

IMPACT

BSL4 lab is breaking new ground

By TOM CURTIS

At 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25, President John D. Stobo and other UTMB officials will break ground near the south face of the Keiller Building for construction of a history-making structure: the first fully functioning maximum containment facility/Biosafety Level 4 (BSL4) laboratory on a university campus in the United States.

The 12,000-square-foot maximum containment facility, dedicated to the study of tropical and emerging infections, is

Groundbreaking marks the start of the first maximum containment lab on an American university campus

designed to allow researchers to “safely and effectively work with the most hazardous organisms that you can imagine,” said Dr. C.J. Peters, director of the nascent laboratory and of UTMB’s new Center for Biodefense, as well as professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology.

The BSL4 laboratory itself, which is sometimes compared to a submarine inside a giant bank vault, will be just 2,000 square feet. The other 10,000 square feet of the facility will contain high-tech support equipment designed to capture and destroy any microbes before they can exit the structure. The facility will be free-standing but adjacent and connected to the Keiller Building.

See BSL4 on page 4

HEEDING A CALL

Two nurses answered call to help at World Trade Center disaster site

By CARRIE ANN DAVIS

UTMB nurse E. Joan Albers says words are sometimes not enough when trying to describe the experience of being a Red Cross volunteer at the World Trade Center disaster site to people who have only seen it in the news. She says it is like trying to describe the salty feel of an ocean breeze or the hypnotic power the ocean tide has to a person who has never been to the seashore.

Albers and Pamela Berryhill, UTMB nurses at the TDCJ Hughes Unit in Gatesville and Red Cross volunteers for the last five years, got a fateful call from the Red Cross, and on Sept. 12 they were on their way to New York City to experience the devastation firsthand.

“Everybody in America wanted to help, and I had the ability as a nurse to do it,” said Berryhill. Both say they feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to help. In addition, Albers said was glad they could show America that there is another side to correctional care nursing.

“I felt like I was a representative of UTMB, my family and the state of Texas when we were out there,” said Albers. She was surprised at how touched people were that they would come all the way from Texas to help. Both nurses also expressed gratitude to UTMB and their supervisors for granting them the time to go and volunteer.

The two nurses worked at a respite area where the fire and medical workers would go to rest. They worked 15-hour days and often had to walk through the fiery ruins to get supplies. During their long days, the two nurses would listen to the stories of the workers and hand out teddy bears supplied by the Red Cross. While these bears are



Nurses Jean Albers and Pamela Berryhill, both with the TDCJ Hughes Unit in Gatesville, were called to service at the World Trade Center disaster site. Both are Red Cross volunteers and it was through the Red Cross that the nurses were called to New York on Sept. 12.

generally distributed to children during times of crises, the grown men would often clutch the bears to their chests and burst into tears according to Albers.

“The rescue workers were so open and caring,” said Berryhill. “The feeling of brotherhood and strength that they had was incredible.”

“It was the selflessness of the people that kept you going,” said Albers. She told of how the emergency workers would toil for

days on end and how no one could convince them to go home.

When the two nurses left New York, there was a feeling of frustration. As health care providers, they say they feel compelled to fix problems, but they know the sorrow and pain experienced by those directly affected by the attacks will be a long time in healing. Albers hopes that she was able to find the words to help comfort even one person.

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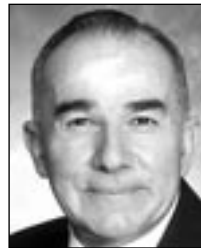
Our Town

A Message from the President

Employees express satisfaction in You Count! survey

We covered a lot of ground during the last Town Meeting of 2001, including the recognition of this year's highly successful SECC campaign.

The December Town Meeting also featured a wrap-up of the all-employee "You Count!" survey. We completed the survey in October and recently received the



Dr. John D. Stobo

results. I thought the campus community would be interested in what we learned from the responses.

First, let me remind you why we do employee surveys. We want and need to know what you think about UTMB, about your work environment, and

about the work you do. We want to benchmark your responses to those from other employee groups across the nation and with other health care employee groups.

This helps us understand the areas where we are strong and ahead of other organizations and the areas where we have opportunities for improvement. Half of the 32 "You Count!" survey questions are best-practice questions—which means we can benchmark or compare our scores to other employers.

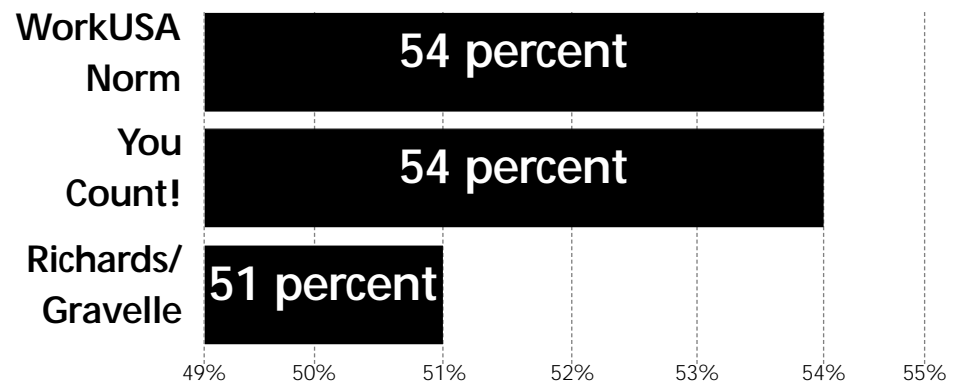
Remember that we conducted our first all-employee survey almost two years ago as part of our branding initiative with the help of the Richards/Gravelle marketing firm. And, we made a commitment then to begin surveying employees on a regular basis to see if the steps we take to address issues that surface have the intended impact. From now on, a quarter of our employees will be surveyed every quarter, meaning every employee will be surveyed annually.

The first positive outcome I would like to report is that the response rate for this survey was much better than the participation rate in the Richards/Gravelle survey of 23 percent. Overall, including faculty, we received a 34.4 percent response rate. Our Human Resources department tells me that the expected response rate for a survey of this type is 30 percent, so I'm pleased with your willingness to give us

More than half of the employees responding to the You Count! survey said they would prefer to stay with UTMB over comparable jobs elsewhere. Here is a quick look at how their responses compared with previous UTMB surveys and the national norm.

I would prefer to remain with UTMB even if a comparable position were available in another organization...

Percent Favorable Comparison



Largest POSITIVE deviation from national norms

	Percent favorable	+/- from norm
My manager keeps me informed about matters that affect me.	60	+15
UTMB creates a climate that values individuals of diverse backgrounds.	62	+8
UTMB does a good job of providing opportunities for personal growth and development.	48	+8
I would recommend UTMB to others as a good place to work.	62	+7
I am proud to work for UTMB.	70	+5

your feedback.

Now let's look at the change in the responses to four questions that were included in the Richards/Gravelle survey and the "You Count!" survey. When asked if you would prefer to remain with UTMB if a comparable job were available in another organization, we saw an increase in the favorable response rate from 51 percent to 54 percent (which is also the national norm).

When asked about your confidence in the President's Council and senior management here, we saw an increase in the favorable response rate from 43 percent to 52 percent. This tops the 42 percent norm throughout the health care industry and a 50 percent norm in all industries.

We did see a decline in the question pertaining to your satisfaction with your current position. The favorable response rate

See **OUR TOWN** on page 3

GUARDING THE FLAME

UTMB nurse among Olympic Torch Relay support runners

By CARRIE ANN DAVIS

The Olympic flame shone brightly as the torch passed through the Houston area on Dec. 10, but it was not nearly as bright as the smile on Kathleen Robards' face. Robards, a UTMB nurse who cares for special-needs infants, participated in the Olympic Torch Relay as an official support runner, a "guardian of the flame."

