

CALENDAR

Surplus materials, supplies to be auctioned May 11

UTMB will have a public surplus auction at 9 a.m. May 11 at the warehouse facility beneath Supply Management at 14th Street between Mechanic and Strand.

Credit cards will be accepted. The auction preview is 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 10.

For information, call (409) 772-5339 or (409) 772-5304.

Hearing screenings to be offered during May

During May, National Better Hearing and Speech Month, a limited number of free hearing screenings will be offered to UTMB employees or one immediate family member.

Children must be at least 5 years old to participate.

For information or to schedule a hearing screening, call the UTMB Center for Audiology & Speech Pathology at (409) 772-7383.

Free skin cancer screenings available at Galveston 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 Health Care Clinic, 3828 Ave. N in Galveston. No appointment is necessary.

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

INSIDE



The School of Nursing graduates received their pins and diplomas on April 27. See Page 2 for complete coverage of the ceremony.

Commencement reminders

- **The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**—10 a.m. May 12, Levin Hall.
- **School of Medicine**—10 a.m. May 26, Moody Gardens Convention Center, One Hope Blvd., Galveston. Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, is the commencement speaker.

IMPACT

UTMB THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

NURSING THE PROBLEM



UTMB nurse Michelle Selvera checks the IV of patient Brandi Sawyer. Selvera started at UTMB as a secretary in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences during the late 1980s. Today, because of the university's Work School Program, she has a master's degree in nursing. The program allows UTMB to address the critical nursing shortage by providing employees funds for tuition and books, while giving them time off for classes during normal work hours.

Work School Program offers one solution to nursing shortage

BY JOHN TYLER

In the 1980s, Michelle Selvera joined UTMB as a secretary in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Then she saw a notice in the UTMB newsletter for the university's Work School Program.

As a result, today she has a master's degree in nursing.

"I had wanted to be a nurse for years, and when

I heard about this program I thought, "This is perfect." This was exactly what I needed. The program has changed my life dramatically."

The Texas Workforce Commission has awarded the Gulf Coast Workforce Board a grant to expand the UTMB model for enabling existing hospital staff to pursue careers in the nursing

See SCHOOL WORK on page 12

Symposium to discuss human protein map

By TOM CURTIS

After last summer's release of a rough draft of the human genome—the library of 30,000 genes that contain the instruction manual for making the proteins that create human life—what's next for "Big Science?"

The answer, many scientists believe, is a "Human Proteome Project" to figure out the structure, function and interaction of what may be as many as a million of these proteins encoded by the genes—proteins which are the machines that make the human body work.

All drugs target proteins, and mistakes in forming proteins cause diseases ranging from Alzheimer's to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, which is a human version of mad cow disease. Understanding such proteins and how they go awry may pave the way to cure those and many other maladies. Indeed, the genome project may come to be seen as the prelude and the proteome project as the symphony.

"The Human Genome Project was comparatively easy," said Dr. David Gorenstein, director of UTMB's Sealy Center for Structural Biology and professor of human biology chemistry and genetics. "It's going to take the next hun-

See SYMPOSIUM on page 4

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 May 21 issue of *Impact* is noon, May 11. 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.

SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATION



School of Nursing graduates congratulate each other before the 114th annual commencement at Moody Gardens.

New nurses to pursue excellence in workforce

BY ALICIA SIMMONS

The School of Nursing awarded bachelor's and master's degrees to 219 graduates at the 114th annual commencement on April 27 at Moody Gardens.

UTMB's School of Nursing, established in 1890, was the first nursing school in the state of Texas and among the first in the country.

UTMB offers an undergraduate program leading to a bachelor of science degree in nursing and graduate programs leading to master of science and doctoral degrees in nursing.

Since its founding, the school has graduated more than 6,300 people. Most School of Nursing graduates practice in Texas.

The commencement ceremony began with a musical prelude by the Chamber Brass Quartet.

Members of the UTMB faculty, administration and graduating class led the commencement procession. UTMB President John D. Stobo presided over the ceremony.

Dr. Charlotte Wisnewski, UTMB assistant professor of nursing, delivered the undergraduate commencement speech, discussing nursing excellence in action.

"I salute you as you now embark on your journey in life as a graduate nurse," she



Elizabeth Williams and Nelly Ndukwe congratulate each other following their graduation from the School of Nursing. Both received their bachelor's degrees in nursing from the school.

said. "I now issue you a higher challenge, and that is to the pursuit of excellence. I define nursing excellence as performing to the highest standard in every situation in which the nurse finds himself or herself."

See NURSING GRADUATION on page 3



Karen Hand, assistant professor of nursing, carries the university mace at the School of Nursing graduation. The mace used in the commencement procession is entrusted to the care of the faculty class sponsor. The mace bears the seal of the University of Texas to signify the power and authority vested in the institution.

SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATION



Dr. Jeanette Hartshorn, right, presents the Leadership Award to Maria Mack at the 114th commencement ceremonies for the School of Nursing. Mack received her bachelor's degree in nursing at the ceremony, which was April 27 at Moody Gardens in Galveston.



Dr. Jeanette Hartshorn, right, presents the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges award to Elizabeth Palmer at the School of Nursing graduation. Palmer received her bachelor's degree in nursing at the ceremony.



Dr. Jeanette Hartshorn, left, and Dr. Cheryl Day, right, present Dr. Sandra Oliver the Rebecca Sealy Distinguished Nurse Alumna Award at the School of Nursing graduation. Oliver is a research facilitator at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas.

NURSING GRADUATION from page 2

Wisniewski said that the excellent nurse displays characteristics that she termed the "Four C's of Excellence:" Compassion, caring, competence and communication. She added that the caring nurse is the "heart of health care," and is serious about protecting patients and shows real concern for them.

