

Events to Know

April

- 14 UT House Medics.** See <http://is.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/projects/housemed.html>.
- 16 Dr. John Rossi (City of Hope's Beckman Research Institute)** to present "RNA Interference and HIV." Noon, MSB 2.135.
- 16 MSRD Board Meeting.** 4-6 p.m., MSB 2.103. All members invited.
- 17 University Night at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.** UT Medical School students with ID get free admission to "The Masterpieces of French Painting from The Metropolitan Museum of Art: 1800-1920." 5:30-8:30 p.m., Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main St.
- 19 Annual HUB (Historically Underutilized Business) Vendor Fair.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., MSB 5th Floor Gallery.

Call for Nominations: President's Scholar Awards

Nominations are being sought for two President's Scholar Awards to be presented to outstanding faculty at the Faculty Honors Convocation scheduled Thursday, Oct. 4.

The awards will recognize faculty achievements in research and teaching during the 2007 academic year. Each award will be presented with a \$5,000 cash prize, and each honoree will be asked to give brief remarks during the program.

Any individual affiliated with the health science center may submit nominations. Awards Committee members and past President's Scholar Award recipients will review nominations and recommend two honorees to President **James T. Willerson**.

For details, see www.uthouston.edu/mass/info/prezScholar2007.pdf. Nominations must be submitted electronically by May 4 to **Betty Vaughan** at Betty.M.Vaughan@uth.tmc.edu.

Reunion, Homecoming give alumni time to reconnect

Regardless of the graduation class year, Medical School alumni can all have a chance to come back to campus and reconnect next weekend at the annual Alumni Reunion and Homecoming.

The Medical School's Alumni Association tried something new last year by coupling the Alumni Reunion with Homecoming, and this year, the committee decided to stick with its agenda because it was a great way to bring all graduates back to the school.

"One of the reasons to have Homecoming is there are so many changes at the school and so much to see," said **Resa Ott**, associate director of alumni relations, adding that all graduates received an invitation to Homecoming.

Reunion will officially honor the classes of 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002. The festivities kickoff Friday night, April 20 where classmates get together at local hangouts to eat, drink, and share stories.

"One of the things we're doing differently Friday night is the classes are meeting at restaurants or bars in the area," Ott said, adding that these establishments might have been places where alumni went when they were students.

For example, the class of 1982 can meet up at 6 p.m. at Two Rows Restaurant and Brewery in Rice Village. "It's a mix, but we tried to create a place where they would feel comfortable and a place for families to hang out," Ott said.

Homecoming begins Saturday, April 21 with a welcoming from **Dr. Joel Dunnington**, '81, president of the Medical School's Alumni Association. Dunnington's remarks are followed by a one-hour medical ethics lecture by **Dr. Eugene Boisabuin**, faculty member in the John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit, titled "Current Ethical and Political Issues in Stem Cell," of which alumni can receive CME credit.

Following Boisabuin's lecture, the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association will begin with board achievements and goals. **Dr. Brent King**, '83, interim executive vice president and chief operating officer of the health science center and 2000 Distinguished Alumnus, will give the *(Cont'd. on back)*



Alumni and friends reconnect at last year's Reunion.

Hebert receives volunteer award from San José Clinic

Dr. Adelaide Hebert, director of pediatric dermatology at the Medical School, has been named the Volunteer of the Month for March 2007 at San José Clinic.

Hebert, professor of dermatology and pediatrics, has volunteered at the clinic for two decades, diagnosing and treating hundreds of patients with skin conditions while also teaching medical students and dermatology and pediatrics residents.

"Dr. Hebert has faithfully provided health care services at San José Clinic for 20 years, proving to be a tremendous asset to the clinic," said **Texas Adams**, the clinic's volunteer coordinator. "San José Clinic is honored to have Dr. Hebert as a part of our team of volunteer health care professionals."

San José Clinic, which is privately funded and staffed by volunteer physicians and dentists, is a safety-net provider of primary and specialty medical and dental care services for low-income, uninsured individuals and families in the Houston area.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston has a partnership with San José Clinic, and volunteer physicians and residents provide dermatology, cardiology, and endocrinology services to the clinic's patients.



Dr. Adelaide Hebert

-M. Raine



New agreement will continue to provide hospital district's physicians

The Medical School and Baylor College of Medicine have renewed their operating contracts with Affiliated Medical Services (AMS), ensuring that the two medical schools' physicians will continue practicing in hospitals and clinics of Harris County Hospital District (HCHD).

AMS is a Texas-certified nonprofit health corporation formed by the two medical schools that contracts with HCHD to provide physician services from both schools.

The deal between the hospital district and AMS is budgeted at more than \$121 million for fiscal year 2008 (July 2007-June 2008).