One of two

Kathleen Robards was one of two UTMB nurses who participated in the Olympic Torch Relay.

Sandra Block-Powis, a day surgery nurse, was a torch-bearer in Beaumont on Dec. 10. Her story appeared in the Dec. 10 issue of *Impact*, which still is available online.

The role of a support runner is to support, encourage and assist the torch-bearer in finishing his or her segment. Robards has so much enthusiasm that on her own she could have spirited the flame from one side of Texas to the other.

During her portion of the relay, Robards ran with seven different torchbearers, twice the distance of

most support runners, for a total of 1.4 miles. The distance was not difficult for Robards, who began running when she was a freshman in high school and who enjoys running in her free time.

The biggest thrill for her was when one of the torchbearers passed her the torch and let her carry it for about half the distance.



Photo by Victor Scott

UTMB nurse Kathleen Robards was among the Olympic Torch Relay "guardians of the flame." She ran alongside the torch bearers as support.

"It was just amazing," said Robards. "I don't think I stopped smiling the whole time. It was great to be a part of something that brings the whole world together."

Robards has watched and admired the Olympics since she was a child. "It is great watching athletes compete for something that they have been training their entire lives for. The dedication and talent it takes to get to the Olympics is amazing, and for two weeks everyone gets to see the best athletes in the world."

The desire to participate in the Olympics has been with Robards for several years, ever since the torch passed near her home in Niceville, Fla., for the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta. Her father, Michael Robards, is responsible for submitting her nomination.

"I nominated her because she is the kind of daughter that every dad hopes for when their child is born," explained the elder Robards. He realized participating with the Olympics was a dream of hers, and he wanted to help make it come true.

According to him, his daughter was a very deserving candidate. In January of 2000 she raised more than \$4,500 for the Leukemia Society by running her first marathon at Walt Disney World. She also has worked with children in Indianapolis at the Riley Children's Hospital, prior to working in the Infant Special Care Unit at UTMB.

"Am I proud of her?" he asks. "You bet. Her mother, brother and I are as proud as we can be, and we all know that this is just one of many things to be proud of her for. I love Kathleen and am proud of her for the woman that she became."

Although the torch relay was a wonderful experience, the glory of participating in the Olympics has not gone to Robards' head. She sums it up by saying, "I don't think the experience has changed me, but now I have another good story to tell."

OUR TOWN from Page 2

decreased from 68 percent to 61 percent from one survey to the next. We intend to try and get to the root cause of the drop.

Nonetheless, it's worth noting that, despite the decline, we are still above the national norm of 59 percent.

Our Town

A Message from the President

Another area we are taking a close look at is whether our employees feel satisfied with type of work they do here. Between the two surveys, we saw an increase in the favorable response rate from 68 percent to 74 percent. However, we are still below the national norm of 78 percent and the industry norm of 81 percent.

On the "You Count!" survey, the questions could be divided into five general categories: communication, leadership, trust, employee commitment and perception of direction. Of particular note is our score for employee commitment.

We are 10 percentage points above the industry norm and 4 percentage points above the national norm in this area. This

Largest NEGATIVE deviation from national norms

	Percent favorable	+/- from norm
Please rate your immediate supervisor on treating you with respect	57	-14
How satisfied are you with your group's ability to meet the needs of the people you serve externally.	59	-13
UTMB does a good job of retaining highly qualified individuals.	27	-9
UTMB does a good job of recognizing good performance.	32	-8
UTMB provides the resources necessary for me to work effectively.	70	+5

confirms what we already knew—our employees are among the most committed anywhere.

This strong level of employee commitment can certainly be tied to some of the high deviations we saw in your responses when compared to national norms. We found that UTMB employees are pleased with the fact that their supervisors do a good job of keeping them informed about matters affecting them. The survey also

confirmed that you believe UTMB creates a climate that values individuals of diverse backgrounds, and that the institution does a good job of providing opportunities for personal growth. A great number of you also told us that you would recommend UTMB to others as a good place to work, and that you are proud to work at UTMB yourself.

There were several areas in which we fell below national norms and have opportuni-

ties to improve. On the question asking whether you feel your immediate supervisor treats you with respect, we are 14 points below the norm.

When asked how satisfied you feel about your group's ability to meet the needs of the people you serve externally, we rank 13 percentage points below the national norm. Through your answers, you also expressed concern that we are not doing enough to retain highly qualified individuals, recognize good performance, or provide the resources necessary for you to work effectively. These are all areas we will be looking at carefully to determine how we can do better.

The next Town Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7, and I hope you'll be able to attend (or watch the continuous-feed broadcast or borrow a tape from University Advancement).

In the meantime, I appreciate your input and welcome the opportunity to address any questions or concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly at www.utmb.edu/townmeeting.

BSL4 from Page 1

Peters said one major thrust of the BSL4 laboratory will be to extend the work of the more than 26 UMTB researchers led by professors Dr. Robert E. Shope and Dr. David G. Gorenstein, who have received more than \$11 million in federal grants over the past four years to develop countermeasures against viruses that experts fear bioterrorists may employ.

"If we're going to deal with the threat of biological terrorism or biological warfare, we're going to have to have a concerted scientific effort—and that effort doesn't have to be where these terrorists exist—it can be anywhere," Peters said. "In Galveston, we have a health sciences university that has a very strong basic sciences program, the Sealy Center for Structural Biology, the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, the Center for Tropical Diseases and the Center for Biodefense. So the Center for Biodefense can draw on the expertise of these other centers to deal with what are basically infectious disease problems."

Peters, a native of Odessa, was formerly chief of special pathogens in charge of the BSL4 laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and before that had a similar role supervising the BSL4 laboratory at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) in Frederick, Md. Peters has traveled extensively in South America and Africa investigating viral outbreaks.

In the United States, he headed the unit that contained the 1989 Ebola virus outbreak in Reston, Va., and was a key member of the team that tracked down the hantavirus that caused mysterious deaths in rural New Mexico.

A specially trained and dedicated staff will maintain the BSL4 facility, and these individuals also will take over maintenance of the existing Biosafety Level 3 laboratories, said Lee H. Thompson, UTMB safety officer for biocontainment facilities. Thompson previously worked on construction and commissioning of BSL4 laboratories in Canada, Sweden and India. He also will be in charge of training both scientific and maintenance staff in the safe operation of the facility.

A number of notable scientists and medical administrators have already confirmed their attendance at the groundbreaking. They include Maj. General Phillip K. Russell (U.S. Army, retired), who formerly headed the Army's infectious disease program and is now the number three official in the Office of Homeland Security; Peter

Dr. C.J. Peter's guide to biosafety

Everything you wanted to know about BSLs but were afraid to ask

Dr. C.J. Peters is director of UTMB's planned Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory and of its new Center for Biodefense. The following are excerpts from an interview with Dr. Peters by UTMB's Gay Parrish and Victor Scott.



Dr. C.J. Peters

"Working with infectious diseases and the organisms that cause infectious diseases can be hazardous, so we've developed a system for grading these different organisms. 'Biosafety Levels' they are called—Biosafety Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4. If you use an organism in your research at the appropriate biosafety level, you can use it safely.

"Many of the common organisms are

Biosafety Level 2, and you'll find BSL2 laboratories on many university campuses.

