

CALENDAR

UTMB announces 2001 commencement schedule

President John D. Stobo will confer degrees on this year's School of Nursing graduates in a ceremony at 4 p.m. April 27 at Moody Gardens. Charlotte Wisniewski, UTMB assistant professor in nursing, will present the undergraduate address, and Jane Leonard, assistant professor in nursing, will present the graduate address.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will have its annual commencement at 10 a.m. May 12 in Levin Hall.

The school will graduate students earning master's or doctoral degrees, as well as students graduating from the combined M.D./Ph.D. program who also will receive their medical degrees at the School of Medicine commencement.

Graduates will hear remarks from recipients of the Distinguished Faculty Award, Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Distinguished Faculty Research Award.

Dr. Stanley M. Lemon, dean of medicine, will present this year's medical school candidates for graduation at 10 a.m. May 26 at Moody Gardens. The commencement speaker is Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Commencement for the School of Allied Health Sciences will be 2 p.m. Aug. 10 at Moody Gardens.

Paar to be recognized at champagne brunch

Dr. David Paar, associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and director of the UTMB AIDS Care and Clinical Research Program, will be recognized for his work in the field of HIV and AIDS at a champagne brunch benefiting the AIDS Coalition.

Paar has been a board member of the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, Inc. for seven years and president of the board for the past two years.

The luncheon is from noon to 3 p.m. April 29 at the ballroom of the San Luis Hotel, Spa and Conference Center, 5100 Seawall Blvd. The public is invited. Reservations can be made by calling Pam at (409) 763-2437.

Volunteers needed for UTMB's annual Beach Clean Up team

The 2001 Texas Beach Clean Up is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. April 28 at R.A. Apffel Park on Galveston's East Beach.

Drinks and lunch will be provided, along with a T-shirt or tote bag for all volunteers.

Volunteers should plan to wear comfortable clothing, shoes that can get wet and plenty of sunscreen. Don't forget a hat and gloves for added protection.

To volunteer for UTMB's Beach Clean Up team, call Gayle Mardis at (409) 772-5234.

IMPACT

UTMB THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

GREAT STRIDES



Christopher Raeke is a Ball High School freshman and active baseball player. He also is a 15-year-old with cystic fibrosis. Above, Jonathan and Madison Dallas play in a wagon. Madison was born with cystic fibrosis. But thanks to efforts such as the Great Strides walk, people with CF live longer, healthier lives. Christopher's and Madison's parents, both part of the UTMB family, are co-chairing this year's walk.

Cystic fibrosis cure a personal journey for members of UTMB family

BY JOHN TYLER

UTMB pediatrician and neonatologist Dara Dallas first encountered cystic fibrosis (CF) as an undergraduate student. During her sophomore year, her best friend died from the disease at the age of 21.

"That's one of the reasons I went into medicine,"

she said. "It was a very difficult time. I was so upset I couldn't help her with her problem."

That tragedy motivated her to take action against this genetic disease that affects about 30,000 children and adults in the United States.

See GREAT STRIDES on page 2

UTMB, Rice join efforts to study space biomedicine

BY ALICIA SIMMONS

UTMB's Dr. Clifford W. Houston will help to facilitate a partnership between UTMB and Rice University to develop premier student and



Houston

teacher programs that will introduce participants to biomedical sciences as they relate to space.

UTMB's Office of Educational Outreach and Diversity recently received a three-year, \$582,000 grant from the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI). The grant is distributed between UTMB and Rice to attract young student investigators and teachers to space-related enrichment programs and to promote excellence and innovation in America's science education system.

The grant is one of only six in the nation funded by the agency and one of three in Texas.

Houston, who serves as a co- See HOUSTON on page 3

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 Impact is **noon, one week prior to publication**. 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.

