



Scoop

April 1, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

April

2 HCPC Health Fair, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.,
2800 MacGregor Way.

13-16 Concepts in Contemporary Cardiology, George R. Brown Convention Center, see <<http://www.cardioconcepts.org>>.

15-16 Alumni Reunion Weekend. Visit <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/alumni/index.htm>>.

UTMost Interest

Medical School Hispanic faculty members recently gave presentations on their medical careers and experiences in neurology, pediatrics, neonatology, and immunology and organ transplantation to student members of the United Latin American Medical Student Organization. Presenters included **Dr. Pedro Mancias**, Neurology; **Dr. Luis Miele**, Surgery; **Dr. Jose Garcia**, Pediatrics; and **Dr. Fernando Moya**, Pediatrics. The event was coordinated by the Office of Community and Educational Outreach...A reflection on the Master Teacher Program, "Medical Students' Performance in the IV Year Exit Exam: Effect of Clinical Reasoning Exercises, Self-Observation on Tape, and Faculty Feedback On Clinical Skills," by authors **Drs. Fabrizia Faustinella, Philip Orlander, Laura Colletti, Harinder Juneja, and Linda Perkowski**, was published in the *Journal of the International Association of Medical Science Educators*.

CELEBRATION EVENT APRIL 12

Join us at the groundbreaking of the Replacement Research Facility at 9:30 a.m., Tues., **April 12**, Fifth Floor Gallery.

A light brunch will be served and a formal program will begin at 10 a.m. The entire Medical School community is invited as we say farewell to the John Freeman Building and welcome the new six-story building to be constructed in its place.

CAPITOL HILL BECKONS TO STUDENT LEADER



Chirag Patel

Chirag Patel, an M.D./Ph.D. student, and Medical School chapter president of the Texas Medical Association/American Medical Association, is back from a busy time in Washington, D.C. He was there both to accept an Excellence in Medicine Leadership Award and to advocate on Capitol Hill for the American Medical Association's National Advocacy Conference.

"Three hundred other medical students from around the country also were in D.C. for Lobby Day on Capitol Hill," Patel said.

This year's Excellence in Medicine Leadership awards went to 20 medical students chosen from around the country, to recognize their strong nonclinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service, and/or education. The goal of the program is to help encourage leadership development and involvement in organized medicine. For more information, go to <<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/14682.html>>.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK EVENTS A POPULAR DRAW

An overflow crowd of more than 400 people attended the Tenth Annual Brain Awareness Public Forum, Saturday, March 19, at the Medical School. Researchers and medical care providers answered questions from the audience about a variety of issues, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, stem cell therapy, dementia, and other topics related to the aging brain.

"This is the 10th anniversary of the Neuroscience Research Center hosting a public forum for Brain Awareness, and I am gratified by the amount of interest Houstonians show in the program year after year," said **John Byrne, Ph.D.**, director of the NRC and chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. "It illustrates that people are very interested in their health and the health of people they know and care for."

In addition to the brain forum event, more than 200 children and their families attended a special Brain Night, an evening of science, at the McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science, Thurs., March 24. Medical school neurologists, other educators, and students were on hand to interact with the children and their parents concerning brain matters, including reading comprehension and cranial diseases.



Museum science educator Gonzalo Perez instructs parents and kids in "That's the Breaks" cast-setting last Thursday evening.

MATCH RESULTS ARE IN FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL'S 2005 CLASS

Of the 183 members of the Medical School's graduating class, 110 will stay in Texas for their first year of postgraduate training, and 48 (26 percent) were matched to UT Medical School programs. The Match List is also available at <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/studaff/docs/match2005.pdf>>.



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A part of The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

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WE NEED NOMINATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER!

Do you know someone who goes beyond the job description, has an outgoing personality, and is always helpful? Do you think he or she would be a good candidate for an outstanding employee? If so, please go to <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>, under Hot Spots; click on "Nominate Employee of the Quarter" and fill out a nomination. E-mail your nomination to Alexis.L.Basha@uth.tmc.edu.

UCSC SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARS

April 15 is the deadline for students who are 2005 high-school graduates and the children of UT Health Science Center Classified Staff members to apply for scholarships funded by the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC).