"Some of the somewhat hazardous organisms are Biosafety Level 3. We have BSL3 labs here, and many other universities do as well.

"But some organisms are highly hazardous to the people who are working with them. And so to be able to use them safely, you need a specialized laboratory called a Biosafety Level 4r Laboratory—

and we'll be building such a laboratory here, hopefully opening for business in March of 2003.

"These laboratories are highly specialized—they need a lot of 'care and feeding' to keep them running right. We are dedicated to that. In addition, we've assembled a talented crew to look at the design of the lab and make sure that it is state of the art. And we also have some people on board who have worked in Biosafety Level 4 Laboratories.

"So we will have, we think, the essence of a safe and effective laboratory for working with the most hazardous organisms that you can imagine."

Groundbreaking Ceremony

- UTMB employees and students are invited to the groundbreaking for the Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory. The groundbreaking is 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25 on the south side of the Keiller Building.
- Among the notable scientists and medical administrators confirmed to be at the groundbreaking include Maj. General Phillip K. Russell (U.S. Army, retired), who formerly headed the Army's infectious disease program and is now the number three official in the Office of Homeland Security; Peter B. Jahrling, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases; Karl M. Johnson, former director of the Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta; Heinz Feldmann, director of Canada's extensive new Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory in Winnipeg; and Michael Kiley, chief biosafety officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- A reception will follow the ceremony in the Lee Hage Jamail Student Center.
- In case of inclement weather, the event will be in Levin Hall.

B. Jahrling, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases; Karl M. Johnson, former director of the Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta; Heinz Feldmann, director of Canada's extensive

new Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory in Winnipeg; and Michael Kiley, chief biosafety officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Also invited are several leading Texas and national politicians, including U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and her Senate colleague Dr. Bill Frist of Tennessee, and local U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson.

UTMB's full-sized BSL4 laboratory—in which researchers will work inside the laboratory in pressurized suits—will be a "first" on an American university campus, but it isn't the first such facility on a campus anywhere in the world. That distinction belongs to a full-sized BSL4 at a university in Marburg, Germany. Meanwhile, here in the United States the University of Georgia already has a small facility known as a "glove box" BSL4, in which investigators insert their hands in special gloves to do their experiments while the rest of their bodies remain outside the small BSL4 containment zone.

There also is one other full-sized BSL4 already in operation in Texas, located at the private Southwest Center for Biomedical Research in San Antonio. Meanwhile, Texas Tech University in Lubbock, the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and the University of California at Davis are reportedly looking into building their own full-sized BSL4 laboratories.

Construction of UTMB's BSL4 has been a long-time dream of Dr. David H. Walker, professor and chairman of the Department of Pathology and director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Tropical Diseases. Walker said that hav-

ing a BSL4 at UTMB will provide a "tremendous breadth and depth of investigators' expertise that can be focused on disease-related problems." He added that "interdisciplinary biomedical research is a powerful force, and this is UTMB's forte."

Mike Shriner, UTMB's chief facilities officer, said construction should begin soon. "Bids from contractors have been received, and we plan to award the construction contract in the latter half of February," he said. "We expect construction to start in early March."

The facility is scheduled to be completed and commissioned in March 2003.

Construction of the BSL4 laboratory is largely funded by a grant from The Sealy and Smith Foundation of Galveston, with additional support for the facility from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), among other sources.

Stobo said that the financial support UTMB has received from The Sealy and Smith Foundation and the federal government to build the maximum containment facility at UTMB is much appreciated and "a great tribute to the remarkable work being done here by scientists in the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Tropical Diseases and to the scientific promise of collaborations with scientists from other disciplines.

"A top virologist was quoted almost two years ago in *Science* magazine as saying that UTMB 'may well become the center for tropical medicine in the world,'" Stobo added. "Having the United States' first BSL4 laboratory on a university campus tends to support that prophecy."

Mitchell gift establishes Alzheimer's research program

Endowed distinguished chair in geriatrics also part of generous gift

By CHRISTIAN MESSA

UTMB recently received two significant contributions from George and Cynthia Mitchell, the first to create an Alzheimer's disease research program and a second to establish an endowed distinguished chair in geriatric medicine. These two endowed programs will bolster significantly the university's renowned elderly patient care and research programs.

The Mitchells recently committed \$1 million to fund research for Alzheimer's disease and other age-related neurodegenerative conditions. Called the George and Cynthia Mitchell Research Program in Alzheimer's Disease, the program's focus will be to study new and emerging research and treatment related to Alzheimer's with a goal of preventing the disease at the molecular level.

Alzheimer's disease is an age-related brain disorder that, as it gradually occurs, leads to behavior and personality changes, memory loss and impaired thinking abilities.

The disease, which typically is diagnosed after age 60, causes the breakdown of nerve cell connections in the brain and the eventual death of these cells. The course of this disease and the rate of decline vary among individuals. According to the Texas Department of Health, up to 4 million people in the United States currently have Alzheimer's, and 14 million are projected to be diagnosed by 2050. An estimated 280,000 Texans have the disease.

In addition to establishing an Alzheimer's disease program at UTMB, the Mitchells gave funds to establish a \$1 million distinguished chair to support the university's aging program. This endowment, which the university will name the George and Cynthia Mitchell Distinguished Chair in Geriatric Medicine, will support ongoing research and education at the UTMB Sealy Center on Aging, a nationally recognized geriatric program.

With continuing medical advances, Texans are living longer and requiring more age-related health care. U.S. Department of Commerce statistics indicate that, between 2000 and 2010, more than 500,000 people over 65 will be added to the state's population. The number of those 85 and older living in the United States is predicted to increase from 12 million in 2000 to 19 million in 2030.

Dr. James S. Goodwin, who has been appointed to the distinguished chair, said the Mitchells' contribution would help advance the study of geriatrics. "The



Dr. James Goodwin, pictured with Cynthia and George Mitchell and UTMB President John D. Stobo, is the newly appointed George and Cynthia Mitchell Distinguished Chair in Geriatric Medicine.

Mitchell endowments are important for promoting aging research and education at UTMB because they allow us to invest in innovative programs that will result in advanced research and improved care for the elderly," said Goodwin, director of geriatric medicine.

George Mitchell said he was impressed by the enthusiasm at UTMB to advance geriatric medicine. "Cynthia and I are most honored that UTMB has created a distinguished chair and a program in Alzheimer's research in our names," Mitchell said. "As long-time supporters of the university, we are honored to be associated with such an outstanding program as the Sealy Center on Aging and its commitment to research and education in the fields of geriatric medicine and neurological research."

The Sealy Center has received the designation as a Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center. UTMB is the only academic health center to hold this designation in the Southwest and is one of just 13 in the nation.

A national external review team of experts in geriatrics recently conducted a comprehensive review of UTMB that recognized the university as an outstanding national program in aging. Furthermore, the review team stated the success of Goodwin's organization of the UTMB geriatrics program should serve as the benchmark for others across the country.

Through a generous donation in 1984, the

Mitchells spearheaded UTMB's efforts to create a nationally recognized geriatrics program. In the ensuing years, the geriatric program's clinical care and research capabilities grew to the point of being recognized in 1992 as one of UTMB's prestigious Sealy Centers for Excellence. The center anchors all research and clinical care programs and instills collaborations among the programs.

Today, the Sealy Center's age research includes the study of muscle function, hormone and nutrition interventions, the impact of neurodegenerative conditions on aging, and the influence of positive attitudes on the incidence of stroke and other diseases common in the aging population.

