

IMPACT

Nursing school removes barriers for students

By CARRIE ANN DAVIS

A chance was all she needed. Although her GPA was well below the School of Allied Health Sciences requirements, in 1985 the student who had struggled academically was admitted to the school's Alternate Track program. Ultimately, she went on to graduate at the top of her class with high academic honors. Now she is an administrator with a major hospital corporation, all because the school was willing to give her a chance.

Taking a cue from the SAHS program, Drs. Ruth Marcott, associate professor of nursing and interim associate dean for student affairs, and Poldi Tschirch, nursing baccalaureate program director, plan to create a similar Alternate Track program for the school. Using a \$219,402 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, they are creating a recruitment and retention plan with the intent of combating the nation's nursing shortage.

"People who want to be health professionals and nurses are a valuable resource," Tschirch said. "It is worth investing in their academic skill development to help them be successful. They are not just a valuable resource—they are essential to addressing the growing nursing shortage in Texas."

The state of Texas recognizes that nurses are a dwindling resource, so the grant, paid for by tobacco money from the legislature, will allow the school to explore options for recruiting and educating more nurses.

Every year applications to the School
See **NURSING** on page 3

TEACHING SCIENTISTS

Bromberg Charitable Trust Fund contribution establishes endowment to support high school science program

By CHRISTIAN MESSA

The scientist sits at the laboratory counter, holding a test tube under a stainless steel instrument. Dressed in a light blue lab

"I'm hoping these students will become citizens who appreciate science and who can legislate science responsibly."

Michael S. Thomas, neuroscience graduate student and mentor

smock and wearing ear protectors, she turns on the instrument, which transmits high-pitched sound waves through the test tube to break up cells within it. She carefully places the test tube in a small storage container for later analysis.

Finished at the lab for the day, the scientist leaves to ponder the results of her experiments

and other important matters—such as practicing her serve for an upcoming high school tennis tournament.

The scientist is Emily Sasser, a senior at Galveston's Ball High School. She is participating in a UTMB program that pairs promising high school students with graduate student mentors, postdoctoral fellows or faculty members.

Established in 1998, the Bench Tutorials program has so far allowed 55 Ball High School juniors and seniors to earn high school science credit by participating in biomedical research at UTMB. The program provides similar opportunities for scientific study in Galveston with such institutions as Texas A&M University at Galveston, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the



Photo by Christian Messa

Ball High School senior Emily Sasser and graduate student David Akalal collect purified protein for use in a growth factor experiment. Sasser and Akalal participate in the Bench Tutorials program, which pairs Ball High School juniors and seniors with graduate students, faculty or postdoctoral fellows. The students earn high school science credit while conducting biomedical research at UTMB.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Moody Gardens.

To ensure Ball High School students continue to have such cutting-edge research opportunities, the Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust Fund recently committed \$250,000 to help establish the Bromberg Scholars Endowment. The endowment will support the Bromberg Scholars program, which has provided supplementary stipends to UTMB Bench Tutorials mentors since 1999. Eighteen mentors at UTMB currently receive the stipends.

Cell biology graduate student David B. Akalal, Sasser's mentor, said he became involved in Bench Tutorials as a result of prior experiences working with high school students in a career-shadowing program in graduate school, and before that as a biology teacher. "I thought it would be interesting to have someone help out in the lab and for me to be instrumental in shaping impressionable young minds," Akalal said.

Sasser, whose research involves growth factor protein and whether or not it can

See **TUTORIALS** on page 2

UTMB IMPACT

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Submissions

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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.

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TUTORIALS from Page 1

stimulate cell growth in the central nervous system, said she was excited to have a mentor like Akalal. "With a mentor you get one-on-one attention, unlike in a class of up to 30 students," she said. "All my classes involve huge groups, and you don't get as much attention from the teacher."

It is that kind of attention and the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research that attracted 26 students to Bench Tutorials for the 2001-02 school year—four more students than the previous year. For nine months, the students work with their mentors roughly six hours per week, and they will present the results of their research at a May symposium at UTMB. The students who successfully complete the program will earn one year of science credit to satisfy one of the requirements for a "distinguished achievement" high school diploma. Some students have been so enthused about the program as juniors that they enroll again as seniors.

That is the case for Kyle Stramblad. The Ball High School senior and avid surfer is studying the molecular mechanisms that occur in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease with his mentor from his junior year, neuroscience graduate student Michael S. Thomas. Stramblad said the freedom to actively participate in Alzheimer's disease research lured him back to the Bench Tutorials program. "I couldn't have learned this in high school," said Stramblad, whose deceased grandfather had Alzheimer's. "Mike has taught me a lot more about

microbiology, the brain and how it works. I have a lot more focus here."

Thomas said that even though Stramblad may not resume his scientific research when he goes to college, his experiences at UTMB would remain invaluable. "I'm keeping in mind that I'm not trying to turn Kyle into a scientist. I'm hoping these students will become citizens who appreciate science and who can legislate science responsibly."