UTMB Fraud and Abuse Hotline

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

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

UTMB at the Grand Kids Festival

Dr. Lawrence R. Stanberry, chairman of UTMB's Department of Pediatrics, and his wife, Elizabeth, are pictured to the far right with Stacey Monroe and other volunteers from Project LAUNCH — Early Childhood Development at the sixth annual Grand Kids Festival in Galveston. The Stanberrys served as honorary co-chairs of this year's event, which attracted more than 5,000 people to downtown Galveston. To the right, Dr. Stanberry is covered with balloons after running into a balloon artist prior to the performance of "Perry Medix and the Sirens." More than 100 UTMB volunteers and their families joined the Stanberrys in participating in the events. Coordinated by the Office of Community Outreach, the UTMB Healthy Fun Tent had 18 activity booths.



GREAT STRIDES from page 1

As it turned out, the experience with her friend was preparing her for an even greater challenge.

Years later, after marrying Dr. John Dallas, another UTMB pediatrician, she came face to face with CF again. Two months after their first child, Madison, was born, the couple consistently began to notice a salty taste on her skin when they kissed her. Knowing that children and adults with CF have an increased amount of salt in their sweat, they did everything they could to think positively. They even held out hope that the salty taste originated from the soap they used to bathe her.

Ultimately, however, a sweat chloride test confirmed their worst fears.

"It was absolutely devastating at first," said John Dallas. "But, we've been blessed in that she's done pretty well so far."

Madison was diagnosed four years ago. Today, the family is committed to doing all they can to help find an end to the disease.

As co-chairs of the Great Strides walk for cystic fibrosis for the past few years, they said they greatly appreciate all the support they have received from friends and the community.

The Dallases will join Jennifer Raeke, executive assistant to the president, as co-chairs of Galveston's 2001 Great Strides fund-raising walk/run for the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The event is May 20, and begins at Palm Beach Park at Moody Gardens, One Hope Blvd. in Galveston.

Raeke's 15-year-old-son, Christopher, a

- **What:** Galveston's 2001 Great Strides fund-raising walk/run for the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
- **When:** May 20; 8 a.m. check-in, 9 a.m. walk.
- **Where:** Begins at Palm Beach Park at Moody Gardens, One Hope Blvd. in Galveston. Walkers follow a 6.2 mile course.
- **For information:** Call Dr. Dara Dallas at (409) 772-2815 or Jennifer Raeke at (409) 772-9867.

freshman at Ball High School, also has CF.

"We have been involved with the walk for many years," Raeke said. "Before we came to Galveston, we participated in the Baltimore walks for about 10 years. I'm serving as the UTMB team leader this year, and I hope we will have a big UTMB contingent out there. The Galveston walk keeps getting larger each year, and we're hoping to have at least 200 walkers participate this year."

In CF sufferers, a defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus. This abnormal mucus leads to chronic and life-threatening lung infections, as well as impairs digestion.

The presentation and severity of the disease varies and can come as a surprise to parents when there has been no known history within their families.

Currently, there is no cure. However, advances in research have caused the median age of survival to extend into the early 30s. Only 15 years ago, that median age was around 20.

The walk, which occurs nationally during

May, will continue raising research dollars. Nationally, Great Strides raises millions of dollars to fight CF. Walkers raise money by obtaining donations from friends, colleagues and family members.

"A great aspect about the walk is that 90 cents of every dollar raised goes directly toward CF research," John Dallas said. "They are very efficient in their use of the money they raise."

In Galveston, walkers will start at Moody Gardens and follow a 6.2 mile course that takes them down Seawall Boulevard and back to the starting point. Participants can walk, run, ride inline skates or ride a bicycle on the route. Volunteers also are needed to help set up, staff water stations and serve food.

The foundation will present a variety of prizes such as a handheld computerized organizer, a DVD player and a miniature stereo. The top fund-raiser in the Texas Gulf Coast area, raising in excess of \$1,000, will receive two round-trip tickets from American Airlines.

"This is always a very fun event," Raeke said. "Afterwards there is a party with a disc jockey, food and clowns for the kids. Everyone should have a great time."

Dara Dallas said she feels someday, with continued funding, a cure is possible.

"Researchers are now looking at gene therapy," she said. "However, they are most likely many years and many dollars away from a cure. That's why this walk is so important."