These nurses excel in being patient advocates.

Following the undergraduate address, Stobo conferred degrees to the Class of 2001.

Jane A. Leonard, assistant professor of nursing, delivered the graduate commencement address.

"Now that you've finished this educational endeavor and have worked on your professional goals, I'd like you to stop for a moment, pause and remember what is important in life and what defines success," Leonard said.

Offering words of wisdom, Leonard cited a poem by Harry Emerson Fosdick. "The definition of a successful life is to laugh often and much, to win the respect of

The caring nurse is the "heart of health care."

Dr. Charlotte Wisniewski
UTMB assistant professor of nursing

intelligent people...to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition, to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived."

Among the highlights of the program was the announcement of special awards by Dr. Jeannette Hartshorn, UTMB nursing school professor and associate dean for academic administration.

Hartshorn presented the Rebecca Sealy Distinguished Nurse Alumna Award to Dr. Sandra Oliver, continuing a tradition of honoring outstanding School of Nursing alumni for excellence in the areas of clinical practice, education, administration, organizational work involving health care, or innovation in health care delivery systems.

Oliver has been employed at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple,

Texas, since 1986, where she has been an active research facilitator for professionals in both nursing and allied health.

In addition, she is the Temple site coordinator for the graduate nursing program of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC).

She also is an assistant professor for the Texas A&M University College of Medicine and works collaboratively with Texas Woman's University to offer its doctoral nursing program via distance education technology to students at Scott & White.

She helped initiate the first collaborative neonatal nurse practitioner program in central Texas among UTMB, Scott & White and TAMUCC.

Patricia Davis Blair, assistant to the dean for student initiatives and director of UTMB's Center for Nursing Ethics, Law & Policy, recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge, the nursing profession's equivalent to physicians' pledge of ethical behavior, the Hippocratic Oath.

A reception followed in the dining room of the convention center.

SCHOOL OF NURSING 2001 AWARD WINNERS

Rebecca Sealy Distinguished Nurse Alumna Award
Dr. Sandra Oliver

Dean's Award for Scholarship
Michelle L. Collins
Marilyn F. Martin
Rebekah L. Richard
Shelley M. Shields
D'Nae N. Weaver
Jennifer L. Whitson

Clinical Excellence Award
Jennifer L. Whitson

Leadership Awards
Maria A. Mack
Rebecca Michels
Melissa C. Torres

Outstanding Student Awards
Jennifer L. Whitson
Melina Keel

Community Service Awards
Jennifer L. Whitson
Rebecca Michels

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Patricia H. Bumgarner
Michelle A. Chapman
Brenda J. Cole
Carl A. Dvorak
Jonathan R. Harraid
Nora J. James
Melina Keel
Rebecca Michels
Elizabeth M. Palmer
Melissa C. Torres
D'Nae N. Weaver
Jennifer L. Whitson

Mary Beth Lott Upchurch Award
Rebecca Michels

University of Texas Student Nurses Association Award for Excellence
Melissa C. Torres

Mary and William McGanity Awards for Maternal and Neonatal Health
Jennifer L. Chappell
Miatha R. Johnson

Special Town Meeting planned to celebrate the UTMB spirit

- **What:** Special Town Meeting.
- **When:** 12:15 p.m. May 17.
- **Where:** UTMB Levin Hall auditorium. Simulcast at the Support Staff Conference. Aired on Channel 51 and all remote TV systems

On May 17, President John Stobo and Dr. Joan Richardson will co-host a special Town Meeting to celebrate the UTMB spirit.

Guests at the meeting will get the first glimpse of UTMB's new look and learn about a unifying way of thinking and talk-

ing about ourselves.

The special town meeting is set for 12:15 p.m. May 17 in the Levin Hall Main Auditorium. After the meeting, a free lunch will be served on the Moody Medical Library Plaza.

The meeting will be simulcast live at the

Support Staff Conference at Moody Gardens, and it will be broadcast live on Channel 51 and all remote TV systems.

Details about the event can be found online at the iUTMB site.

Watch future issues of *Impact* for complete details about the new look.

SYMPOSIUM from page 1

dred years for us to complete the Human Proteome Project."

While today the proteome project is just a gleam in researchers' eyes rather than an officially sanctioned effort, a number of internationally acclaimed basic scientists already are addressing its aim—to understand and interpret the structure and function of proteins and how they relate to each other.

May 18–20, more than 200 researchers will be discussing their work and that of other seminal scientists at the sixth annual Structural Biology Symposium at UTMB's Levin Hall main auditorium. The presentations are open to interested UTMB faculty, staff and students.

The conference, which is being hosted by the UTMB's Sealy Center for Structural Biology and Human Biology Chemistry and Genetics, is jointly sponsored by the recently enlarged W.M. Keck Center for Computational Biology, a consortium of UTMB, Baylor College of Medicine, Rice University, the University of Houston, the University of Texas Health Science Center–Houston and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The Keck Center was designed to bridge the gap between biology and computer science by fostering collaborations among biologists, biomedical researchers and computer scientists through specially designed research and training programs. Like its five predecessors, the conference is funded largely by the Sealy & Smith Foundation of Galveston.

Speakers at the symposium will examine everything from how molecular machines synthesize proteins, how they fold to achieve their functions or mis-fold sometimes causing disease, and how they communicate with each other to achieve cellular function.

