



Scoop

Sept. 20, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

September

21 Mass CPR Training, starting at 8 a.m., Rice University. Cost, \$20/adults; \$15 students and seniors. Call the American Red Cross, Greater Houston Area, 713-222-CARE.

23 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series, Dr. Thomas Fox, Cornell University, "How yeast mitochondria make proteins and put them where they belong," 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.

24 Town Hall Meeting, noon, Room 3.001. Anonymous e-mail questions can be sent to <Alexis.L.Basha@uth.tmc.edu>.

25 First Annual Louis Faillace Lectureship, Judge William Wayne Justice, "Is the Law's Treatment of the Insane Sane?" 4 - 5 p.m., MSB 3.001.

Clinical Research Curriculum/ Biostatistics for Clinical Investigators, Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, "Review and Test," 5-6:30 p.m., MSB 2.135.

30 Meeting and Reception honoring promoted women faculty, sponsored by the Association of Women Faculty, 4 - 6 p.m., Fifth Floor Gallery.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Barbara E. Murray, professor and director, Division of Infectious Diseases, Dept. of Internal Medicine, is program committee chair for the 42nd Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy of the American Society for Microbiology, convening in San Diego, Sept. 27-30. The conference annually attracts more than 10,000 attendees. Clinicians as well as investigators present cutting edge material. There will be a special symposium on bioterrorism.



Semilla Rivera, president, SIC, and **Juan Jose Vargas**, interim director, MediSend Program, participate in loading up MediSend shipment.

by medical equipment or supplies. Medical surplus is costly and normally is simply discarded as waste that must be incinerated or buried in special landfills. The students advocate incorporating their pilot program into existing institutional sustainability missions and recycling projects. - M. Mireles

UTHSC-H STUDENTS HARVEST A SURPLUS

By their fruits you will know them. That certainly sums up the efforts, begun almost two years ago by the MediSend Program at UT-Houston, comprised of Student InterCouncil (SIC) and Dental Branch students, to collect clinical and research supplies that would normally be thrown away. The students, with support from the administration, began an innovative pilot program to collect and recycle medical and dental surplus, including expired, discontinued, and obsolete equipment and supplies.

The surplus was recently donated to MediSend/International, based in Dallas, for distribution to qualified health care providers in developing countries. Last year, MediSend shipped more than \$3M worth of surplus to foreign physicians and other health practitioners who could not afford to

CELEBRATE NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hola! Señor, señoras, y señoritas! Cómo esta?

The Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity is sponsoring the following free remaining events, open to all faculty, staff, and students, to cultivate an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Hispanic culture during National Hispanic Heritage Month:

- n Tues., **Sept. 24** — Brown bag lunch, with **Joan Rea, Ph.D.**, emeritus professor, Rice University, "Hispanic Diversity: Cross-Cultural Dynamics," 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., MSB 2.135.
- n Fri., **Sept. 27** — Brown bag lunch, Houston Society of Flamenco Arts, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., UT-Harris County Psychiatric Center gymnasium.
- n Fri., **Oct. 4** — Brown bag lunch, with **Lynnette Mazur, M.D.**, associate professor, Pediatrics, "Folk Medicine," noon - 12:45 p.m., MSB 2.103
- n Thurs., **Oct. 10** — "Nostalgia: A Photographic Journey through Mexico," 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., MSB Fifth Floor Gallery.

AWF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE SET FOR JAN. 31

The next Association of Women Faculty (AWF) conference is planned for **Jan. 31, 2003**. "The goal of the conference," **Dr. Catherine Ambrose**, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, said, "is to instruct women faculty in the Texas Medical Center, of all ethnicities and backgrounds, in the modes by which they can enhance their opportunities for achieving academic career development." **Paula O'Neill, Ed.D.**, Associate Dean for Professional Development, UT Dental School, will serve as moderator. Watch *Scoop* for future information.



