



# Scoop

Nov. 12, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### November

**17 Recreation Center OPEN HOUSE, 6 a.m.- 6 p.m., 7779 Knight Rd.** Organizers say food, beverages, giveaways, and door prizes will be the order of the day.

**19 RESEARCH DAY, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Edwin Homberger Conference Center.** All interested UT personnel invited.

### "MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN"

*President James T. Willerson would like to remind faculty and staff that no one is permitted to meet with state legislators on behalf of or representing the university without his prior knowledge and approval. Your cooperation is appreciated.*

*Note: For reference, please see HOOP policy 1.21, "Communication with Government Officials."*

## UTMost Interest



**Dean Stanley Schultz** has moved Continuing Medical Education into the Office of Educational Programs. The CME staff will remain in JLL Suite 450, and retain its existing office phone number, 713-500-5249.

### HEART WALK A SUCCESS

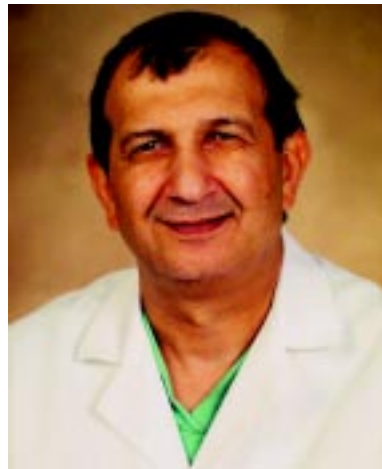
The American Heart Association's Heart Walk, Houston-style, Nov. 6, raised over \$1.1 million collectively. Over 10,000 participated in the 5-mile morning walk.



(L.to R.), Dr. Wayne Wilner, Patti Hendrix, R.C. Waits, (a red cap survivor), Debbie Waits, and Colleen O'Brien were just a few of the record number of walkers - 300 from UT. The institution raised over \$22,000.

## SAFI TO PERFORM RENOWNED ANEURYSM REPAIR LIVE ON WEB

"We have the best aneurysm center in the world," said **Dr. Hazim Safi**, chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, when asked about his upcoming real-time aneurysm repair, to be Web cast at 5:30 p.m. on Wed., **Nov. 17**. The surgery may be viewed at <<http://www.or-live.com/memorialhermann/1234>>. **Dr. Steve Allen**, Memorial Hermann Hospital medical director, is accepting e-mail questions prior to the surgery from viewers, and will relay them to Safi, who will answer some of the inquiries during the surgery. Go to the Web site to post questions.



**Dr. Hazim Safi**

Safi will perform a thoracoabdominal aneurysm repair, or TAA repair. He and his team over the years have dramatically reduced the risk of paralysis that can result from the surgery – from 15 percent 10 years ago, to less than 3 percent today.

The patient, explained Safi, is almost literally cut in half during the operation, "because the aneurysm involves the portion of the aorta that is in the chest as well as in the abdomen." Compromised arterial tissue will be replaced with a Dacron/polyester graft.

"I went to Singapore six months ago and was warmly welcomed by city officials there, including the minister of health. We were there to perform four operations, which we accomplished successfully," explained Safi, when asked about his busy schedule.

"The Society of Thoracic Surgery has acknowledged our breakthrough techniques. We also (Cont'd. on back)

## SECURITY MEASURES TIGHTEN UP IN TIME FOR PEAK SEASON

'Tis the holiday shopping season. But not all shoppers are buying gifts at the mall and favorite stores – the holidays are traditionally the time for crafty thieves to steal their way through the UT Medical School.

"Thefts spike during the months of December and January, so it is important for all employees to be on the lookout for suspicious people and to trust their intuition," said **Sgt. Armando Gamboa**, UT Police Department, Crime Prevention.

In addition to keeping valuables locked away – including white coats – employees should not let those without UT identification badges "tailgate" through the doors of the building behind them. Gamboa advises that you have several options available to you when this occurs. If you feel comfortable, you can challenge them to show their ID, or you can walk over to the security desk and notify the on-site UT Police personnel, or you can call UT Police at 713-792-2890 if it is a nonemergency. Please provide as much descriptive information as possible as well

(Cont'd. on back)



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## MARCIA WINKLER HAS A DATE WITH THE WHITE HOUSE DEC. 1

**Marcia Winkler**, executive assistant, Student Affairs, was surprised to receive an invitation to a holiday reception at the White House on Wed., **Dec. 1**.

"I'm a decorative artist and a member of The Society of Decorative Painters," said Marcia.

