



Scoop

June 11, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

- 17 Faculty Promotion Seminar,** 9-10:30 a.m., MSB 2.135. Contact <Juanita.Sunday@uth.tmc.edu>.
- 24 Memorial Hermann Partners in Caring Blood Drive,** 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., Pavilion Conference Center.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Jack Byrne, chairman, Neurobiology and Anatomy, will be honored at the International Neural Network Society (INNS) in Budapest, Hungary July 25 with the Hebb Award, which recognizes outstanding individuals who have made contributions in the field of biological learning...**Dr. Nadeem Nizar Dhanani**, Urology, was named as the 2004 Pfizer Scholar in Urology.

FIRE DRILL JUNE 14

A fire drill is scheduled Mon., **June 14**, at the Medical School Building. When the fire alarm is sounded, all occupants should cooperate with their Area Safety Liaison and proceed to the nearest stairwell exit and await further instructions. Contact **Julie Broussard**, 713-500-8165, with any questions or concerns.

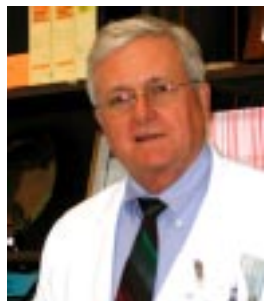
NEW NURSING SCHOOL, STUDENT CENTER DEBUTS

President James T. Willerson, **Manuel Reyes**, MS III, incoming president, Student InterCouncil (SIC), and his spouse **Meredith**, help celebrate the opening of the School of Nursing and Student Community Center June 4. The SIC will have offices at the building, off the main floor lobby.



DONOVAN WINS LIFETIME AWARD AND ISCOS PRESIDENCY

As actor Christopher Reeve found out in an equestrian accident in 1995, paralysis due to spinal cord injury can be a tragic consequence. A physician who has spent a career caring for patients with spinal cord injuries as well as other challenges in physical medicine and rehabilitation is **Dr. William H. Donovan**, clinical professor and chairman, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R).



Dr. William H. Donovan

Donovan came to UT in 1993, and before that served on the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine for 13 years. He presently is the executive vice president for medical affairs and medical director, as well as director for the TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research) Amputee Program. He will receive The Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) at their next annual meeting in 2005 in Dallas.

A founding member of ASIA, as well as a past president, Donovan will begin a four-year term as president of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) in September 2004 at their annual meeting in Athens, Greece. He will be the third American to serve in this capacity since its founding in 1961 and the only physiatrist of the three. Conditions treated by physiatrists, who are licensed physicians, can include sore shoulders, back problems, carpal tunnel symptoms, amputations, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and sports-related injuries. Physiatrists often see people in a variety of age groups and treat problems that touch upon all the major systems in the body. They specialize in restoring function to their patients.

Auto accidents are the most common cause of spinal cord injury. Between 8,000 to 10,000 people are affected each year, causing about 250,000 to be living with the condition, according to experts. "Significant technical advances to improve the lives of people and finding a cure are our primary goals," Donovan added. "We don't have a cure yet, but we're well on our way. We are seeking clinical breakthroughs with stem cells, Schwann cells, the olfactory nerves, and molecules that impede the body's natural barriers to nerve regeneration."

Donovan said ISCoS is the only international organization set up specifically for the study of the advancement of patients with spinal cord injuries and disseminating clinical skills knowledge. Many countries, he said, besides the U.S., are working toward a cure — including Canada, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Donovan received his medical degree at Albany Medical College, New York, did his internship at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., and residency at both Marquette, and the University of Washington, in Seattle.

Donovan is chief of service, PM&R at Memorial Hermann Hospital, serves as a consultant at Ben Taub, The Methodist Hospital, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, and the Harris County Hospital District, and is associate editor of the journal *Spinal Cord*.

