



IMPACT

Registration continues for Support Staff Conference

Registration continues for the annual Office and Administrative Support Staff Conference March 12 and 13 at the Moody Gardens Hotel conference center.

The purpose of this conference is to promote professionalism, teamwork and improvement. It will allow participants an opportunity for networking, benchmarking and learning.

The theme for this year's conference is "Taking Pride in You!" The agenda features national and local speakers and the content will be directed toward:

- Personal and interpersonal skills development.
- Professional development in the areas of leadership, change management and conflict management.
- UTMB updates, commitment and vision of the future.
- Professionalism and image.
- Turning challenges into triumphs.

The one-day conference is 8 a.m.–5 p.m. March 12. It will be repeated 8 a.m.–5 p.m. March 13. The cost is \$50 per person, and includes all conference activities, continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, and materials.

This is an official UTMB continuing education program. Payment is allowed from any funding source.

For information, visit the web site at www.utmb.edu/oassc or call (409) 772-7900.

UNIVERSAL CARE



UTMB President John D. Stobo talks to a group of mostly medical students about providing health care to the uninsured. Stobo presented the topic during an Honor Education Council discussion on Feb. 8.

Photo by Judie Kinonen

Stobo urges medical students to speak up for uninsured

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

It's time for health care professionals themselves to speak out for the uninsured, UTMB President John D. Stobo said at a lecture sponsored by the Honor Education Council (HEC) for the School of Medicine on Feb. 8.

The audience of mostly students listened attentively while Stobo explained that Washington has no immediate plans to promote universal access. "We can't sit back and let the government do it," he said.

The health care profession itself must advocate for "100 percent access, zero disparities" regarding patient care, or the more than 44 million uninsured Americans will suffer, according to Stobo.

"The health status of the uninsured is significantly worse than that of the insured,"

he said. "They don't get routine exams, and when they show up in the emergency room, their chances of dying in the hospital are four times higher than for someone who has insurance."

As "the safety net for the state of Texas," UTMB cannot ignore this population, Stobo said. Nor can the university ignore a new population in Galveston County—more than 9,000 of the county's 10,000 indigent health care recipients, who fell off the county's eligibility roll when the county dropped the eligible income in 2000 due to a county health department budget deficit. To qualify for indigent health care services in Galveston County, a patient must earn less than 21 percent of the federal poverty level.

To address the Galveston County needs, UTMB helped form the Community Access Program (CAP) coalition, which

hopes to break down barriers to universal health care access. Last year, the coalition secured a \$900,000 grant to fund a county-wide transit plan, an infrastructure of information technology, case management for patients, service improvements, and community and patient education programs.

Hoping to deepen grass-roots commitment to these efforts, the CAP coalition helped to rally citizens to attend a commissioners' workshop on Feb. 25. Stobo was scheduled to speak at the workshop, along with Maura Walsh, CEO of Mainland Medical Center; Dr. Bob Matteson, president of the Galveston County Medical Society; and Dr. Reza Jahadi, chairman of the Galveston County Indigent Health Care Task Force.

"As a university, we have no specific charter to address the needs of the poor, but it's

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Vice President for University Advancement
Susan H. Coulter

Executive Director of Public Affairs
Chris Comer

Director of Publications
Mary Havard

Editor
Heidi Lutz

Contributing Editors
Tom Curtis, Carrie A. Davis, Stephanie Dean, Jim Kelly, Judie L. Kinonen, Christian Messa, Cathy C. Nall, Jennifer Reynolds-Sanchez and Doris White

Art Director
Mark Navarro

Contact us

E-mail: impact.oua@utmb.edu

Phone: Heidi Lutz
Ext. 28710 (editor)
(409) 772-2618 (Public Affairs)

Campus mail route: 0144

U.S. Postal address:
UTMB
Office of University Advancement
301 University Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77555-0144

Submissions

The deadlines for submissions to be considered for the Calendar, People and Briefs sections of *Impact* is **noon, one week prior to publication**. Inclusion of all other articles is determined by the Public Affairs staff. Content is generally scheduled two to four editions in advance. Items submitted for consideration are subject to editing for style and length.

UTMB Fraud and Abuse Hotline

1 (800) 898-7679
Your guide to honesty!

- To report suspected waste, abuse and fraud.
- All calls are strictly confidential and anonymous.
- Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Undergraduate Research Symposium set for Feb. 28

Meharry Medical College vice president for sponsored research to be keynote speaker

A diverse group of scientists are needed to fill the research demands of the 21st century. Dedicated to meeting this challenge, UTMB is investing in the education of tomorrow's scientists at the 16th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, Feb. 28-March 1. This symposium is designed to encourage students to pursue advanced training and careers in the biomedical sciences and provide faculty advisors with resources for facilitating students' success.

