



Scoop

June 6, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

June

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

10-11 Natural Step Environmental Awareness, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., one-day seminar, UCT 1505C.

9-13 Minority Health Project, SPH auditorium, Rm. 101, 12:30-3:30 p.m. **Hortensia Amaro**, keynote speaker.

18 Bake Sale and Soda. Sponsored by the Employee Relations Committee. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., by the Guard's Desk, ground floor, Medical School.

19 Memorial Hermann "Grin and Bear It" Blood Drive, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., Herman Pavilion Atrium.

BACK FROM AFGHANISTAN, COX RECEIVES BANKSTON GIFT

Mr. R. Bankston, of Bankston Riley, LLP, a law firm, has made a generous donation to the Children's Fund Inc. Professorship in Pediatric Surgery Trauma. **Dr. Charles S. Cox**



Dr. Charles S. Cox Jr.

Jr., Department of Surgery/Pediatric, has been the holder of the professorship since August 2001. With this gift, the professorship has been elevated to the Children's Fund Inc. *Distinguished* Professorship in Pediatric Surgery Trauma. The award is particularly noteworthy because the professorship, established in 1983, has significantly risen in endowment, and therefore the holder of the professorship has more funds available for research. **Dr. Kevin P. Lally**, Dept. of Surgery/Pediatric, was the first holder of the Children's Fund Inc. Professorship.

Cox recently returned from the tribal area along the Afghan/Pakistan border where he worked in a Forward Surgical Team for the U.S. Armed Forces. His civilian role is co-director of the extracorporeal life support program. He has a particular interest in the medical management of traumatically injured infants and children. He is board-certified in surgery, critical care, and pediatric surgery. Cox's undergraduate education was at UT-Austin, and medical education at the UT Medical Branch at Galveston. His postgraduate training was at UT-Houston, with an NIH fellowship in trauma and burns at the Shriners Burns Institute. *- C. O'Brien*

DR. MCKINNEY APPOINTED INTERIM CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael McKinney, M.D., vice chancellor for health affairs at The University of Texas System, is the new interim chief operating officer (COO), at the UT Health Science Center at Houston and will assist in reorganizational strategies and addressing financial challenges. McKinney was **Gov. Rick Perry's** chief of staff from August 2001 until November 2002.

THREE WIN INSTITUTE OF HISPANIC CULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Institute of Hispanic Culture awarded 44 scholarships at its annual scholarship banquet May 16. Among the award winners were MS II students **Magdalena Peixoto**, **Manuel Reyes**, and **Gabriel Angel Rodríguez**. The scholarship recipients were selected based on their academic excellence, demonstrated financial need, and evidence of a commitment to community service.

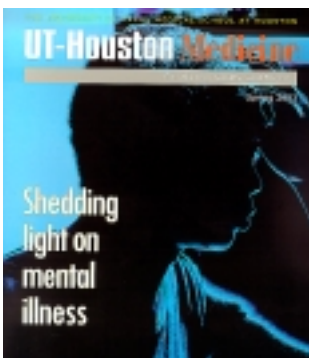


From left are MS II students **Rodríguez, Reyes, and Peixoto**.

Dr. Carlos A. Moreno, vice-president of Community and Educational Outreach, professor, and C. Frank Webber Chair of Family Practice and Community Medicine, delivered the keynote address at the banquet at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel. The mission of the Institute of Hispanic Culture is to disseminate the Hispanic culture, to provide scholarships, and to highlight the historical, linguistic, scientific, and artistic achievements of Hispanics in Texas.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Barry D. Kahan, director, Division of Immunology and Organ Transplantation, recently was awarded honorary membership in the Polish Transplantation Society in recognition of his work in the development of the immunosuppressive agents cyclosporine, rapamycin, and FTY720.



The spring edition of *UT-Houston Medicine* is out. "Shedding Light on Mental Illness" features some of the Medical School's top physicians,

scientists, and researchers. To pick up a copy, come by Room 400 in the Jesse Jones Library, or see the online version at <www.med.uth.tmc.edu>.



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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



Celebrating Teaching Excellence

DR. WEISBRODT RECEIVES JOHN FREEMAN FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Norman W. Weisbrodt, professor in the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, and assistant dean for basic science education and curriculum, is this year's winner of the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award. The senior class selects the recipient to recognize the year's outstanding basic science faculty member.



The recipient of this award, which is made possible by a gift from the late Freeman, must exemplify enthusiasm and drive toward effective teaching, have a personal interest in students' problems and their educational goals, and set an example that serves as a high standard for students.

"I was very pleased to win this award because I know quite a few students in this class and some worked with me in my lab," Weisbrodt said.

For the past several years, Weisbrodt has been the course director for physiology, a one-semester, first-year course. He also teaches pharmacology and facilitates problem-based learning.

"Physiology is the study of the logic of life, and that's how I approach teaching — from the point of view of logic. The students do have to memorize some materials, but they use it in a logical fashion from which to build a base on which to progress during their medical education.

"We give the students materials to solve problems, which are the most important things we can pass on to students because that is what they'll be doing the rest of their lives," he said.

Weisbrodt's research interest is in smooth muscle function and plasticity, specifically to better understand the biology of intestinal smooth muscle. He has been on the faculty of the Medical School since 1971 and received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He has received the Dean's Teaching Excellence award multiple times.

Dr. Norman W. Weisbrodt

Winners of the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award since 1990 include: **Drs. Kent Heck** (2002), **Margaret O. Uthman** (2001, 1999, 1997), **Barry Van Winkle** (2000, 1998), **Marsha L. Eigenbrodt** (1996), **Ron C. Philo** (1995), **Harley D. Sybers** (1994, 1992, 1990), **Frank W. Booth** (1993), and **Karmen L. Schmidt** (1991). - D. Brown

ALUMNI REUNION 2003 VIGNETTES



Dr. Michael Seider, '88, from Akron, Oh. (in white hat) talked with Dr. Walt Lowe, '83, from Houston, (center) and Dr. Brent King, '83, (chair, Emergency Medicine), on the right.

Way back in March of 2003, **Jeanie Mullin**, manager, Alumni Affairs, was finalizing plans for for a fun event —

Reunion 2003 —for the classes of 1978, 1983, 1993, and 1998. "We had a good turnout. It's kind of like a family reunion; something was on the agenda for everyone," she said.

Activities included a banquet Friday night, May 16, and a CME program Saturday morning, with a host of relevant speakers and topics, ranging from emergency medicine to the women's health initiative, to liability, insurance, and tort reform.

"Meanwhile, relatives were dashing off to see the zoo or to go shopping at the Galleria. And then Saturday afternoon, in the Fifth Floor Gallery, we had a family picnic. At any given event, at least 65 participants gathered," Mullin said.

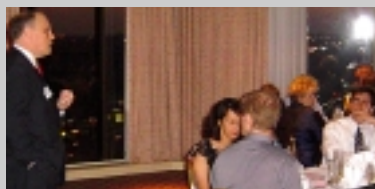
Former classmates and their families from around the country were drawn to the May 16-17 event.



Alumni and relatives gathered for an informal picnic in the Fifth Floor Gallery Sat., May 17.



Dr. and Mrs. Philip Levin, Class of 1978, enjoyed the reception repast.



Dean Buja addressed the banquet crowd gathered at the Renaissance Houston Hotel May 17.



"Confetti" the clown entertained the younger set at the picnic.