The keynote speaker is Arthur Horwich of the Yale School of Medicine and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. From 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. May 18, he will dis-

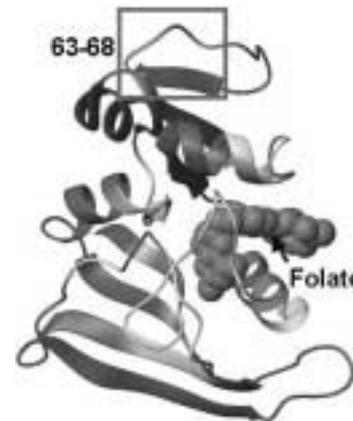
cuss "The Chaperonin Reaction," looking inside the protein-producing machinery of the cell, specifically at the elements called chaperone proteins and the role they play in enabling proteins to fold in particular ways.

An important class of proteins—about one-third of all those known—are called membrane proteins. These are the gateways that regulate the flow of nutrients into the cells, let out wastes, communicate between cells and relay the messages that support life and trigger death. About half of all therapeutic drugs target these proteins, but science understands very little about their structure and function.

Stephen White of the University of California at Irvine aims to elucidate that subject when he speaks from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. May 19 about "A Structural and Thermodynamic Framework for Membrane Protein Folding."

Subsequently, from 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m., Robert M. Stroud of the University of California at San Francisco will discuss the structure of a new membrane protein that has excited researchers because it lets them understand how protein channels are structured and how cells communicate outside themselves. That talk is titled "Structure of Glycerol Conducting Channel and the Basis for Its Selectivity."

"The Holy Grail in structural biology is to be able to use computers to predict the structure and function of proteins rather than using experimental methods alone such as X-ray or NMR (nuclear magnetic



A statistical view of proteins, developed by UTMB researcher and presenter at the symposium Dr. V.J. Hilser, reveals the role of flexibility in biological function. This figure shows how the binding at one site affects the flexibility throughout the protein.

resonance) to solve the three-dimensional structure," said Dr. David Gorenstein, who helped co-chairs Dr. Robert Fox and Dr. Bruce Luxon organize the conference.

Several talks will deal with how to predict the folds of proteins from the gene sequences determined by the Human Genome Project. This ability may let scientists understand the function of proteins and how to fix them when something goes wrong causing disease.

Patricia Jennings of the University of California at San Diego will speak from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. May 19 about "Investigation of the Folding of a Beta-trefoil Protein: an Integrated Computational/Experimental Approach." From 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., William Eaton of the National Institutes of Health will discuss "Fast Kinetics and Mechanisms in Protein Folding."

From 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Saturday, UTMB researcher Vince Hilser's will discuss "An Ensemble-Based Approach to Protein Fold Recognition." From 2:15 p.m. to 3 p.m., Montgomery Pettitt of the University of Houston addresses "Solvation versus Hydration of Macromolecules: Theory and Experiment."

One subject that has intrigued researchers is how proteins talk to each other to create new functions within the cell. From 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Elizabeth Goldsmith of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas will examine "Conformational

- **What:** Sixth annual Structural Biology Symposium, hosted by the UTMB Sealy Center for Structural Biology and Human Biology Chemistry and Genetics, and jointly sponsored by the W.M. Keck Center for Computational Biology.

- **When:** May 18–20.

- **Where:** Levin Hall main auditorium.

- **Details:** Presentations are open to all UTMB faculty, staff and students.

Changes in Serpins." Following that presentation, Rick Dahlquist of the University of Oregon will speak on "A Structural and Dynamic View of Decision-Making by Bacteria."

On Sunday, Dr. Robert T. Sauer of MIT speaks from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. about "Evolution of a Protein Fold in Vitro." From 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., David Baker of the University of Washington addresses "Prediction and Design of Protein Structures and Folding Mechanisms."

Two of the highlights of the conference appear last. John Moulton of the University of Maryland at Rockville explores the new field of structural genomics in the talk "Completeness in Structural Genomics," which occurs from 10:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sunday.

And Peter Moore of Yale University will talk about the detailed atomic arrangement of the biggest cellular structure ever visualized at this resolution, the protein-making machine called the ribosome, and how it synthesizes protein. His presentation, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., is called "Structure and Function in the Large Ribosomal Subunit."

"I think we're at the same stage of discovery in structural biology as physics was at the turn of the last century," Gorenstein said. "Then you had development of quantum mechanics, understanding of nuclear forces cosmology and relativity, which produced the science and technology of the 20th century. Many people, myself included, believe that the 21st century will be the century of biology."



In a recent independent study of ICU patient survival rates, UTMB's ICUs were named among the 100 Top Hospitals in the United States. Recipients of the distinction proudly displayed their awards at a reception held in their honor. The study, *100 Top Hospitals: ICU Benchmarks for Success* by the Solucient Leadership Institute, included data from 1,200 hospitals with ICUs and is one of the first comparative analyses of ICU performance among the nation's hospitals.

ICU staff members celebrate place among top 100 hospitals

Representatives from the UTMB adult intensive care units recently celebrated their recognition as one of the 100 Top Hospitals in the United States. UTMB President Dr. John Stobo honored the ICU staffs with a reception in the Caduceus Room.

For those who work in the ICU, the recognition is nothing surprising. Many of the staff who treat the critically ill do so because they are dedicated to their jobs and have confidence in the high level of care patients receive at UTMB.

Mike O'Donnell, a registered nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, said UTMB offers many opportunities to learn from the faculty members and fellows who work with and teach the medical students.

"I like the challenge of working with this level of patient acuity," O'Donnell said. "Palliative care is important, but I like the fact that what I do during a 12-hour-shift makes a difference in a patients' lives."

Kelly Kelso, a registered nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit, agreed that working in a critical care unit is educational, rewarding and challenging.