UTMB President John D. Stobo praised the Mitchells for their latest gifts to the academic health center. "George and Cynthia Mitchell have been outstanding advocates and visionaries for Galveston and UTMB for many decades," he said. "Their longstanding support of UTMB and, in particular, geriatric medicine has been instrumental in this program's development into the world-class center that it is today. We are honored by the continued generosity and involvement of George and Cynthia Mitchell in the further development of programs of excellence at UTMB."

UTMB researchers each year receive approximately \$12 million in federal funding for age-related study. Since 1990, the amount of annual research support the uni-

versity receives from the National Institute on Aging has grown from \$1 million to \$6 million.

UTMB continues to meet the needs of older citizens with the Sealy Center's strong geriatric medicine program. Serving approximately 10,000 patients annually, this clinical resource consists of physicians, social workers, nurses, occupational and physical therapists and others who provide specialized care for the elderly. In an uncommon practice by today's standards, these health care professionals actually make "house calls" to senior citizens who cannot leave their homes.

Special insurance and pharmaceutical programs have been initiated to help economically disadvantaged seniors. Various rehabilitation and educational programs have also been started to help the elderly manage existing health conditions.

UTMB also is reaching out to help care for seniors who live beyond Galveston Island. In a telemedicine pilot project, UTMB partnered with rural county hospitals by providing geriatric specialist expertise through high-speed communication lines.

Older patients who require hospitalization may recover at a UTMB facility specially designed for older patients. The Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) Unit is located on the 10th floor of John Sealy Hospital and has a team of geriatric experts to provide comprehensive care. The unit provides larger patient rooms with a home-like setting and other accommodations to better serve geriatric patients.

George Mitchell, who was born in Galveston, has been a major contributor to UTMB and the city. A legendary wildcatter and real estate visionary, Mitchell built Mitchell Energy into one of the nation's largest independent gas and oil producers. In the 1960s, he created and developed The Woodlands, a 25,000-acre planned community located 27 miles north of downtown Houston and recognized as one of the premier master-planned communities in the United States.

In addition to founding and developing The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Performing Arts in The Woodlands, the Mitchells are credited with spawning the resurgence of tourism and preservation in Galveston through their restoration of the city's historic Strand district and by reviving Mardi Gras celebrations on the island.

Giving the Gift of Life

Blood Bank hopes to see more employees giving blood year-round

By JOHN TYLER

Lines formed out the UTMB Blood Bank door and people waited for hours to donate when three Texas City police officers were rushed into the emergency room with gunshot wounds last summer. Luckily, all three officers survived. However, their need for blood that day spawned a blood drive at UTMB that kept the small bank packed for several days.

Giving Blood

To donate blood at the UTMB Blood Bank, stop by the donor center in 1.210 of the John Sealy Annex or call (409) 772-4861 to schedule an appointment.

Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds or more. Blood donors should eat before donating and inform the Blood Bank staff if they are taking any medications.

For information, call the Blood Bank at (409) 772-4861 or visit the web site at www2.utmb.edu/bb/.

UTMB employees, students and staff joined a stream of uniformed officers from the Houston/Galveston area looking for any way they could to help.

Incidents such as this can wipe out an entire stock of a specific blood type within hours at UTMB. On an average day, only 20 units are collected in the UTMB Blood Bank to replace those units used.

“Although it is appreciated when 200 people come to the Blood Bank to donate for one patient needing that many units, we cannot use them immediately,”

said Dr. Alexander Indrikovs, Blood Bank director. “You need to test the blood for infectious diseases and that can take at least 24 hours. If these patients had arrived during a blood shortage, they may not have made it—despite a line leading out the Blood Bank door.”

Those 200 units are very important to the blood supply at UTMB, but they must be tested prior to use and available at the time the patient is brought in.

“Actually, these emergency patients benefit from the blood donations that we collect on a regular basis,” said Leo Castillo, Blood Bank chief technologist. While Blood



Photo by John Tyler

Dr. Carsten Harms, assistant professor of preventive medicine and community health, gives blood as Blood Bank employee Jessica Hidalgo checks his progress. The Blood Bank would like to encourage all employees to donate blood. In fact, all employees who donate now receive a GEM card for their donations.

Bank officials understand the need of others to help in a time of crisis, they say the time to help is constant and that a continuous blood supply is crucial. Since a crisis generally cannot be foreseen, the only solution is a con-

stant flow of blood donors into the bank that will keep the UTMB Blood Bank adequately stocked 365 days a year.

“What really needs to happen is for the culture to change,” Indrikovs said. “Instead of waiting for a police officer to get injured, we need people to realize that we need blood donations today for tomorrow’s hip replacement or whatever patients may be brought into the ER.”

To help transform that culture, a Blood Donation Continual Process Improvement team was recently created at UTMB to find ways to increase donations. The group’s goal is to find a means to make the university self-sufficient when it comes to obtaining blood. Only an estimated 16 percent of the UTMB community gives blood. While self-sufficiency is a lofty goal, it is not impossible. If 60 percent of the UTMB family donated blood only twice a year, the Blood Bank would not need to purchase blood from an outside source.

Sixty percent is a nationally accepted number of people in the general population who are eligible to donate blood, said Castillo. “Of that 60 percent, only 5 percent actually do donate,” he said. “It’s a really low number. There are a lot of eligible people out there who do not donate.”

According to the National Blood Data Resource Center, blood donations across the country are decreasing at an annual rate of 1 percent, while the need rises at the same rate. The Blood Bank feels the effects of these trends as the need to purchase blood from an outside source escalates, as does the price per unit.

Purchasing blood from an outside institution is extremely costly. UTMB spends more than \$2 million each year to purchase blood and maintain an adequate supply for routine procedures and an average number of accidents and emergencies. UTMB has the capacity to collect much more blood than it currently does.

“It’s time for us all to realize the importance of donating blood on a regular basis,” Indrikovs said. “We are almost in a constant state of shortage in our region, and if we work together we can secure an adequate and stable blood inventory, save lives and help boost the institution’s fiscal standing.”

NURSES from Page 1

Now that they are home, Albers and Berryhill are trying to put this very potent experience in perspective. One thing is certain: both nurses say they came home with a better understanding of how fragile life really is, and how important it is to treat every day as if it were your last.

While there is more of a soberness to her life, and she doesn’t laugh as much as she used to, Albers still feels privileged to have taken part in the recovery efforts and believes this was the most significant thing she has ever done as a nurse. Both nurses

say they would go again if it were possible.

“If I think I will never be the same, I imagine how people who lost family will be affected,” said Albers.

The support of their co-workers has helped them cope with the experience. After listening to all the stories at the disaster area, they say it helps to have people listen to them tell their own stories.

According to Berryhill, “I work with some really nice people. We are good at tending to each other. One woman I work with is very good at listening and saying just the right thing to make me feel better.”

Berryhill thinks these kinds of experiences always help you to be better at what you do. As a Red Cross volunteer, she is also a firm believer in the value of volunteer work.

“I think everybody, if you have the opportunity, should give back to the community,” Berryhill said. “I believe in starting at the local level and then working up to the state and country level because at different times of our lives we have different amounts of time available.”

As a coordinator of care for inmates with infectious diseases, Albers has shared her

experiences with some of the inmates she counsels. She tells them the stories of the emergency workers and the destruction that took place, and she thinks it helps the inmates to put the problems of their lives into perspective.

Albers loves her job and cares a great deal for the inmates. “If you don’t care about people, why would you be a nurse?” Albers said. “What the inmate did is between them, God and the court. They are just people to me. As long as God gives me strength, I will go in and out that door.”