The Society was invited to paint decorations for the White House Christmas Tree this year. All ornaments were musical instruments, which had to be painted with a rich background and gold stroke work. Five hundred ornaments were painted and 300 were chosen for the tree. Marcia's purple tambourine was picked.

"My daughter, who will fly to D.C. with me, is to be married three days later, so I guess you'd call this event a real mother-daughter bachelorette party!" she said.



**Marcia Winkler, at special invitation of the White House, will be in Washington, D.C. Dec. 1. Marcia won artist's recognition for her original creation, a purple and gold hand-painted acrylic Christmas ornament, which will hang on the White House tree.**

## SAFI'S INTERNET SURGERY, CONTINUED

have had two recent papers published in the American Surgical Association, which is quite an honor. I have been receiving calls from New York, Singapore, London – all over the world really – about the upcoming live internet surgery."

Ruptured aortic aneurysms take the lives of more than 10,000 Americans each year. An aneurysm is a ballooning or bulging of an artery and is most common in the aorta, the body's main artery. Sometimes there are symptoms – like shortness of breath or back pain – but many times there are no symptoms, hence aortic aneurysms have been nicknamed the "silent killer."

Everyone over the age of 40, added the surgeon, "should be screened for aneurysms." (An archived streaming video of the procedure will be available for at least a year after the program on the Web site, and Safi and his team will continue to answer e-mail for one week following the surgery).

- C. O'Brien

## BOOKSTORE SPECIALS GALORE

Don't forget! Something for everyone on your holiday gift list, and 25 percent of purchases will go to student scholarships, only at Barnes & Noble, 3003 W. Holcombe Blvd. (at Buffalo Speedway). Store hours are 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.; sale is Wed., **Dec. 1** through Sat., **Dec. 4**.

Also, **Anne Fefer**, Medical School Bookstore director, reminds everyone that the campus bookstore is offering 10 percent off all books and medical equipment, and 25 percent off supplies, gifts and holiday items, children's items, greeting cards, and clothing, including: T-shirts, caps, sweatshirts, jackets, coats, and scrubs.

## ERNST KNOBIL DISTINGUISHED LECTURER ON CAMPUS NOV. 17

**Leland H. Hartwell, Ph.D.**, a Nobel laureate in 2001, and professor of genome science at The University of Washington, as well as the president and director of Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, will speak at 4 p.m., Wed., **Nov. 17**, in MSB 3.001. The title of Hartwell's lecture is "Improving Cancer Outcomes with Better Molecular Diagnostics." He has devoted more than 35 years to studying and implementing yeast cells to identify genes responsible for controlling cell division. Through his yeast studies, Hartwell has discovered a new class of genes, "checkpoint" genes, which notice mistakes made during cellular reproduction and halt cell division to allow repairs to occur.

## DON'T MISS OUT! FINAL 2 LECTURES IN SERIES BY MEGAN COLE ARE NEXT WEEK

On Mon., **Nov. 15** **Megan Cole** will address "Becoming An Empathic Physician: Context and Status/Increasing Awareness of External Influences on Effective Communication," at noon, in MSB 1.006.

And on Wed., **Nov. 17**, also at noon, in MSB 1.006, Cole will wrap up the series with her talk "Becoming an Empathic Physician: Focusing the Imagination and Summary/Using the Imagination to Understand Another's Perspective, and Exploring how the Various Skills can Work Together to Foster more Intentionally Empathic Practitioners." The talks are open to the Medical School community.



**Megan Cole**

## SECURITY TIGHTENS UP AT UT, CONTINUED

as direction of the suspect's travel to assist UT Police in locating the person.

"It is UT institutional policy for employees and students to wear their badges at all times when on campus," said Nancy McNiel, Ph.D., director of administration. "And we want to make sure everyone has a cabinet or drawer that locks in which to keep their personal items."

In an emergency employees are urged to call the UT Police at 500-HELP (4357) or dial 911.

Six police panic pull stations have been installed in the Medical School Building ground floor, which provide the UTPD Command Center dispatcher with a location upon activation. In addition to silent panic devices newly installed in designated offices, most security cameras will be recording images at the Medical School, and the security desk at the Medical School is always staffed.

"Emergency exits may only be used in emergency situations," Gamboa said, and they will soon be recorded by a closed-circuit television camera. Employees are encouraged to utilize other exits for routine use.

"By working together, we hope to make our school a safer work environment and to encourage thieves to do their shopping elsewhere," Gamboa said.

- D. Brown