

CALENDAR

Reading program

Volunteers are needed to read to children in UTMB clinic waiting rooms as part of the Reach Out and Read Program. This will help parents to see reading modeled to their children, demonstrate how much children enjoy books and help to entertain the children as they wait for their visit with the health care provider. Volunteers are needed at pediatric clinic locations in Galveston, Texas City, Friendswood and League City.

For more information, please call Chris Turley or Sammie Hester at ext. 29797.

Breast Cancer Awareness

In recognition of national Breast Cancer Awareness Month, all women are encouraged to perform monthly self-examinations. The UTMB Regional Maternal and Child Health Clinic offers free screening mammograms and physical examinations to women age 50 and older who meet specific income criteria through the Cancer Stop program. Funded by Texas Department of Health and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cancer Stop is an ongoing project. For more information about this program, call ext. 25264.

Salute to Nursing

The seventh annual Salute to Nursing Golf Tournament and Sponsor Party will take place Friday, Nov. 10, at the Galveston Country Club. This year's Sponsor Party will be hosted by Gerald and Susanne Sullivan at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9. The deadline for entries in the golf tournament has been extended until Nov. 5. For information, contact Sandra Harrison Gerace, ext. 71533.

Children's Carnival

A fun time for hundreds of children is planned for Saturday, Oct. 28, from 1-4 p.m. at a free carnival sponsored by Children's Hospital and the Children's Hospital Community Advisory Board. For more information, contact Janis Matthews, UTMB Child Life coordinator, at ext. 23424.

Acute Care for Elders

UTMB employees are invited to tour the newest unit at John Sealy Hospital that's devoted exclusively to elderly patient care during an open house from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Oct. 30 on the hospital's 10th floor, Units C and D. The Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit, made possible through a generous grant from the Sealy and Smith Foundation, has been designed to offer a more relaxed, home-like environment with larger patient rooms that will provide visiting family members the opportunity to stay overnight. UTMB Geriatric Services is opening the ACE Unit to provide comprehensive care for older patients, covering not only medical issues but also nutrition and social needs. Those who miss the open house may attend the grand opening scheduled later that day from 5-7 p.m.

IMPACT

UTMB THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

Tuition Reimbursement

A new program sponsored by the Department of Human Resources will help UTMB employees continue their education. **See story on page 10.**

Great Day for PAs

The School of Allied Health Sciences has adopted a new master's degree in physician assistant studies.



The past month has seen several events to celebrate our past while strengthening our ties to the future.

Building bridges



Inside

President John D. Stobo introduces stories on Founders Day Weekend, and community

outreach and fund-raising efforts. **Page 5.**

For information

In addition to this Our Town report, information about the Sept. 27 Town Meeting can be found:

On the Web

<http://www2.utmb.edu/townmeeting/>
You can also find information about previous Town Meetings on the site.

On video

Videotapes of previous Town Meetings are available from the Office of University Advancement, suite 136 in the Sealy and Smith Professional Building. For information, call ext. 22618.



Gordon Blocker and his daughter Bonnie give the "Hook 'em Horns" sign during the singing of "Eyes of Texas" at the conclusion of the rededication of the Truman Graves Blocker, Jr. Medical Research Building on Friday, Oct. 13 at Levin Hall.

Details, Pages 6-7

Inaugural speaker for faculty issues to discuss gender

Dr. Virginia Valian, a professor of psychology and linguistics at Hunter College in New

York, will be the inaugural speaker in a series about faculty development issues noon-1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 27. A reception will

precede the event in Levin Hall Foyer from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Valian's presentation will be "Women and Men in Academic Medicine: What Succeeds and Why."

Valian is the author of the book, *Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women*, which outlines the ways in which beliefs about gender differences influence interpretations of others' performance.

Her visit will be the first in a series of speakers on faculty development issues. The series is sponsored by the President's Office and the Core Committee on Women.



Valian

IMPACT

Impact is the semimonthly newsletter of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB). Published by the Office of University Advancement, it is distributed free of charge in support of UTMB's education, patient care and biomedical research objectives.

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Submissions

The deadlines for submissions to be considered for the Calendar, People and Briefs sections of the **Oct. 9 Impact** is **noon, Oct. 2**. Submissions should not be more than 100 words for Briefs or 75 words for People items.

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.

ON CAMPUS PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

PEOPLE

Dr. Don W. Powell (Internal Medicine) has been appointed to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Board of Directors for a three-year term. Powell has been the faculty councilor for the local chapter since 1991 and a regional councilor since 1997.

The Advisory Committee for the **John Sealy Memorial Endowment Fund for Biomedical Research** has announced that 11 faculty members have been named recipients of Sealy Grant awards. These applications were submitted for the May 2000 round of competition. The investigators and projects approved for funding were:

Research Development

- **Dr. Ashok K. Chopra** (Microbiology and Immunology), "A New Generation Recombinant Acellular Pertussis Vaccine."
- **Dr. Bogdan Nowicki** (Obstetrics and Gynecology and Microbiology and Immunology), "The Interaction of Complement C3 Convertase, and its Sub-Units, with Decay Accelerating Factor (CD55)."
- **Dr. Aileen K. Ritchie** (Physiology and Biophysics), "Regulation of Exocytosis and Endocytosis in Rat Thyroid Cells."
- **Dr. Rafael Alam** (Internal Medicine), "The Cloning of a Novel Signaling Protein that Activates T Cell Receptor-Associated Tyrosine Kinases and Initiates Downstream Signaling."