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State Employee Charitable Campaign
Houston Campaign Area
2002-2003

By now most of us have received our State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) contribution envelopes. Employees contributing a minimum of \$10 receive a specially designed lanyard (UT colors gray and orange) displaying the UT logo.

There are numerous prize drawings; leadership offers of \$240 or more receive unique thank you recognitions.

The campaign is a great opportunity for state employees to help improve the quality of life of tens of thousands of people in need. UT-Houston goals for the campaign are \$160,000 and 50 percent participation. The campaign continues through Fri., **Oct. 18**. The SECC Web site is <<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/secc/>>.

NURSING SCHOOL DEAN APPOINTED TO STATEWIDE HEALTH COORDINATING COUNCIL

Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., the John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor and dean of The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, is one of five people recently appointed by **Gov. Rick Perry** to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. The 17-member council includes 12 members appointed by the governor and five members representing specific state agencies.

The council is responsible for developing the six-year Texas State Health Plan and subsequent updates along with working to see that health policies are enacted to achieve the plan. The council, Starck said, looks at the health problems of Texas, considers what should be done about them, and suggests a plan of action, which is due to the governor by Fri., **Nov. 1**.

"The update for 2003-04 is now in draft stage," she said, "and will be printed in the Texas Register around mid-September for public comments."

INFORMATICS SHORT COURSE OFFERED

The School of Health Information Sciences will be offering a Fall Informatics Short Course, Fri., **Sept. 27** and Sat., **Sept. 28**. The cost for UT affiliates (proof of UT affiliation required) and full-time students - any institution (proof student status required), is \$375.00. This course has been approved for professional (dental, medical, and nursing) credits. For more information and to register go to: <www.shis.uth.tmc.edu>. If you have any questions contact **Debbie Todd**, at 713-500-3903, or <Deborah.A.Todd@uth.tmc.edu> or **Joan Zuñiga** at 713-500-3904, or <Joan.E.Zuniga@uth.tmc.edu>.

IN THE NEWS -

Dr. Andrew P. Morris, Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, was interviewed on campus by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) in a United Kingdom nationwide drive to attract recent college graduates into medical science. Spotlights as a top scientist, the associate professor divides his time between the Departments of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, and Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology. Listed as part of an educational program, part of his TV interview (presently being shown in the UK), may be seen at <www.bbc.co.uk/wales/scifiles/interviewsub/livemorris.shtml>.

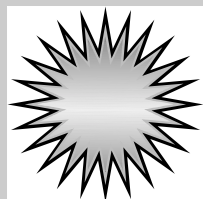
HAM-TMC OFFERING FREE COURSES IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library, 1133 John Freeman Blvd., is offering a number of classes this season, including Basic HTML, Internet for Medical Research, Power Point Presentations, PubMed, Navigating Full-text Journals, NLM Gateway, OVID, Biomedical Writer's Workshop I and Biomedical Writer's Workshop II. Classes are free of charge.

To register call 713-799-7803 or go to the class registration form where all classes and times are listed at: <<http://library.tmc.edu/classform.html>>. Early registration is recommended.

SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - COURTNEY STEVENS

Courtney Stevens, senior staff assistant, Department of Internal Medicine, is our September Employee of the Month. A native Houstonian, Courtney has been with UT-Houston for 13½ years. She was recruited into the Renal Diseases and Hypertension Division by **Shari Galletti**, Administrative Services Officer.



Although she came from a bookkeeping background, and worked in MSRDP doing payment and legal processing, Courtney excels at picking up new computer applications. Around the office she's known for her friendly smile, even under pressure. This includes, say colleagues, a memorable period where she worked long hours and weekends on a FEMA project. Her present duties vary from assisting faculty with their day-to-day activities, to assisting with the fellowship program, to dealing with patients, families, professionals, and the public.

Courtney assists **Drs. Kevin Finkel, John Foringer, Donald Molony, S. Noor Rahman, and Susan Wall**. "I appreciate the opportunity to work with such a great group," she said.



Courtney Stevens