Dr. Sharon A. Petronella, assistant professor of pediatrics and mentor to Ball High School senior Leslie Hollaway, described the ever-increasing role of science in today's society. "We've evolved to the point that, to even function in this world, we have to have a working knowledge of science," said Petronella, who is collaborating with Hollaway to examine how pollution affects youths with asthma. "Only in doing so will we come to understand our environment and its effects upon human health."

The Bench Tutorials program began after the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in 1997 approved an initiative that provides science credit to students who engage in independent scientific research. Barbara Cain, chairwoman of Ball High's science department, mentioned the initiative to Dr. E. Brad Thompson, chairman of the university's Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics and interim director of the Sealy Center for Molecular Science. Thompson, in whose lab Cain conducted summer research, discussed the TEA initiative with Pamela D. Diamond,

director of community outreach and education for UTMB's National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Center on Environmental Toxicology.

After Diamond and Jennifer A. Gorenstein, associate director for community outreach and education for the NIEHS Center on Environmental Toxicology, designed Bench Tutorials based on comments from high school students, graduate students and faculty, the center funded the program during its first year in 1998.

"We're thrilled they came forward for the ongoing funding of this program," Diamond said. "It's a natural match since Dr. Leon Bromberg (whose will established the trust fund) graduated from Ball High School. Jennifer Gorenstein, the Bench Tutorials director, has guided and refined 'Bench' into a model program for the state. She has been alert and sensitive to the strengths of the community and UTMB and woven these interests together into a living and exciting tribute to Dr. Bromberg."

The Bromberg Charitable Trust Fund has contributed more than \$500,000 to UTMB since 1999. In addition to funding the Bromberg Scholars program, the Galveston foundation has given to UTMB in various ways, such as establishing two endowed professorships and contributing to the nursing student scholarship fund. Bromberg graduated with honors from Ball High School in 1916 and eventually served as a UTMB clinical medicine faculty member. He died in 1985.

Mood and Anxiety Center sponsors children's health series

By JUDIE L. DAVIS

For parents, detecting mental illness in their children can be difficult. To help them identify the symptoms of common disorders, UTMB is offering a series of low-cost informational sessions.

The Children's Mental Health Series, sponsored by UTMB's Mood and Anxiety Center for Children and Adolescents, will be 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the clinic in the Bank of America Building, 2200 NASA Road 1 in Nassau Bay.

Admission is \$10 per person or \$15 per parent couple.

The topics are:

- April 2—"Is My Child Depressed?" with Dr. Dwight Wolf
- April 9—"Your Anxious Child" with Dr. Aileen Oandasan
- April 16—"Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder" with Dr. Brent Sunderland
- April 23—"Cutting Edge Treatment with Clinical Trials" with Dr. Aileen Oandasan
- April 30—"Substance Abuse in Kids and

Teens" with Dr. Cindy Wigg

- May 7—"Kids on Medication: Making It Work for You" with Dr. Nga Nguyen

Children's mental problems too often go undetected because parents do not associate their child's bad behavior with a disorder, says Gwen Brehm, a licensed marriage and family therapist and senior counseling specialist with the center.

"Sometimes parents assume that when their child misbehaves or when his grades drop, he's not trying hard enough. In some cases, that is the appropriate response," says Brehm. "But sometimes there is an underlying problem. Parents need to know the symptoms of these disorders."

Brehm notes anxiety and depression are the disorders most often missed by parents. "Unless you know exactly what you're looking for, any of these disorders can be difficult to diagnose," she said. "Several types of mental illness can lead to the same symptoms."

Parents also can benefit from advice given

on how to weigh the pros and cons of medications and "on how to do medications correctly," Brehm says. "For example, if you're giving your child ADHD medication, don't let him drink caffeine or have a lot of sugar."

Center patients for whom medication is the best option have a unique opportunity to participate in clinical trials at no cost, Brehm says.

Directed by Dr. Karen Dineen Wagner, UTMB's Mood and Anxiety Center for Children and Adolescents is the state's first university-affiliated center specializing in the treatment of children's mood and anxiety disorders. The clinic staff includes child and adolescent psychiatrists and therapists, who provide a comprehensive evaluation and treatment program for patients. The center accepts a wide variety of insurance plans.

For information about the Children's Mental Health Series, call the clinic at (800) 506-6261.

Support staff conference celebrates individual successes

By CATHY C. NALL

This year's UTMB Office/Administrative Support Staff Conference was another rousing success for all involved, said conference coordinator LaDona Landry. "The evaluations were excellent," she said. Landry shared some of the responses she received.

"I was very impressed with every aspect of this event. I'm lucky I work for an institution that cares so much about its staff. Thanks for the memories," said one participant. Another added "Informative, motivating and helpful in developing my leadership skills."

What began as a small gathering of less than 100 secretaries 12 years ago has blossomed into a two-day conference offering numerous speakers, vendors, seminars and a fashion show featuring items from the Career Boutique to more than 1,000 support staff professionals. The Career Boutique is a joint

project of UTMB and several community organizations, providing appropriate clothing for employees, patients, families and community members seeking career advancement or entering the workforce.

