers to work/life balance.* To register, e-mail **Deborah de Clairmont** at [ddeclair@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu](mailto:ddeclair@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu).



## Medical Pioneer Dr. Jones

"Living Longer - Living Well" is the theme of the second annual Women's Night at the Museum of Health and Medical Science, 6 - 8 p.m., Thursday, **February 18**, sponsored by the American Heart Association, Houston Division. The event celebrates the diversity of Houston's women. Heart disease, which is on the rise in women today, will be a featured topic.

**Beatriz De Alvarado**, news anchor for Univision's Channel 45, will MC the evening's program beginning at 7 p.m. Speakers are **Dr. Edith Irby Jones**, medical pioneer, and **Willa Decker**, a nurse practitioner and humorist. Dr. Jones, a graduate in 1952, was the first Black admitted to the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. In 1993, **Mayor Bob Lanier** honored her for service to this community. Because Willa Decker believes that laughter is one of the best forms of stress release for busy women today, "Life Is Too Short To Wear Tight Shoes" will be her topic. *Cafe Take Away* will provide tasty hors d'oeuvres. RSVP by **February 12** to 713-610-5015.

**Nora K. Shire**, Community Affairs and Public Education, is chair of the Community Site Committee, Houston Division, AHA, that is planning the event.

**Donna Buja** (right), pictured with **Susan Byrne**, welcomed more than 80 attendees to the **UT-H Women's Health WATCH** forum Jan. 30.



- Photo by Colleen O'Brien