Sponsored by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and hosted by its Committee for Diversity in Graduate Education, this symposium provides opportunities for students to share their research project data and demonstrate scientific knowledge in a formal setting. They also learn about UTMB's graduate and summer research programs.

It also provides opportunities for students and faculty advisors to learn about high-quality, significant research in the biomedical sciences, and to meet individuals who serve as role models and mentors. In addition to university funding, the symposium also has gained support from the community, including Landry's Restaurants, Inc., Moody National Bank, American National Insurance Company and Frost Bank.

During the two-day symposium, students from across the country will participate in an orientation, research presentations, a panel discussion by UTMB graduate students, a round-table discussion with undergraduate advisors, and campus tours to view UTMB's state-of-the-art facilities and programs. The National Institutes of Health and the four schools at UTMB will have information booths at the symposium.

Dr. Clifford W. Houston, associate vice president for educational outreach and the



Dr. George C. Hill

Herman Barnett Distinguished Professor in Microbiology and Immunology, said this symposium has developed over the years into a unique, effective means of recruiting students into GSBS as well as the other three schools at UTMB.

"The students have the opportunity to experience the UTMB environment first hand; likewise, our UTMB faculty have the chance to evaluate the whole individual, not just a GRE score and grade point average," said Houston who chaired the Committee for Diversity in Graduate Education for the first nine years of the symposium's existence.

More than 100 students and faculty advisors from 15 institutions, including the University of California at Berkeley, will attend this year's event.

Student paper presentations will be 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-noon, Feb. 28-March 1 in Levin Hall.

Poster presentations will be one day only, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Feb. 28. The public is invited to attend all scientific sessions. A mixer, sponsored by the Committee for Diversity in Graduate Education, will follow.

Dr. Victor E. Reyes, professor of pediatrics and of microbiology and immunology who currently chairs the committee, said the symposium provides an excellent means of showcasing the university's outstanding environment to prospective graduate school applicants.

"This year, the visiting students and their

faculty advisors will have the opportunity to hear presentations from representatives of some of UTMB centers of excellence," said Reyes, who is also a member of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Tropical Diseases.

Dr. George C. Hill, professor of microbiology and vice president for sponsored research at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., will present the keynote address at the awards dinner. His distinguished career has included working at Colorado State University and the University of Cambridge, Molteno Institute in Great Britain as an NIH Special Research Fellow.

Hill is an active researcher investigating the molecular and biochemical events occurring during differentiation of African trypanosomes. Funded in research by multiple agencies including NIH, his work has resulted in the first cloning, sequencing, expression and purification of the alternative oxidase in African trypanosomes.

Possessing an interest in international health and tropical diseases, Hill has served as program director of the NIH/Fogarty Minority International Research Training Program at Meharry and has established links in South America and Africa for research and training for faculty and students. In 1982, he was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Nairobi.

As a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Infectious Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control, he contributed to the report entitled "Addressing Emerging Infectious Disease Threats."

For information, about the Undergraduate Research Symposium, call Alicia C. Simmons in the UTMB Office of Educational Outreach at (409) 772-7972.

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part of our tradition of not turning people away," Stobo said.

He added that UTMB served 60,000 indigent and uninsured patients last year, many of them from distant counties. Stobo encouraged tomorrow's health care leaders to follow UTMB's lead, advocating for larger public programs for the poor and speaking out about the issue of the uninsured.

He spoke proudly of students at UTMB, many of whom reach out to meet the health needs of the underprivileged. "More is being done here at UTMB to address this issue than at any medical school I'm aware of," Stobo said.

Coming March 11

Watch the March 11 *Impact* for an update on the accomplishments of the \$900,000 Community Access Program Grant that was received last March to help make health care accessible to all residents of Galveston County, regardless of their income or insurance status.

Students operate the fast-growing St. Vincent's Free Clinic, providing basic care to those who otherwise could not afford it. They also offer services to the needy through clinical outreach programs in the Rio Grande Valley.

HEC member Stephen Rath, a first-year

medical student, said Stobo's lecture opened his eyes. "I had never thought much about the limits of providing health care—the idea that in our current system you can't help everyone, that some people might be denied procedures," Rath said. "After hearing Dr. Stobo talk, I think health care reform is essential."

First-year medical student Matthew Dacso agreed, adding that he hopes UTMB will continue to lead this reform movement in America. "I am assured by Dr. Stobo's words that UTMB will not be a health care provider that forgets the social obligations and responsibilities health professionals have to their community."

ELDERLY CARE

NIH grant awarded to Charles Blair for study of care in area nursing homes

By CARRIE A. DAVIS

The health of certain elderly residents in nursing homes is being undermined by the kindness of their caretakers, said Dr. Charles E. Blair, associate professor of nursing. Blair said these residents, who are referred to as “intact” because they have the cognitive and physical abilities to complete some activities of daily living independently, must either “use it or lose it.”