The idea for the conference was Landry's dream more than 15 years ago. "Although it began as something for those in the secretarial field, the conference has evolved just as the field has," Landry said. "Today's conference is valuable for anyone in a classified administrative job at UTMB and the results, personally and professionally, are incredible."

Seminars at this year's conference included topics such as "Get off your assets. How to unleash the power in you," and "Why can't people just get along."

"With such an overwhelmingly positive response to this year's conference, we can't wait to see what will happen next year," Landry added.



A highlight of the UTMB Office/Administrative Support Staff Conference was the fashion show spotlighting the clothing at the Career Boutique. Models from across campus showed off the work clothing available at the boutique.

Photo by Cathy C. Nall

NURSING from Page 1

of Nursing are rejected because applicants' GPAs and academic achievements do not meet the high standards of the school. In addition, some students who are accepted to the school fail because they are unprepared for the rigors of the curriculum and the demanding pace of the program.

"We know from experience which students are at risk for academic difficulty," Marcott said. She says students with lower GPAs, those who have had to repeat prerequisite courses, those who come from areas where they don't receive strong academic foundations at the community college level, and those who have to work while attending school are at a greater risk for failure. These applicants will be identified for the new program. "We are going to shift our retention efforts to a proactive, rather than reactive, approach," Marcott said.

The program is designed to ensure student success by providing academic and developmental support services such as tutors, learning skills assessment, study groups, and if needed, financial aid. These resources will be integrated into their course load as required classes. The Alternate Track program also requires an additional year of study during which students will focus on challenging foundation courses before they begin their clinical coursework.

"In our view, when students have academic problems the issue is not intellectual capacity, it is the existence of learning barriers," Tschirch said. "We are focused on removing these barriers and building skills." As part of the program, students will have their skills assessed and be assigned special classes accordingly.

According to Marcott, when students get into academic difficulty they often think they can address their problems them-



Photo by Carrie Ann Davis

Dr. Poldi Tschirch, left, and Dr. Ruth Marcott, are using a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board grant to create a recruitment and retention plan with the intent of combating the nation's nursing shortage.

selves and do not need to utilize the resources the school provides. In addition, she says, they are often too embarrassed to ask for help. She says their esteem goes down, their anxiety level goes up and they have increasing difficulty until they fail or drop out.

"What we have found with the students who have failed courses in the past is that they come back and go at a slower pace," Marcott explained. "This allows them the time to absorb and learn, and in the end they may be some of our strongest bedside nurses. The nursing care is not their problem. But the nursing program is a very rigorous, fast-paced program and most students are not accustomed to that when they come to us."

While the Alternate Track program is a great opportunity for incoming students, initially recruiting them into a program that sets them apart from other students could

be a challenge. Marcott, however, said she hopes the students will appreciate the opportunity to attend UTMB that they might not have had under different circumstances.

According to Raymond Lewis Jr., associate dean of admissions and student affairs for SAHS and consultant for the SON's Alternate Track program, the students' embarrassment will pass. He said that in the SAHS program, some students begin the program feeling self-conscious, but those feelings leave quickly as former and current participants serve as peer advisors and student leaders in the school. Lewis said SAHS Alternate Track students would act as peer mentors for the SON program. "The status has definitely changed in that accepted students in the regular curriculum track often request to participate in aspects of the Alternate Track program since there is so much camaraderie among

the participants," he said.

Phyllis Jendrusch, coordinator of the School of Allied Health Sciences Health Career Opportunity Program, also will work closely with the new School of Nursing program.

Since the School of Allied Health Sciences program began in 1985, there have been more than 150 participants and more than 125 graduates. Several have continued their education and one will be completing medical school this year. According to Lewis, these are students who, under different circumstances, might not have been admitted. He also says Dean Charles Christiansen and the allied health faculty have been supportive and instrumental in the success of the Alternate Track program.

Another focus of the School of Nursing grant is the recruitment of students. Programs for health care advisors and counselors for high schools, community colleges and universities are planned to bring them up-to-date about the school so they can better advise their students. These counselors will be invited to the UTMB campus for tours and presentations about the school's programs and prerequisites. Marcott and Tschirch also plan to make visits outside of the Galveston area so that counselors can get the benefits of their presentations without traveling. In addition, they want to link their recruitment efforts with the President's Outreach Visits and use the SON alumni to build a recruitment pool. During President's Outreach Visits, UTMB President John D. Stobo visits with alumni and parents of current students across the state.

Marcott is enthusiastic about the recruitment plans. "Hopefully counselors will love us so much that when somebody says they want to go into nursing they can say, 'Well I know they have a really excellent program down at UTMB.'"

Hargraves appointed to governor's task force on health disparities

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

One day late last year, Dr. Martha Hargraves, UTMB director of health policy and health services research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, received a request from the governor's office to "fill out some forms."

"I got a little note that said 'The Governor is considering nominating you [to the Health Disparities Task Force for the State of Texas] and we need a little information,'" said Hargraves. "So I provided the basic Social Security number, name and telephone number."

