



Scoop



Friday, December 10, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Neuroscience Research Center Poster Session**, tomorrow, Sat., Dec. 11, 10 a.m. - noon, Leather Lounge.
- **HUB Vendor Mini-Expo** featuring scientific, medical, laboratory supplies and equipment. Tues., Dec. 14, 11 a.m.-noon, MSB 2.103. Lunch provided. For questions, call **Alma Leal**, 713/636-4659.
- **Clinical Research Curriculum Speaker, Dr. Michael Swint**, "Economic Analysis," Wed., Dec. 15, 5 - 6:30 p.m., MSB 2.006.

JOHN A. GUEST HIRED

John A. Guest, former president and CEO of the University Health System (Bexar County Hospital District) in San Antonio since 1984, was hired last week as president and CEO of the Harris County Hospital District. Guest grew up in Galveston where his father was chairman of Physiology at UTMB. A UT-Austin undergraduate, he will assume his new position in March, 2000.

UTmost Interest

Dr. William Dowhan, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, chaired a session on "Assembly of Peroxisomes" at a European Research Conference on "Protein Targeting: Mechanism and Components of Protein Sorting to Subcellular Compartments," held in Obernai, France...**Dr. Robert F. Lodato**, Divisions of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology, lectured in Kunming, China and gave bedside teaching rounds at the Fourth Military Medical University in Xi-an, and at the Beijing Institute of Respiratory Medicine in Beijing, China.

FITNESS CENTER OFFER - Win prizes, including Academy gift certificates, t-shirts, low-fat cookbooks, and memberships, through Fri., Dec. 17. Stop by the Fitness Center, MSB 8th floor, or call 713/500-5044.

TMC LIBRARY BOOKSALE

Today - TMC Library Booksale, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. In front of the Circulation Desk.

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR CLINICAL OPERATIONS NAMED

Dean Maximilian Buja has named **Dr. Morris A. Flaum** Associate Dean for Clinical Operations effective Dec. 6. Flaum received his medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine (hematology/oncology), and his M.B.A. from Tulane University's A.B. Freedman School of Business. He completed his internship at New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut, and was a Clinical Associate in Hematology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Flaum currently has been a Senior Vice President for Medical and Academic Affairs at Mercy Health Partners in Toledo, Ohio. At the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, he was a member of the board of management, where he also served as chairman of Internal Medicine, director of research, and medical director for the Department of Outcomes Management.

He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology as well as the American College of Physician Executives and has made numerous presentations around the country and has published dozens of articles, including "Outpatient Quality Assessment and Quality Improvement - Perspectives in Medical Management" and "Making Do With Less: Capital Allocation in an Era of Declining Hospital Reimbursement."

Says Dr. Buja, "I'm very pleased to appoint Dr. Morris Flaum to this key position and look forward to working with him. Working with **Paul Cooper**, president and CEO of University Care Plus, along with other members of the clinical care leadership team, Dr. Flaum's talents and experience represent a valuable resource for the future direction and success of our clinical operations."

SONDRA IVES NAMED CME DIRECTOR

Dean Maximilian Buja has named **Sondra Ives** to a new, joint departmental title, Director of Continuing Medical Education and Alumni Affairs. Ives, who has headed up the Alumni Affairs program since 1981, will add CME leadership to her Medical School role effective Dec. 6. She replaces **Linda Hoffman** who announced her intentions to leave the School last month. Notes Dean Buja, "Sondra Ives is uniquely suited to handle this dual role, given her extensive knowledge of the School and experience working with our students, faculty, and extended family of physicians. She has worked with every dean of this School since March 1971 and is both well-versed and highly capable." In making the announcement, Dr. Buja noted that *The Alumni Magazine*, currently produced in Alumni Affairs, will now be overseen by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education. All of these changes are part of an ongoing effort by the Dean's Office to maximize the resources and talents of individuals in a cost-effective manner.



Sondra Ives

DR. HARRIS IS APPOINTED ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF RADIOLOGY

Dr. John H. Harris Jr., professor and holder of the John S. Dunn Distinguished Chair in Radiology, was recently appointed an Associate Editor of *Radiology*, the largest and one of the two principal radiologic journals in the world. He also recently qualified to provide official interpretations of the chest radiographs of workers exposed to dust inhalation in accordance with the 1977 Federal Mine Safety and Health Act.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

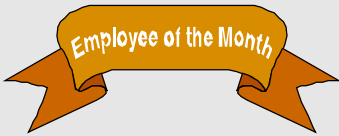
L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean
Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., Assistant Dean
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu
FAX: (713) 500-0597
E-Scoop online: <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>



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December Employee of the Month - Birthelle Washington

You've heard of a 'baker's dozen?' **Birthelle Washington**, our December Employee of the Month, has a passion for chocolate chip cookies with pecans. But as the familiar Quick Copy lady around the Medical School, she's also known for her 'baker's dozen' performance on the job. She goes that extra mile for her customers, whether it's taking her work over to the Dental School if a machine has broken down, or completing a medical student's syllabus request who's left a wallet at home, or soothing a rushed employee who's already behind on a deadline. Birthelle is quick to point out that she enjoys her work, "Especially with the students. If it wasn't for them, the rest of us wouldn't be here." She's participated in the Third Annual Heart Walk with the stroke team here, and Monday, **December 27th**, will mark her 10-year anniversary with the Medical School. At home, she shares a life with her husband **Zachary**, their two children, **Teslyn** and **Zachary**, and a shih-tzu poodle, "Woody."



