



Scoop

Fri., March 15, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

18 Health Care and the Arts Lecture Series, Dr. Sidney Berger, "Shakespeare and the Great Plague," noon, MSB 3.001.

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series. Dr. Martin E. Young, speaker, noon, MSB 2.135.

21 UT Physicians Women's Lunchtime Health Series, featuring **Drs. Joan Bull** and **Shahla Nader**, noon, MSB 3.001. For more information, call **1-888-4UTDocs**, or e-mail <RSVP@ucplus.org>.

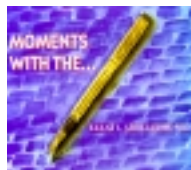
Muslim Health Professional Society Lecture Series, Sheikh Abdullah, president, Islamic Society of North America, "What is Islam? A Brief Overview of the World's Fastest Growing Religion," noon, MSB 2.006.

27 ERC Easter Baskets to be raffled. Drawings at noon, guard's desk, ground floor. Next week tickets will be sold at noon, ground floor, guard desk or by blue elevators, five for \$1.

UT Most Interest

Drs. Stephen Katz, Bruce MacFadyen, and Terry Scarborough, all in the Department of Surgery, were in the news concerning a new technique in kidney donor operations (*Houston Chronicle*, 3-12-02)...**Dr. Alan W. Friedman,** Internal Medicine/Rheumatology, is chairman, Fifth Annual Taste of The Best, West Coast Wines, to benefit the Arthritis Foundation.

OF NOTE - Moments with the Pen, by **Dr. Ezzat Aboulsh,** professor emeritus, Anesthesiology, is \$13 and now available in the Memorial Hermann Hospital Gift Shop. Part of the proceeds go toward the hospital's volunteer program.



Dean Max Buja, M.D.

Dean Gives MSB Update at Town Hall

Dean Max Buja, M.D., presented a report on the progress of the Medical School Building following Tropical Storm Allison and answered employees' questions at a town hall meeting Wed., March 6. **John Porretto,** executive vice president, Administration and Finance; **Pico Mina,** vice president and chief facilities officer; and **Bob Emery,** assistant vice president for Research Administration, also fielded questions from the audience.

New updates include:

- An agreement has been reached with FEMA so that the deconstruction of the basement and ground floor is now under way.
- Two elevator cabs will be replaced in March, and all elevator cabs will be replaced by the first week in May.
- Storm pumps outside the building will be replaced by May 8.
- The building will continue to be on "life support" with outside generators until February 2003.
- High-tech instrumentation, such as the MRI imager, are planned to be in the building and operational in the beginning of 2003.
- With the reconstruction of the basement and ground floor, hazard mitigation measures are planned, such as relocating the electrical and air handling units, animals, and equipment, and vaulting parts of the basement with submarine doors.
- The School's insurance policy has a cap of \$50M, which is being challenged by a dispute resolution management firm in hopes of significantly exceeding that amount plus obtaining funds from a UT System supplementary policy.

"Although the School doesn't look back to normal yet, what really counts is that we are working together to carry on our mission," Dean Buja said, adding that the building will likely look "normal" in 1 to 2 years.

The Dean will conduct similar town hall meetings on a quarterly basis. The next one is tentatively scheduled for noon Wed., **June 19**, MSB 3.001.



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FREE ORAL SCREENINGS OFFERED TO UT-HOUSTON EMPLOYEES

The Health Services Department is offering all UT-Houston employees free oral health assessments and professional guidance in choosing permanent dental care. The assessments are carried out at the UT-Houston Health Services Department, Suite 1620, in the University Center Towers, 7000 Fannin Street. Appointments are available 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Employees are welcome to come in without an appointment; or they can schedule one by calling 713-500-3267.

“People often don’t know how to go about choosing a dentist or how to obtain help with specific needs, such as pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and oral and maxillofacial surgery,” said program’s director **Richard Bebermeyer, D.D.S.**, associate professor of restorative dentistry at the UT-Houston Dental Branch. “I’m willing to see anyone who wants to set up an appointment or walk in — not only UT-Houston employees, but their families, too.”

- S. Rasp

NIH HUMAN SUBJECTS GRANTS AVAILABLE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) requests applications to enhance institutional human subjects protection programs. Approximately \$28.5 million will be available to fund up to 174 grants under this program. For application information and a list of eligible institutions, go to <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-02-003.html>>. (Source: AAMC STAT 3-11-02).

TENTH ANNUAL HEALTH CARE TEAM COMPETITION IS A WINNER

The Health Care Team Competition, held Feb. 26 at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, marked a decade of interdisciplinary cooperation among students at UT-Houston, Texas Southern University, and the University of Houston.



The winning Green Team: Front row, (L. to R.), Caroline Ngo, UH College of Pharmacy; Andrea Houston, UH Law Center; Kerri Allen, UH Graduate School of Social Work; Anthea Garza, TSU College of Pharmacy; and Darline ElReda, UT-Houston School of Public Health. Back row, (L. to R.), Mini Delashaw, UT-Houston Medical School; Jarrod Jones, UT-Houston Dental Branch; Shanna Clark, UT-Houston Dental Branch; Sunay Ravindra, UT-Houston School of Health Information Sciences; Andrew Rolniak, UT-Houston School of Nursing.



Alice Argao - Internal Medicine



Leah Martinez-Mora, Pulmonary

INTERNAL MEDICINE CELEBRATES RODEO - The

Department of Internal Medicine had it’s own rodeo celebration recently, it’s Third Annual Internal Medicine Rodeo Roundup, Fifth Floor Gallery, on March 1. Door prizes, barbeque brisket and pot luck entrees were on the menu. Chairman of the event was **Ryan Bien**, Cardiology Division, and co-chair, **Mark Amox**, Rheumatology Division. **Beverly Head** chaired the decoration committee; and **Renee Tagert** organized the prize and food donations.



(L. to R.), Jun Ying, Susana Pastragus, Peter Razeghi, and Patrick Guthrie, from Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier’s laboratory.

- Photos by R. Tagert