Recruitment Grants

- **Dr. Krishna Rajarathnam** (Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics), "Structural Basis of Interleukin-8 Interaction with CXCR1 Receptor."
- **Dr. Daryl T.-Y. Lau** (Internal Medicine), "A pilot study to characterize interferon-induced gene expression in liver cells and peripheral blood lymphocytes using high-density oligonucleotide microarray expression analysis and mRNA profiling with quantitative kinetic PCR in patients with chronic hepatitis C."
- **Dr. Xiadong Cheng** (Pharmacology and Toxicology), "cAMP Activated Guanine Nucleotide Exchange Factors and cAMP Signaling."
- **Dr. Jiaren Sun** (Microbiology and Immunology), "Mechanisms of Viral Persistence and Vaccine-Induced Immunity in Hepatitis C Infection."
- **Dr. John Alton Copland III** (Internal Medicine), "Thiazolidinediones (TZDs): Activators of Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor (PPAR γ) and Mediators of Anti-Tumoral Activity in Renal Cell Carcinoma."

Bridging Grants

- **Dr. Rolf Konig** (Microbiology and Immunology), "Homeostasis in the Peripheral Immune System and the Development of Autoimmune Myocarditis."
- **Dr. J. Regino Perez-Polo** (Human, Biological, Chemistry and Genetics), "Neurotrophin Role in Oxidative Homeostasis After Stroke."

Grant applications for the January 2001 round of competition are now being accepted. Grant instructions and application forms are available from the Vice President for Research Website at: <http://www.utmb.edu/avpr/research/jsmfbr/>

Cheryl Lehman (Inpatient Medical-Surgical) received The Excellence in Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Performance Award from the American Association of SCI Nurses at the annual conference in Las Vegas, September 2000.

Dr. Martha Hinman (Physical Therapy) was appointed to the

Osteoporosis Advisory Committee for the Texas Department of Health in spring 1999. In spring 2000 she was appointed to the Elder Care Response Team—a subgroup of the Texas Community Futures Forum—for the Texas Agricultural Extension Services.

Drs. Ruth Marcott, Charlotte Wisnewski and Aletta Linares (all of School of Nursing) presented "A Workload Formula for Students: Implications for Faculty," at the NLN Transforming the Landscape: Creating a Preferred Future for Nursing Education. in Nashville in September.

"Courage in the Face of Death: Nurses in the Resistance during the Holocaust," was presented by **Cheyenne Martin** (School of Nursing) at the International Conference—The Holocaust in an Age of Genocide, Oxford, England, in July.

Phyllis Cohen Jendrusch and **Melodee Mancuso** (both of Admissions and Student Affairs) presented "Everybody Plays: A Comprehensive Retention Cycle Spanning Pre-enrollment Through Employment," at the National Conference on Multicultural Affairs in Higher Education in San Antonio in September.

Dr. Loree Primeau (Occupational Therapy) presented "Household Work: When Gender Ideologies and Practices Interact," at the Millennial Reflections: Third Australasian Occupational Science Symposium, Australia in September.

Dr. Alice Hill (School of Nursing) has been asked to serve as a reviewer for the October meeting of the NINR Research Study Section. Her area of expertise is maternal child health and quantitative applications for funding.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Flu Shots

UTMB has received the 2001 influenza vaccine supply. However, due to manufacturing problems that affected supplies on a national level, the supply is 15 percent smaller than last year's.

In past years, any employee who wanted a flu shot could go to Employee Health and receive one. Because of this year's shortage, vaccination efforts will be focused first on patients who are at high risk of complications associated with influenza and then on the people who care for these patients. Employees who are eligible for vaccinations will be notified by Employee Health.

Once high-risk patients and health care workers have been inoculated, the remaining vaccine will be available for other employees. Email broadcasts and campus monitors will be used to advertise this availability.

Immunizations should start in the first part of November.

Coat Drive

The Champions of Children Coats for Kids Drive is encouraging the UTMB community to donate "gently worn" windbreakers, sweaters, jackets and coats. Drop-off locations are: Galveston Independent School District (GISD) Administration Building, 3904 Avenue T; John Sealy Hospital; School of Allied Health Sciences and the Primary Care

See **ON CAMPUS** on page 3

ON CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

from page 2

Pavilion. These items may also be dropped off at the Children's Hospital Fall Carnival on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Moody Medical Library Plaza.

The coats will be distributed Monday, Oct. 30 at the Island Community Center, 4700 Broadway, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Financial donations may also be made at the GISD location. For more information, contact Sherry Cooke in the UTMB Office of Community Outreach at ext. 74876.

Multicultural Awareness Week

Learn about other countries and cultures during UTMB's 10th Annual Multicultural Awareness Week, Oct. 30–Nov. 3. The week is designed to heighten individual awareness of the diverse university community.