A Duplicator Equipment Operator II, no matter how rushed her customers are, Birthelle's calm and professional manner usually smoothes the most ruffled of feathers. When you need a job well done, pleasantly executed, and in a timely manner, Birthelle's ready to help. Her associates say "For those of us who know her, she holds a bachelor of art in humanitarianism." With her 'baker's dozen' spirit of friendship, this small town girl from Rayne, Louisiana, has managed to find in the big city, that most elusive of accomplishments -- good relations with co-workers, family, and friends.

TOYS FOR TOTS

"UT-Houston medical students from all four classes are asking for our help," says MS III student, **Wes Yeackle**. With the United States Marine Corps, students are collecting toys for local children again this year. While out shopping this weekend, remember those less fortunate and pick up an extra toy or gift. Gifts can be deposited at collection boxes in the Leather Lounge, blue elevators, and computer lab.



STAR AWARDS - UT-Houston employees who have celebrated or will celebrate their 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25-year UT-Houston anniversary between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999, will receive their STAR Awards on Thurs., **January 27**, from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the TMC Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcome.

HOLIDAY TURKEY RAFFLE WINNERS

Dan Fu, Internal Medicine; **Lenda Robinson**, Microbiology; **Bob Amason**, Biochemistry; **Inci Akkaya**, Surgery; **Hilda Ruppel**, LBJ Hospital; **Ivy Hicks**, Continuing Education; **Lynn Medeiros**, Internal Medicine; **Janice McNatt**, Internal Medicine; **Robby Green**, Animal Care; **Charlotte Roberts**, Internal Medicine; **Shannon Escobar**, UT Travel; **Alma Leal**, LBJ; **Marilyn Fox**, Surgery; and **Melody Howell**, Neurology. Congratulations!

ARP AND ATP MEDICAL SCHOOL PI WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Among the Medical School Principal Investigator winners of the Advanced Research Program (ARP) and Advanced Technology Program (ATP) awards announced by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently were: **Drs. Carmen Dessauer**, Integrative Biology, "Novel Regulation of Cyclic AMP by Relaxin via Tyrosine Kinase Action," \$141,390; **Dale Hereld**, Microbiology, "RGS Protein Function and Specificity in Dictyostelium Development," \$109,565; **James Knierim**, Neurobiology & Anatomy, "Neural Ensemble Recordings from Multiple Sites in the Hippocampal Formation," \$126,571; **William Margolin**, Microbiology, "Development of New Assays for Broad-Spectrum Anti-Microbial Drugs Against Cell Division Proteins," \$118,000; **Steven Norris**, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, "VisE as an Immunodiagnostic And Immunoprotective Reagent for Lyme Disease," \$118,000; and **Pierre Zoldhelyi**, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, "Development of Thromboresistant Vein Grafts by Somatic Gene Transfer," \$193,149.



FUNDING AND SCHOLAR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

◆ Twenty-six first-year Clinical Scholar positions are funded annually by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The program offers two years of graduate-level study and research in priority areas. Completed applications are due no later than **Feb. 15**. For more information contact: **Annie Lea Shuster**, National Program Director/Clinical Scholars Program, CORE, UAMS, 5800 West 10th St., #605, Little Rock, AR 72204, phone 501/660-7551/4, email <ShusterAnnieL@exchange.uams.edu>.

◆ The RWJF is also sponsoring a \$3.5 million Changes in Health-Care Financing and Organization (HCFO) three-year initiative and encourages new researchers to apply. For more information, contact Alpha Center, Attn: HCFO, Suite 1100, 1350 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20036, phone 202/296-1818; email <HCFO@ac.org>, or website <www.ac.org>.

◆ The American Medical Association Foundation has leadership development and research seed grant funds available for medical students and residents. Contact <www.ama-assn.org/AMAFoundation> or 1-800-AMA-3211, ext. 5357, for information.

◆ Applications are being sought by the Sandler Program for Asthma Research from investigators who wish to study new pathways into the pathogenesis of asthma. Senior investigators will receive \$250,000 annually for three years; junior investigators will receive \$125,000 annually for three years. The application deadline is **March 1**, 2000 and funding begins on July 1, 2000. For information, see website <www.sandlerresearch.org>, or contact Program Coordinator **Mee Mee Wong** at <wongm@sandlerresearch.org>, phone 415/514-0730.