- C. O'Brien



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Stanley Schultz, M.D., Interim Dean
Darla Brown, Director
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://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm
Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



Celebrating Teaching Excellence

2004 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD - DR. MARK FARNIE

The highest honor bestowed on an alumnus of The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, the Distinguished Alumnus Award, recognizes outstanding contributions to medicine and to mankind.



Dr. Mark Farnie

The 2004 recipient is **Mark Farnie, M.D.**, a 1987 graduate of the Medical School and associate professor in the Medical School's Departments of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, where he has served as residency director for the Internal Medicine/Pediatric Combined Residency Program since 1991.

A Beaumont native who completed his undergraduate training in chemistry at Lamar University, Farnie completed both his internship and residency training in internal medicine and pediatrics at our Medical School's affiliated hospitals. Simply stated, his love of medicine and teaching is evidenced every day as he employs his trademark smile, sense of humor, tireless enthusiasm, and unflinching dedication to patients and students alike in an exemplary way befitting the honor of distinguished alumni.

His nominator wrote, "Mark Farnie is a champion. This School is indebted to the countless hours Mark has spent serving admissions committees, conducting applicant interviews, serving the alumni board, teaching students, helping residents, and providing a great example for the rest of us. He is exactly what an outstanding faculty member of this institution should be like."

Throughout his career, Farnie has distinguished himself as a cheerleader for others who is always in a service/helping mode for anyone who crosses his path in need of assistance. His colleagues and long string of teaching awards provide testimony to his skill as a teacher, mentor, and advocate for students and faculty alike. In the clinic, his colleagues note, "He has unceasing patience and an ability to explain and reassure anxious mothers, fathers, and patients. His warm smile and sense of humor do a lot to heal even before medicine is prescribed. It's the best kind of medicine, and his winning approach is just the same even when you wake him in the middle of the night."

As the father of two sons, Robert and Jay, and husband to his wife, Leticia, Farnie is recognized as a community-involved physician who is especially known as an active leader in scouting and role model to young adults throughout the community. Says his scouting colleagues, "We all have the empty popcorn cans to prove that he can raise more consciousness and money than anyone at a scouting fund-raiser."

Finding that sense of balance in life and making service to others a lifelong mission is simply part of who Dr. Mark Farnie is.

- B. Boutwell

Fitness News

**DEAN'S OFFICE & UCSC LAUNCH
MSFC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Join up, get fit, and preserve and improve the Medical School Fitness Center (MSFC). That's the message the Dean's Office, in collaboration with the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC), want to convey as they spread the word with a Health Science Center campaign.



The new Recreation Center at 7779 Knight Road opened June 7.

Membership, which is good at both the the MSFC and the Knight Road facility, is \$25/month; \$64/quarter, or \$240 annually.

If members, currently at 100, each recruit two more annual members, a total of 300 annual members would make the MSFC self-sufficient.

If that's reached by **Aug. 31**, the Dean's Office will defray one-third of the membership dues. Annual membership would then be \$160, instead of \$240.

To join, visit **Felyn Bangilan**, MSFC, eighth floor of the Medical School building. Call 713-500-5044.

Or call **Charlie Figari** at 713-500-8400 or **Pauline Habetz** at 713-500-8425 for other questions.

**HIGH SCHOOLERS GET CRASH COURSE IN
A MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Students put on their temporary ID badges and passed fireballs around **Dr. Bob Emery's** safety class during the Summer Research Program for High School Students series June 8. Ten junior and seniors from area high schools, including Spring Branch ISD and Houston ISD, are on campus for six weeks. They will conduct hands-on biomedical research with faculty mentors.



Students in a lighter moment during their Summer Research Program class.

Preceptors include: **Drs. Richard Bradley, Nachum Dafny, Raymond Grill, Anil Kulkarni, Ferid Murad, Diane Novy, and Xiping Zhao** from the Medical School. The program, coordinated by the Office of Community and Educational Outreach, includes mini courses, a distinguished lecturer series, field trips, and professional development seminars. Students prepare and present their projects at the end of the program and write a biography of a health science center scientist. For information, call 713-500-3196.