Weeks went by and Hargraves had all but forgotten about the request for information when she suddenly began receiving calls from the governor's office, sometimes as often as twice a week. Then she began to get calls from people who got calls from the governor's office wanting to know about her background, her character and her experience with vulnerable populations.

"Suddenly things got very busy," she said. "It made me feel like I was under a very powerful microscope."

The scrutiny paid off for the underserved in Texas. Hargraves, a long-time advocate for improved health care access for women and minorities, has been appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to a nine-member task force that was approved in 2001 by the legislature and governor to study how to eliminate disparities in health care access in Texas and to reorganize Texas Department of Health programs to improve health care access in the state.

Hargraves has spent the better part of her life working with vulnerable populations. She has shared her knowledge through workshops, conferences and publications and is co-author of the book *Minority Health in America*. The book examines who the uninsured in America are, why they are not insured and what the implications are for medical care and public policy.



Photo by Jennifer Reynolds-Sanchez

Dr. Martha Hargraves recently was appointed to the governor's Health Disparities Task Force for the State of Texas.

Dr. Garland Anderson, professor and chairman of obstetrics and gynecology, is confident that Hargraves' contributions to the task force will be valuable to Texas.

"Martha has had a lot of experience in health care for minorities," he said. "She has a unique perspective and understanding of under-represented populations in the state of Texas. I think this is an excellent appointment."

Because the task force has not yet convened, Hargraves does not know what direction the group will take to meet its goals, but she expects that it will hit the ground running. The racially and ethnically diverse group comprises experts from business, labor, government, charitable and community organizations, and community-based health organizations from rural and urban regions. Hargraves says that this is the first health disparity task force in the

United States with representation from such diverse areas.

"The problem [of health and health access disparities] has existed in our state for decades, and it won't be resolved by one nine-member task force," she said. "What I'm hoping we can do is at least posit some of the important areas that will open up opportunity to vulnerable populations to have better access and more comprehensive care and that will allow community development issues to be addressed so that health care can flourish in the context of a community."

Although Hargraves does not discount the importance of individual service, she believes that to meet the goals of this task force, community involvement is a must. Texas is a big and diverse state with a unique variety of both rural and urban communities, she says. To eliminate health disparities throughout the state, the task force will have to identify the individual conditions of each geographic area and its unique requirements for meeting the needs of vulnerable people. Hargraves says that particular areas to be examined will be education, information dissemination, access to care, and patient/provider communication, as well as the impact these areas have on individual communities.

"I think part of this task force's mission is to try to identify where and how we can level the playing field to eliminate health disparity," she said. "I think we can make real advances in assuring equity."

Hargraves says her service on the task force will complement her other work at UTMB. She says her nine years at the university have been extremely rewarding.

"I just don't know where I would go to have such good work and the support to do it," she said. "I've been in health care for 30 years or more and it's been a journey. [To this task force] I'll bring my exposures to the real world that I have been afforded since being a part of this faculty and this institutional family."

Recycled hat contest part of this year's Earth Day celebrations

By CATHY C. NALL



The UTMB 10th Anniversary Earth Day Celebration is just around the corner, so the time to show off your trashy side has begun. In addition to the food, fashion show, fun and earth-friendly festivities, this year's celebration features a recycled hat contest.

The "Hat Walk on the Catwalk" offers an outlet for people harboring Martha Stewart and tree hugger tendencies to channel their passions by displaying their crafts—on their heads.

The contest is open to all UTMB employees, contractors and students. All materials must be recycled or recyclable. Entries must be creative, original and have a recycling theme.

All entries must be received by April 15. Deliver hats to Rosey Ruiz, Office of University Advancement, Public Affairs, Administration Building, Suite 3.102.

All those who enter the contest will receive free passes to the Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid. In addition, participants are encouraged to model their creations during the "Hat Walk on the Catwalk" during UTMB's Earth Day celebrations.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three designs. Winners will be announced at noon April 26 during the Earth Day Celebration.

For information about the hat contest, call Ruiz at (409) 772-8783 or go to www.utmb.edu/conservation.

Volunteers also are sought for Earth Day preparations on campus. Volunteers are needed for poster distribution, planting pepper plants to be given away during Earth Day and various activities during the festivities.

To volunteer, contact Nathalie Mangold at nmmangol@utmb.edu or (409) 747-8192, or Diana Davison at dldaviso@utmb.edu or (409) 747-8196.

Thompson named medical director for clinics

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

Dr. Barbara Thompson has assumed the positions of hospital clinics medical director and assistant dean for faculty practice on an interim basis. In these new roles, she will be responsible for the medical direction of the UTMB clinics, reporting to both Dr. Karen Sexton as chief operating officer of the hospitals, and to Dean of Medicine Dr. Stanley Lemon on behalf of the faculty practice.



