

Events to Know

February

26 Dr. Joey Granger (The University of Mississippi Medical Center) to present "Pathophysiology of Hypertension during Preeclampsia: Linking Placental Ischemia and Endothelial Dysfunction." Noon, MSB 2.135.

March

7 Sam and Elizabeth Nixon Lectureship in Family Medicine: Dr. Joseph Sherger (University of California, San Diego) to present "The Redesign Imperative in Family Medicine." 1 p.m., MSB 2.135.

9 Skeleton Crew Holiday.

10 12th Annual Brain Awareness Week Public Forum hosted by the Neuroscience Research Center (NRC). This year's forum – "Central Nervous System Trauma and Rehabilitation" – features a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Alex Valadka. 10:30 a.m.-noon, MSB 3.001.

15 Match Day.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Rosalinda Madonna, a visiting scientist and former postdoctoral fellow in **Dr. Yong-Jian Geng's** laboratory at the Medical School, was cited in the science hotline report of the World Congress of Cardiology 2006 as being among a number of scientists with "breaking presentations based on outstanding quality." Madonna's presentation, "The murine abdominal adipose stromal cell compartment supports the differentiation into endothelial, but not into haematopoietic progenitor cells," reported on the potential and limitations of adipose tissue, which could present an easily accessible source of cells. The World Congress of Cardiology held Sept. 2-6, 2006, in Barcelona, Spain, is a unique meeting of the European Society of Cardiology and the World Heart Federation.

Fire erupts in RRF, cause as yet unknown

The cause is still unknown for the three-alarm fire that broke out Saturday morning on the fifth floor of the Replacement Research Facility (RRF). The fire caused minor damage in the adjacent Medical School Building (MSB) but enough to temporarily close the MSB, while crews worked to clean up and assess damage.

The damage was extensive to a portion of the fifth floor area and in the interstitial support space above the fifth floor of the RRF. Damage to the Medical School was confined to water damage on the southwest corner of the fourth floor and soot deposits in offices on the seventh floor. However, the entire building was closed due to smoke in the building.

Officer L.E. Simmons was working the day shift Saturday morning at the guard's desk at the Medical School when the fire alarm went off.

"An alarm at the Fire Control Panel sounded at the medical school desk," said Simmons, a senior guard with UT Police. "I contacted the UT Police Communications Center and advised that we had received a fire alarm. I observed some haze in the building immediately after the fire alarm sounded."

The dispatch center then made the 911 call and sent several police officers to the scene.

"**Officer Willis**, who was working with me, went up to the area where the fire was reported," Simmons said. "I stepped out to Webber Plaza and saw the first of several fire trucks arrive.

(Cont'd. on back)



Workers clean up debris caused by Saturday morning's fire at the RRF.

Students honor first patients through memorial service

The class of 2010 carried on a special Medical School tradition Feb. 13 by honoring those who gave their bodies for the benefits of science and education. The Cadaver Memorial Service took place in the Fifth Floor Gallery and included musical tributes, talks, and a candlelight vigil.

First-year medical students meet what will become their first patients – the cadavers – the day they walk into the gross anatomy laboratory. Although the students never knew these people, this ceremony gives them a chance to remember what they learned from them.

"We are here to reflect not so much on what we learned about our cadavers, though we all have colorful memories, but rather to consider what they taught us," said student **Taylor Wootton**, who spoke on behalf of her class. "We are here to reflect upon the amazing opportunity afforded us as medical students to peer into the human body and to remember the remarkable gift given by those precious people who, when their time on earth was through, continued to contribute to humanity."

Wootton concluded her talk by encouraging her fellow classmates to honor their first patients by becoming compassionate physicians who are committed to giving their future patients the best care possible.

Wootton's essay was followed by remarks from **Dr. Len Cleary**, director of the gross anatomy course, who reminded students that their education depends to a great degree on selfless acts by the community.

"In gross anatomy, the donors make their remains available to you for your benefit," Cleary said. "Looking forward to the next several years, your education, your skills, and your experience will be advanced by interactions with your patients. Therefore, I hope that in the future you will take the time, with or without the benefit of a ceremony such as this one, to reflect and be thankful

(Cont'd. on back)



Students light candles in honor of their first patients.