For information about the walk or to register, call Dara Dallas at (409) 772-2815 or Jennifer Raeke at (409) 772-9867.

'Anatomy of Anatomy' exhibit to open at medical library

"Anatomy of Anatomy," a book and traveling exhibition, documents a group of medical students during their dissection of cadavers during their gross anatomy course.

The exhibit opens April 30 with a reception from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Moody Medical Library lobby.

Author Meryl Levin, a documentary photographer with an interest in social issues related to health care, has long been intrigued by the complexities involved in the training of physicians.

In the spring of 1998, she collaborated with 11 first-year students at Cornell University who kept journals of their anatomy experience, creating an intimate and powerful exploration of the training of these doctors-to-be.

The display combines photographs of the students during the dissections with excerpts from the journals. Levin states that the project fostered introspection among the students and faculty with whom she collaborated.

In its final form, other educators and students will be able to use the documented experiences as a springboard for discussion and exploration. "Anatomy of Anatomy" encourages reflection and insight within the medical school setting, and thus stands as an important companion to traditional medical textbooks.

This project highlights both the technical and the emotional hurdles faced by those dealing daily with life and death issues.

The students' writing is candid and open, providing a narrative framework for the reader and viewer.

The book features a foreword by physician and novelist Abraham Verghese. Copies of the book will be made available to those interested at the reception.

This publication and accompanying exhibition were made possible in part by a grant from the Open Society Institute's Project on Death in America.

The UTMB Institute for the Medical Humanities also assisted in

Photojournalist Levin to discuss finding humanity of gross anatomy

BY TOM CURTIS

New York City photojournalist Meryl Levin, fellow of the Open Society Institute Project on Death in America, will be featured in a special presentation, "Finding Humanity in Gross Anatomy: Film, Photography, and Medical Education" from 2:30 p.m. to 4:15 pm. April 30 in the South Auditorium of Levin Hall.

The program, which will be moderated by James Blankenship, Ashbel Smith professor of anatomy and neurosciences, and physiology and biophysics, will include a slide presentation and readings from Levin's book *Anatomy of Anatomy*, which is based on Cornell University medical students' experiences in gross anatomy lab. Free copies of the book will be available for students.

The program also will include a screening of the film-in-progress, "Anatomy and Humanity," by Dr. Thomas R. Cole, professor in the Institute for the Medical Humanities and a fellow of the Project on Death in America.

A panel discussion follows featuring Andrew Payer, director of UTMB's Willed Body Program, assistant dean for educational affairs and associate professor of anatomy and neurosciences; Bob Harvey, retired mechanic, jack-of-all-trades and willed body donor; Jason Morrow, MD/Ph.D. candidate; and Aricelli Nora, medical student.

bringing the exhibit to the campus.

The display is open 7:30 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and noon to midnight Sunday, at the Moody Medical Library, Ninth and Market streets.

What a fiesta

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with festivities

By ALICIA SIMMONS

Bring your sombreros and spirit of fiesta May 4 to celebrate a day of Mexican culture and heritage at UTMB's annual Cinco de Mayo celebration on the Moody Medical Library Plaza.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., hear music by the San Jacinto Grupe Folklorico and Mike Flores, and watch the dance steps of San Jacinto Elementary School students.

Sponsored by the UTMB Office of Equal Opportunity, the event is designed to educate people about the rich cultural contributions of Mexico to this country.

Cinco de Mayo marks the victory of the Mexican army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the battle came to symbolize Mexican unity and patriotism.

The event is free and open to the public. Authentic Mexican foods will be served for a charge. For information, call Tino Gonzalez in UTMB's Office of Equal Opportunity, at (409) 772-1463.

HOUSTON from page 1

principle investigator on the grant along with Dr. Roland B. Smith, associate provost at Rice, said this project is a unique, collaborative partnership dedicated to furthering NSBRI's mission to communicate the significance of space life sciences and microgravity technology to local and national audiences.

"We want to disseminate the biomedical knowledge gained through the research program to the classroom and the community," said Houston, associate vice president for educational outreach.