Ted Ellis exhibit open at library through February

The Moody Medical Library again is showcasing the colorful paintings of Friendswood artist Ted Ellis in current exhibit "Capturing Our Culture and Heritage," which will be on view through February.

This exhibit represents a return engagement for Ellis to the library. He first displayed his works with a number of other artists in February 1997 during the celebration of African-American History Month. He has graciously agreed to exhibit at the library every year since.

"Capturing Our Culture and Heritage" encompasses the diversity and cultural similarities of all Americans. In addition to the Moody Library, this exhibit will travel to Chicago, New York and New Orleans.

Ellis is a self-taught artist with a life-long passion for drawing and painting, and is now recognized as one of the most celebrated African American artists of the 21st century.

He lives the life he paints about and boldly blends realism and impressionism in his work, evoking nostalgia and inspiration. His philosophy is that everyone should have the opportunity to appreciate and afford beautiful art whether it is a print or an original.

Ellis' works grace the private collections of several individuals, among them Angela Bassett, Blair Underwood and Bryant Gumbel. Corporate commissions have included projects for the Minute Maid Company, a subsidiary of Coca-Cola, Walt Disney Studios, Philip Morris and Avon.

"Capturing Our Culture and Heritage" can be viewed during regular library hours, which are 7:30 a.m.–midnight Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturday and noon to midnight Sunday.

New Year's baby



Flor Ortiz holds her new son Benjamin Pulido on Jan. 1. Benjamin was the first baby of the year to be born at UTMB. He arrived at 12:59 a.m. Jan. 1 and was 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

Photo by Cathy C. Nall

UTMB expecting more baby deliveries in coming year

By HEIDI LUTZ

At 12:59 a.m. Jan. 1, 7-pound, 11-ounce Benjamin Pulido became the first baby born this year at UTMB. If things continue as estimated, he will be one of nearly 6,000 babies born here this year—that's an average of about 16 babies a day.

The number of babies being born at UTMB has grown significantly in recent years, and especially during the last half of 2001. During August and September, the nurseries were above capacity and the maternity staff was scrambling to find places for all of the newborns.

During the past two years, the number of deliveries has increased by about 500 babies annually, said Dr. Garland Anderson, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology. "We're going to have to have more staff and more doctors."

And that's just what the hospital administration is looking at. Dr. Joan Richardson, UTMB medical director, said that in recent months, it has become quite appar-

ent that if UTMB is going to continue increasing deliveries at this rate, there is going to be a need for more staff, and more space.

In August and September when deliveries hit one of their peaks for the year, newborns filled every corner of the nurseries. In the Infant Special Care Unit, there were babies in the room where mothers previously had been able to breast feed in private.

Part of the increase is due to the success of the Regional Maternal and Child Health Program (RMCHP) clinics in the Houston-Galveston area and across the state. More mothers are coming to the RMCHP clinics for prenatal care. They are hearing from their friends and neighbors about the quality services and for those who have high-risk pregnancies, the specialty care offered through UTMB physicians.

But because of the success of the regional clinics, the number of babies needing extra care also has increased.

"We're getting a lot more people in here for delivery," said Carolyn Nelson-Becker, RMCHP director.

In recent months, the telemedicine connection has been made with the outlying RMCHP clinics. Now, with the advanced technology, staff at the clinics can consult with specialists here on campus and thus limit the number of visits a mother-to-be makes to Galveston.

This has proven especially important for mothers considered to have high-risk pregnancies, meaning they are at a higher risk for complications during the pregnancy and delivery, or that the baby will need specialized care upon delivery. It also reduces the burden on families to travel the added distance to Galveston for specialty care. Women do not need to take an entire day or more off work to visit the doctor, or find transportation to Galveston.

"Instead of driving all that way to UTMB to go to clinic, they can go to the clinic they're used to," Nelson-Becker said.

"This way, the families will get University quality health-care brought out to tiny little towns."

These clinics are increasingly seeing more patients, which means the community hospitals and doctors are also recognizing the needs of some mothers for specialized care. That is a goal of the RMCHP.

"We want to make sure babies that need to be born in an intensive care unit are born here," Nelson-Becker said.

But the success of reaching those mothers poses the question of where to put the high number of moms-to-be. Richardson said she and others are watching the numbers and planning for the future growth.

"We want to try to stay ahead of the game," Richardson said. "The population is increasing and those clinics have done a wonderful job in making that kind of care accessible. Women are beginning to understand the better prenatal care they have, the better the outcome."

AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

IN BRIEF

O negative blood needed at UTMB Blood Bank

The UTMB Blood Bank has a shortage of O negative blood and cannot order any more at this time. Anyone who is O negative is encouraged to call the donor room at ext. 24861 to arrange an appointment to donate.

Also, January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. Throughout the month, donors can choose a T-shirt, sweatshirt or baseball cap as their incentive. Plus, beginning in January, every UTMB employee who donates blood will receive a GEM card for each donation.

The Blood Bank is in 1.210 of the John Sealy Annex and is open 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Adobe Acrobat 5 available for download

The Vice President for Research is supplying 1,000 licenses for Adobe Acrobat 5, the software needed to create and edit PDF files, to researchers and their staff for use in preparing research proposals. If you would like to obtain a copy, please visit http://research.utmb.edu/adobe_request to register and receive the instructions on how to download and install the application. Once you have submitted your information, you will receive an email with the installation instructions and contact numbers should you encounter any problems.

Each person who would like to have a copy of Adobe Acrobat 5 must register so the license usage can be tracked as part of the agreement with Adobe Systems, Inc. For information, contact David Wright with Research Information Systems at (409) 747-1716.

Health Care Spanish offered through Galveston College

The Galveston College Office of Workforce Development will offer Health Care Spanish to UTMB employees beginning Jan. 29. The class teaches practical Spanish communication skills for health care employees, including medical terminology, greetings, common expressions, commands and phrases normally used within a hospital or a physician's office.

The class is noon–1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Jan. 29–March 7 in Jennie Sealy West Room 638. The class offers 1.2 CEUs.

Register at Galveston College, Office of Workforce Development, 4015 Ave. Q in Galveston or by calling (409) 763-6551, ext. 115. The course fee is \$75. The textbook is *Basic Medical Spanish* by UTMB employee Olimpia Piccardo-LaValleé and is available at Galveston College Bookstore.

For information, call Angel Hagmaier-Duncan, program manager for Job Placement &



Brenda L. Hutchings, in conjunction with the Robert K. and Marie B. Hutchings Foundation, presents money to help with postoperative housing costs for heart and lung transplant recipients. Transplant recipients come from throughout Texas, and must remain in the Galveston area during the first 3 post-transplant months. This financial hardship is made easier through this fund. Brenda's husband John Hutchings received a heart transplant at UTMB in 1999, but died of complications 1½ years later. Receiving the checks on the Cardiothoracic Care Unit (J7D) are Janet Gillie, Dr. Scott Lick, thoracic transplant director, Liz Garney, nurse and transplant coordinator, and Chris DeMont and Dennis Santa Ana, both nurses.

Training, at (409) 763-6551 Ext. 129, or Frances Garcia in UTMB Human Resources Organizational Development, Training and Recognition at (409) 772-7900.

Diversity Training now available for employees

Diversity. Everyone seems to be talking about it, but what is it exactly? At UTMB, employees are expected to function in a diverse work environment and keep personal feelings separate from business. While that sounds easy, conflicts can arise in a diverse workforce like ours.

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity is offering Diversity Training on Feb. 19, March 13, April 10, May 16, June 13, July 16 and Aug. 13. All sessions are 10 a.m.–noon in Room 4.114 of the Administration Annex.