He says that while nursing home aides often begin their careers with good intentions, their tendency to provide too much care for the elderly can cause the residents to become unnecessarily dependent on them. This in turn deprives the residents of feelings of self-reliance and competency, which can lead to depression, mental illness and premature death.

Blair has received a \$1,175,453 grant, the largest NIH grant in the School of Nursing’s history, from the National Institute for Nursing Research to conduct a behavior intervention study in 12 nursing homes in the Galveston–Houston area over a four-year period. The study, “Decreasing Dependent Self-Care Behavior in Intact Elders,” will compare four levels of education designed to help the aides facilitate the clients’ continued self-care.

Many clients are able to feed, clothe and tend to themselves but are very slow in completing the tasks. Unfortunately, in order for the aides to keep up with a busy daily schedule, they are forced to do these tasks for the clients or risk getting off schedule. Blair proposes that the residents’ undue dependence on the aides can be prevented by increasing the aides’ knowledge of the elderly and teaching them how to foster the residents’ independence—benefiting the elderly and their caretakers.

During the study, Blair will divide the 12 homes into four different groups. Each will receive one of four different levels of education relating to the care of the elderly. Staff in Group 1 will receive a unique education in a combination of behavioral principles and skills and the different systems of nursing care. These systems include the “wholly compensatory,” where the aide provides all the care for the individuals; the “partially compensatory,” where the aide does only the tasks the residents cannot do for themselves; and the “educative supportive,” where the aide educates and encourages residents to do what they can for themselves.

The first group will receive eight hours of training. The goal for Group 1 is to help the aides have a fuller understanding of the different characteristics of elderly residents and how to better help them. By providing the aides with a more complete body of knowledge about the elderly—and the ability to choose the best system of nursing care for the different residents based on their abilities—aides might be better prepared to foster and maintain independence in activities of daily living.

Staff in Group 2 will be trained only in behavioral principles and skills. Staff in Group 3 will be trained only in the systems of nursing care, while staff in Group 4 will receive remedial training in how to physically care for the residents’ needs, such as feeding and bathing.

According to Blair, aides do the majority of the work in nursing homes and often are the least educated in how to



“The elderly are very complex people. They are childlike, but they are not children. But the people who care for them are young people who are used to caring for children. Because the aides see the residents being as slow as children, they think it is best to help them like they would a child. Aides do not come in to nursing homes with the intention of making the resident dependent; they come in with the intention of doing great things for the individuals.

*Dr. Charles C. Blair
associate professor of nursing*

do their jobs. The inability of the aides to make a positive difference in the lives of the residents and the added burden of an increased workload creates a negative ripple effect of job dissatisfaction and job attrition. With this grant, Blair plans to study the benefits, both economic and emotional, that additional training could have on the nursing home aides. He proposes that providing training to better prepare the aides for their jobs will result in lower turnover rates and reduced spending on the part of the nursing home on hiring and training replacements. By maintaining a consistent staff at the home, the residents and aides will develop stronger bonds and improve the experience for both the residents and the aides.

In studies Blair has done to prepare for the grant, results show that aides do quite well and see the need for additional training, as do the institutions they work for, once they

have been taught how to understand the special needs of intact, elderly residents.

“The elderly are very complex people,” Blair explained. “They are childlike, but they are not children. But the people who care for them are young people who are used to caring for children. Because the aides see the residents being as slow as children, they think it is best to help them like they would children. Aides do not come in to nursing homes with the intention of making the residents dependent; they come in with the intention of doing great things for the individuals. But because they are not educated to understand the theoretical basis of this dependency and why the residents need to be encouraged to do for themselves, they think that they are helping by doing.”

According to Blair, performing self-care requires the individual to use a whole range of behaviors, including intellectual behaviors such as learning, knowing and consenting; social behaviors such as developing and maintaining social roles and relationships; emotional behaviors such as motivation to strive for good health; and behaviors that promote and maintain physical functioning. Self-care equals health—the greater the individual’s ability to perform self-care, the healthier and the more satisfied he or she is with life.

There are also regulatory requirements that must be met. According to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, nursing homes are required to help residents achieve or maintain their highest practical level of physical, mental and social ability. To Blair, this requirement suggests that one of the nursing home’s obligations is to ensure that residents achieve or maintain self-care in their activities of daily living, and in order to do this, nursing aides need to use a planned, structured system of care that fosters or maintains self-care on the part of the resident.

Due to the increasing costs of medical care, nursing homes are often challenged in their efforts to provide this sort of high-quality care to their residents, which according to Blair, causes many people to fear being placed in a home.

He says making medical care cost-efficient requires change not only in the education received by the aides but a change in nursing home policies as well. After the first phase of Blair’s study is complete, he plans on going back and providing education and intervention programs for the supervisors so they can ensure their staff members are following through on the training. Once the internal functions of the homes have been improved, change must then come from the administrators and policy makers.