This collaboration will provide students and teachers access to a wealth of research information through hands-on experiences and relationships with UTMB and Rice faculty.

Through this program, UTMB's scientific community will play an integral role in enhancing the knowledge that teachers

and pre-college students have about science, and in encouraging students to pursue careers in science.

The primary objectives of the outreach program include training and preparing teachers with knowledge and experience in space biomedical research; facilitating the development of a new generation of space medical researchers; and supporting the development of research in space medicine in the United States.

The outreach program is divided into two main components with Rice facilitating the teacher programs and UTMB facilitating the student programs.

Twelve students in grades 10 to 12 will conduct research with faculty in UTMB and Rice labs from June through August. Participants will gain knowledge, through hands-on laboratory exercises and problem-solving activities, about bone and muscular skeletal loss, integrat-

ed human function, immunology, infection, hematology, neurovestibular adaptation and technology.

Students will visit the Johnson Space Center to meet astronauts and NASA researchers.

They will attend workshops on such topics as ethics and understanding the principles scientists need to conduct research.

The program also is concerned with the effects of the space environment (including radiation) on humans, and the biomedical and bioengineering systems required to sustain humans in space, particularly for long periods.

"Strategically if we can create life stations in space, another planet or the moon, it would allow us to be able to monitor weather patterns and study pollution," Houston said. "Research on space exploration would also strengthen telecommu-

nications and military defense.

"The whole idea is to make a better life on Earth through studying outer space," he said. "These are challenges that we must address and get our young people interested in if we are to remain competitive world leaders and prepare a future workforce in the sciences."

As part of the program, about 20 secondary science teachers will enhance their knowledge this summer during an intensive, two-week session.

Activities include interactive discussions with biomedical researchers and hands-on research experience performed on existing NASA educational modules.

"I think it is going to benefit both institutions in ways not envisioned at this point," Houston said. "It will probably spur opportunities for additional activities far beyond the scope of this grant. The potential is there."

RENEWED VISION

During the past year, numerous appointments and personnel changes have given UTMB's School of Medicine a new look and renewed vision for its future. Several of the newly appointed SOM members recently took time to share goals for their new posts, as well as for the school as a whole. *Impact* and Dr. Stanley M. Lemon, dean of medicine, would like to take this opportunity to give you a taste of the vision each new appointee brings to Texas' oldest medical school.

DR. LINDA PHILLIPS
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

"My goal is to realize improved communication within the School of Medicine, with specific focus on faculty-administrative interchange and education. I intend to create a structure for faculty development and recognition which will allow each faculty member to achieve his or her full potential, making the University of Texas Medical Branch a more nurturing, creative, and vibrant environment in which we can practice medicine."



DR. HARVEY BUNCE
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
ADMINISTRATION

"My desire is to work with Dr. Lemon and my colleagues in the Office of the Dean of Medicine to ensure that UTMB's School of Medicine is well recognized and highly respected by students, physicians, scientists and the general public. Such recognition and respect would emanate from up-to-date, challenging educational programs for medical students and residents; a rich, well-equipped environment for basic, translational and clinical research; and a dedicated, comprehensive group of health care practitioners serving the primary care and specialty care needs of the citizens of Texas."



DR. STEVEN A. LIEBERMAN
ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

"American medical education is undergoing its most dramatic changes in a century. The pace of scientific discovery, the dawn of genomic medicine, the changing health care needs of society, and patients' access to medical information require tomorrow's physicians to be equipped with an enthusiasm for science, technological and interpersonal skills, and accountability unimagined a generation ago. I look forward to the continued evolution of our educational program while building upon UTMB's reputation as a national leader in medical education research and development."



ELIZABETH LIVAUDAIS
ASSISTANT TO THE
DEAN OF MEDICINE

"My vision is to help the Office of the Dean of Medicine remain a positive resource not only for the School of Medicine but the campus as a whole. My goals are to be a mentor for our staff, to be an extra hand for our deans, to enjoy what I do, and to bring to my job the absolute best I can be."