"I chose critical care initially for the excitement and the opportunity to learn a great deal. I have spent the very worst and the very best of days with patients and their families. This is something I find not only challenging, but very rewarding."



Medical students will visit multi-generational families as part of the new Family Home Visit Program. Through the program, medical students will learn about aging and health issues, and how best to deal with those with their patients.

Families sought for multi-generational home visit program

By 2030 every other patient seen by a family doctor will be older than 65. Accordingly, medical schools are adding more geriatric training for their students. This year UTMB will add several learning experiences to better acquaint students with aging and health issues. One of these is the Family Home Visit Program.

This program is unique in that it pairs medical students with community families and benefits all involved. The home visit program is designed so that community families actually help educate the medical students concerning health care issues faced by people of all ages.

● To participate in or for information about the Family Home Visit Program, please call Marilyn Brodwick at (409) 747-0008 or send email to her at msbrodwi@utmb.edu.

Additionally, the program provides the opportunity for students to interact with and interview individuals in a setting that is not strictly clinical, and to gain a better understanding of the real-life situations that affect the health of individuals in the community. In return, the family receives the benefit of health screenings, information on resources, and the opportunity to provide input on barriers to health care.

UTMB currently is seeking more than 100 families to participate in the Family Home Visit Program.

Each volunteer family will include at least one family member older than 65, at least one family member age 20 to 55, and at least one member younger than 18, preferably living in the same house within Galveston County. Each family is asked to commit to five home visits.

If you and your family are interested in participating, call Marilyn Brodwick at (409) 747-0008, or send email to her at msbrodwi@utmb.edu.

Teens, young adults with eating disorders can receive help through UTMB program

BY ALICIA SIMMONS

Teenage girls are especially susceptible to eating disorders because they are maturing physically and noticing the rapid changes in their bodies. What might start as an innocent attempt to lose five pounds so that a pair of jeans fits can result in a prolonged battle with anorexia (starving yourself below a normal body weight) or bulimia (overeating and vomiting with or without the use of laxatives to get rid of food).

To help young people with eating disorders, UTMB is offering a program at its Behavioral HealthCare Resources Clinic, 18333 Egret Bay Blvd., Suite 440, in the Clear Lake area.

Gwen Brehm, senior counselor in the Behavioral HealthCare Resources Clinic, said it's natural for girls to want to be happy and popular. They often believe, however, that to make this happen they must be in control of achieving their goals and must be thin.

"Therefore, happiness becomes based on size, weight or body image," Brehm explained. "If a girl sees herself as fat, she may also perceive herself to be out of control, worthless or a failure. Society puts a great deal of emphasis on achievement and thinness."

Eating disorders tend to appear in girls between the ages of 12 to 25 but are not limited by age or sex. Frequently boys and men will develop anorexia or bulimia.

Typical signs of an eating disorder can include hoarding food, eating alone, rigid dieting for rapid weight loss, binges of food followed by strict fasting, laxative abuse or self-induced vomiting. Psychological symptoms can include a distorted body image, perfectionism, possible suicidal thoughts, depression, guilt and self-loathing.

If you have a family member or friend who seems to suffer from an eating disorder, UTMB's Behavioral HealthCare Resources Clinic has professionals on staff who specialize in the treatment of anorexia and bulimia and offers individual and group therapy as well as psychiatric evaluations.

For information or to schedule an evaluation appointment, call (800) 506-6261.

The touch of a hand, a soothing voice and a familiar smile are just a few of the gifts volunteers bring to patients and their families. Last year, UTMB volunteers contributed more than 11,730 hours toward helping others.

President John D. Stobo, pictured center, along with Medical Director Joan Richardson, help Frank Hernandez check in a patient at the John Sealy Hospital information desk. Stobo and Richardson were the first to participate in the Leadership Volunteers Program, in which UTMB employees set the example by volunteering an hour a week, for 50 weeks each year.



Pictured from left to right are volunteers Peggy Smith with 5,200 hours, Ann Powell with 4,100 hours, Louise Henderson with 3,800 hours and Joy Fertitta who has 1,900 hours. They were the volunteers who accumulated the most hours.



Dr. Sally Robinson and Margaret Anderson accept a painting from volunteer Eric Peterson. Peterson donated his painting, titled "Nadia's Awakening," in special recognition of Robinson, Anderson and the UTMB Rehabilitation staff in gratitude for his experience in the Rocking Babies. Nadia was one of the babies he rocked as a volunteer.



Joan McMillan, a pet therapist, participates in one of the newest programs of Volunteer Services. Volunteer clowns can help to brighten the spirits of patients at Children's Hospital. A workshop is offered for anyone interested.



Vickie Ladner, volunteer services coordinator, and Jennifer Raeke, executive assistant, help a patient select some books from the library cart. The two participate in the Leadership Volunteers Program and devote one hour of the week to delivering books to patients. The library cart program provides reading material to patients and their guests. The cart also contains toiletries patients and their guests might need. And when the volunteers and patients have the time, the cart occasionally carries games such as cards and checkers. When time allows, the volunteers will stay and visit with the patients, and perhaps share in a traditional board game to make the hospital stay more pleasant.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a quick look at volunteer opportunities available and the roles volunteers play across campus. For information about volunteering, call Volunteer Services at (409) 772-2549.

INFORMATION DESKS

Greet patients and visitors, provide directions and escort patients to appointments as needed.

PATIENT SERVICES

Visit newly admitted patients to acquaint them with hospital services.

EMERGENCY ROOM AND TRAUMA CENTER

Distribute reading material, provide information and offer directions to guests.

PATIENT VISITOR

Whether reading aloud, playing cards, chatting or providing support, visits from volunteers encourage healing and make the patients' hospital stay easier.

CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM

Play games and make art creations with pediatric patients in the children's playroom.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM/ CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Offer enrichment activities to pediatric school-age inpatients during or after school hours through a variety of activities.

PEDIATRIC REHABILITATION

Under the supervision of a registered nurse, visit with and rock and cuddle infants, toddlers, and children who are in stable condition.

KIDS COUNT

Volunteers can help ease the trip to the doctor through fun activities such as reading, playing games, showing movies and interacting with a child in a positive, nurturing way while they wait to see the doctor.

REACH OUT & READ

Read to children in the waiting rooms of the Primary Care Pavilion. Prominent times are from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. However, there are almost always children waiting.

TOUR GUIDES

Assist the Office of University Advancement in providing tours to groups or individuals who have an interest in seeing the university.

COFFEE CART

Serve complimentary beverages to patients and guests in the outpatient or inpatient waiting rooms.

LIBRARY CART

Provide reading material to patients and their guests. The cart also contains toiletries and sometimes a few games such as cards or checkers.

SNACK CART

Offer beverages and snacks to staff and visitors from a mobile refreshment cart that circulates through the hospital and emergency room nursing units.

CLOWN AROUND

The newest addition to the volunteer program, clowns brighten the spirits of those they encounter.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE

By their thousands of hours of volunteered time, employees and friends of UTMB touch the lives of others

BY CATHY C. NALL

Since 1960, volunteers have been making a difference in the way health care is delivered at UTMB, and in turn changing their own lives. At a recent luncheon honoring UTMB's volunteers, Dr. Karen Sexton, UTMB's chief operating officer, applauded the participants for their spirit of caring.

"Your acts of volunteerism are not a job, they are a philosophy," she said. "Each of you knows the importance of serving others in a way that adds value to your life and theirs."

Dr. Ben Raimer, vice president for community outreach, called the volunteers role models who demonstrate how to put others' needs first.

"UTMB teaches its students about health care delivery

and how to put others' needs above your own," Raimer said. "But no amount of lectures can teach them what you do. What you do sends a message to our students. Never underestimate the value you bring to UTMB every time you walk through the door."

One volunteer, artist Eric Peterson, demonstrated the importance of volunteering one's time, talents and services with the unveiling of the painting "Nadia's Awakening" at the luncheon.

Peterson donated his painting in special recognition of Dr. Sally S. Robinson, Margaret V. Anderson and the UTMB Rehabilitation staff as a personal thank you for his experience as a volunteer in the Rocking Babies program. Nadia was one of the babies he rocked. He said that the time he spends rocking and holding the babies has made him realize that his blindness and his art are

true gifts that must be shared with others.

Peterson said his art allows others to see "how this blind artist sees." He added that "Nadia's Awakening" represents the belief that anyone can rise from whatever challenges life throws them and "soar to their highest good."

UTMB offers many opportunities to soar through volunteerism for community members and university employees. Of the 182 volunteers in UTMB's program, 29 are employees. And 11 of those participants are part of the newly formed Leadership Volunteer Program.

The Leadership Volunteer Program provides a unique opportunity for professional staff to perform meaningful, service-oriented duties that promote UTMB's vision of creating a caring environment for patients and guests.

Each leadership volunteer commits to serving one hour a week, 50 weeks a year. The first two leadership volunteers were President Dr. John D. Stobo and Medical Director Dr. Joan Richardson.

"This program exemplifies two of UTMB's core values—service and community," Stobo said. "I am very proud to help roll out this initiative that will be so beneficial to our patients and visitors, as well as those who participate."

Richardson echoed his remarks, saying that employees can set an example through their time as volunteers.

"By volunteering, UTMB leaders can model our commitment to service and to the types of behaviors we would like to see from all of our employees," she said.



Dr. Cary Cooper, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, readies the coffee cart before his morning run. Coffee cart volunteers serve complimentary beverages to the patients and guests in the outpatient or inpatient waiting rooms.

RECYCLABLE FUN

Campus celebrates Earth Day with fashion show, expo



Earth Day committee members pictured from left to right are Rosey Ruiz, De'Anne Meeh, Bob Scott, Gayle Mardis, Linda Sivy, Diana Davison, Ken Steblein, Susan Milligan, Nathalie Mangold and Al Sanchez. They planned the April 20 Earth Day celebration for UTMB employees and the community. In addition to a fashion show featuring "recycled" products, Earth Day offered guests a chance to learn about recycling, energy conservation and environmentally oriented programs and organizations in the area.



Dr. Karen Sexton and Bob Scott announce the quarterly TEXAS winners at the Earth Day event at the Moody Medical Library plaza. The TEXAS program recognizes employees who achieve perfect attendance.



McGruff the Crime Dog teaches children about safety and recycling at the Earth Day event on April 20.



Rachael Stella sports the latest in recyclable wear at the Earth Day fashion show. Employees and volunteers dressed themselves in recyclable materials to demonstrate how much can be reused. Stella's dress is fashioned from the bags UTMB employees use for recycling paper products.

ON CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Be on alert to possible computer hacking, viruses

Government authorities and network security specialists are warning of an increased threat from computer hackers and malicious viruses in early May. Experts advise heightened awareness and security measures are needed to safeguard against unauthorized access to systems and potential malicious activity, including data destruction, service disruption and general performance problems. This latest potential threat is tied to protests centered on global politics and has made recent headlines.