“We must change the policies,” explained Blair. He said that education, government, management and funding policies must be changed due to the increase in the world’s elderly population. “If the number of residents in nursing homes is getting larger and the institutions do not change, we are going to have chaos.” To circumvent this potential problem, Blair intends this study to become a model for nursing homes across the country.

“I see the process of change as a political process,” said Blair. “This is something I tell my students all the time. Politics is about policies, and if we are going to change policies, we must get involved in the political system. I am playing my part by collecting the data to support the argument to change policy.”

Hospital social worker, chaplain create quilt together

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

From a distance, one might mistake it for just another waiting room decoration. But the artwork soon to adorn the hematology/oncology area in UTMB's University Hospital Clinics Building is much more than that. Indeed, this intricately designed, hand-quilted sampler is a message of hope to patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment, says Becky Tarrant, a quilter and hospital social worker.

Each square in this quilt was inspired by a special group of plants—flowers, trees and shrubs—from which scientists derive chemotherapy medications.

It was the Rev. Kathy Sapp Ozenberger, hospital chaplain, who discovered a unique line of fabrics called "Quilt for a Cure" manufactured by Timeless Treasures Fabrics, Inc., which donates its proceeds to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

She shared the "Quilt for a Cure" catalog with Karen Alcott, hospital chaplain and coordinator for lay volunteer chaplains. Already familiar with the value of introducing patients to the healing plants, Alcott suggested such a quilt would enhance the work at the hematology/oncology unit.

So, Ozenberger ordered the fabric from "Quilt for a Cure," and she and Tarrant worked together on the quilt, which they presented to Jean McDaniel, practice coordinator for hematology/oncology.

Alcott herself had recently created a scrapbook of the healing plants for circulation in the clinic, and she knew from talking with McDaniel that the book was a hit among patients.

"When patients start treatment, they don't have any idea where these medicines come from," says McDaniel.

Then when they see chemotherapy medications are derived from plants like May



Photo by Judie L. Kinonen

Quilters Becky Tarrant, pictured left, and the Rev. Kathy Sapp Ozenberger, pictured right, present their Ribbons of Life quilt to Jean McDaniel for the hematology/oncology clinic.

apple, sweet potato and purple meadow rue, McDaniel says, "This brings things together for them."

Indeed, knowledge of the plants is essential to counseling these patients, says Alcott. "Chemo is so invasive, and it's something foreign being put into your body. For the patients, there's something comforting—even spiritual—in knowing these chemotherapy chemicals aren't manufactured only in a test tube, but they come from God's creation."

That shift in perception can give patients a sense of control, says Ozenberger. "They find out periwinkle is used in chemo, and they can say, 'Okay, I understand—I have periwinkle in my garden at home.'"

Ozenberger's interest in cancer treatment

sprang from tragedy, after losing her stepmother to breast cancer. Tarrant has also been touched by the disease, which claimed her grandmother and two aunts.

"But on a positive note, I have a sister who is a breast cancer survivor," says Tarrant.

So the quilt was a labor of love for the two women, who say they lost track of the time it took to envision and create this piece of art. Tarrant even took the time to design a quilting pattern for breast cancer's trademark pink ribbon. She hand-quilted that design into each square.

McDaniel will decide where to hang the sampler, but she says one thing is certain: "It'll go where the most patients will be able to see it."

Heart Association to honor Stobo at annual gala

Phyllis Jendrusch to chair March 16 annual gala

The Galveston Island Division of the American Heart Association (AHA) announced the selection of Phyllis Cohen Jendrusch as the new Galveston AHA gala chair and UTMB President John D. Stobo as this year's honoree.

The gala will be March 16 at The San Luis Resort Ballroom. This annual event raises money for research and education in the fight against the nation's first and third most common causes of death—heart disease and stroke.

Jendrusch, a native New Yorker, has lived in Galveston for 18 years, and has been married to Larry Jendrusch for the past 11 years. She also is an 18-year veteran employee of the School of Allied Health Sciences. She is an active volunteer for the Magnolia Task Force, an organization which brings UTMB and local students together for after-school activities.

In addition, Jendrusch is involved with Leadership Galveston and is a board member of the Women's Crisis Center as well as the 1894 Grand Opera House.

Stobo's numerous leadership roles in national organizations along with the many distinguished awards he has received are only a part of what makes him this year's honoree.

This year's gala committee includes Sue Anderson, Sharon Bradley, Elena Champagne, Carol Evans, Seal Grief, Suzanne Hamm, Brenda Hutchings, Beverly Odom, Ellie Peters, Tracy Ryan, P.J. Scheer, Susanne Sullivan and Ginger Veselka. David Murphy serves as the local division's president.

The "Texas Tux and Cowgirl Glitz" themed gala will include dinner, dancing and an auction. Area favorite, The Line-up, will provide musical entertainment throughout the evening.

Gala tickets are \$75 per person and sponsorship opportunities are available.

