



Scoop



Friday, August 21, 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

PRESIDENT LOW DISCUSSES DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Dr. M. David Low, President of The University of Texas - Houston Health Science Center, addressed the entering class at the Medical School Wednesday, August 19. The topic was "Determinants of Health." Dr. Low outlined: physical environment, family structure, life experiences, work/family setting, psychological, social, economic, and spiritual factors, as critical population health determinants. Part of Dr. Low's talk was based on the 1996 Hastings Center Report, which focuses on the socially influential causes of disease. A Society and Health Initiative will be forthcoming, he said, in which The University of Texas Health Science Center, Rice University/Baker Institute, the University of Houston's Center for Urban Ecology, the Episcopal Health Charities, and Harvard University, will also be supporters. "We want you as future doctors to understand the dynamic background in which disease develops as you see your patients in hospital and clinic surroundings," he commented. **Dr. Patricia M. Butler**, Associate Dean for Educational Programs, introduced Dr. Low to the students. Dr. Low meets annually with the entering classes of all schools within the Health Science Center.



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POWERPOINT CLASSES

Check out the HAM-TMC Library this Fall. Classes coming up include "Using Microsoft PowerPoint," on **Wednesday October 14, 1998**, and **Wednesday October 21, 1998**, 3-5 p.m. The Powerpoint class will illustrate effective slide presentation applications. Slide composition and design, the use of templates, inserting graphics and tables, drawing tools and elements, and transitions will also be covered. A working knowledge of Microsoft Windows '95 is recommended. Registration is \$25. Contact **Thomas Gegeny** at 799-7803 or thomasg@library.tmc.edu to register or drop by the library and fill out a registration form. Web address is (<http://www.library.tmc.edu/>).

HELP KEEP '98 STATE EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN #1!

Last year, the UT-Houston Health Science Center led all other state institutions with \$104,108 collected and 30% participation in the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC). Something to be proud of. The SECC serves literally hundreds of charities working for the needy in the Texas Gulf Coast area. "We want to build on our previous success by building people-to-people communication and by explaining exactly what SECC is and what it does," said **Bob Emery**, Environmental Health and Safety, and an SECC co-coordinator. This year, when you receive your SECC form in the mail, remember that literally millions are the recipients of your giving. According to co-coordinators **Barbara Legate**, Client Support Services, and **Che Kelly**, Neurology, SECC's 1998 financial goal is \$115,000 and 35% participation. "Help Keep Us #1" is this year's slogan. "We got an award last year; let's get a big, tall award this year. We're looking for 100% employee participation," remarked **Dr. Tom Burks**, VP for Research and Academic Affairs. **Dr. Becky McGraw-Wall**, Otolaryngology, **Lee Holmes**, Internal Medicine, and **Colleen O'Brien**, Community Affairs and Public Education, are the Medical School's Steering Committee representatives. Watch your inbox for donor information and a small SECC surpise.



A Holiday Tradition

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

The Medical School's Employee Relations Committee (ERC) will hold its Thirteenth Annual Arts and Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, Dec. 3, 1998**, in the Medical School's Leather Lounge. Among the offerings will be handicrafts, jewelry, clothing, and food items. For more information, call **Beverly Head** at 500-6512 or **Kathy Crowley** at 500-6511.



FALL CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE FORMING



Mondays & Wednesdays, **September 30 - November 11**, from 5:30 - 7:40 p.m., the UTMS Fitness Center will offer fall co-ed volleyball sessions. A minimum of six players per team and a \$15 forfeit fee will start the ball rolling. Pick up team registration forms at the Fitness Center. Maximum of seven teams allowed in the league. Registration deadline **September 11!** Fitness Center membership or guest pass required. Questions, call 500-5044.

UTmost Interest

David McMillen, MS III, has been named the first recipient of the Gian Luigi Giannotti Endowed Memorial Scholarship, which supports careers in autoimmune diseases, particularly scleroderma...**Gregory Johnson**, MS IV, was elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the American Medical Association-Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS) Governing Council.