**DR. THOMAS
BLACKWELL**
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE
MEDICAL EDUCATION

"My goal is to improve the training environment for all house staff at UTMB. I also wish to work with the program directors to help them attract the best possible candidates for residency training at UTMB. Attracting better resident candidates translates to better physicians at the end of their training and better care for our patients."



DR. DONALD PROUGH,
INTERIM SENIOR ASSOCIATE
DEAN FOR FACULTY PRACTICE

"First, I want to work with the Group Practice Council to improve the ease with which patients can access the outpatient clinic system at UTMB. Second, I want to improve the support provided for faculty physicians in the clinics so that they can improve their productivity."



DR. CECILIA M. ROMERO
ASSOCIATE DEAN
FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ADMISSIONS,
AD INTERIM

"My vision for the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions is to continue to recruit and admit the best medical school applicants who will reflect a student body that will deliver the best health care for the population of Texas. And once they are enrolled, I will strive to provide a nurturing environment to support the students in all aspects, to include academic, personal, and career counseling and planning, which will result in their becoming successful people and physicians."

ON CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

Evers elected president of the Society of University Surgeons

BY CATHY C. NALL

Dr. Mark B. Evers recently was elected president of the Society of University Surgeons. Evers holds the Robertson-Poth Distinguished Chair in the Department of Surgery.

The society, founded in 1939, is dedicated to the advancement of the art and science of surgery, the pursuit of original clinical and laboratory research, and the free and informal exchange of ideas. Admission to the society is based on a physician's clinical and basic research, teaching and publication in professional scientific journals.



Evers

As president, Evers will preside over the more than 1,500 university surgeons from the United States and Canada who belong to the society.

"Our objective is to help young academic surgeons achieve their overall academic goals," Evers

said. "We do this by providing a forum for surgeons to present their most recent findings detailing clinical innovations and basic science research. In addition, the society interfaces with other organizations to garner research funds for talented junior faculty and surgical residents so that they can pursue their research initiatives, which ultimately will benefit our surgical patients."

Evers noted he also is interested in making the society a more global organization.

"We already interact with five sister societies in the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, Japan and South Africa," he said.

The society is continuing to strengthen those ties by including foreign societies in the next annual meeting in February 2002 in Honolulu, Hawaii, where the Japanese and Australian societies will present papers.

"I believe this will help make it truly an international event," he said.

Dr. Courtney M. Townsend Jr., John Woods Harris Distinguished Chairman of the UTMB Department of Surgery, said Evers' election was quite an honor.

"Dr. Evers is an outstanding surgeon, scientist and scholar," Townsend said. "He is also a role model for all academic surgeons."

Another UTMB faculty member, Dr. David N. Herndon, was president for the society for the 1993-94 term. Herndon holds the Jesse H. Jones Distinguished Chair in Burn Surgery and is chief of staff for Shriners Burns Hospitals.



Flexible Option nursing students Louisa Ikpeama and Renee Mills conduct a health assessment on Juanita Millsap, a volunteer "patient." The nurses, who are studying for their baccalaureate degrees, recently practiced their history taking and physical assessment skills on volunteers from Galveston and surrounding communities. Millsap came from Oklahoma City to participate in the daylong event. Inviting volunteers to assist students in their learning is a tradition in the School of Nursing fostered by faculty members Drs. Linda Hughes and Donna Morris.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Junior Volunteer Program recruiting new applicants

UTMB's Volunteer Services Department is accepting applications for its 2001 Summer Junior Volunteer Program.

Whether serving complimentary beverages to patients and guests in waiting rooms, participating in creative activities with hospitalized children, or assisting with various clerical duties, Junior Volunteers provide numerous, invaluable services to UTMB hospitals and clinics within Galveston County.

Junior Volunteers work through June and July. Applicants must be at least 14. Selection is based on a telephone interview and school recommendation.

Applications can be picked up in the Volunteer Services office, Room 1.308 of the John Sealy Annex. The deadline is May 4. For information, call (409) 772-2549.