For an application, go to http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/special_interest/committees/ucsc/sch_app.htm.

FREE WEB-BASED TRAINING AVAILABLE

Information Services Training is pleased to announce that free, Web-based training (WBT) is now available to all health science center employees.

The preliminary library offers Microsoft Office 2003 courses for: Access, Excel, FrontPage, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word. These lessons also can help prepare the participant for MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) certification.

Participants can take these Microsoft WBT courses at their own pace, at work or at home — whatever best fits their schedule.

For information on how to access these courses, please visit <http://is.uth.tmc.edu/training/howtomasterinstructions.pdf>.

For questions, or if unable to log on to the How To Master Web site, contact the Help desk at 713-500-4848, or Information Services Training at 713-500-4834.

MEDICAL STUDENT GROUP LAUNCHES CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

One of the most successful projects at the McGovern Museum last week was the popular childhood obesity demonstration, put on by the TMA/AMA Student Chapter at the Medical School.

"We were able to get free samples of fake fat from <http://www.mypetfat.com>, which we raffled off for free," said **Chirag Patel**, one of the organizers. "We had human specimens of heart and fat, and also pre-measured vials of the sugar, salt, and fat contents of favorite junk foods."

The group also gave two PowerPoint presentations on the epidemic of childhood obesity, one in English and one in Spanish.

Photos of the event are available at <http://webspaces.uth.tmc.edu/cpatell/public/mhms>



A child in the foreground tests the difference in density and appearance between 5 lbs. of fat and 5 lbs. of muscle.

EMPLOYEE JUDY MAYFIELD - A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR TRS BOARD

Remember WYSIWYG — "What you see is what you get," in computer terminology — in the early days of computer jargon? Well



Judy Mayfield

Judy Mayfield, Internal Medicine, and a 17-year UT employee, is a WYSIWYG kind of individual — she's a people person who also is running as a write-in candidate to sit at the table of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas board.

Mayfield has a head for numbers. She is a former chair, Classified Staff Council Compensation and Benefits Subcommittee, a two-year term. She got involved with TRS back in 1999-2000, she said, when there was a bill before the state Legislature giving TRS members the option of investing 50 percent of their portion of TRS into an alternative investment, much like a 403b plan. "I liked the idea of having a choice," Mayfield said.

"Before I came to UT, I graduated with a bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin, and then went on to work in investment banking for six years, so I am familiar with the investment industry," Mayfield said. "But the main reason I'm running is I'm a stakeholder. Stakeholders are Texas State employees like you and me who contribute money into TRS throughout our State employment years, every month, like clockwork, trusting the process, and those that guard the TRS nest egg."

For most of us, Mayfield indicated, our belief is that TRS will be there for us as a main retirement asset when we retire.

Mayfield said she would like to see decisions made on employees' behalf at the board level. "Right now, I have a lot of unanswered questions," she said. "According to some news sources, TRS invested heavily in WorldCom and Enron."

TRS gives us a lot of broad information, but some of it, according to Mayfield, is cryptic and not easy to understand. Fidelity or Vanguard-type disclosures, where the stakeholder is given information on percentages, kinds of investments made, amounts gained/lost, types of funds recommended, are not part of the present TRS landscape. Mayfield would like to change that.

"In these times you know you have to be vigilant about your money," said Mayfield. "If you're handing the decisions about managing your money over to someone else, you want someone who has some stake in the investments also."

TRS is a \$90 billion retirement fund. "The TRS Board should be staffed with stakeholders who have a vested interest in the consequences, because — bottom line — the consequences will affect their private retirement accounts," Mayfield said. Mayfield indicated that if she doesn't win a board position at this time, she will run again if Representative Hubert Vo's Bill 2634, which allows four TRS members to be directly elected to board positions, is passed. The Employee Retirement System of Texas, the retirement system for other state employees, already has a similar provision, Mayfield said.

For those interested in voting for Mayfield, make sure to fill out your ballot that should have been mailed to your home address, and include your Social Security number. If the ballot was lost, thrown away, or never received, call 1-800-223-8778, and ask for a counselor. Another ballot will be mailed to you; the voting deadline is **April 30**.

- C. O'Brien