There are some simple preventive measures to minimize your risk and reduce the impact of a possible attack. Please consider the following practices:

- Don't open any unexpected email attachments, particularly those making title references to: Jokes, Fun, Profit, Sex, Politics, Money, Romance, Free, etc.
- Backup your important work and systems.
- Consider changing your personal password(s). You should devise and use complex passwords that would not be easily guessed or hacked.
- Ensure that your version of anti-virus software is current.
- Turn off your desktop computer when away from the office or when the computer is not in use for any extended period.

Pastoral Care series to begin May 24

The UTMB Pastoral Care office will sponsor a series of audio conferences on pastoral care. All sessions will be in Room 1.120 of John Sealy Hospital. Reservations are requested.

The schedule is:

- **1 p.m. May 24**—Communicating Bad News
- **10 a.m. July 13**—Multicultural Perspectives: Ethical Issues in Geriatric Care.
- **10 a.m. Aug. 10**—Spiritual Care for Persons with Personality Disorders
- **10 a.m. Sept. 14**—Hospital Chaplaincy: An Interfaith Approach to Ministry with Patients of Diverse Faith Backgrounds
- **10 a.m. Oct. 12**—Responding to an Epidemic: Responding to Domestic Violence
- **10 a.m. Jan. 11**—When Religion May Be an Ethical Issue
- **10 a.m. Feb. 8**—Spirituality and Integrative Therapies: What is the Chaplain's Role?
- **10 a.m. March 8**—Taking Ordinary Steps when Extraordinary Medical Means are Used

Safe Sitter training program offered at health care centers

Family HealthCare Centers will offer the national baby sitter training program Safe Sitter. It is designed to teach young adolescents between the ages of 11 and 13 how to be safe baby sitters.

Founded by a pediatrician, Safe Sitter provides 13 hours of instruction. The program was

Cycling club joins thousands on charity ride to Austin



More than 20 UTMB faculty, staff, students, friends and family recently joined the UTMB Cycling Club in completing the 180-mile journey from Houston to Austin as part of the annual MS150 ride. The team raised about \$6,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The money raised from the MS150 helps to fund research and local programs for multiple sclerosis patients.

Members of the UTMB team were Aaron Barbin, Juliet Bryant, Penny Charrance, Anne Court, John Dawson, Brigge Dondonay, April Fontenot, Bryan Hains, Erin Hains, Galen Kaufman, Christine Livingston, Anne McCauley, Marko Mews Jr., Aimee Morrison, Denis Redwine, Derrick Senegal, Sandeep Shah, Stephanie Walker, Barry Willey, Maria Yang and Ted Yang. The UTMB team started training in January.

The cycling club continues rides year-round and intends to train again next year for the MS150. If you are interested in riding with the UTMB cycling club, join them at 8 a.m. every Saturday at the Wal-Mart on Seawall Boulevard, or send email to John Dawson at jadawson@utmb.edu or log on to www.utmb.edu/cycling.

recognized for excellence by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Class times are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 31 and June 1 at the Texas City Family HealthCare Center, 9300 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway in Texas City.

The cost is \$40 and participants must attend both days. Additional class dates will be June 21–22, July 19–20 and Aug. 2–3.

To register your son or daughter for the

program, or for information, call Marsha Sweatt at (409) 986-7464.

Deadline approaching for Hepatitis C research grants

June 1 is the deadline for applications from UTMB researchers for Pilot Research Development awards related to hepatitis C. The one-year award is for \$20,000, possibly renewable for a second year.

Armavir/Galveston partners create emergency response kit for partnership

On March 31, Douglas Mathews Joan Richardson, Christopher Cordova and Carol Selby inspected one of three Emergency Response Burn Treatment Kits prior to delivery to Armavir.

Professor and medical director of Pediatric Neonatology, and Cissy Yoes, U.S. partnership coordinator and director of knowledge management at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and Michael Buffalo, acute care pediatric nurse practitioner at Shriners' Burns Institute, traveled to Armavir, Armenia, to deliver three emergency response burn treatment kits created specifically for the Armavir/Galveston partnership.

The partners plan to facilitate the development of the Armavir Disaster Preparedness Program and conduct Emergency Management Training workshops for key personnel and First Response Burn Teams.

Examples of relevant research topics include studies of the natural history of hepatitis C virus infection, immunity to the hepatitis C virus mechanisms underlying viral persistence, animal models of hepatitis C, or methods for the control/and or amelioration of hepatitis C-related chronic liver disease.

The NIH format is used, consisting of a title page, abstract, budget, budget justification, three-page (modular) biosketch and a single-spaced description of the planned research of four pages or less.

Applications should be sent to Dr. Stanley M. Lemon, program director, The Southeastern Hepatitis C Cooperative Research Center, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical Research Building, Room 4.136 or mail route 1019.

This grant opportunity is available through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases-funded Hepatitis C Cooperative Research Center.

Registration begins for spring Camp RAD sessions at UTMB

Camp RAD (Reactive Airway Disease) is accepting registration for the spring 2001

See BRIEFS on page 10

ON CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

Travis receives distinguished alumni award from Medical College of Georgia

The Medical College of Georgia (MCG) has presented its Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Accomplishment to UTMB faculty member Dr. Luther B. Travis.

Travis — the William W. Glauser Professor of Pediatrics, former director of the Children's Renal Center and Children's Diabetes Management Center, and author of a widely read guide for young people to management of diabetes—received the award at the college's homecoming ceremony in Augusta on April 27.

A UTMB faculty member for more than 40 years, Travis, a 1955 graduate of MCG, returned to accept the award accompanied by his wife, Cynthia Benecke Travis, five of their children, and two of their children's spouses.

Travis has received numerous previous awards and honors, including Teacher of the Year at UTMB (1985); Gold Medal Award from the Republic of Germany for Outstanding Diabetes Service (1986); listings in Best Doctors in America (1992, 1994 and 1996 editions); and the American Diabetes Association's Outstanding Physician Educator (1995).