"We are pleased to be continuing to work with the HCHD to provide quality medical care through the district," said **Dr. Brent King**, the UT Health Science Center's interim executive vice president and chief operating officer. "UT-Houston is signed on to this new agreement. There remain details to be worked out, such as the specific basis for compensation."

Among the significant changes incorporated into this new agreement is the possibility of converting the current method for contracting payment from a full-time equivalent basis to a productivity-based scale.

Other changes since the previous agreement was signed in 1990 include:

- Providing the hospital district with an option to utilize, when necessary, non-medical school providers in the delivery of health care;
- Changing the agreement from a fixed 20-year term to a rolling five-year period; and
- Establishing an objective accountability system that will measure the effectiveness of services provided.

"Affiliated Medical Services is pleased to renew its longtime partnership with the Harris County Hospital District by signing a new affiliation agreement," said **Dr. Jose Garcia**, general director of AMS and associate professor of pediatrics at the Medical School. "AMS will continue to partner with the hospital district to provide quality medical care to the residents of Harris County."

Medical School faculty members provide comprehensive medical care at the hospital district's Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital.

-D. Bates

Reunion and Homecoming, cont'd.

state of the Medical School address on behalf of interim Dean **Jerry Wolinsky**.

The presentation of the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award to **Dr. Wiley "Chip" Souba Jr.**, a 1978 graduate of the Medical School and current dean of the Ohio State University College of Medicine, promises to be an exciting moment of the day's events.

"We're going to be celebrating Dr. Souba's award," Ott said. "We're happy to call him one of our own."

Lunch with classmates on Webber Plaza and student-led tours will follow the annual meeting.

On Saturday evening, the Reunion Reception and Dinner takes place at Trevisio located on the sixth floor of the John P. McGovern Texas Medical Center Commons. Live music will set the stage for alumni to reconnect with old classmates and remember the good times of years spent in school.

For the first time, alumni can conveniently register online for the Alumni Reunion and Homecoming at www.utmschalumni.org. For more details, contact Resa Ott at 713.500.5084.

-C. Webb

Scleroderma 5K Run/Walk set April 29

The Texas Bluebonnet Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation will host its fifth annual 5K Run/Walk for Scleroderma April 29 at Bear Creek Pioneers Park, 3535 War Memorial Drive.

Physicians and scleroderma researchers in the Medical School's Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunogenetics will be among the honored guests.

The goal of the event is to raise money and awareness on behalf of the Scleroderma Foundation. Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive, autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own parts. It can cause thickening and tightening of the skin and, in some cases, causes serious damage to internal organs. It affects about 300,000 people nationwide, mostly women ages 25-55.

The chapter would like to recruit walkers and runners from the health science center and plans to offer shuttle service from campus to the park and back.

Those who would like to ride the shuttle should e-mail SclerodermaRace@yahoo.com with their name, phone number, and e-mail address by April 20. On race day, the shuttle will pick up participants at 5:15 a.m. in front of the Jesse H. Jones Library Building, 1133 John Freeman Blvd.

Sign-in begins at 6 a.m. the day of the race in Pavilion #6, where participants may turn in pledges to receive T-shirts and race packets. The 5K run begins at 7 a.m. A 1K kids' run begins at 7:05 a.m., and the 5K walk begins at 7:15 a.m.

To register, visit www.firstgiving.com/scl-bluebonnet. For questions or to volunteer, e-mail SclerodermaRace@yahoo.com or call 713.770.0228.

Gawande to lecture and read April 16

Surgeon and writer **Dr. Atul Gawande** will lecture and read from his new book called *Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance* at noon Monday, April 16 in lecture hall 3.001 of the Medical School. A free lunch will be available for the first 75 attendees.

Gawande is a staff member of the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and *The New Yorker* magazine. He also is assistant professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, assistant professor of health policy and management at the Harvard School of Public Health, and associate director for the BWH Center for Surgery and Public Health. Additionally, he directs the World Health Organization's Global Challenge for Safer Surgical Care.

In 2006, he received the MacArthur Award for research and writing. His nonfiction writing has been selected to appear in the annual *Best American Essays* collection twice and in *Best American Science Writing* five of the last six years. His book, *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*, was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2002. He also is editor of *The Best American Science Writing 2006*.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Pedro Ruiz, professor and vice chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, was the keynote speaker at the Annual Award Banquet of the Washington Psychiatric Society held Nov. 3, 2006, in Washington, D.C. Ruiz's lecture focused on "Future Perspectives of the Psychiatric Profession." Additionally, Ruiz was appointed to the editorial board of *Revista Latino Americana Virtual de Psiquiatria (Latin American Virtual Journal of Psychiatry)*.