- On Monday, Oct. 30, UTMB will recognize the Nigerian culture with electrifying dance performances from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Later that evening, a reception and program will be at 5:30 p.m. in Levin Hall.
- On Tuesday, Oct. 31, TBA.
- On Wednesday, Nov. 1, celebrating the country of India, Indian dance group 8th Wonder will perform from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- On Thursday, Nov. 2, UTMB will celebrate the African American culture. Back by popular demand, the Step Rideau Zydeco Band is sure to excite the audience from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Multicultural Awareness Week presents a fashion and talent show at 6 p.m. in Levin Hall. A reception will be held prior to the event at 5:30 p.m.
- On Friday, Nov. 3, UTMB will celebrate the Hispanic heritage. The rich sounds of Paul Urbina & La Trazion Tejano Band will fill the air from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Multicultural exhibit booths highlighting different countries will be on display.

Organizers of Multicultural Awareness Week are looking for contestants for the fashion and talent show. Cultural exhibit booths are needed.

The weeklong celebration helps people identify with and express pride in their own cultures as well as learn about others. The event, sponsored by the Affirmative Action Office, is free and open to the public. All daytime events will be held at the Moody Medical Library Plaza. For more information about Multicultural Awareness Week, contact Yolanda Davis in the Affirmative Action Office at ext. 21463.

Early Voting, Patient Voting

UTMB is asking its physicians and surgeons to encourage patients who will be convalescing from a scheduled hospitalization on or around election day to take advantage of early voting. For our busy students and staff, early voting is an equally attractive and convenient option. Early voting in Galveston County is offered from Oct. 23-30.

The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

In addition, beginning Monday evening, Nov. 6, UTMB will offer patients who are hospitalized unexpectedly and interested in voting an opportunity to do so. This volunteer-intensive process is being coordinated with the League of Women Voters and the County Clerk's Office, and is offered for the first time on our campus.

UTMB believes that every voter counts, that the democratic

process is important and that these efforts support the university's mission of service to the community.

For more information, please visit <http://www2.utmb.edu/president/Vote/vote.htm>

Drug and Alcohol Awareness

Activities planned for National Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week, Oct. 23–27, will include red ribbons, door prizes and informational brochures for students and employees. To order free red ribbons for your department or for more information, contact Employee Assistance at ext. 22485.

Employee activities sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program will take place in the hallway connecting John Sealy Hospital and John Sealy Annex from 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Oct. 24 and 26.

Student activities sponsored by the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention Project will be noon–1 p.m., Oct. 24, in the SAHS/SON lobby and noon–1 p.m., Oct. 26, in the Jamail Student Center cafeteria. Alcoholics Anonymous will present "Carrying the Message to the Professional," noon–1 p.m., Oct. 25, in Medical Research Building room 2.308. For information, contact the Student/House Staff Counseling Center at ext. 23148.

They want your blood

The UTMB Blood Bank is having a Halloween Blood Drive on Friday, Oct. 27 through Tuesday, Oct. 31. All donors will receive a ghoulish skull drinking cup filled with candy.

To donate, visit the UTMB Blood Donor Room, located at room 1.210 John Sealy Annex from 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. or call ext. 24861 to schedule an appointment. Donors are required to present ID. All blood donors must be in good health and weigh at least 110 lbs.

Also, donate blood during the month of November and have an opportunity to sign up for a chance to win a baseball autographed by Nolan Ryan. The winner will be announced Dec. 1.

Campus Security Report

The 2000 Campus Security Report and the text of Maintaining a Drug-Free Campus are available for review at <http://www2.utmb.edu/security> report and <http://www2.utmb.edu/drug-free>.

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a printed copy of these reports, contact Campus Police at ext. 21503 for the security report, and the Employee Assistance Program at ext. 22485 for a copy of the drug-free campus brochure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bicycle thefts

There has been an increased number of bicycle and middle-of-the-day purse thefts occurring on campus during the past few weeks. Campus police encourage you to contact them at ext. 21111 when you observe suspicious activity or people on campus.

Stolen credit cards are being used immediately after the

thefts. It is possible that several individuals may be involved in these crimes. Campus police are advising people not to leave purses, wallets, jewelry or any other valuables unattended at anytime.

Shriners Hospital cafeteria

The Shriners Burns Hospital's cafeteria will be closed to UTMB employees on Tuesdays due to the increased number of patients visiting the hospital on that day.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS

- **When:** Second Tuesday. Noon–1 p.m. (Nov. 14).
- **Where:** Trinity Episcopal Church, 22nd and Winnie.
- **Contact:** Ramona B. Mason, (409) 948-0368 or (409) 948-8862.

- **When:** Fourth Monday. (Nov. 27) 7:30–9 p.m.
- **Where:** St. John West Classroom at St. John Hospital in the Nassau Bay area.
- **Contact:** Nancy Malley, (218) 212-5894 or St. John Hospital, (218) 333-5503.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

- **Purpose:** For family and friends who are coping with the death of a loved one. The group will offer emotional support and an opportunity to talk about the dying process.
- **When:** Second and fourth Thursdays. 5:30–6:30 p.m. (Oct. 12, Oct. 26).
- **Where:** Primary Care Pavilion, Entrance B, Suite 124.
- **Contact:** Sandra Linton, ext. 20054, or Ramona B. Mason, (409) 948-0368 or (409) 948-8862.

CARING FOR THE OLDER ADULT SUPPORT GROUP

- **Purpose:** To maintain emotional and physical well-being through support and access to resources.
- **When:** Second Tuesday. 5:30–6:30 p.m. (Nov. 14).
- **Where:** Primary Care Pavilion, Entrance B, Suite 124.
- **Contact:** Sandra Linton, ext. 20054, or Lisa Bellard, ext. 23412.