Eleven English-language editions of his book, *An Instructional Aid on Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus*, have been published.

It has also been translated into 15 other languages, reaching more than 4 million persons with diabetes worldwide.

Travis has donated his royalties from the book to UTMB for diabetes research and fellowships for future diabetes specialists.



Travis



The UTMB Office of Community Outreach sponsored an appreciation luncheon in April to honor students who organized this year's Galveston County Health Week. The annual event includes a speaker series, a fun run, children's art and essay contests, and health fair to benefit the entire Galveston County community. Proceeds from GCHW activities benefited the Jesse Tree, Galveston County Community Action Council Head Start Program, St. Vincent's Clinic and the Advocacy Center for Children of Galveston County.

BRIEFS from page 9

session—"The Magical, Radical Camp RAD."

Camp RAD is a specialty camp for children between the ages of 7 and 12 who have moderate to severe persistent asthma. Children will learn how to manage their asthma symptoms and to apply this information in normal activities. Camp RAD is fully staffed by pediatric asthma health professionals.

Camp RAD 2001 is from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily June 18–22 in the UTMB Alumni Field House.

Campers must provide their own transportation each day. A variety of fun activities are planned each day such as soccer, swimming, gymnastics, basketball, treasure hunt and arts and crafts. In addition to learning more about asthma, children benefit from socializing with other children who have asthma.

President's Cabinet Awards committee seeks applications

The President's Cabinet Awards Committee seeks applications for President's Cabinet Awards. Proposals for support of up to \$50,000 are 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 stress compassionate care and service. Projects can be focused within UTMB or in partnership with community entities.

Applications are available at the Office of University Advancement, General



Dr. Karen Sexton, chief operating officer, and Mike Hill, executive director, take time out to visit with Dr. Tarek Elghetany and Bert Nash at a reception in the pathology lab as part of National Medical Laboratory Week, which was April 15 to 21. This year, the Department of Pathology commemorated the week by providing tours for some 120 high school students. Sexton applauded the department's community involvement, commenting that this was an excellent opportunity to recruit future laboratory professionals.

Administration Building, Suite 3.110 or online at www.utmb.edu/cabinet. To request an application by mail, please call (409) 772-3951.

OF NOTE

An initiative launched by the Texas chapter of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine has won a national evergreen award for 2001.

The evergreen Award program recognizes outstanding ACP-ASIM chapter efforts. UTMB's Dr. J. Marc Shabot, professor of internal

medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, was among the Texas governors receiving the award. Shabot serves as governor of ACP-ASIM for the Texas Southern region. The Texas chapter hosted a successful strategic planning retreat for its 25-member board of directors. The retreat allowed participants an opportunity to identify a planning cycle and process that has significantly enhanced the growth and development of the chapter's activities and programs.

See BRIEFS on page 11

ON CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

BRIEFS from page 10

Carlotta M. Arthur, a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook who currently is training at UTMB, recently was named one of six minority scholars selected for new fellowships on disparities in health. Arthur has a bachelor of science degree in metallurgical engineering from Purdue University and an master of arts degree in psychology from SUNY-Stony Brook. She will study at Harvard.

She is among six minority scholars who have been selected to receive the first grants awarded by the Center for the Advancement of Health and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the study of health disparities by race, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status.

The two-year fellowships, awarding recipients up to \$50,000 a year, are for scholars who have a doctorate in fields related to the study of determinants of health. The Kellogg Scholars will examine the causes of health disparities by race/ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status and consider policy solutions.

Madeline Jensen, training manager/coordinator in the Department of Pharmacy, recently received the Mike Knapp Pharmacy Technician Award at the recent 53rd Annual Seminar of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP). The award is presented to a TSHP pharmacy technician member and recognizes exemplary accomplishments which foster the advancement of pharmaceutical care in health-system practice.

Dr. Premkumar Christadoss, professor of microbiology and immunology, recently was awarded the J. William Fulbright Scholarship. The Fulbright award is for research and lecturing at the Pasteur Institute in Athens, Greece. The title of Christadoss' research project is "Acetylcholine receptor B cell epitope mapping" and his lecture will be on immunogenetics and autoimmunity.

Dr. Kevin Gordon, a fourth-year resident in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, was awarded first prize for poster presentations at the recent American Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) meeting in Orlando, Fla. His poster was titled "Operative Gynecology—A CD-ROM Approach For Teaching Residents in Obstetrics and Gynecology." Co-authors were Drs. Russell Snyder, Reuben Martines, Uvaldo Cantu, Ruben Torres and Tung Van Dinh, also of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Gordon developed a CD-ROM using digital photographs that residents could use to familiarize themselves with common gynecologic operations.



Calhoun honored for service to TDCJ Managed Care

Dr. Ben Raimier, pictured on the right, congratulates Dr. Jason Calhoun on nine years of service and contributions to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice managed care program. Calhoun recently stepped down as chief physician executive of Correctional Managed Health Care at UTMB but maintains his appointment as chair of UTMB's Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation. During his tenure, the use of telemedicine for TDCJ managed care has grown tremendously, saving the state thousands of dollars in medical care for the incarcerated. In December 2000, Calhoun was personally honored with the Angel Award from the Texas Inmate Family Association for his desire to serve as a resource to educate family and friends of those incarcerated. As a gift for his service to the program, Calhoun received two wooden State of Texas chairs, handcrafted by inmates within TDCJ. Raimier is vice president of community outreach and also will serve as interim-physician in-chief for the UTMB Correctional Managed Care.