Tacia Retablos take to the Art Wall

Feb. 28



Sandra York

A series of 33 small paintings on tin that take an artistic and personal view of death and dying will be featured in the next exhibit of the Medical School's Art Wall, debuting Feb. 28.

The "Tacia Retablos" demonstrate an art form inspired by folk paintings of Mexico. Created by **Sandra York**, who works in the Department of Neurology, the art combines painting with journal entries and collaged photos.

The body of work details a personal time in York's life when she was told that her mother had two weeks to live.

"My husband and I took my mother home and, with the help of professional caregivers, took care of her for the final two years of her life," York explained.

The retablos were born out of the journals of the caregivers who cared for York's mother, **Tacia York**, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

"The art was a natural progression for the grieving process and a way that I could memorialize her life," she said.

York has a bachelor's of fine arts degree and has exhibited her work in public and private galleries.

The John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit will host a special program about York's exhibit called "Interwoven: Dying, Memory, and Healing through Art" at noon, March 29 in MSB B.100.

-D. Brown

RRF fire, cont'd.

My first concern was to secure the area and assist as needed with the response team."

Vaughn Construction manages the Replacement Research Facility, and approximately 40 construction workers were in the building when the fire started. Two contractor employees were treated for minor smoke inhalation and were released from the hospital later Saturday. "We had a small number of students, research personnel, and faculty in the Medical School," Simmons added.

By Sunday afternoon, the chaos of Saturday's fire quieted down. Environmental Health and Safety pronounced the Medical School Building clear of smoke and open for business, and card access through the Webber Plaza entrance was reinstated.

"We are very appreciative of everyone's patience and understanding as we worked through smoke, water, cleaning, and fire alarm system safety issues to make the building safe for occupancy," said **Dr. Nancy McNiel**, executive director of administration.

Estimates about the cause and damage are still under investigation. "It looks like the end of the week before we have a ruling on the cause of the fire and another week for any reliable cost estimate," said **Bruce Brown**, director of Environmental Health and Safety.

Before the fire, the six-story research building was scheduled for completion this fall. The first four floors are dedicated to laboratory research space, and the top two floors are to house the animal care facility.

Interim Dean **Jerry Wolinsky** said, "How far this sets back the research enterprise and our plans for the new building will be hard to say for quite a while yet."

-C. Webb

Grad students win awards for research

The Graduate Student Education Committee held its annual Research Poster Competition Feb. 7 in the Medical School Leather Lounge. Graduate students presented research posters in various scientific disciplines and were judged on content, presentation skills, and knowledge of the subject matter. The following seven winners were selected to receive cash awards:



Graduate students discuss their research.

First Place, \$400 – **Sharon Way**, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Genetics (adviser **Dr. Michael Gambello**);

Second Place, \$300 – **Wade Kothmann**, Ophthalmology and Visual Science (adviser **Dr. John O'Brien**) and **Feng Pan**, Ophthalmology and Visual Science (adviser **Dr. Stephen Massey**);

Third Place, \$200 – **Chris Wilson**, Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology (adviser **Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier**); **Leslie Piggott**, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology (adviser **Dr. Carmen Dessauer**); **Hanyin Cheng**, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology (adviser **Dr. Robert Kirken**); and **Kimberly Mankiewicz**, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology (adviser **Dr. Vasanthi Jayaraman**).

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

The UT-Chapter of the Student National Medical Association presented its 2007 Black History Program: "The Diaspora of Black History" Feb. 16 in the Fifth Floor Gallery of the Medical School. Dedicated to increasing awareness of the diverse cultures of African descent, the celebration included ethnic cuisine, singing, dancing, African-American poetry and literature, and African art.



Cadaver Memorial, cont'd.

for the opportunities provided by your patients."

Before the candlelight vigil, students **Synda Vandemooter** and **En-joli Benitez** gave a special performance of the song "Angel" by Sarah McLachlan.

Students then lit candles in honor and in memory of each body that was given to advance their medical education and training, accompanied by instrumental music from students **Jamie Gautreau**, **Ryan Tatum**, **Benitez**, and **Arielle DuBose**. The candle lighting ceremony was followed by a moment of silence.

The cadavers for the gross anatomy laboratory course are donated through the Willed Body Program. For more details, see <http://nba.uth.tmc.edu/willedbody/index.htm>.

-C. Webb