DIALOGUE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

- **Purpose:** Support for cancer patients, their families and friends.
- **When:** First Tuesday. 9–10:30 a.m., (Nov. 7). Third Thursday. 2–3:30 p.m. (Oct. 19).
- **Where:** 1.300 McCullough. (Radiation Oncology)
- **Contact:** Chaplain Karen Alcott, ext. 73910.

EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

- **Purpose:** A weekly confidential support group for people who have eating disorders.
- **When:** Tuesdays for 12 weeks. Began Oct. 3. Noon–1 p.m.
- **Where:** Bethel Hall Conference Room.
- **Contact:** Employee Assistance Program, ext. 22485, or fax ext. 74289. E-mail: Annette Martinez at ahmartin@utmb.edu.

WHO IS CONTRIBUTING?

“As chairman of the United Way Allocations Committee, I have found that people genuinely care about our community. I have seen first-hand that people are doing things for the right reasons. We need to continue working together in dealing with the problems of our community. To be successful we must all make the effort to become part of the solution, for me this includes donating to the United Way of Galveston.”

R. Craig Ott,
Office of Accounting

“SECC is a great way to give to my favorite charities. It is not only convenient, but I know that even my small gift will make a difference when its combined with other donations.”

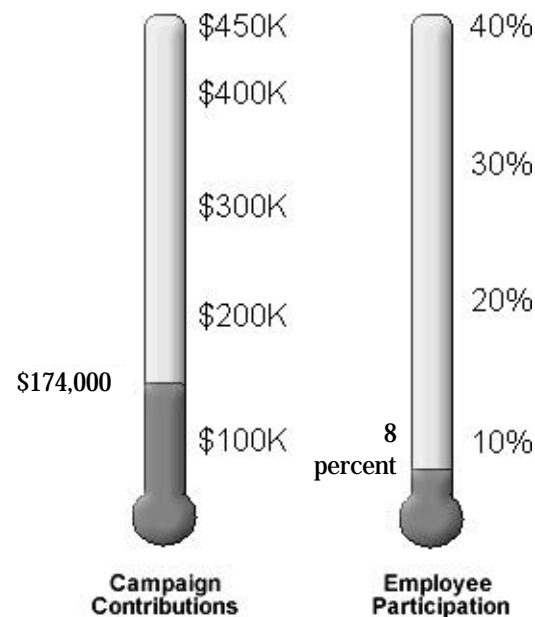
Cathy C. Nall,
Public Affairs

“Although I do contribute to charities outside of the SECC, the SECC makes it easy. I contribute to several organizations through the SECC, but I clearly have a bias toward organizations that benefit children (Big Brothers/Sisters, Boy Scouts, Feed the Children, etc). As a parent, it is hard to imagine that there are lots of kids in the world just like my own, who are without parents and go to bed hungry, etc. Also, I give generously to the ALS Association. I had the spouse of a family friend die a few years ago of ALS. He was in his mid-30s. It's an ugly disease without much research funding from our federal government.”

David M. Connaughton,
Healthcare Financial Management



SECC



A long way to go, short time to get there

Like the song says, “We have a long way to go and a short time to get there.” We’ve reached the halfway point for the 2000 State Employee Charitable Campaign. Have you made your pledge yet?

Our numbers are climbing steadily. As of Oct. 20, we were closing in on \$165,000 in campaign contributions, with about seven percent of our employees having made campaign contributions so far. Remember our goals: \$450,000 in donations with 40 percent participation from our great employees. It's a stretch goal, but we've proven in the past that we can do it. Let's lead the state again in giving, in sharing what we have with those who need it most.

While being the top state agency in con-

tributions is nice, what matters most is what our dollars mean to the organizations we fund and the people they help. Let's roll up our sleeves and not let them down. Please make time soon to show your generosity.

This year, you can make your payroll deduction donation online. Everything you need to know about making your gift electronically using this Web site is online. Visit www2.utmb.edu/secc/secure/form_steps.html for more information.

For more information, there will be a SECC pledge table set up in the cafeteria on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 25-26 to answer questions and distribute materials or visit the SECC Web site at www2.utmb.edu/secc.

WHO IS CONTRIBUTING?

“I contribute to the campaign for pretty selfish reasons. There are lots of worthwhile causes out there and, of course, many of them call at home. By spending a few minutes each year reviewing the various charities and making a conscious decision about which ones will get my money for the year, I am then quite comfortable telling the telesolicitors that I am not willing to give and throwing out all of the mail seeking donations. With the exception of some very obvious giving (like the Salvation Army and MDA Fill The Boot) and the giving I do through my church—the SECC campaign is my method of giving.”

Robin L. Thompson
UT-Med Financial Services

“The SECC is an effective way to touch the lives of those in need. Each employee has an opportunity to choose from a variety of service organizations to direct their donation to fit their personal goal for giving. The human needs throughout our community are significant. In my role as Director of Rehabilitation Services and also in my role as a member of the Galveston City Council, I see the needs and challenges facing individuals and families everyday in our community. Please complete your SECC form today and receive the personal satisfaction of knowing that you are committed to caring and making a difference in the lives of others.”

Dianna D. Puccetti,
Rehabilitation Services

UTMB reaps windfall in fund raising for 2000

By Christian Messa

Alumni, friends and foundation officials reached even deeper into their pockets to show their appreciation for UTMB by providing \$35.3 million in cash contributions in support of the university's educational, research and clinical care programs during the 2000 fiscal year, a nearly \$10 million increase over last year.