Thompson

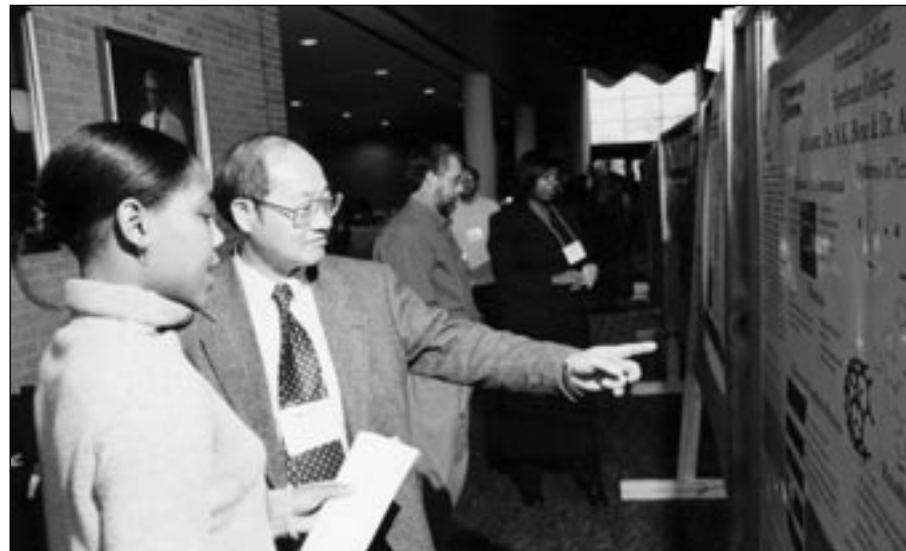
Thompson, the Sealy Hutchings and Lucille Wright Hutchings Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, has an extensive background in family practice, focusing primarily on geriatric care. She currently sits on a number of UTMB committees, including the Hospital's Clinical Leadership Council, the Faculty Group Practice Council, the Dean's Advisory Council of the School of Medicine, and the Board of Directors of UTMB HealthCare Systems, Inc. In her new position, she will now chair the regular meetings of the UTMB Area Medical Directors and the UTMB Community-Based Medical Directors.

Thompson says she is looking forward to working with her fellow department chairs and directors "to maintain the good things that are currently happening in the clinics."

"I'm really excited to work with Drs. Karen Sexton, Marilyn Marx and Stanley Lemon," said Thompson. "This will be a great opportunity."

Lemon says Thompson is highly respected by the faculty and believes that her appointment to these new positions will provide for a seamless transition to hospital administration of the clinics. "Barbara's longstanding interest in and dedication to patient access, and her past experience with management of clinic operations will ensure that UTMB physicians continue to have an effective voice in decisions related to clinic operations," he said.

Undergraduate Research Symposium



Above left, Amanda Collier, an undergraduate student from Spellman College in Ellenwood, Ga., explains her poster presentation at the 16th annual UTMB Undergraduate Research Symposium, Feb. 28 and March 1.

Each year the symposium brings undergraduates interested in a career in biomedical research to UTMB to present their studies, meet UTMB faculty and tour the campus.

Dr. Cary Cooper, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, welcomed the undergraduate students and their advisors. "One of our great goals is to foster the interest of students thinking about a career in biomedical research. As students, you may not realize it, but you are contributing to scientific literature, and you never can be quite sure how important a contribution is. Sometimes it's years later that we find out how valuable contributions to the literature are," he



said. "Without biomedical research, the medicine of tomorrow would be the medicine of today, and we don't want that to happen."

The Undergraduate Research Symposium of 2002 marked the event's largest attendance of students and advisors—a total of 129—coming from 14 colleges as far away as Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and Irvine, Calif.

Pictured at right is Mike Christiansen, executive vice president at Moody National Bank, who recently presented savings bonds to Dr. Victor E. Reyes, UTMB professor of pediatrics and microbiology and immunology, in support of the 16th annual UTMB Undergraduate Research Symposium. Moody National Bank provides savings bonds for first-, second- and third-place winners in the oral and poster presentation categories. Other contributors included American National Insurance Company, Frost Bank and Pfizer.

IN BRIEF

UTMB to participate in county Public Safety Expo

The Galveston County Emergency Communication District will have a Public Safety Expo from noon–7 p.m. April 13 at Gulf Greyhound Park in La Marque.

Several UTMB representatives will be participating in the expo. The Blood Bank Mobile Unit will be set up in the parking lot at Gulf Greyhound Park, as will the remote telemedicine equipment and medical coach demo unit from MobileMedical.

Inside the tent will be representatives from the Blood Bank offering education materials to guests; the EnCare Emergency Nurses offering information about injury prevention, drug/alcohol awareness, safety belts and child/passenger safety; ophthalmology and visual sciences representatives distributing donor information; Corporate Health Services offering educational material; WorkSTEPS Rehabilitation Services offering work injury

Celebrating doctors

March 30 is Doctor's Day. At UTMB Hospitals and Clinics, physicians are saluted and honored for their commitment to educating the finest health care professionals.

They also are recognized for contributing to the ever-growing body of medical knowledge and providing outstanding and compassionate patient care.