UTMB combines School-to-Work, Summer Hire programs

UTMB is combining its Summer Hire and School-to-Work programs to create the UTMB School-to-Work Program.

The School-to-Work Program is a 12-month program for high school and college students ages 17 to 22. It will give students a working foundation in a health care setting through job shadowing. It will help students decide whether to pursue a career in the health care or academic industries.

Each department is being asked to help fund students this year. If you are interested in hiring students or need additional information, call Dorothy Franklin at (409) 747-4802.

New, slightly used children's books sought for reading program

The Reach Out and Read program is collecting new and slightly used children's books for its reading program in the pediatric clinics.

The Reach Out and Read program makes early literacy part of primary care. Under the program, the pediatric providers are trained to counsel parents about the importance of reading to young children and are taught age-appropriate tips and encouragement.

Additionally, a new book is given to each child 6 months to 5 years old who is seen for a well-child visit. Children who are read to in the pre-school years tend to develop better reading skills, and the early familiarity with books facilitates primary and secondary school performance. Being read to and learning to read is an important gateway to participating in all the benefits society offers. If you have books to donate, drop them by the Primary Care Pavilion, Suite 201, or call Mary Whitby at (409) 772-6283.

Intramural Grants and Fellowship office moves

The Intramural Grants and Fellowship Office, which includes the John Sealy Memorial Endowment Fund for Biomedical Research and the McLaughlin Fellowship Fund, has moved. The new address is Gail Borden, Room 166, Route Number 0122. The new fax number is 772-2471.

If you have any questions regarding this information please contact Tresha Goldsmith (772-2574) or Rebecca Ray (772-2470).

Committee seeks applications for President's Cabinet Awards

The President's Cabinet Awards Committee seeks applications for President's Cabinet Awards, with proposals for support of up to \$50,000 being accepted.

Proposals should focus on ways to Create a Caring Environment at UTMB.

A caring environment is centered around those systems, protocols, and partnerships that put the people UTMB serves first and that stress compassionate care and service.

Applications are available at the Office of University Advancement, Administration Building, Suite 3.110 or online at

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ON CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

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www.utmb.edu/cabinet. For information, call (409) 772-3951.

Free skin cancer screening at Family HealthCare Clinic

The UTMB Department of Dermatology will offer a free skin cancer screening from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 19 at the Family HealthCare Clinic, 3828 Ave. N. No appointment is necessary.

UTMB dermatologists will check anyone for cancerous or pre-cancerous growths, and patients who require further attention will be referred to their own physicians for follow-up care. The clinic will provide sunscreen samples, a list of dermatologists who practice in the Galveston/Houston area, and literature on how to spot suspicious skin growths.

For information, call Donna Johnson at (409) 772-9353 or (409) 772-1911.

Houston commuters can save money with Vanpool

The Houston Vanpool has an immediate opening for someone working 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.. This van serves central Houston with stops at the West Loop and Hobby Airport areas. Relax while someone else drives and delivers you right to campus. You can save money and aggravation. For information, call Bob Ford at (409) 747-5876.

Discount tickets now available at campus bookstore, gift shop

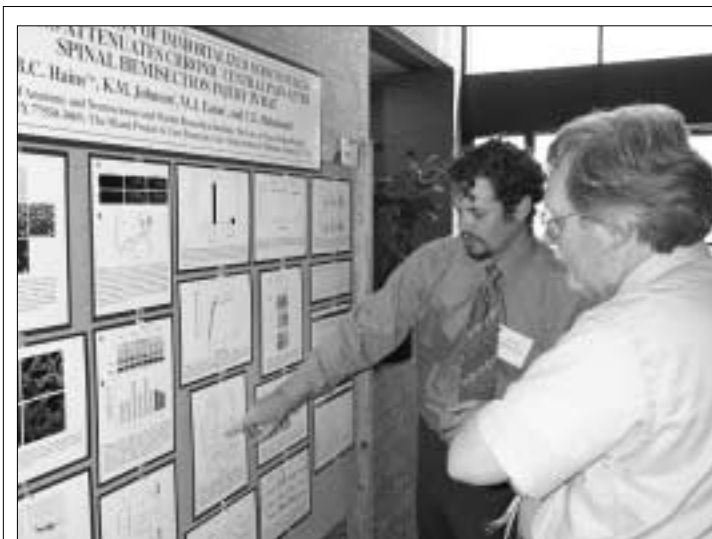
The UTMB Bookstore in the Gail Borden Building and the Gift Shop in John Sealy Hospital now sell discount tickets to Galveston Premiere Cinema and to Fiesta Texas. Galveston Premiere Cinema tickets are \$3.70 each plus tax. Fiesta Texas tickets are \$23 each plus tax.