The \$35.3 million was \$17.2 million more than 1998 fiscal year gifts.

Approximately 26 percent of the \$1.1 billion UTMB budget is funded by state general revenue, while 64 percent comes from earned income. Grants and gifts generously given by foundations, corporations and individuals fund the remaining 10 percent of the budget.

The Sealy and Smith Foundation has epitomized this increased level of giving by contributing more than \$23 million during the 2000 fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31. A major UTMB supporter, the foundation increased its giving significantly over the previous year and contributed to numerous programs, including the Acute Care for Elders Unit at John Sealy Hospital, computer-enhanced robotic surgery, the Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory and the Radiology Department.

The foundation has also offered a major challenge grant to the Blocker Scholars Initiative. Named after Truman Graves



Grants help researchers structural biology, infectious diseases and other research.

Blocker Jr., the first UTMB president, the objective of the \$5 million Blocker campaign is to create a distinguished chair for the director of the M.D./Ph.D. program at UTMB and generate stipends for some of the country's most promising young physician-scientists through university and clinical student fellowships. For every \$4 raised for the initiative, the foundation will contribute \$1 to establish a Distinguished Chair in Translational Research for the M.D./Ph.D. program director.

In addition to support from the Sealy and Smith Foundation, UTMB received \$12 million in cash contributions and \$19.1 million in cash and pledges for the 2000 fiscal year. Cash contributions were up by 16 percent, while cash and pledges jumped 57 percent over the previous year.

Susan Coulter, vice president for

university advancement, said the fund-raising results are a testament to UTMB and its supporters.

"This accomplishment reflects the energy of volunteers, the generosity of many benefactors and the hard work of the faculty and staff; it's something in which each of us can take pride," Coulter said. "It demonstrates the strength of our faculty, scientific endeavors and education. In a time when the competition for philanthropic dollars is increasing, only the best programs are successful in attracting significant private support.

"UTMB's fund-raising success may be linked to our volunteers and development board as well. They've been very effective in opening doors to foundations and in championing our cause."

Coulter also lauded Dr. John D. Stobo, UTMB president, for the high priority he has placed on the importance of gaining philanthropic support and the time he has devoted to advancement activities. "The relationships he has developed with alumni, foundations and other leaders throughout the state have added greatly to our success," she said.

The following are just some examples of the many bountiful commitments made to UTMB during the 2000 fiscal year:

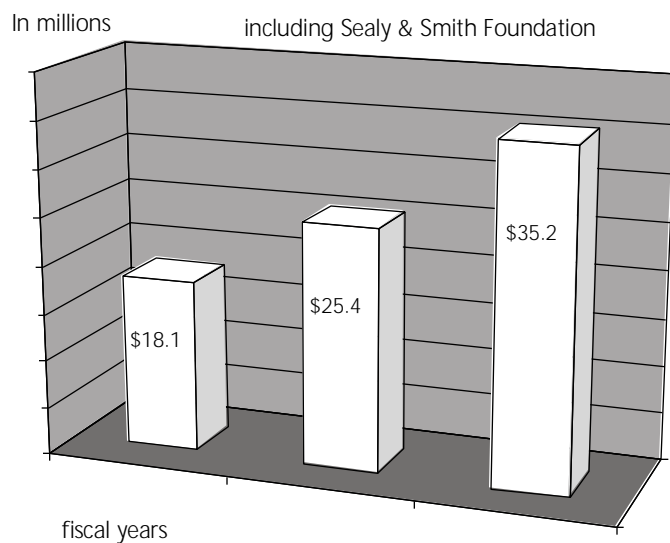
- Board members of the Nelda C. and H. J. Lucher Stark Foundation pledged

\$1.5 million for the development of the Stark Center for Excellence in Diabetes Care. Educational resources, innovative programs and increased clinical staff will be offered at the center to help patients and their physicians throughout southeast and east Texas.

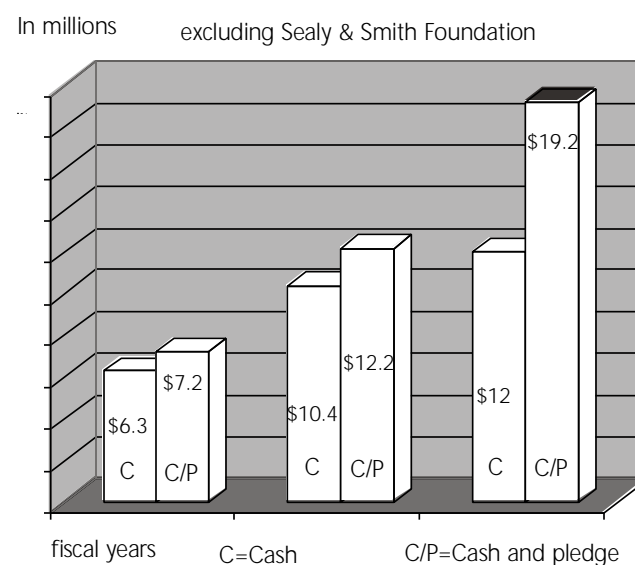
- With a \$1 million contribution, the Welch Foundation established a chair in chemistry, the second endowed chemistry position at UTMB from the foundation. UTMB is one of only three academic health science centers in the state that have two Welch chairs.
- A \$500,000 grant from the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation funded the incorporation of the tools of structural biology to bear on infectious disease research at the Center for Tropical Diseases and the Sealy Center for Structural Biology.
- Houston Endowment Inc. board members gave \$750,000 to incorporate telehealth technology into the Regional Maternal and Child Health Program. The foundation also contributed \$250,000 to the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative.
- The Moody Endowment committed \$500,000 to create the Russell Shearn Moody Distinguished Chair in Cognitive Rehabilitation.
- The Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund trustees pledged more than \$380,000 to support various programs, such as the Learning Through Community Service program in the Occupational Therapy Department and the summer science camp for Galveston County children. They also established the Fannie Kempner Adoue Distinguished Professorship in Cognitive Rehabilitation, named after the grandmother of Kempner Fund board chair Robert Lynch. The fund also contributed to support end-of-life care, the Jeane B. Kempner Fellow Fund and the Blocker Scholars Initiative.
- The M.D. Anderson Foundation committed \$280,000 to the Blocker Scholars Initiative.

