



Scoop

Dec. 17, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

December

17 TODAY. Dr. Bob Tuttle Tribute, 2:30 p.m., MBS 2.103.

24 & 31 NO SCOOP.

January

3 SPECIAL CARDIOLOGY SEMINAR, Dr. Nabil Dib, "Stem Cell Therapy," 5:30 p.m., Texas Heart Institute, Denton Cooley Bldg., 10th floor.

11 Dean's Town Hall Meeting, noon, MSB 3.001.

22 Writing/Healing Retreat in Boerne, Texas Deadline. Event is Feb. 24-27. Cost is \$925. Call 713-500-5080, or e-mail <Janice.L.Glover@uth.tmc.edu>.

ROBERTS IS EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Lea Roberts, our fourth and final 2004 Employee of the Quarter, has been with the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging (formerly, Radiology), going on 10 years. "This job is fabulous. I love the people; I love the residents. The only exceptions are the deadlines!"

Roberts is a health education coordinator and works directly with **Dr. Sandra Oldham**, professor and program director, for the department's residents.

Right now it's interview season. "We handled 23 residents last Friday and this coming Friday there's another 24!" Roberts said. Robert's main "customers" are 48 residents, some of whom call her "Mom." She's also



Lea Roberts want to know why our office is so happy," Oldham said. "It's mainly because of Lea; she makes the atmosphere enjoyable and fun."

handy with technical challenges, urging the area awhile back to get on board with Blackboard, as well as encouraging her area to start storing X-rays on computers.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY PROJECT COMPLETE AFTER FOUR YEARS

The indoor air quality project is a *fait accompli*, according to **Tom Behnken**, chief project manager for the operation. Kudos go to the UT System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction headed up by **Lloyd Barge**; Facility Operations; Environmental Health & Safety; as well as to all the principal investigators who had to shut down their labs during parts of the four-year project," Behnken said.



Tom Behnken

"We can all breathe a little easier," said Behnken. "It was a monumental task, but the construction is finished." "It was \$16 million just for the lab work, with an additional \$1 million for duct cleaning, \$5 million for the roof manifold, and \$4 million for the air handlers," said Behnken, who is due to retire this month. The project involved all of the Medical School's labs, including physical construction, moving principal investigators and their teams out of the labs for a month at a time, and often completely shutting down labs to make the project happen. In addition, thermostats in each lab were verified through a testing and balancing computerized report. Workmen also removed ceiling tiles in various areas to ascertain correct mixing box and damper operations. In the offices, ducts were cleaned and sprayed with an antimicrobial coating.

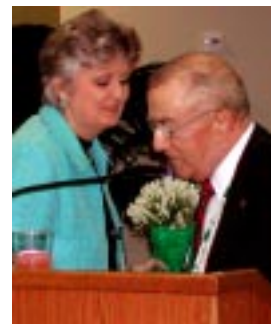
"We have 1,000 percent better air than 7 years ago," said Behnken. "We've met the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers standard. We've also installed a fire sprinkler system."

Behnken had vowed to complete the IAQ project before starting his new life, as an RVer. "We plan to tour West Texas, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Utah, and Nevada, for starters," he said.

DUNN IS 2004 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Sherry Dunn, 2004 Employee of the Year, is the senior executive assistant to **Dr. Samuel Kaplan**, chair, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics. She is due to retire next month and as **Dean Stanley Schultz** commented at the Dean's Holiday Reception Dec. 10, "Congratulations for all you have done, including your two decades of continual and outstanding service to this School, and be assured you will be missed greatly upon your retirement."

In 1994, Dunn launched, along with **Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, associate dean for Community Affairs, the Outstanding Employee Awards program. Dunn also has presided over the presidency of the Medical School's Employee Relations Committee for multiple terms. Said Boutwell, "When I first met Sherry, she simply and directly asked how I was going to assist the classified employees. I had no doubt that she had high expectations. Several years later we set up the Employee of the Month program. Sherry worked hard from day one to organize a fair system that became a template for other institutions. I can think of few individuals who have invested so much of themselves in this School and in the employees as a whole."



Dean Schultz congratulates Sherry Dunn.



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of TEXAS

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DEAN'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE



From my family to yours, I wish you a joyous holiday season and a wondrous and productive new year.

As we reoccupy the first floor of the Medical School, with bright new offices for key programs and support personnel, the word "family" comes to mind.

Our spacious 21st century Learning Resource Center is abuzz with student activity, our new gross anatomy facilities in the basement are up and running, our newly endowed John P. McGovern, M.D., Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit has added a new dimension to our curriculum, and our building sports a new face along with strong defenses against future flooding.

In short, we are a united school again – a displaced family now reuniting in a very positive way.

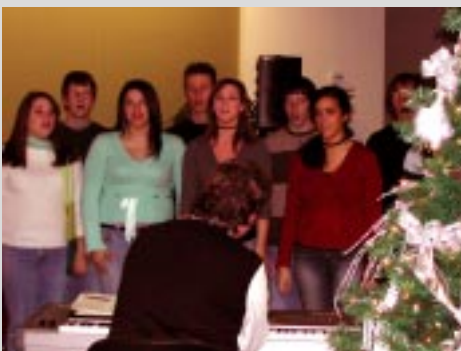
As we look back on 2004, let us remember that this was the year we took back our school, added the former Hermann Professional Building (now The University of Texas Professional Building) to our fold, significantly repaired budgetary challenges, and laid out a broad vision for the future that includes a new research building and vivarium.

As a longtime member of our Medical School family, I hope each of you will take a moment to remember and reflect upon the distance we have come since Tropical Storm Allison paid an unwelcome visit. Your perseverance and dedicated efforts to reclaim our school should be a source of pride.

Looking ahead, 2005 awaits us with hope and opportunity. I pray that we start the New Year confident that our work is important and impacts our community in valuable ways that can never be dampened by floods or budgetary challenges.

Again, along with my wife, Harriet, I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday season and the very best for the coming year.

PHOTO RECAP FROM DEAN'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE DEC. 10, 2004



Adding a festive note, literally, to the occasion, was the Deer Park High School Choir.



(L. to R.), Keri Valdes, Pam Lewis, and Abby Mitchell serve up some hospitality.



Sherry Dunn shares a moment with Dr. Dale Hereld.