Hot News

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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August Employee of the Month - Luong Thai

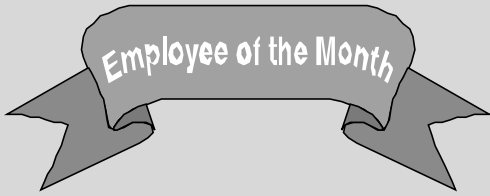
Luong Thai is responsible for X-ray equipment inspection and quality control at Hermann, LBJ, and a variety of clinics. Perhaps that is why his paternity leave scheduled for three months lasted only three weeks. A medical physics technician in the Department of Radiology, Luong is originally from Quang Ngai, a small town 180 kilometers north of DaNang, Vietnam. For the past five years, he has worked for **Dr. Lou Wagner** and has nothing but the highest praise for his employer. "Dr. Wagner is the most fair and reasonable employer that I have ever worked for. I would be happy to work with him until retirement. I am especially grateful to him for his intellectual curiosity, which rubs off on his employees. His work attitude is superb and an example to the rest of

us." Those who work with Luong and know him best, describe him as "always willing to go the extra mile, an excellent team player who takes criticism in a professional manner, and whose sense of humor pulls everyone together."

Luong has five brothers, five sisters, one stepsister and two stepbrothers. Only three are here in Houston and the rest still live in Brooklyn, New York, "working on a Viet Brooklynese accent," Luong chuckled. "When the airlines have a special, we fly in our Brooklyn relatives for a family reunion. It's usually spur-of-the-moment," laughed Luong, who with his family emigrated to Hong Kong in 1980; lived there for a year, and then came over to this country through the sponsorship of an uncle in the U.S. Army. Luong lived in Brooklyn ten years, and has spent the last eight years in Houston.

Now Luong enjoys attending one of the more than six Buddhist temples in Houston occasionally. He and his wife, **Linh Thai**, a respiratory therapist for Ben Taub, also enjoy Buddhist festivals throughout the year, such as Children's Day in August, Parents Day, as well as Chinese New Year. "My favorite American food is pizza," he confided. "We also make a Vietnamese pizza, with flour, marinated fish or pork, and vegetables. And when I lived in San Diego, my fondest memory, besides going downtown to the open-air mall and Seaworld, was going to the beach, with its white sand and blue water."

These days at home find Luong a busy man, even with the assistance of **Huong Ly**, his live-in mother-in-law. Luong is the proud new father of a one-month old baby girl, **Leann** and two-year old **Linsey**. "I'm delighted to be honored with this work award," said Luong. "It is nice to be recognized by others. It will be a treasure in my family."



Bugs, MS II Students At Museum This Summer

Liliana Rodriguez, UT-Houston Microbiology Course director, and five MS IIs have been involved with the Museum of Health and Medical Science's summer exhibit "Hidden Kingdoms: The World of Microbes." Rodriguez provided educational materials for the program, which featured exhibits called The Gunk on My Teeth, Bugs Make Drugs, Germbusters, Yeast Feast, Don't Sneeze on Me, and It's Alive. In the hands-on activities in this national traveling exhibit, children observe good and bad germs under powerful, easy-to-use microscopes, see food growing moldy in a special refrigerator, and tickle a mechanical nose until it sneezes, coughs and snorts by introducing an invading cold virus.

Juan Franco, **Michelle Haas**, **Bill Shu**, **Debra Delmore** and **Rick Sumrock** worked at the museum throughout the summer as teachers explaining and demonstrating the activities. For anyone interested, the exhibit will be on view until **August 30**. Admission is free from 4 - 7 p.m. on Thursdays. The Museum of Health and Medical Science is located at 1515 Hermann Drive. For more information call (713) 521-1515.



Dr. Brooks Video

A video tape of the July 30 tribute held in memory of **Dr. Benjy Brooks** is available in the Learning Resource Center (LRC). The 80-minute tape includes friends and family as well as video clips of Dr. Brooks talking about her career as a pediatric surgeon.

Grants Forum

The Office of Sponsored Projects (formerly Contracts and Grants) is hosting a Grants Forum on **Wednesday, September 9** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in MSB 2.024. Organizers are setting aside time to provide specific guidance regarding all areas of grant proposal preparation and submission for the upcoming October NIH deadline. No appointment is necessary - just drop by.