For more information about contributing to UTMB, call the Office of University Advancement at ext. 23950.

UTMB TOTAL CASH GIVING



UTMB TOTAL COMMITMENTS



Human Resources unveils plan to reimburse tuition

A new program sponsored by the Department of Human Resources will help UTMB employees continue their education.

The Institutional Reimbursement Program is designed to promote life-long learning and help UTMB employees develop to their full potential.

"This is an institutional endeavor we believe will foster professional growth and development of our employees," said Dr. Kathy Shingleton, chief human resources officer. "Through this program, individuals will have the chance to obtain the skills, knowledge and abilities that may improve their opportunity for career advancement."

To be eligible for the program, employees must work full time, be benefit eligible and have completed a year of employment prior to the beginning of the classes for which reimbursement is sought.

The program benefits are as follows:

Reimbursable expenses

- Tuition
- Related fees, such as building use fee, technology fee, student services, health and insurance fees for students in health-related studies and registration fee

Non-reimbursable expenses

- Parking costs
- Late fees
- Books
- Incidental items—including those required by the instructor, such as calculators or book bags
- Travel expenses

For information, contact Frances Garcia, Organizational Training and Development, at ext. 25920.

For information via the Web, go to www.utmb.edu/policy/ihop/search/03-05-02.pdf, or for forms at www.hr.utmb.edu/hrlibrary/tuition.pdf

Introduction to Research offered on Web

By John Tyler

Through the UT TeleCampus, the Web-based distance education system of the University of Texas, Drs. Bruce Niebuhr and Rodger Marion have taken a course offered at UTMB's School of Allied Health Sciences for more than 20 years and made it available to students nationwide.

Introduction to Research, an undergraduate course in which the fundamental approach is to apply the scientific method to research in the allied health professions, has been transformed into a graduate-level course offered by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and delivered through the UT TeleCampus. The course now is available to students enrolled in the distance-learning Master of Education in Educational Technology program through UT-Brownsville.

This fall, 16 students have enrolled in the first offering of the course. The UT TeleCampus can be visited at <http://www.telecampus.utsystem.edu>.

Dr. Rita Patterson, an associate professor of orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation who was appointed to a fellowship in health informatics and computer-based education during spring 2000, helped design and develop the course.

A year ago, UTMB received \$30,000 from UT System to cover the development costs.

Niebuhr said that he feels it is inevitable UTMB will offer even more Web-based courses. However, he pointed out that much of the learning in the health professions must be hands-on. "Parts of courses can be Web-based, complementing the face-to-face, hands on interaction of the students and faculty," he said.

Introduction to Research is designed primarily for the professional needing an understanding of research and how to apply research findings to his or her profession. Students enrolled in the course pointed out numerous benefits to taking classes online.

"I believe that online curriculum is not a fad but the future of education—even at the secondary levels," said Karon Tarver, a student working on the master's degree in educational technology from home in Winnie, Texas. "The convenience of taking classes across the state is a big one. Also, it really sharpens your technology skills by allowing you to learn the technical aspects of the course as well as the content itself."

Nancy Donaldson, a student in Fort Davis, Texas, agreed that the benefits are numerous. "There is less stress involved because I do not have to conform to a schedule and be in a traditional classroom each week at a designated time," she said.

While there are conveniences to taking classes online, distance learning can present various challenges. "I think it takes a very self-motivated and self-disciplined person to complete an online



Drs. Bruce Niebuhr, left, and Rodger Marion, both of the School of Allied Health Sciences, conduct a class via live Webcast to students across the country. They now offer Introduction to Research through the UT TeleCampus. The course is now offered online at the graduate level. It has been offered at UTMB as an undergraduate course for more than 20 years.

course," Donaldson said. "I actually learn more because I am required to search for answers myself and use critical thinking skills to figure things out on my own. I think of it as 'discovery learning' and it is very exciting and satisfying to me."

Marion said he feels this process of searching for relevant learning resources adds depth to distance learning. "The upshot of this is that each student has had to learn about the resources available to them where they are," Marion said. "They have had to be creative in doing so. Thus, this course has created a real problem-solving environment, because we have not been able to tell them where to find resources—something we do easily on campus."