For information, call Elena Champagne at (409) 772-9307. Or, call Jendrusch at work at (409) 772-3030 or at home at (409) 770-9957, or send her email to pjendrus@utmb.edu.

You Count! employee survey continues with second phase

During the December Town meeting, UTMB President John D. Stobo presented the results of the all-employee "You Count!" survey.

The President's Council wants to know what you think about UTMB, about your work environment and about the work you do. The council wants to benchmark your responses to those from other employee groups across the nation and with other health care employee groups.

To do that, one-fourth of UTMB employees will be randomly surveyed each quarter, giving every employee an opportunity to share their opinions every year.

Your honest answers to You Count! are vital because changes can't be made at UTMB unless leadership is aware of those issues you think require attention.

To ensure complete confidentiality, UTMB has hired Watson Wyatt Worldwide to administer the survey on our behalf.

You can complete the survey via the Internet or on paper. Watson Wyatt will receive the answers you generate, tabulate the answers from all of the surveys, and report the final results to the institution.

No one from UTMB will see your individual responses or be able to trace your

responses back to you personally.

Participation in the survey is optional. However, it is important to note that when a greater number of employees respond, there is a better chance of accurately identifying employee perceptions and concerns.

To make sure your voice is heard, please complete the survey by the date listed on your survey during the quarter you have been selected to participate.

Employees that have been randomly selected to participate should have begun receiving their packets Feb. 14.

Law professor to discuss patient advocacy and research ethics

Health Policy Forum speaker a member of President Bush's Council on Bioethics

By TOM CURTIS

Law professor Rebecca Dresser, named in January to President Bush's 18-member Council on Bioethics, will discuss "Patient Advocacy and Research Ethics" at noon March 7 in the seventh-floor auditorium of the Shriners Burns Hospital.

Dresser, the Daniel Noyes Kirby Professor of Law and Professor of Ethics in Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, is the featured lecturer at the UTMB Health Policy Forum of 2002. At 11:30 a.m., a reception for her begins in the foyer of the auditorium. Copies of Dresser's book, *When Science Offers Salvation: Patient Advocacy and Research Ethics*, will be available for sale and autographing by the author.

Both the reception and the talk are free and open to the public. Tokens permitting free parking in the Administration Building Garage at Sixth and Market streets will be available at the auditorium for off-campus visitors.

Sponsored by the UTMB President's Council, the Health Policy Forum is organized by the UTMB Institute for the Medical Humanities.

Dresser is one of four women on the President's Council on Bioethics, the first



Rebecca Dresser

assignment of which is to advise Bush by producing a report on human cloning.

Shortly after her appointment, Dresser told the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* that she hopes the panel will spend at least part of its time debating "everyday bioethics"—issues such as how to care for elderly patients who can't make decisions for themselves; who should have access to health care; and what responsibility the

UTMB Health Policy Forum

Rebecca Dresser, the Daniel Noyes Kirby Professor of Law and a professor of ethics in medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, is the featured lecturer at the UTMB Health Policy Forum. The public is invited to the following events on March 7 as part of the forum:

- **11:30 a.m.**—Reception and book signing in foyer of the seventh floor auditorium at the Shriners Burns Hospital.
- **Noon**—"Patient Advocacy and Research Ethics" discussion featuring Dresser in the seventh floor auditorium at the Shriners Burns Hospital.
- **3 p.m.**—"The News Media and Research Ethics" colloquium, led by Dresser, in Room 1.102 of the Allied Health Sciences and Nursing Building.

United States should have to people in the developing world.

At 3 p.m. March 7, following her lecture, Dresser will lead a colloquium on "The News Media and Research Ethics" in Room 1.102 of the Allied Health Sciences and Nursing Building. That session, too, is

open to interested faculty, students, staff and the public.

Shortly after noon March 8, Dresser will address a combined meeting of UTMB's two Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) discussing "Patient Advocates as Members of IRBs."

Dresser received her law degree from Harvard University in 1979. She also holds a master of science degree in education and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and sociology from Indiana University in Bloomington.

Prior to her appointment at Washington University, she was professor in the School of Law and Center for Biomedical Ethics at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine; a fellow in the Program in the Ethics and the Professions at Harvard; an assistant professor in the Center for Ethics, Medicine and Public Issues at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston; a teaching fellow at the School of Law at the University of Chicago; a law clerk to United States District Clerk James E. Doyle in Madison, Wis.; and a postdoctoral fellow on a National Institute of Mental Health Training Grant in Social Science Research Methods in the Psychiatry Department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Applications now being accepted for UTMB Summer Science Camps

UTMB offers summer science camps that are sure to stimulate young scientists' minds. This year, the deadline is April 12 for seventh and eighth grade students to apply to Camp I, and for ninth and 10th grade students to apply to Camp II. Galveston County students enrolled in private and public schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible to apply.