To enroll in one of the scheduled sessions contact Cynthia Castañeda at 772-1463 or via email. If registering by email please include the following information: name, department, employee number, extension and campus mail route.

School of Medicine mentoring workshop set for Jan. 28

A mentoring workshop is planned for 5 p.m.–7 p.m. Jan. 28 in the Caduceus Room on the sixth floor of the Administration Building. The workshop is designed for division chiefs and senior faculty.

The purpose of the workshop is to develop a broader understanding of professional mentoring, including a discussion of programs to facilitate career planning and skill development. Dinner and refreshments will be served. Confirm attendance with Eartha Dotson via email at edotson@utmb.edu or by calling 772-2671.

Presidential Faculty Leave applications sought

UTMB announces its annual call for applications for the Presidential Faculty Development Leaves Program. The purpose of this program is to further the academic career of the faculty member and enhance the abilities of the faculty member to contribute to the diverse missions of the university. Faculty who are selected will receive support for their salary and benefits for a six month, on- or off-campus faculty development leave. To be eligible, a faculty member must be full time, tenure-track with rank of associate professor or above, must have six years cumulative service as a member of the UTMB faculty, and must not have received a Presidential Faculty Development Leave in preceding six years. Applications should be submitted to the Office of the President, campus mail route 0129, by Feb. 1. Applications will be reviewed by a special committee representing all four schools.

For information, call Dr. Linda Phillips at (409) 772-4778 or send email to her at

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Winter lecture series begins through Sealy Center on Aging

The 2002 Lefebvre Winter Series on Aging through the Sealy Center on Aging begins Jan. 22 with Dr. Richard Allman, professor and director of the Birmingham/Atlanta VA GRECC Center for Aging at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He will discuss "Life-Space Mobility Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults."

All lectures are 5 p.m.–6 p.m. in Levin Hall North Auditorium.

Other lectures in the series are:

- **Jan. 29—“Disentangling the Disablement Process: Insights from the Yale PEP Study”** with Dr. Thomas Gill, associate professor of medicine at Yale University.
- **Feb. 5—“Getting Money for Aging From Foundations and Corporations”** with Dr. John Feather, director of the AARP Andrus Foundation and president of Grantmakers in Aging at George Washington University School of Medicine.
- **Feb. 12—“Nutrition and Aging”** with Dr. Marie Bernard, professor and chair of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.
- **Feb. 19—“Mechanism of Aging Muscle and Metabolic Consequences”** with Dr. Sreekumaran Nair, professor of medicine at the Endocrinology Research Unit of The Mayo Clinic.
- **Feb. 26—“Interpretation of Laboratory Results in Geriatric Medicine Practice: What is ‘Normal’?”** with Dr. Edmund Duthie, professor of medicine and chief of geriatrics and gerontology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Everyone is invited to attend the lectures. For information, contact Rhonda Bailes at the Sealy Center on Aging, by phone at 772-8333 or by email at rbailes@utmb.edu.

AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

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lphillip@utmb.edu. Details about the program and application information are available at www.utmb.edu/president/faculty_leaves/details.htm.

'Responding to Bioterrorism' discussion available on video

Videos of "Responding to Bioterrorism: An Evening with the Experts" are available for check out from the Office of Community Outreach.

The program was a special presentation of Mini Medical School by the Center for Biodefense at UTMB. The program was presented Dec. 5 in Levin Hall and simulcast to Space Center Houston in Clear Lake and the Museum of Health & Medical Science in Houston.

The panel consisted of UTMB experts Dr. C.J. Peters, Dr. Robert Shope, Dr. David Walker, Dr. Wayne Snodgrass and Dr. Dwight Wolf.

To check out the video, contact Nathalie Mangold by calling (409) 747-8192 or by sending email to nmmangol@utmb.edu.

Some employee training now available online

Employees, faculty and staff can meet their UTMB training requirements online at <http://www.utmb.edu/online/>.

All UTMB employees, including faculty and staff, have the opportunity to meet state and/or federal mandated training requirements online. Additional courses are in development and will be published as they are finalized. Look for announcements about the publication of new courses.

The six courses available to date are:

- **General Compliance Training: The Standards of Conduct Guide, Portrait of Integrity**—annual training required for all UTMB employees by the end of each fiscal year.
- **Safe Medical Device Act (SMDA)**—assigned based on job responsibilities
- **Health care Fire Safety Part I**—assigned based on job responsibilities
- **Health care Fire Safety Part II**—assigned based on job responsibilities
- **Infection Control Outpatient**—assigned based on job responsibilities
- **Universal Precautions**—assigned based on job responsibilities

For information, contact Christine Griffith with the Institutional Compliance Program at 747-8707.

Regular TB skin testing to be required in patient care

Beginning this year, some employees who provide patient care will be required to receive an annual or semiannual skin test for tuberculosis.



Photo by Jim Kelly

Dr. Lawrence Stanberry, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and director of the new Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, speaks at the Dec. 14 inauguration of the center. The new interdisciplinary center aims to create, perfect and promote vaccines to combat emerging tropical diseases and deadly and disabling viruses that could be used as bioterrorist weapons. The center also will focus on vaccines for age-old scourges such as influenza, malaria and hepatitis, as well as genital herpes and other sexually transmitted diseases. The new center has 55 faculty members and incorporates expertise from more than 100 cutting-edge research programs under way at UTMB. The faculty includes clinical investigators, laboratory-based researchers, behavioral scientists, public policy specialists, epidemiologists, economists and health educators.

These employees will be notified via campus mail.

A letter sent from the Employee Health Center will request the employee to report for the skin test. If the employee fails to report, a second letter will be sent with a copy going to the employee's supervisor. If an employee believes he or she has received a letter in error, contact the employee Health Center at (409) 747-9500

Report vending problems to campus bookstore

The campus bookstore has had a good response from customers concerning the vending machine problems that have been experienced on campus. Employees should remember that any problems can be reported to the Bookstore at 772-1939.

Volunteers sought for UTMB's 'Spoons' feeding program

Imagine what it would be like to lose your desire to eat. For many hospitalized elderly patients, that is exactly what happens. Yet proper nutrition is so important in the healing process.

Often, elderly patients need someone to help them set up a tray or to offer bites of food when they can't feed themselves. Sometimes they just need a companion—someone to talk with, to provide encouragement, to help them not feel lonely.

As a Spoons Feeding Volunteer you can make a difference. You can come before work for

breakfast, during your lunchtime, or join us after work for dinner. You can volunteer to spend one hour with a patient as often as you like. Remember, for our elderly patients, every meal counts. Training is provided to volunteers. For information, call Sheryl Neal at 772-2042.

Properly addressed mail helps with campus delivery

Inbound UTMB mail that is improperly addressed could be delayed or returned.

UTMB's inbound U.S. mail comes addressed in a wide variety of ways. If we all make the effort to get our mail addressed to us properly we can have a real impact on improving service as well as saving the university money.

Your correct UTMB/U.S. mail address is:

Your Name
UTMB
301 UNIVERSITY BLVD
GALVESTON TX 77555-XXXX

The four-digit extension to the zip code is your campus mail route. It's that simple. A name and a campus mail route is really all that is needed for your mail to get to you once it is dropped off at Mail Services here on the UTMB campus. Remember, this is your address for U.S. mail only. Other carriers (like FedEx, UPS and Airborne) have other requirements.

