



Scoop

May 31, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

June

1 Commencement, 10 a.m., George R. Brown Convention Center Assembly Hall.

Doctor's Orchestra of Houston, 7 p.m., Stude Concert Hall, Rice University. Tickets are \$10, adults and \$5 children.

6 Updates in Women's Health, Dr. Marilyn Edwards, "Nutrition & Obesity: Healthy Women, Healthy Weights," noon, MSB 3.001.

REMINDER - "Houston Medical" will debut, 9 p.m., Tuesday, **June 18**, Channel 13. It is a six-episode, prime time series, with a cast of medical professionals from Memorial Hermann Hospital and the Medical School. Footage was shot over the last year, covering real-life experiences.

DEAN GIVES STATE OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL ADDRESS

More than 200 faculty and staff turned out to learn of the progress and state of the Medical School at the Annual Faculty Meeting May 23.

Dr. Christine S. Cocanour, chair of Faculty Senate, started the meeting by giving an update of the Faculty Senate, including its education, research, and clinical activities, plus compensation and disaster recovery issues.

Dr. Morris Flaum, associate dean for clinical operations and chairman of the board of UCP, talked about the School's clinical affairs, including implementing the UCP strategic plan, the fluctuation in charges and collections due to Tropical Storm Allison, the status of renegotiated major payor contracts, and UCP's outreach programs and marketing efforts.

From updating the audience on the Medical School's progress since Tropical Storm Allison to dispelling common myths of the School, **Dean Max Buja** covered a lot of ground in his report, "State of the Medical School and Plans for the Future."

The addition of "storm disaster recovery" to the School's mission and the fact that there was no annual faculty meeting last year because it was scheduled for June made for a comprehensive update over a wide range of subjects.

Topics covered in the Dean's talk included:

- ◆ **School status since Tropical Storm Allison and plans for recovery and enhancement**
- ◆ **Faculty organization and development**
- ◆ **Medical education and programs**
- ◆ **Incoming first-year class statistics**
- ◆ **Research expenditures and NIH support**
- ◆ **Strategic planning for the research enterprise**
- ◆ **Opportunities linked to the UT-Houston affiliation with Memorial Hermann Hospital System**
- ◆ **Medical School myths versus reality**
- ◆ **FY 2003 Medical School budget and the strategies to overcome impediments to financing new programs**
- ◆ **Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) self-study and work occurring in preparation for the LCME site visit in January 2004**
- ◆ **Dean's priorities and development strategies.**

Copies of the Annual Faculty Meeting handout are available in MSB 6.119. A videotape of the meeting soon will be available to be checked out at the Learning Resource Center.



Annual Faculty Meeting handbooks are available in MSB 6.119.



UT-Houston Medicine magazine, Spring edition 2002, recently was published. Copies are available in MSB 6.119.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Henry W. Strobel, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, received the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences's John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award. He also was the 2002 Joseph Williams Memorial Lectureship speaker, addressing "Brain Cytochrome P450 Metabolism of Xenobiotics and Endogenous Compounds," recently at the University of South Florida College of Medicine.



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
Medical School

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Manager
e-mail: M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597
E-Scoop online:
<http://deanweb.med.uth.tmc.edu/comm/scoop/>
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Celebrating Teaching Excellence**THE HERBERT L. AND MARGARET W. DUPONT MASTER CLINICAL TEACHING AWARD**

The second recipient of the DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award is **Dr. Patrick Brosnan**. Dr. Brosnan is a professor of pediatrics and the chief of the division of pediatric endocrinology. He received his medical degree at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is a staff physician at Memorial Hermann Hospital and Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital, as well as a consulting physician at Texas Children's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Shriners Hospital, and Woman's Hospital.

**Dr. Patrick Brosnan**

"I have learned something about respectful communication from my patients and students, and something about decision making from my colleagues in small city practice. I have tried to show our students that a physician actually committed to solving a patient's problem, can often solve it, if he listens and thinks," Dr. Brosnan said.

The DuPonts created the endowed award to "recognize the best among our clinical teachers and to reinforce how important they are to the Medical School." Herbert DuPont first joined UT-Houston Medical School in 1973 and is recognized as an international authority on infectious diseases. DuPont is the Mary Kelsey Professor in the Medical Sciences as well as the chief of Internal Medi-

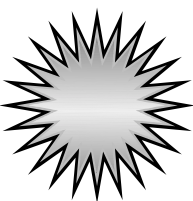
cine Services at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

Dr. Brosnan received the Dean's Excellence Award in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000. He currently is working on studies of obesity, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes in pediatric patients. He is widely published and also has extensive clinical, as well as teaching, responsibilities.

Dr. Frank Arnett, chairman, Internal Medicine, was the first recipient in 2001.

MAY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH —RENATA KALITA

Renata Kalita, a senior support assistant with the Learning Resource Center (LRC), is our May Employee of the Month. She works with **Karim Maroni**, director, LRC, and **Cicily Joseph**, an audio-visual aids librarian. Renata takes care of bookkeeping, and purchases items such as books and office supplies. She is responsible for procuring and maintaining 530 ArchWireless pagers. She overlooks and makes sure that all equipment—including computers, VHS machines, and fax machines—are functional. She helps out with the everyday needs of the medical students, as well as visiting fourth year students taking electives, during their stay here.

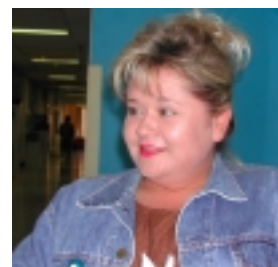


"A week before Tropical Storm Allison hit last year, we packed up the Learning Resource Center on the ground floor and moved," Renata said. "We were in the middle of remodeling and had just received a grant to expand the facilities. Frankly, we were lucky in that respect. Everything was saved."

Renata, who was born and raised in Krakow, Poland, came to this country in 1981 and became a UT-Houston employee in 1987, working in the Pathology outpatient lab and in the Student Affairs office, before joining the LRC. Renata has been with the LRC 11 years, and she is a well-known presence among the students. They will often stop in to chat and try to take their minds off the mounting pressures of the medical school curriculum. "Over the years, I have learned how to listen and how to deal with students' stress—especially a week before their exams. We all try to make it a little easier for them," Renata said.

"As a little girl growing up, I loved the snow and I loved to ski. I still do." She might be a snow bunny on the slopes, but Renata is a woman on the job who does not get snowed, or snowed under. Her colleagues say she enforces the rules, but with respect, tact, and diplomacy. She is at her desk by 7 a.m., ready for the first onslaught of students.

For relaxation away from work, she enjoys reading and the outdoors, including swimming, boating, and, of course, skiing. She likes to slip away to Pagosa Springs, ("Healing Waters" in the Ute Indian language), which is about 45 minutes from Durango, Colorado. Renata is an excellent example of an employee who calms the waters of the busy students who bustle around her at work.

**Renata Kalita**