Summer Science Camps I and II are funded by a grant from the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund and the UTMB President's Cabinet Fund.

Both camps are designed to provide pre-college students access to a wealth of basic research and clinical science information through hands-on experiences in the laboratory with cutting-edge scientific techniques.

Through these camps, the UTMB scientific community plays an integral role in enhancing pre-college students' knowledge about science and encouraging students to pursue science careers.

UTMB's Summer Science Camp I provides seventh- and eighth-grade students with hands-on laboratory exercises in both physical and life sciences, problem-solving activities, medical research-related career presentations, tours and field trips.

Students can apply for one of two four-week sessions.



Students in the Summer Science Camps participate in a variety of activities aimed at encouraging careers in science fields. Seventh and eighth grade students conduct hands-on laboratory exercises. Ninth and 10th grade students are introduced to a variety of advanced cellular and molecular laboratory procedures, including DNA fingerprinting. Applications are being accepted through April 12 for the 2002 UTMB Science Summer Camps.

Camp 1 sessions are June 10–July 3 and July 8–Aug. 2.

Summer Science Camp II provides ninth- and 10th-grade students an opportunity to perform a variety of advanced cellular and molecular laboratory procedures, including DNA fingerprinting.

Students also will use newly acquired information to design their own investigations in an inquiry-based format. In addition, they research and debate ethical issues in science. Summer Science Camp II has one seven-week ses-

sion, June 10–July 26, with July 3–4 off for the holiday.

Applications for the camps can be obtained from seventh–10th-grade teachers in Galveston County.

Applications also can be downloaded from the web site at www.utmb.edu/oeo/index.html.

To request information be mailed to you, contact Dr. Alan Lennon, director of science education programs in the Office of Educational Outreach, at (409) 772-7970 or (409) 772-7973.

AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

Emergency drill planned for March

Various departments at UTMB will participate in a countywide emergency management drill sponsored by the Texas Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management. Scheduled for early March, the drill primarily will be focused in the Emergency Department but will likely involve facilities and public affairs employees, among others.

The exercise will be scripted, and the scenarios developed by professional emergency managers. Some of the people involved have experience in the Oklahoma City bombing and recently have studied the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. It is possible the scenario planners will include terrorism as the root cause of the event, with an interruption of critical services such as utilities and water or the disruption of the normal traffic patterns for Galveston and the ports.

“Originally, the drill was to test emergency response, but Sept. 11 has changed our focus,” said Mike Megna, UTMB administrative emergency preparedness officer. “Terrorist attacks have demonstrated that emergency management programs now need to be ready for a different type and level of attack. I expect there to be a strong terroristic influence in the exercise.”

The exercise will involve emergency managers in Texas City, Galveston, Galveston County, Brazoria County, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and officials with the ports of Texas City and Galveston. UTMB will play an important role in terms of response to casualties. But the drill also will give the university an opportunity to test its internal disaster plans and external communications plans if the number or type of casualties overwhelm the system.

“This will be a great opportunity to interact with other local hospitals in terms of patient routing for specific services and handling overflow situations,” Megna said. “New requirements for JCAHO compliance require not only new planning but communication and coordination with other local health care providers, emergency services including police, fire and EMS, and other agencies such as the Coast Guard.”

The event will last two and a half days, including time for analysis and critique. It will involve establishing at least one, or maybe multiple, incident command centers that are intended to marshal resources to the site of events.



Photo by John Glowczwski



Photo by John Glowczwski

Hartshorn honored for service as associate dean

Dr. Jeanette C. Hartshorn (pictured above between Dr. Poldi Tschirch, School of Nursing undergraduate program director, and Dr. Ben Raimer, vice president for community outreach) was honored at a Feb. 5 reception for her more than eight years of outstanding service as associate dean for academic administration in UTMB's School of Nursing and her recent assignment as director of the Center for Telehealth and Distance Education.

Her colleagues, friends, family and professional associates gathered at the event, which also featured a live hook-up to Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, where UTMB conducts cooperative education programs. Dr. Pamela G. Watson, (pictured above right) School of Nursing dean and one of the co-hosts of the event, spoke of Hartshorn's many accomplishments as a “scholar, teacher and clinician,” noting

that it is unusual for one individual to excel in all those capacities. Raimer, also a co-host of the event, said, “Dr. Hartshorn's work has been an important component of the center since the beginning. Her professional career here has made this telehealth center come to life.”

He added that she has done a “tremendous job” in reaching out to other communities and said that by working with others at UTMB, she has been able to garner grants of more than \$7 million for the center. She also has facilitated collaboration between the academic schools at UTMB.

Most importantly, Raimer said, although Hartshorn has introduced new technologies to patient care, she always has kept the “real focus on the patient and the patient's family, and that is what UTMB is all about.”

IN BRIEF

Online training system unavailable until April 1

The online training system will be down for system enhancements until April 1. All employees, faculty and staff will still have until Sept. 1 to meet their training requirements.