Sexual Harassment Awareness training classes set

To be in compliance with state law, all state employees must receive Sexual Harassment

Awareness Training at least once every two years. All new employees must receive the training within 90 days of hire date. It is the policy of UTMB to support an environment free of sexual harassment. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity is offering the training Jan. 28, Feb. 5, March 5 and 19, April 2 and 24, May 7 and 21, June 4 and 18, July 24, and Aug. 6 and 27.

All sessions are 10 a.m.–noon in room 4.114 of the Administration Annex. To enroll, contact Cynthia Castañeda at 772-1463.

Galveston County Immunization Coalition seeks volunteers

Texas currently has title to the nation's poorest childhood immunization rates. The Galveston County Immunization Coalition believes that part of our state's poor ranking can be attributed to incomplete data in the Texas Immunization Registry.

Volunteers are needed to complete the data entry necessary to update the registry for Galveston County. Data entry will be 5 p.m.–7 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until the job is completed. Anyone interested can join the group in the fourth floor training room of the Administration Annex. No advance orientation or training is required. You will be instructed on the ImmTrac Registry System on site. For information, contact Vicki Elliott at velliot@utmb.edu.

OF NOTE

The Fulbright Scholar Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, with additional funding provided by the participating governments and host institutions in the U.S. and abroad, has awarded a 2001–2002 grant to **Dr. Premkumar Christadoss**, a professor of microbiology and immunology. Christadoss is lecturing and conducting research on "Mapping Pathogenic Acetylcholine Receptor B Cell Epitopes" at the Hellenic Pasteur Institute in Athens, Greece.

In addition, **Dr. Bharat Mani Pokhrel** from the Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal, is a Visiting Fulbright Scholar conducting research in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. His research project is "Aeromonas Associated Infections: Role of Enterotoxins in Gastroenteritis and Identification of Novel *in vivo* Expressed Virulence Genes."

Fulbright grants are made to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research, graduate study and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

●
Dr. Jeff Davis, director of Preventive, Occupational and Environmental Medicine,

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AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

Lennon named director of science education program in Community Outreach

Dr. Patrick "Alan" Lennon is the new director of science education programs in the Educational Outreach division of the Office of Community Outreach. Lennon is a former high school teacher, certified to teach all secondary sciences in grades 9–12. He has a bachelor's degree in science education from North Carolina State University, a master's degree in science education from East Carolina University, and Ph.D. in biological education from the University of Northern Colorado.

Lennon comes to UTMB from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where he was a tenured, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. There, he taught cellular/molecular biology, cadaver-based human anatomy, human physiology, biotechnology for teachers, general biology for non-majors, and methods and media for teaching science.

He has mentored more than 20 first-year secondary science teachers, and was the program director for both the undergradu-

ate and graduate degrees in science education. Also, while at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Lennon received more than \$550,000 in Eisenhower Math and Science grants to instruct and provide equipment to more than 120 middle and high school science teachers in the areas of environmental technology and DNA biotechnology.

Most recently, he led a team that received the third largest U.S. Department of Education GEAR-UP grant in the year

that it was funded (\$13.6 million), nationwide, and the 12th largest to date.

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Lennon join our staff," said Dr. Clifford W. Houston, associate vice president for educational outreach. "He brings experience in writing educational grants and more importantly, he understands the needs of the science teachers. He knows that each teacher has a direct impact on hundreds of students who are our investment in the future."

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recently was elected for a three-year term to the Executive Committee of the American Board of Medical Specialties. The term will begin March 2002 and continue through March 2005. Davis was nominated by the American Board of Preventive Medicine, where he currently serves as chair, and supported for this nomination by the American Board of Family Practice.

Dr. B. Mark Evers, professor and Robertson-Poth Distinguished Chair in General Surgery, has been recognized for his outstanding record of scientific achievements as a principal

investigator on National Institute on Aging research projects. His recently approved application has been selected by the National Advisory Council on Aging for the National Institutes of Health Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Award. Evers has



Dr. B. Mark Evers

distinguished himself through his research in aging and continues to make significant contributions to the field. The MERIT Award provides scientists with several features in grant support and in availability of funds.

John Hays, an M.D.–Ph.D. student, was awarded the first predoctoral fellowship in the Keck Center for Computational and Structural Biology. The Keck Center, through the support of its partner schools (UTMB, Rice, Baylor, MD Anderson, University of Houston and UT Houston), is the training base of the recently created Gulf Coast Consortia. The fellowship is supported through the Keck Foundation as well as several NIH training grants. Additional predoctoral and postdoctoral training slots are available for highly qualified candidates in computational and structural biology. For further information, contact Dr. David Gorenstein at (409) 747-6801.

Marx assumes role as head of Faculty Practice

Dr. Marilyn Marx, associate professor of surgery, has been appointed as senior associate dean for faculty practice and physician chief executive of the Faculty Practice, effective Jan. 1.

Marx will replace Dr. Don Prough, who has served in this capacity on an ad interim basis since the restructuring of the UTMB administration in August 1999.

Marx, who is trained as a general surgeon and who has previously practiced in the community, was chief medical director of the Faculty Practice and assistant dean for Faculty Practice.

As senior associate dean for faculty practice, Marx oversees all aspects of the medical school faculty practice, with a strong focus on strategic planning and the future development of the practice. She brings a wealth of experience and formal training in practice management to this position.

Dr. Anne Hudson Jones, a member of the Institute for the Medical Humanities, has been selected to receive the 2003 Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award for scholarly activities in the humanities and history of medicine. The award, given by the American College of Physicians and the American Society of Internal Medicine, will be presented in 2003 to Jones, who has a Ph.D. She is only the second non-physician to be chosen for this singular honor.

Dr. Linda G. Phillips, senior associate dean for academic affairs and chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, has been invited to be a moderator for one of the

Swischuk becomes chairman of radiology

Dr. Leonard E. Swischuk, professor of radiology, was appointed chairman of radiology, effective Nov. 15. Swischuk has been a member of the School of Medicine faculty since July 1970.

He has held an appointment as professor in the departments of Radiology and Pediatrics since September 1973, and has served a chairman ad interim of radiology since 1999.

A specialist in pediatric radiology, he received his medical degree from the

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1960, and underwent subsequent graduate training in Canada at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, the Ottawa Civic Hospital in Ottawa, the University Hospital in Saskatoon, and at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

As chairman of radiology, Swischuk will continue to lead the department in enhancing its clinical services, level of scholarship and research activities.



Dr. Linda G. Phillips

sessions at the next Association of American Medical Colleges Faculty Affairs Professional Development Conference in August 2002 in Park City, Utah. The conference is designed for faculty affairs and faculty development administrators, chairs of relevant institutional committees and other staff responsible for faculty management.

Dr. Kay Sandor, associate professor of nursing, attended a "Theater of Enlightenment" weekend followed by a labyrinth facilitator training with the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress, canon of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Artress is the author of *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool*, and founder of Veriditas: The World-Wide Labyrinth Project. Sandor envisions using the labyrinth with health-care students and professionals to reduce stress and emotional fatigue. She also is interested in working with patients and families dealing with grief and loss.

Walking the labyrinth can quiet the mind,

soothe the spirit and transform suffering. The Rotary Labyrinth and Meditation Garden at the William Temple Episcopal Center in Galveston will be used for these activities. The **Rev. Bob Wells**, UTMB chaplain and director of the William Temple Episcopal Center, also trained with Artress.

Sandor and Wells introduced graduate nursing students to the labyrinth recently as part of the elective course, "Critical Analysis of Research in Complementary and on Alternative Therapies."