Join us in saluting our doctors March 30.

prevention information; and the Blocker Burn Unit offering burn prevention information.

Other highlights of the safety expo include visits from Apollo 13 Flight Director Gene Kranz, U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson, County Judge James D. Yarbrough and Galveston County Sheriff Gean Leonard.

For information about the safety expo, call (409) 935-3911.

National Nurses Week begins May 6, activities planned

UTMB preparations are beginning for professional growth, networking and celebration events to mark National Nurses Week, May 6–17.

All UTMB nurses are invited to participate in an essay contest that exemplifies outstanding patient care, nursing practice or an experience that expresses the essence of nursing. All those submitting essays will be invited to attend a special Nurses Week recognition luncheon where prizes will be awarded for the top three submissions.

Please submit two copies of your story to Anthe Caruso at mail route 0449. One copy should have your name and contact number included. The second copy should not have any identifying information.

Please limit your essay to two single-spaced typewritten pages. The deadline is April 12.

For information, send email to Caruso at kccarus@utmb.edu.

See BRIEFS on page 6

Marx named senior associate dean for faculty practice

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

Dr. Marilyn Marx has been appointed senior associate dean for faculty practice within the School of Medicine and physician chief executive of the Medical Services Research and



Marx

Development Plan (MSRDP). An associate professor of surgery, Marx was assistant dean for faculty practice.

"As senior associate dean for faculty practice, Dr. Marx will oversee all

aspects of the medical school faculty practice with a strong focus on strategic planning and the future development of the practice," said Dean of Medicine Dr. Stanley Lemon. These aspects will include professional standards, professional conduct and business affairs.

"Dr. Marx brings a great deal of practical experience and formal training in practice management to this position," Lemon said. "Dr. Marx will have a special charge to promote the clinical enterprise at UTMB and will serve as the primary voice for the clinical practice of the Faculty of Medicine."

Marx replaced Dr. Don Prough who had served in these capacities ad interim since August 1999. She received most of her residency training here from 1982 to 1988, is certified by the American Board of Surgery, and has a master's degree in business administration.

"I am honored to have been given the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Lemon, his team and the UTMB leadership," Marx said. "In this position, Dr. Lemon has asked that I initially focus on the areas of developing and implementing appropriate professional standards for critical clinical activities, ensuring efficient physician utilization of clinical resources, and developing a strategic plan that will ensure the continued growth and financial success of the faculty practice. What is so exciting to me is that these projects will of course include and involve everyone associated with clinical care at UTMB in each phase of development and implementation, ensuring an enterprise-wide success."

Celebrating social workers



Galveston Mayor Roger "Bo" Quiroga, pictured in the center back row, presented UTMB's social workers with a proclamation recognizing March as National Social Work Month.



As part of National Social Work Month, social service agencies participated in a fair to introduce their services to the UTMB community.

BRIEFS from Page 5

Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) class begins April 6

The UTMB Police Department is conducting Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Systems Basic Physical Defense classes. The classes will be free to employees, students, faculty and their family members. The RAD classes, taught nationally and in Canada, are endorsed by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

The RAD approach to personal safety education embodies a practical blend of threat avoidance strategies and real-world assault resistance tactics designed around rape scenarios. The focus of the RAD course of instruction is on the development of easily mastered personal safety skills. The overall goal is to reduce victimization through informed decision-making and sensible action.

The program is a 12-hour course taught over three days. Classes are noon-4 p.m. Saturdays.

For information, call Larry Smith at (409) 772-0658 or Ricardo Ruiz at (409) 772-2691.

Or visit the web site at www.utmb.edu/POLICE/RADenrollment.htm

Softball league registration continues through April 5

Registration has begun for the 2002 UTMB Softball League season. The registration fee for employee teams is \$100, and the fee for student teams is \$125.

The deadline to register is April 5, and league play begins on April 15.

To register, or for information, call Andy Gabel at (409) 772-3876.

Preventive Medicine benefit golf tournament set for April 29

UTMB is hosting its second annual Preventive Medicine Residency Program Golf Tournament April 29 at the South Shore Harbour Country Club in League City.

A continental breakfast and registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the shotgun start is scheduled for 9 a.m. The tournament will be followed by an awards luncheon at 1:15 p.m.

Registration for the event continues through April 5. Two levels of entry fees are available. The team sponsor level (\$500) includes four players on a team and four tickets to the awards luncheon, and the individual golfer level (\$125) entitles one participant to play on an arranged team and includes one ticket to the awards luncheon. Golfers also can register on the day of the event for \$150.

The Preventive Medicine Residency Program provides residents with the skills needed to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability and death in individuals and communities.

The program includes three accredited residencies: aerospace, occupational and general preventive medicine. Proceeds of the event will fund residency training in preventive medicine.

For event and registration information call (409) 772-1803 or email nhortega@utmb.edu.

Faculty development workshop planned for April 16-18

A faculty development workshop is planned for April 16-18 for nurses and physicians in primary care, pediatrics, family medicine and community health. The workshop will focus on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness. This is a program from the World Health

Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization that incorporates clinical skills, family and cultural competence, and community development to improve the health of children.