The General Compliance Training will still be offered in leader-led sessions, or at the request of individual departments. Announcements for training dates and times are made monthly via UTMB broadcast email.

To request training for your department, contact Angela Tyson at amtyson@utmb.edu or at (409) 747-8700. Or, call Christine Griffith at (409) 747-8707 if you have questions.

Logistics Central Help Desk offers assistance to callers

For general information on Logistics' services and how to access them, contact the Logistics Central Help Desk at (409) 747-8000. Employees also can use the help desk to schedule a presentation or training session on Logistics services.

The Central Help Desk is an excellent resource for answering your EDS questions and learning how to create the various requisitions (including Small Order System [SOS], Formulary, REM, and Materials Management Orders). You can contact the help desk by phone or via the email link on the Logistics Customer Support web page to request help with a requisition, a reset of a requisition, or a fax of an SOS purchase order. In addition to the Help Desk, The following areas can provide assistance with specific issues:

- Contact the Formulary Problem Resolution Desk (PRD), (409) 747-8025, for customer, vendor, accounting, purchasing and receiving assistance, on all formulary purchase order issues after a purchase order has been released. This can be done by sending email to logistics.problemresolution@utmb.edu.
- For all changes on SOS Purchase Orders after a purchase order has been released, send an email to Purchasing/SOS Changes (via the global email address list).
- All issues, problems and questions pertaining to materials management orders from the 14th Street warehouse and the hospital storeroom are resolved by Supply Management

Customer Service, (409) 772-5364. Supply Management Customer Service provides help in replacing items that are damaged or incorrect.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance available Saturdays on campus

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is available Saturdays through April 13 for people who need help preparing simple individual income tax returns.

IRS-trained volunteers will be available 9 a.m.–noon Saturdays in the Lee Hage Jamail Student Center cafeteria. No appointment is required. Free public parking is available in the parking garage on the south side of Market Street opposite Levin Hall.

Individuals seeking assistance should bring the following documents to the VITA site: original IRS Forms W-2 for all 2001 employers; IRS Form(s) 1099 showing interest income; original Social Security Card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Card (ITIN); original receipts for moving expenses, unreimbursed business expenses, charitable contributions, state and

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AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

Galas, krewes bring Mardi Gras to hospital



Photo by Judie Kinonen

King William of the Krewe of Aquarius delivers Mardi Gras beads to Tiffany Colley, a patient at Children's Hospital. He and other Aquarius members donned their festive costumes for a little fun with children who may not catch this year's parades Mardi Gras.



Photo Courtesy of Manny Chan's Creative Photography

Dr. Don Powell, chairman of internal medicine, pictured left, and Dr. Randall Urban, director of the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Diabetes Center, pictured center, receive plaques from Tilman J. Fertitta at the annual San Luis Salute Mardi Gras Ball at Fertitta's San Luis resort and conference center. This year's gala benefited the Stark Diabetes Center.

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local taxes, tuition expenses and other deductible items.

For information about VITA site location and operation, contact Maggie Pinson, Office of International Affairs, 747-0454; fax (409) 747-3952; mapinson@utmb.edu.

For tax information, visit the UTMB VITA site on Saturday, call the IRS at (800) 829-1040. Or, visit the IRS web site at www.irs.ustreas.gov/.

Scholarships available to UTMB students through NHSC

UTMB students might be eligible for scholarships through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).

The NHSC is seeking applicants for their scholarship program who share a commitment to improving health care in medically underserved communities.

Scholarships cover the costs of tuition and other expenses and include a monthly stipend. Upon completion of their training, students practice primary care in communities where the needs are the greatest in return for the scholarship support they received.

Applications are due (or must be postmarked by) March 29, 2002. For information, visit the web site at www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/nhsc/scholarad.

Employee Advisory Council outlines system issues

The Employee Advisory Council of the University of Texas System plans to spend this year researching issues such as tuition and fee assistance for employees and their dependents, ways of easing the parking crunch at various institutions, and monetary and non-monetary compensation practices.

Those and other issues were outlined by council members during the group's annual meeting with the Board of Regents on Feb. 13.

Lorraine Etkin, an employee of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, chairs the council. She said the 32-member group had established committees on benefits, compensation, communications, and policy.

The council has set up a web site using the UT System server (www.utsystem.edu) and hopes to develop the site as a resource for employee councils at each of the 15 component institutions of the system.

The council was established by the Board of Regents in late 2000 to give the System's 68,000 staff employees a new voice in discussions with the board and administrators.

During the past year, members of the council were elected or appointed across the system, and organizational meetings were held.

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NIEHSC'S Diamond receives Michener Prize for fiction

By JIM KELLY

At UTMB, Pam Diamond is best known for her current job as director of the community outreach and education program at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center in Environmental Toxicology and the Sealy Center for Environmental Health and Medicine.