Marion and Niebuhr have been instrumental in utilizing new technologies at UTMB. The professors designed the Worldwide Health Information System Simulation Linkage (WHISSL) project, using a \$285,000, three-year federal grant from the Bureau of Health Professions. Marion, Niebuhr and a team of 24 international collaborators created a Web-based, fictional patient record that can be accessed anywhere in the world for instruction. The project introduces allied health, medicine and nursing students to the complexity that religion and culture frequently contribute to health care.

Marion is also working with Dr. Victor Sierpina, associate professor of family medicine, on a newly funded project to increase student's understanding and use of complementary and alternative medicine therapies. Such therapies often are associated with the patient's cultural and religious expectations for health care and so two projects complement each other. Marion said, "There is a need for synergy across school lines, and I am happy to be able to work with Dr. Sierpina and his colleagues on this new project."

Master assistants

Allied health announces new PA degree

By John Tyler

In keeping with a statewide trend among health sciences universities, the School of Allied Health Sciences has adopted a new master's degree in physician assistant studies and will begin admitting students into the program in June 2001.

The school's announcement has been met with considerable interest from across the state. "We've had to double the amount of time we're on call to meet the demand and answer potential students' questions," said Karen Stephenson, admissions coordinator. Stephenson and Robert Canales, recruitment coordinator, answer phone calls from prospective students.

According to Stephenson, every physician assistant program in Texas either offers a master's degree in the field or is in the process of transitioning to a master's-level learning track, so the change allows UTMB to offer a curriculum comparable to what is offered elsewhere in the state.

Effective immediately, the department will no longer enroll students in a bachelor's degree plan. The class graduating in August 2002 will be the last to receive a bachelor's degree in PA studies from UTMB.

SAHS officials began to consider transferring to a master's degree in physician assistant studies around five years ago, said Salah Ayachi, associate professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Because around 35 percent of the applicants for the program already have a bachelor's degree, and programs across the state are switching to a master's program, offering a master's degree at UTMB is a logical progression.

The new program will not expand in terms of required time or credits—in fact, the number of credit hours is being reduced. However, the SAHS will shift the emphasis to cover areas of study many students may not have brought with them from their undergraduate coursework.

For example, master's students will cover more evidence-based medicine and research as well as the writing and surveying of literature in the PA field. "We want our graduates to be good, intelligent consumers of medical literature," Ayachi said. "That will make them more valuable to the physicians they work with."

Numerous universities offer PA master's degrees either by mail or the Internet. Ayachi hopes the SAHS can soon tap that market as well. "Many of these students have already gone through a PA program somewhere, and the universities are honing their skills or giving them additional skills to provide them with a master's degree," he said. "We would



PA Days

Elizabeth Vu, (top photo) a student in the School of Allied Health Sciences' physician assistant program, talks with medical students Robert J. Buell and Michael Obeng during National Physician Assistant Day, Oct. 6. PA student Irene Sung, (right photo) donates blood during a blood drive that set a single-day UTMB record of 93 units of blood collected. UTMB PA students also held a free bone density screening on campus.



PAs are highly skilled medical professionals who are licensed to practice medicine with a supervising physician, delivering a broad range of medical and surgical services. They practice in almost every medical specialty.

like to be able to do that here in the near future. A good number of our own graduates have expressed an interest in a program like that."

To help handle the numerous requests for information, the SAHS has placed much of the needed information on the Web. Potential students may visit <http://www.sahs.utmb.edu/programs/pas> to learn what is required of them to enter the program and what they can expect once they are at UTMB.

"I've been associated with this program for a long time, and I feel what the students go through here is extremely hard work," Ayachi said. "After going through an advanced program like this one, it just makes sense to award them with a master's degree."

SOM STUDENT AWARDS

BLOCKER SCHOLARS

- * M.D. Anderson Foundation Blocker Scholars: Patricia Barry-Lane, Bradley Schroeder
- Minnie and Ward Savage Endowed Award: Michael Bevins, Monica Schroeder