OF NOTE

In January, **Michelle Baehl**, director of recruitment in human resources, received the 2000 Human Resources Innovative Practice Award (Institutions of Higher Education Category) for her work on executive search services at UTMB. The award was presented by the Texas State Human Resources Association and the Personnel Administrators of Texas Senior Colleges and Universities and by the Texas State Auditor's Office.

Christie Mounts (Center for Telehealth and Distance Education) was co-chair of the Telehealth Track at the recent "2001: A Learning Odyssey" for the Texas Distance Learning Association.

The 4th annual conference was March 28-31 in Houston. UTMB staff who presented at the conference were: **Dr. Wendi M. Hirsh**



Bryan Hains, UTMB graduate student, explains his research project to Dr. Gerald A. Campbell, UTMB associate professor who served as a judge at the National Student Research Forum, April 5-7. Hains' project focused on how bio-engineered cells boost mobility and seem to relieve pain in animals with spinal cord injuries. Pictured at left is Dr. George Weinstock, professor and co-director of the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Center. As the Abreu Memorial Keynote Address speaker at the National Student Research Forum, Weinstock discussed "The Genomics Revolution: From Microbes to Man." NSRF, now in its 42nd year, is organized and run by students for the discussion of student research papers in a scientific atmosphere. It affords young scientific investigators one of their major opportunities to participate in a scientific meeting. The first forum was in 1960 at UTMB and included participants from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee. This year, the forum attracted about 100 students from 40 medical schools and hospitals throughout the United States, Canada and the Republic of Georgia.

(Pediatric Special Services Division) and **Dr. Dru Copeland** (Pediatric Special Services Division), **Shannon Clifton** (Center for Telehealth and Distance Education), **Bob Joyce** (Office of Educational Development) and **Cynthia A. Martine** (Clinical Laboratory Sciences, SAHS), **Dr. Bruce Niebuhr** (School of Allied Health Sciences) and **Barbara Lyons** (Physician Assistant Studies, SAHS), **Dr. Vicki Freeman** (School of Allied Health Sciences), **Bill Zundel** (Clinical Laboratory Sciences, SAHS), **Chantele Singleton** (Clinical Laboratory Sciences, SAHS), **Mary Donna Piazza** (Medical Library), **Dr. Jon Nilsestuen** (Respiratory Care), **Marilyn Childres** (Respiratory Care) and **Wendy Arneson** (Clinical Laboratory Sciences, SAHS).

Christie Mounts (Center for Telehealth and Distance Education) was co-chair of the Texas

Association of Vocational Nurse Educators TAVNE conference April 4-6 in Galveston. She was assisted by **Rosey Ruiz** (Office of University Advancement).

The following UTMB staff presented at the conference: **Dr. Oscar Boultinghouse** (Center for Telehealth and Distance Education), **Dr. Poldi Tschirch** (School of Nursing), **Mary Wainwright** (East Texas Area Health Education Center), and **Katie Matlack Winslade** (Work School Programs). **Dr. Karen Sexton** (Chief Operating Officer) and **Dr. Jeanette Hartshorn** (School of Nursing) welcomed conference attendees to UTMB. Conference attendees toured UTMB.