But at the University of Houston's prestigious graduate program in creative writing, Diamond is known for another kind of work—the kind that tells a story on paper.

Last month, Diamond's literary efforts were recognized with University of Houston's Michener Fellowship in Honor of Donald Barthelme, a \$12,000 prize awarded to a University of Houston graduate student whose anonymously submitted manuscript—in Diamond's case, her fiction-writing thesis—wins a competition judged by an independent, nationally known writer.

The fellowship is funded by an endowment created by bestselling historical novelist James Michener, who greatly admired the University of Houston creative writing program and its premier author and teacher, Donald Barthelme. Barthelme, who died in 1989, helped create what is known today as "postmodern fiction" with his highly innovative and influential short

stories and novels—a body of work that many critics believe is one of the most significant in late 20th-century literature.

Diamond's thesis is a fictional exploration of life on the Texas Gulf Coast during what she calls "the oil century," the historical period that began with the first gusher at Spindletop in 1901.

Her goal, she said, is to "chronicle the hundred-year trajectory of the oil industry here, and how it changed the people and land of southeast Texas."

The project is closely related to her efforts in the NIEHS and Sealy Centers, which have focused on the Youth Environmental Studies (YES) and Bench Scientific Research and Design educational programs, she said.

"The scientists in our center study the effect of environmental toxins on physical human life," Diamond said. "The other side of the story is the cultural side, the human side of oil exploration, refining and shipping, and their effect on our environment."

Diamond has been interested in that theme since before her arrival at UTMB 17 years ago, when she began work with Dr. Brad Thompson as managing editor of the journal *Molecular Endocrinology*. It

recurs repeatedly in her work, published in short form in literary journals like *Gulf Coast and Southwest Review*, and read onstage last June at Houston's Alley Theater as part of the Alley's "Texas Bound" series.

"My pre-occupation is with how art and science can work together," Diamond said. "The humanities and the sciences complement each other—it's not just a part of a human being that is impacted by the environment, but the whole. Similarly, the children in our education programs like YES and Bench are required and expected to perform well in both the humanities and the sciences as they learn about the environment."

That vision fits in perfectly with Diamond's role at the NIEHS and Sealy centers, said to Dr. R. Stephen Lloyd, the centers' director.

"Both the Sealy Center for Environmental Health and Medicine and the NIEHS Center believe it is essential to do cutting-edge science while communicating with the people of Galveston, Texas and the United States," Lloyd said. "Pam's work has been critical in forging the connection we need between arts, science and education."

AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS



Rosalind "Akua" Holt, producer of *Amandla Productions* in Houston, leading a sing-a-long during "A Patchwork Quilt: Collection of Storytelling & Songs. A gourd, as seen on the table to Holt's left, is a traditional African instrument used in ceremonies and celebrations. Sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, this event is part of a month-long series for African-American History Month.

Photo by Carrie A. Davis

BRIEFS from Page 7

The council consists of two representatives and an alternate from each of the 15 components and the System administration. Similar councils of students and faculty have existed since the early 1990s.

Stobo named to Tyler Health Center presidential search committee

UTMB President John D. Stobo is among a 15-member committee appointed to advise the UT System Board of Regents on the selection of a president for the UT Health Center at Tyler.

The committee will make recommendations on possible successors to President Ronald F. Garvey, who announced in January that he plans to retire at the end of August. The committee will be asked to present the names of five to 10 candidates, unranked, to the board, which will make the final decision.

The committee will be chaired by Dr. James C. Guckian, acting executive vice chancellor for health affairs for the UT System. Chancellor R.D. Burck will also serve on the committee. Representing the Board of Regents on the committee will be A.W. "Dub" Riter Jr., of Tyler and Dr. Judith L. Craven of Houston. Other members of the committee are Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa, president of the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

OF NOTE

Rudy Guerrero, assistant vice president for planning and management systems, received the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's 2001 Leadership Award at the society's annual conference and exhibition in Atlanta in January.



Rudy Guerrero

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society is a non-profit organization that provides leadership in health care for the management of technology, information and change. The society represents about 12,000 health care professionals in clinical systems, information systems, management engineering, and telecommunications.

GEM winners were drawn at the Feb. 13 Employee Service Day celebration. Each will receive a \$100 gift certificate. The winners are: **Kasi Allen**, Faculty Group Practice; **Nickie Fielder**, Faculty Practice DAMP Office; **Kimberly Galvan**, Faculty Group Practice; **Meredith Hartzog**, Heart Center; **Carlos Hernandez**, FOAM; **Jennifer Hogan**, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation; **Brenda Keltner**, CV services; **Dona Lane**, Float Pool; **Wanda Reily**, Nursing; and **Malisa Simonons**, Obstetrics and Gynecology Satellite.

UTMB IMPACT

The University of Texas Medical Branch
Office of University Advancement
301 University Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77555-0144
Telephone (409) 772-2618

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