The workshop will be offered in English and Spanish.

For information, visit the web site at www.son.utmb.edu/nursing/WHO/index.html or call Imelda Mendoza at (409) 772-5029.

OF NOTE

Senior medical students **Fang-Ying "Terry" Lin** and **Tisha Wang** recently competed in the "Antibiotics Bowl," created through a collaboration of the Texas Committee for the Judicious Use of Antibiotics, the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Department of Health. Lin and Wang will advance to the finals at the Texas Medical Association meeting April 20 in Dallas.

Each of the eight Texas medical schools was asked to send two medical students to represent their schools at the contest, which was patterned on a quiz-show format. The contest focused on the appropriate use of antibiotics as well as infection control and vaccination issues.

Dr. Willemijnte "Sandra" Hoogerwerf, assistant professor of gastroenterology, recently received the Foundation for Digestive Health and Nutrition/American Gastroenterological Association Research Scholar Award. The award will help to cover expenses related to Hoogerwerf's study of the enteric nervous system and visceral pain at the molecular, cellular and whole animal level.

See BRIEFS on page 7

School of Medicine welcomes new faculty to campus

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

The rich combination of individual strengths and talents brought to the School of Medicine by each faculty member allows UTMB to produce outstanding physicians and provide extraordinary health care services. To continue this tradition of excellence, the school has studied and adopted several programs and policies, including new faculty orientations, faculty mentoring, and guidelines for appointment, tenure and promotion that will allow new faculty members the opportunity to learn more about and become an integral part of their academic community.

The School of Medicine employs educators from all over the globe. Often a faculty member will come to Galveston not knowing most of their colleagues and with limited information regarding UTMB philosophies, the history of the institution and the roles of educators within the school.

Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Linda Phillips has played a key role in welcoming new faculty by hosting new faculty orientation luncheons. Phillips says the luncheons provide an opportunity for new faculty to meet campus leaders as well as their new colleagues, and to familiarize themselves with their new surroundings.

“The plan is to hold these luncheons once a year,” said Phillips. “It should be a place where new faculty can meet other faculty and administrators.”

UTMB’s mentoring program also helps ease new faculty into the medical and professional settings on campus.



Dr. Don Powell, chairman of internal medicine, shakes hands with new faculty members Drs. Folasade Basorun-Ojo and Olugbena Ojo. The husband-and-wife team recently joined the Department of Internal Medicine.

“Mentoring is a charge from President Stobo,” Phillips said recently at a State of the School of Medicine presentation. “It is the goal of Dr. Lemon, dean of medicine, that all assistant professors, both tenure and non-tenure track, will have an identifiable mentor on campus.”

Phillips describes mentoring as “having someone take you under their wing and care for you.” Mentoring workshops are given for both assistant and senior professors. The short-term goal of mentoring is to help incoming educators troubleshoot, set goals, network and acquire new skills

through helpful advice and critiques. The long-term goal of the mentor is to educate and help an assistant professor grow professionally.

The intention of the mentoring program is to help educate and retain a diverse group of outstanding faculty members who will continue to contribute their talents and knowledge to UTMB. Faculty development conferences, workshops and appointment, promotion and tenure assessment guidelines are additional methods used to ensure faculty satisfaction and retention.

Until recently, appointment, promotion and tenure guidelines were not easily understood or accessible to faculty members who were trying to move forward in their positions. As a result, the School of Medicine took action to set goals and demystify the process of advancement. In addition to a workshop and a resource guide, appointment, promotion and tenure guidelines are posted online to be accessed by any faculty members with questions.

In keeping with UT System requirements, UTMB also maintains a core committee for women and minority faculty members and administrators. To assist in retaining under-represented educators and administrators at UTMB, the core committee members—appointed by President John D. Stobo—assist the four schools on campus to make sure that workshops, conferences and other forums specific to women and minorities are available and offered to those populations of this academic community.

In the ever-competitive field of medical practice and education, UTMB continues to strive to stand above the rest. That cannot be done without a diverse and superior faculty. Phillips and her colleagues intend to continue working to retain an outstanding educational institution.

“It’s a question of communication and knowing you are being valued,” said Phillips. “It’s important to know that your success is being noted.”

Free alcohol screening available April 11 at Primary Care Pavilion

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

Hoping to bring to light the problems associated with alcohol abuse, UTMB is offering free screenings as part of National Alcohol Screening Day on April 11.

The screening event, sponsored by UTMB’s Department of Family Medicine, CHRISTUS New Horizons, The Jesse Tree and The Gulf Coast Center will be 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at UTMB’s Family Medicine Clinic at the Primary Care Pavilion, 400 Harborside Drive.

Screening participants will complete a

brief alcohol use questionnaire and watch a video presentation of true stories involving alcohol dependence, alcohol abuse and risky drinking.

Anyone in the community can participate free of charge, and patients who have a clinic appointment at the Primary Care Pavilion that day will be offered a questionnaire.