The **Senior Services Office** recently was awarded sponsorship of the federally funded Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Galveston County by the Corporation for National Services. RSVP helps people age 55 and older put their skills and life experience to work in their communities by serving in organizations ranging from hospitals and youth recreational centers to local police stations and education facilities.

CORRECTION

In the Dec. 10 article about the Gulf Coast Consortia, the amount of money the Gulf Coast Consortium for Magnetic Resonance is receiving from the W. M. Keck Foundation was incorrect. The correct amount is \$2.5 million.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Employees, volunteers share holidays at hospital

All across the UTMB community, volunteers and employees alike shared in the holiday spirit. Here is a sampling of how the UTMB community spent the holiday season.

In Santa Fe, the new Geriatric HealthCare Center tried to find a way to get its patients to feel comfortable in their new setting and with their new doctor.

The staff decided to put a unique tree in the waiting room and worked together to make it happen.

The manager covered so that both administrative support staff could shop together for the tree.

Then, instead of hanging ornaments, they turned hung pictures of the center's staff and patients. Each member of the staff contributed a picture for the tree.

Additionally, everyone who came to the clinic was asked to donate a picture. The clinic also used an instant camera to photograph patients who didn't have pictures.

Geriatrics Services and the Sealy Center on Aging gave back to the community by creating care packages for senior patients who were not able to have a good meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Each package include a wrapped box or basket filled with canned food, turkey and all sorts of items donated by staff. This year due to a contribution from the Support Staff Professionals, an additional 14 patients were helped. In all, 35 baskets were delivered to patients.

The children at UTMB and at Shriners Burn Hospital received numerous visitors during the holiday season. Among them were Riders for Life Motorcycle Association and the children of Broadway Bound.

Riders for Life collects Christmas cards created by local school children. Arriving via motorcycle brigade, the bikers deliver the letters to the children. Broadway Bound children performed theatrical productions for pediatric patients.

Members of the Employee Assistance Program worked with numerous UTMB departments to coordinate a "Santa" project for the Galveston County Child Protective Services.

Volunteers within the university have provided entire Christmas for children under the care of CPS. Facilities Operations and



Above, from left to right, are Dr. Charanjeev K. Mann, Leslie Schulze, Natisha Martinez, Sandra Huebner, Tracy Franklin and Jesse Seelbach from the Geriatric HealthCare Center in Santa Fe with the "family tree" on display at the clinic. Instead of decorating a tree with traditional ornaments, the staff hung pictures of themselves and clinic patients on the tree. They even kept an instant camera on hand to snap photos of patients who didn't have extra pictures available.

To the left, Pediatric patients Denise Williams, left, and D'Quez Lloyd, right, visit with Santa during the visit by Riders for Life Motorcycle Association. Santa helped the motorcycle riders distribute Christmas cards created by local school children. Arriving via motorcycle brigade, the bikers deliver the letters to children at UTMB and Shriners Burns Hospital.



The UTMB Student Government Association sponsors a toy drive every year to help children under the care of Child Protective Services. The drive this year was coordinated by second year medical student Keeli Hanzelka (third from left in the picture). This year they donated gifts that benefited more than 100 children. The gifts were wrapped and delivered to CPS to be distributed by Christmas Day. This year the delivery of the toys filled three cars (including backseat and trunks) and one pickup truck.

Management collected more than \$700, which provided every gift requested for 15 children. This year, UTMB employees



Members of the FOAM team helped 15 children have happier Christmases this year by collecting more than \$700 for the Children's Protective Services Santa program. They were among several UTMB departments participating in the project, which benefited 45 children. This is the third year FOAM has participated.

provided for 45 children and met everyone of the children's request.

The UTMB Student Government Association sponsors a toy drive every year



Young students from the Broadway Bound School of Performing Arts entertained pediatric patients on Dec. 12.

to help children under the care of Child Protective Services. This year, gifts were donated to more than 100 children.

School choirs entertained audiences in the Cafe on the Court, and volunteers distributed gifts to patients on Christmas Eve. And countless other UTMB employees volunteered time throughout the community.

USA Today interviewed biosafety expert **Lee Thompson** for an article that discussed the science of creating anthrax. In the Nov. 29 article, Thompson is cited as saying that a terrorist determined to follow a course of action could conceivably protect himself or herself with the anthrax vaccine or antibiotics, thus making the designation of biosafety levels a “moot point.”

In the Nov. 30 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, **Dr. Robert E. Shope**, associate director of the UTMB Center for Biodefense, discussed the \$2 million grant UTMB received from the NIH for the development of the new biosafety facility that will house research of deadly pathogens. Shope was also featured in the Nov. 16 *Science* magazine explaining the complications involved in researching viruses due to nature being in a constant state of change. In the Nov. 1 issue of *USA Today*, Shope is quoted as saying that the nation is ill-prepared for a terrorist attack.

An Associated Press article detailing the differing levels of brain damage men and women sustain from the use of the drug Ecstasy received international media coverage during the month of November. **Kathryn Cunningham**, professor of phar-

UTMB IN THE NEWS

Following is a sample of where UTMB was mentioned in area and national print and broadcast media during November.

macology and toxicology, explained the correlation between estrogen and the transport of serotonin to the brain response in women who have taken Ecstasy.

In conjunction with the opening of the UTMB Mood and Anxiety Center for Children and Adolescents in the Clear Lake area on Nov. 2, several articles appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* and *The Galveston County Daily News* featuring the opening and **Dr. Karen Dineen Wagner**, director of the new center.

The *New York Times* science section on Nov. 27 featured research by UTMB doctor **Raymond Stowe** and scientists from UTMB and NASA. The study shows that people who travel in space show weakened immune systems and have a greater susceptibility to viral infections such as herpes, Epstein-Barr and chicken pox.

Research at UTMB's Center for Tropical

Diseases was featured in *The Hartford Courant* on Nov. 20. **Dr. Robert Tesh**, a professor at UTMB, discussed the work he is doing with vaccines to treat Japanese encephalitis and how these vaccines may also be used to treat West Nile virus.

UTMB received the 2001 Employer Award of Excellence for the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area for its progressive approach in meeting the current and future employment needs of the health care industry. In an article that ran in the *Houston Chronicle* on Nov. 24, **Dr. Kathy Shingleton** says, “Investing in our current employees is key to keeping them from moving to other hospitals and clinics.”

UTMB professor **Dr. Stephen Tyring** discussed with KTRK-TV Houston (ABC) on Nov. 7 and Nov. 11 his development of a vaccine that may cure shingles.

The *Wall Street Journal* (Nov. 12), the

Houston Business Journal (Nov. 9-15), and the *Washington Post* (Nov. 1) featured comments from **Dr. C.J. Peters**, director of the UTMB Center for Biodefense. *The Houston Business Journal* profiled Peters' extensive work in tropical medicine and virology and his new role as the director of the center. His expert opinion regarding the creation of anthrax was the topic for the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Post*.

The serendipitous result of Susan Meredith and Sade Ogundare meeting on a plane was featured on KTBC-TV Austin (Fox) on Nov. 1. Ogundare, who was suffering from a brain tumor, was on her way to America in search of medical help and ultimately found her way to UTMB due to an e-mail sent by this stranger she met on a plane. UTMB physician **Shawn Newlands** discussed Ogundare's care.

The *Dallas Morning News* on Nov. 1 quoted **Dr. David Walker**, anthrax expert and chairman of the pathology department at UTMB. Walker responded to questions about the distribution methods terrorists might use, other than the postal system, in order to spread anthrax. He raised the question of whether or not terrorists have already begun using different methods.

UTMB IMPACT

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