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIPS

- Daisy Emery Allen, M.D., Endowed Scholarship: Sarah Williams
- Rose Nell Anderson and Virginia Gibson Academic Scholarship: Mark Ramirez
- Dr. Bailey R. Collins Scholarships: Chris Casso, Anselmo Garcia, Joel Grant, Lea Guess
- Evelyn S. Cowles Endowed Scholarship: Gaylyn Holstein
- Dr. and Mrs. W.R. Curtis Memorial Scholarships: Carolina Contreras, Omar Hernandez
- Fannie Epstein Memorial Scholarship: Thomas Jones II
- Lawrence Edward Ethridge, Jr. Scholarship: Mukesh Sinha
- Carlos D. Godinez, M.D. School of Medicine Scholarships: Oscar Cano, Chris Casso
- James D. Hall, M.D., Scholarship: Amanda Turner
- Walter Junius Hildebrand Scholarships: Laura Hoelting, Rebel Huffman, Joanne Johnston, Brenda Rivette, Brent Spencer
- Thomas Jefferson Holbrook Scholarship: Arpan Bhakta
- James F. Hury, Jr. Scholarship: Hussein Yamani
- Crawford and Hattie Jackson Awards for Medical Education: Lien Che, Rachelmarie Salas, Antonio Gamboa
- Antonio George Kantis Memorial Scholarship: Steven Chon
- Leah Lee Adatto-Kayem Presidential Scholarship: Robbie Fradkin
- Walter Kleberg, M.D., Memorial Award in Public Health: Michael Obeng
- William C. Levin Scholarship: Roderick Ekmark
- Curtis W. Lambert Scholarship: Gary Edward Erwin, Jr.
- Margaret E. Manning Memorial Scholarships: Jeeathbell Balbastro, Amir Hendiani, Santhi Maniam
- McMillan Family Endowed Scholarship: Tawana Smith
- Neely Family Medical Student Scholarship: Steven Chon
- W.D. and Laura Nell Nicholson Award: Filomeno Gonzalez
- Jerome O. Ravel, M.D., Endowed Scholarship: Hussein Yamani
- Henry Renfert Endowed Scholarship: Thuyen Nguyen
- Jeannette H. and William B. Roman, Jr. Presidential Scholarship: Jamie Salinas
- Ray E. Santos Scholarship: Seth Yandell
- Herbert M. Seybold, M.D., Scholarship: Shahab Hillyer
- Arthur V. Simmang Scholarships: Anthony Conley, Tran Ly
- Sjoerd Steunebrink Scholarships: Matthew Schniederjan, James Vasek
- Joseph H. Stjepceovich Endowed Scholarship: Miriam Torres
- Jon Robert Swinnea Endowed Scholarship: Thuyen Nguyen
- UTMB Medical Student Aid Endowment Scholarships: Israel Becerra, Luis De La Torre Jr., Elaine Nelson, Lieu Ngo, Mark Tran
- James M. Vaughn Competitive Academic Scholarships: Gina Bathurst, Keeli Hanzelka, Meredith Hill
- Frank William and Willie Neanza Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship: Eugenia Garcia

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI NAMED ANNUAL GIVING SCHOLARSHIPS

- Dr. Howard and Penny Burt: Gaylyn Holstein
- Cecil R. Funicella Memorial: Anthony Conley
- Drs. Dianne W. and J. Clay Sawyer: Roderick Ekmark
- Dr. and Mrs. Travis Warthan: Arpan Bhakta

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ANNUAL GIVING SCHOLARSHIPS

Maria Hernandez, Susan Hsieh, Christopher Klingenberg, Norma Magee, Loc Nguyen, Mireya Silva, Monika Thompson, Sebastian Villarreal, Michael Wanamaker, Jamie Willits, Jesus Zamora

UTMB IN THE NEWS

Here is a sample of where UTMB was recently mentioned in print, broadcast and on-line media.

Newspaper

Dr. Loree Primeau, chair of UTMB's occupational therapy program, discusses the role of occupational therapists in clinical and corporate settings and how financial changes, such as those brought about by the Balanced Budget Act, have broadened the scope of the profession (**Houston Chronicle, Aug. 6**).

Dr. Claire Hulsebosch, a UTMB professor of anatomy and neurosciences, was featured in the Sept. 7 **Houston Chronicle** about her research to find a cure for spinal cord injury.

The East Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC), with UTMB as its lead agency, received a grant of more than \$875,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The grant will be used to implement projects designed to increase access to primary health care in rural communities (**Galveston County Daily News, Aug. 14; Texas City Sun, Aug. 11; Galveston County Observer News, Aug 11, 17; Houston Chronicle, Aug. 16; Houston Business Journal, Aug. 24**).

Magazine

An Aug. 28 edition of **Newsday** cites **Dr. Robert Shope**, UTMB professor of pathology, as "a leading voice of concern about newly emerging infectious-disease threats to the United States."

Television

On Sept. 12, **Dr. William Zinser**, a UTMB pediatric neurologist, was interviewed on **KTRK-Houston (Channel 13)** about how television shows, computers and video games can trigger epileptic seizures in susceptible children.

Association magazines

In a cover story of the October **AAMC Reporter**, published by the American Association of Medical Colleges, UTMB's telemedicine program is featured.

The article, which focuses on medical care for inmates, quotes **Leon Clements**, chief administrative officer for UTMB's correctional managed care, on the benefits of the technology. He says, "We are not just saving the state of Texas money; more importantly, we have significantly increased the quality of care."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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Sept. 12

Dr. Lawrence Stanberry, chairman of UTMB's Department of Pediatrics and director of the new Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, was interviewed about a clinical study he led on a vaccine against genital herpes.



Stanberry

The first successful clinical tests of a vaccine for the disease found, surprisingly, that it was effective in women but not men. The article stated:

"Dr. Stanberry said the vaccine could prove useful in protecting young women from the genital herpes virus. To achieve the most benefit, he said doctors would probably target high-risk girls between the ages of 10 and 13, before they were likely to have been exposed to the herpes virus."

Vaccine Lowers Genital Herpes Risk in Women

By SCOTT HEVESLY
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
TORONTO—Scientists have conducted the first successful clinical tests of a vaccine against genital herpes, and found, surprisingly, that it works in women but not men.

The vaccine, being developed by **SmithKline Beecham PLC**, reduced the risk of women developing genital herpes by 75%, compared with a placebo, when their partner in a relationship was known to have the disease. In the study, about 18% of women who received the placebo developed the painful, sexually transmitted disease in a 18-month period, compared with 1.5% of women who received the vaccine. Scientists reported the results from two separate vaccine studies involving 2,700 people at a meeting of the American Society for Microbiology being held here.

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October 23, 2000

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