



# Scoop

June 24, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### June

**27 - July 12 TMC Channel 11 Spirit of Texas Food Drive.** Drop-off points throughout the TMC. Call 713-500-3035 for info.

**28 Meeting of the UTHSC President,** 7 a.m., MSB 2.135; noon, MSB B.605; 5:30 p.m., MSB B.605.

### July

**4 Independence Day Holiday**

**7 Faculty Promotions and Tenure Process Presentation.** 5:15-6:45 p.m., MSB 2.103. Sponsored by the Office of Faculty Affairs and the Association of Women Faculty.

## UTMost Interest



**Dr. James "Red" Duke,** Surgery, gave the commencement address

at UTMB, which was featured in the AAMC's *Reporter*. **Jeff Scott** has been named DMO for Orthopaedic Surgery and Otolaryngology, in addition to his existing DMO roles for Neurosurgery, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery.

## June 28 meetings scheduled

**Dr. James Willerson** will host a "Meeting of the UTHSC President for all Faculty, Staff and Students" at three times at the Medical School on Tuesday, June

28, 7-8 a.m. in MSB 2.135; noon-1 p.m. in MSB B.605 and 5:30-6:30 p.m. in MSB B.605. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of these meetings and to bring questions/concerns.



**Dr. Willerson**

## SCHOOL'S GRAND STAIRCASE, BASEMENT OPEN WITH FANFARE

Borrowing a theme from **Abraham Lincoln**, **Dean Stanley Schultz** told the audience at the grand staircase ribbon cutting/basement open house, that it was "four years and seven days ago," when Tropical Storm Allison wreaked havoc upon the UT Medical School.

"We would have been standing in a foot of water during that time and the basement would have been completely under water. But today we are celebrating the penultimate step in our recovery from Tropical Storm Allison with the opening of the grand staircase and new basement," Dean Schultz said at the June 15 ceremony.

Ten ribbon cutters, including representatives from the new basement occupants, were introduced and cut the orange ribbon, symbolizing the opening of the new grand staircase, which leads from the ground floor lounge to the basement, after a group countdown.

More than 300 faculty, staff, students, and health science center leaders, including **Dr. James Willerson**, attended the ceremony and were among the first to walk down the new staircase. In the remodeled basement, visitors toured the new facilities, including classrooms and service centers, such as Quick Copy, Communications, Bookstore and the UT Supply Mall.



Grand staircase ribbon cutters included, from left, **Henny van Dijk, Anne Fefer, Dr. Len Cleary, Dr. Eric Askenasy, Arby Carlin, Dr. Maximilian Buja, Brad Howell, and Dr. James Willerson.**

## NEW GOLD FOUNDATION SOCIETY RECOGNIZES HUMANISM

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation has given a start-up grant to the Medical School to establish a chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society – a national society that recognizes "demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service."

Membership into the society will be available to fourth-year students, with the first members chosen in September 2006. Students will be nominated by their classmates and then voted into membership by a selection committee made up of faculty members and students. Membership will be limited to 10 percent of the fourth-year class.

"We are very pleased to be able to present awards through this grant in line with what the new John P. McGovern M.D. Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit stands for," said **Dr. Tom Cole**, the center's director.

Members of the honor society will participate in a project that will further the ideals of humanism in medicine and the goals of the society.

"As we gain experience with the Gold Humanism Honor Society, we will explore extending membership to faculty and residents," Cole added.



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of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL  
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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING CONSTRUCTION AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

### What does RRF stand for?

Replacement  
Research  
Facility

### How much will it cost and how will it be paid for?

The completed constructed building is estimated to cost \$80.53

million and will be funded from a variety of sources, including two National Institutes of Health grants, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, insurance payments resulting from losses from Tropical Storm Allison, and philanthropic gifts.

### When will it be completed?

It is planned to be ready for occupancy in fall 2007.

### What/who will go into the new building? How is that being decided?

The new building will be home to the Medical School's animal care facility and four areas of research focus: the neurobiology of development, the molecular biology of human pathogens, physiological genomics or systems biology, and structural biology. These four areas were recognized to be regions of great promise and future discovery by **Dean Stanley Schultz**. Existing faculty in these disciplines as well as new faculty to be recruited will be housed in the new building.

### How will it be attached to the Medical School Building?

The RRF will be attached by two connectors on the north side of the building. The connectors hold a connecting stair and a break room or conference room. The open space between the two connectors allows for natural light in the north lab windows of the RRF and in the rooms on the south side of the MSB. Corridors on floors two, three, four and six will provide a direct connection that will allow pedestrians to walk via these corridors from building to building.

### Who is the architect?

WHR Architects Inc. in association with Lake Flato Architects.

### Who is responsible for the planning and programming of the building?

A steering committee headed up by **Dean Schultz, Dr. Nancy McNeil, Claire Brunson, Dr. John Byrne, Abby Mitchell**, the architects, Strategic Science and Technology Planners, and facilities leaders



Structural work commences on the RRF in this June 8 photo.

ensured that those groups to be most affected by the new space received proper input.

### Will there be new parking to go along with the building?

There are no plans for a new parking garage.

### I thought we couldn't build a new building there due to the Harris Gully — what changed?

As the result of careful examination and evaluation, it was determined that a six-story structure such as the RRF can safely be built over the Harris Gully. The new building will encompass the same footprint as the John Freeman Building and great measures are being undertaken so the gully will not be disturbed. A series of large transfer beams over the gully will keep the weight of the building off the gully structure.

### Will there be a ground-floor entrance to the RRF?

The new RRF will be accessible from the east through doors opening out onto Webber Plaza, and from the north via a ramp and a staircase near the MSB blue elevator lobby. The ground floor of the new RRF is at an elevation of 48 feet, which will serve as a passive flood control measure. While this means that the new RRF will not need a flood wall, it does mean that the entrances are different from the old John Freeman Building.



Heavy machinery gets RRF construction moving June 15.

### What is happening to parking lot A?

Parking lot A is currently being used as a "lay down" area for the construction crews and, when the RRF is completed, it will return to its status as a parking lot.

### When will Webber Plaza be finished and what will it look like?

The berm project going on in Webber Plaza is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. The renovated plaza will have a decked area, benches and tables as well as new landscaping. Architectural drawings of the space are on display in the Leather Lounge.

### What's in store for bike parking?

Plans call for a covered bike parking space to accommodate more than 100 bikes on the Fannin side of the Medical School between Parking Lot A and the former cyclotron. The space will be monitored with security cameras and will be aesthetically pleasing.

### What's this about re-roofing the whole Medical School Building? When will it happen?

The \$2.3 million re-roofing project will commence in mid-June and take about nine months to complete. Processes are in place to maintain close coordination with affected MSB occupants. Any questions or concerns about this project should be addressed to **Wes Stewart**, 713-500-3400.

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E-MAIL TO [SCOOP@UTH.TMC.EDU](mailto:SCOOP@UTH.TMC.EDU)