Hoang Phan, Thuy Tien Nguyen and Thuyen Nguyen were among the members of the Vietnamese Students in Health Professions who recently volunteered their time and service to prepare dinner for the residents at the Ronald McDonald House in Galveston. The Ronald McDonald House offers out-of-town families an affordable and comfortable place to stay while their children are being treated in Galveston.

The five Terrific Employees eXcel in Attendance Stewardship (TEXAS) Program winners for the second quarter were **Cynthia Wong** of the pain clinic, **Eugene Felter** of financial screening, **Carolyn Christopher** of the Lychner Unit, **Barbara Crawford** of Pack 1 Unit and **Henry Onyekwere** of Jester 1 Unit. The winners were randomly drawn from the



Dr. Don W. Powell, AOA Faculty Councilor, presents Vanessa Hill, a second-year medical student, a check for the 2001 Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Research Award. Hill received the \$3,000 award for her project "Interactions of Ozone and Respiratory Syncytial Virus on Gene Expression in Airway Epithelial Cells." This annual competition is open to all first-, second- and third-year medical students. Her mentor, Dr. Roberto Garofalo, pictured to the right of Hill, receives \$500 for his role in developing her research.

employees who used no sick time during the second quarter. For information about the TEXAS program, call Organizational Training and Development at (409) 772-7900 or log on to www.utmb.edu/texas/.



Dr. Richard Jennings, director of UTMB's Aerospace Medicine Residency Program, putts during the first Aerospace Medicine Golf Tournament held at the Clear Lake Golf Club April 6. The event raised \$18,810 for the program. A total of 66 players participated in the tournament, which included the 11 sponsors. Proceeds raised will provide additional training opportunities for the aerospace medicine residents at UTMB. The Aerospace Medicine Residency Program provides the necessary training to provide health care to diverse populations in the performance environments of aviation and space. This includes crew members exposed to these environments, passengers, support personnel and dependent family members who need comprehensive primary care.

CORRECTION

On page 6 of the April 23 issue of *Impact*, Dr. B. Mark Evers' name was listed incorrectly in a story about his recent election as president of the Society of University Surgeons. We regret the error.

SCHOOL WORK from page 1

field. Six area hospitals have chosen to participate, and the grant will provide \$900,000 over the next 18 months to help meet the need for more registered nurses.

The grant allows UTMB to expand the Work School Program, started in 1988. To date, a total of 571 UTMB employees, including Selvera, have earned nursing degrees through the program, which currently supports 98 UTMB employees working on their degrees, from LVN to Ph.D., in 28 area colleges, including UTMB.

The program allows UTMB to address the critical nursing shortage by providing employees funds for tuition and books, while giving them time off for classes during normal work hours.

Selvera first received an associate's degree from Galveston College, and has worked continually to further her education. In May 1998, UTMB's School of Nursing awarded the mother of two a master's degree—her third degree earned through participation in the program.

UTMB's Work School Program has emerged as a model for workforce development. The grant funds will allow UTMB's model to be replicated at Bellville General

● For information about UTMB's Work School Program, call Ann Cochran at (409) 772-8265.

Hospital, Brazosport Memorial Hospital, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, Methodist Health Care System and St. Luke's Episcopal Health System.

The Work School Program addresses an issue that has reached epidemic proportions nationally. The Health Resources and Services Administration recently conducted a survey that revealed the number of nurses across the United States has increased only by 5 percent since 1996. That contrasts with a 14 percent increase between 1992 and 1996. Claude Earl Fox, HRSA administrator, said, "This is the lowest rate of growth we've seen since we began collecting data in 1977."

The problem is local as well. "Statewide we have seen dramatic drops in the number of nursing school applicants—down as much as 37 percent," said Katie Winslade, the director of UTMB's Work School Program. "We have to take a serious look at how we attract applicants, and then how we keep them after we've recruited them."

Dr. Kathy Shingleton, UTMB's chief human resources officer, said the program

has been an outstanding recruitment tool for the university.

"With the way the marketplace has been for nurses in the past few years, I don't know what we would have done without it," she said. "The program not only helps us find and train quality people for our nursing staff, but also it creates a lot of loyalty to UTMB. Many of the people in the program wouldn't have been able to become nurses without it, so that is very rewarding for them."

According to the Texas Nurses Association, the average vacancy rate for nurses in the state is about 10 percent, a number that goes as high as 16 to 18 percent in specialty areas such as operating rooms and intensive care and neonatal units.

To address the shortage, the Texas Nurses Association and the Texas Hospital Association have joined forces to request a \$53 million appropriation from lawmakers in 2002-2003 to implement a number of initiatives aimed at increasing applicants.

Winslade said efforts such as UTMB's Work School Program allow institutions to "grow their own" nurses, which in the long run makes for greater retention.

"What we've seen is that those who are familiar with the culture and climate of our

institution, and have been supported both financially and with the encouragement they receive during the program, are more likely to fulfill their post-graduation contract and stay at UTMB."

In return for the support they receive in the program, participants agree to work at UTMB for a specific period after graduation. Many, such as Selvera, stay for much longer.

The Work School Program has produced a diverse group of new nurses at UTMB. Thirty-five percent of the graduates have been minorities, as compared to approximately 20 percent of registered nurses statewide. Also, nearly 14 percent of the graduates have been male, compared to only 7 percent of all Texas registered nurses who are male.

UTMB allows employees to enroll in its Work School Program after their first six months of employment. They must have received a satisfactory performance evaluation, have the support of their supervisor and make a commitment to UTMB following graduation.

For information about UTMB's Work School Program, contact Winslade at (409) 772-8265 or Ann Cochran at (409) 772-8364.

IMPACT

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