Michael Wonio (pathology/research) is to appear in the upcoming Strand Theater



UTMB President John D. Stobo reads the scissors to cut the ribbon at the recent ceremony commemorating the newly formed partnership between UTMB's Recruitment Office and Gulf Coast Careers. Joining him are, from left to right, Kathy Shingleton, UTMB chief human resources officer; Carol Mitchener, grants director for Gulf Coast Careers; and Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough.

UTMB to present NIH conference

Medical professionals from across the country will be in Galveston May 1-3 to discuss health disparities among minority women.

The discussions will be part of the National Institutes of Health conference "Eliminating Health Disparities Among Minority Women," convened by UTMB's **Dr. Martha Hargraves**, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

The conference, which is being presented by UTMB, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Office of Continuing Medical Education, will concentrate on the needs of women of color living in rural or small urban communities.

Nationally recognized experts will address such topics as barriers to health, the effect of race on health, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, violence, community research with women, spirituality and health, and cardiovascular disease.

production of William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Picnic," opening April 27 at the theater, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row in Galveston. On the same date in 1948, the Galveston Little Theater, under the presidency of **Howard G. Swann** (UTMB-Physiology), produced the world premiere of that play under the original title "Front Porch." For information about the play, call (409) 763-4591.

UTMB IN THE NEWS

●
UTMB researchers **Dr. Glenn V. Ostir, Dr. Kyriakos S. Markides, Dr. M. Kristen Peek** and **Dr. James S. Goodwin** authored a study published in the journal *Psychosomatic Medicine* that concluded having an optimistic outlook can protect older people against stroke ("Good Morning America," ABC-TV, March 22; **Galveston County Daily News**, March 28).

●
Dr. William Thornton, UTMB professor of cardiology and former astronaut, has devised an inexpensive tool using CD technology to teach medical students how to more effectively listen to the heart through a stethoscope (**KHOU-TV**, Houston, March 15).

●
Holland America's newest cruise ship, the 1,380-passenger *Amsterdam*, has been outfitted with **MedServe**, a system that will allow the ship's on-board physicians to seek expert second opinions from UTMB physicians via telemedicine.

A cruise ship spokesperson says the system will lessen the chances of passengers having to disembark unexpectedly in a foreign country and that UTMB was chosen for the collaboration because it does more telemedicine than any other medical center in the United States (**Toronto Star**, March 10).

●
UTMB was named one of the **100 Top Hospitals Intensive Care Units** in an independent study by the Solucient Leadership Institute. It was the only teaching hospital in Texas to receive the distinction (**Texas City Sun, Galveston County Daily News**, March 14).

●
Dr. Harold Y. Vanderpool, professor at UTMB's Institute for the Medical Humanities, has been appointed by the U.S. secretary of health and human services to a four-year term as chairman of an advisory committee on the transplantation of living animal cells, tissues and organs into humans (**Galveston Fax**, March 8; **Galveston County Daily News**, March 13; **Houston Chronicle**, March 28).

●
UTMB alumnus **Dr. Herman Koester** and his wife Catherine have pledged a major gift that completes the \$1.25 million fund-raising campaign to boost the university's research in the rehabilitation of stroke and brain injury survivors (**Houston Chronicle**, March 14).

●
UTMB was profiled in **Transactions**, the magazine of

Schlumberger, regarding the university's decision to seek an outside partner to provide IT infrastructure support. **Tom Epley**, UTMB's information services manager, said that using an outsourcer saves UTMB time and money and allows it to focus on its core missions of education, patient care and research (**Transactions**, First quarter 2001 issue).

●
UTMB certified nurse midwife **Diane Shriver** discusses the gratification she takes from her job in working with women to deliver healthy babies and then providing follow-up care for the newborns and moms. From 80 to 100 babies are born at UTMB each month (**Galveston County Daily News**, March 18).

●
The seventh annual **Galveston County Health Fair**, sponsored by UTMB students, provided fun activities and health screenings and information to the community (**Galveston County Daily News**, March 25; advance publicity, March 12).

●
This year's San Luis Salute, hosted by **Tilman and Paige Fertitta**, benefited **UTMB's newborn nursery** (**Galveston County Daily News**, March 4).

IMPACT

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