Substance abuse specialists will score the questionnaires on site and offer participants one-on-one counseling. Educational pamphlets and brochures will be available, as well as referrals for those who need them.

So often, alcohol abuse leaves its victims suffering silently, with both mental and physical ramifications, says UTMB faculty associate Leah Fanuiel, a social worker and screening day coordinator. “We hope people will reach out and realize there are resources where they can find help.”

National Alcohol Screening Day, held annually in April, is part of Alcohol Awareness Month, and this is UTMB’s second year to host the event.

Last year, 37 patients were screened and seven received referrals for further evaluation, says Fanuiel. For information, (409) 772-2169.

BRIEFS from Page 6

Dr. S. Lynn Knox, assistant professor of anesthesiology; **Dr. Ruth E. Levine**, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; **Dr. Robin Mallett**, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; and **Dr. Patricia A. Rogers**, assistant professor of pediatrics have been selected to attend the AAMC Mid-Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar June 22-25 in Washington.

CORRECTION

A headline on page 1 of the March 11 issue incorrectly identified the Clinical Laboratory Sciences program. We regret the error.

A Feb. 28 *Houston Chronicle* article featured discussions with **Dr. Thomas R. Cole**, UTMB professor in the Institute for Medical Humanities, and **Jason Morrow**, UTMB medical student, about the public premier of the film "Still Life: The Humanity of Anatomy," which is being shown to UTMB medical students. According to Cole, the film was designed to give students a practical and humanistic way to approach gross anatomy. A briefer article also ran in the Feb. 26 *Chronicle*.

Through its work on the Galveston County Task Force for Indigent Health Care, UTMB received extensive news coverage for its involvement in a Feb. 25 rally promoting indigent health care for Galveston County. Currently the county's budget only covers about 900 of the 80,000 county residents who are uninsured or underinsured. **President John D. Stobo** said, "We do need fundamental reform, not just money added to the system." (*The Galveston County Daily News*, 2/24/02, 2/26/02 and the *Texas City Sun*, 2/26/02).

UTMB surgeons **Drs. Linda Phillips** and **Eric Feliberti** appeared on KHOU-TV Houston with UTMB breast cancer patient Claudia Graham, who came to UTMB

UTMB IN THE NEWS

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

after becoming frustrated with the long wait for treatment in financially beleaguered Harris County Hospital District. As reporter Dan Lauch said, "At UTMB Graham found hope." (2/27/02).

An article by UTMB **President John D. Stobo** about UTMB's work in the field of telemedicine and the long-reaching effect these advances in technology will have on the future of health care appeared in *Energy Houston* magazine (Vol. 4 No. 2). According to Stobo, "The ability to provide health care at a distance and in a matter of moments holds countless benefits for the energy industry and other industries that operate in remote areas of the world."

Transplant surgeon **Dr. Scott Lick**, transplant coordinator **Rea Carrera** and **Mike Hill**, UTMB executive director in the office of finance, were quoted in the Feb. 15 *Corpus Christi Caller Times* highlighting the care Corpus Christi resident Dora Jones received at UTMB. Lick also spoke

about the long-term care required to recuperate from such surgery. The article was inspired by the movie "John Q." Through UTMB, Jones who had no health insurance and worked part time, received a heart transplant in Dec. 1999.

The Stark Diabetes Center at UTMB will be the recipient of \$115,000 raised during a Mardi Gras party hosted by Tilman and Paige Fertitta at Fertitta's San Luis Hotel. The event honored **Dr. Randall Urban**, director of the diabetes center, and **Dr. Don Powell**, chair of the department of internal medicine. **President John D. Stobo** and his wife, **Mary Ann**, also were in attendance. (*Houston Chronicle*, 2/11/02).

Dr. Ernest Barratt, UTMB professor of psychiatry, was interviewed on KTRK-TV Houston's Live at Five. Barratt, an expert on the topic of impulse control, commented on a court case involving a man claiming word aversion caused him to shoot his girlfriend (2/12/02).

Dr. Oscar Boultinghouse of UTMB's Digital Medical Services was featured on KHOU-TV Houston Feb. 8 discussing advances in telemedicine and the development of portable units that can be taken to a crisis and relay patient information back to UTMB physicians. The equipment could be deployed to a natural disaster or scenes of terror anywhere in the world.

Dr. Barry Uretsky, UTMB cardiologist, discussed with KXLN-TV Houston a new procedure performed on UTMB patient Olivia Torres. Torres, 80, had been suffering from a malformation of the heart muscle. According to Uretsky, the procedure consists of injecting a very small amount of pure alcohol into the heart muscle. Before the surgery Torres was unable to walk or breathe without difficulty and is now able to be active again. She is the first patient to undergo this procedure (2/5/02).

Dr. Michael Grecula, UTMB associate professor of orthopedics and rehabilitation, was quoted extensively in an article examining the various treatments for arthritis, including drug therapies and exercise. The article ran in the Feb. 7 health supplement of the *Houston Chronicle*.

UTMB IMPACT

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