



Scoop



Friday, February 19, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Medical School Blood Drive**, Mon., Feb. 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Leather Lounge. Bring I.D.
- **Psychiatry Lecture Series**, Drs. **Robert Strayhan and Edward Freeman**, "Hero Fantasy Racist: Doctrine and Antisocial Behavior," Wed., Feb. 24, 11 a.m., MSI Auditorium, Room 110.
- **Second Annual Heart of Houston Researchers' Reception**, Wed., Feb. 24, 6-8 p.m., Museum of Health & Medical Science.

LOIS MOORE RETIRES

Lois Jean Moore, the president and chief executive officer of the Harris County Hospital District for the past 10 years, announced her retirement Tuesday, February 16.

UTmost Interest

Dr. John H. Byrne, Chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, was invited to serve as a member of the panel to evaluate applications for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowships...**Dr. Gary**

Rosenfeld, Professor of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology and Assistant Dean for Educational Programs, recently gave a talk, "The Scholarship of Teaching" at the Association of Medical School Pharmacology (AMSP) meeting in Bermuda. Dr. Rosenfeld was also recently appointed to the "Working Group on Scholarship in Education" of the American Association of Medical Colleges' Group on Educational Affairs (AAMC:GEA).

UT-H DAY AT MUSEUM OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCE

It's UT-Houston Day at the Museum of Health & Medical Science, 1515 Hermann Drive, on Saturday, **February 27**, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bring your UT-Houston ID and get free admission for yourself and up to five additional family members. Come hear "In the Ear Area." Use your sense of hearing to identify sounds and test your sound filtering and auditory memory abilities in the new interactive kiosk. "In the Skeletal Area" features a 22-foot giant spine and a bicycle-riding skeleton.

STUDENT AFFAIRS ASSISTANT DEAN NAMED

Dr. Barry Van Winkle has been named Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, effective immediately, announced **Dean Max Buja**. Van Winkle, a professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine joined the Medical School in 1989 and has made significant contributions to the school while being recognized by students and faculty alike for his student mentoring and teaching contributions.



Dr. Barry Van Winkle

Says Dean Max Buja, "Dr. Van Winkle is well-suited for these additional responsibilities that will provide needed support for the Student Affairs program under the direction of **Dr. Margaret McNeese**." In his new role, Van Winkle will be involved in a number of student programs including tracking student academic progress and licensing examination trends, acting as liaison with the Curriculum Committee, working with the Student Evaluations and Promotions Committee, assisting the Alternate

Pathway program, and monitoring the USMLE Step 1 student preparation needs. The Office of Student Affairs currently oversees the needs of approximately 800 undergraduate medical students. **Dr. Henry Strobel**, a professor in the Department of Biochemistry, is also an Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (see back page, this issue).



Dr. Alfred G. Gilman, Dean's lecturer, will speak on "G Proteins and Regulation of Adenylyl Cyclase, on Wednesday, **March**

10, 4 p.m., Room 3.001. Dr. Gilman is the Regental Professor and Chairman of Pharmacology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He discovered, characterized, and purified a set of guanine nucleotide-binding regulatory proteins termed G proteins. His observations provided for the first time a firm molecular basis for understanding certain signal transduction processes present throughout nature. A reception follows the presentation.

CLINTON FY 2000 BUDGET PROPOSES 2% NIH INCREASE

President Clinton submitted his FY 2000 budget to Congress on Feb. 1. The president's budget proposes \$15.933 billion for NIH, an increase of \$320 million, (2.05%) over the previous year. The AAMC notes this is a much smaller increase than expected. The NIH estimates this budget would support 7,617 new and competing renewal research project grants (RPGs) in FY 2000, which is 1,554 fewer than the estimated 9,171 competing RPGs to be funded in 1999. The NIH proposes to focus on four major research themes in FY 2000: exploitation of genomic discoveries; interdisciplinary research; reinvigoration of clinical research; and elimination of health disparities. (Source: AAMC's *Washington Highlights*, Feb. 5, 1999).



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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DR. HENRY STROBEL'S BRIDGE TO CHINA

Dr. Henry Strobel, who speaks German to his students in class and has "survival" Chinese and French skills as well, is the mind/body/soul behind the UT-Houston Medical School's Student Program to China. A professor of biochemistry, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (as well as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs), he started the Beijing program 14 years ago and in May of the year 2000 will have a reunion of all classes there, along with a small delegation of UT-Houston leadership. The gathering, from May 1 - May 8, 2000, will highlight the accomplishments of the more than 200 students and their families that have been through the program over the years. On March 25, Strobel will leave with his current students to spend the month of April in Beijing, as well as three to four days in Xian. Strobel and his students will be doing 'Grand Rounds,' Chinese style, with four principal hospitals in Beijing, each serving an estimated 4,000 people daily on an outpatient basis: Xuan Wu, Beijing Friendship Hospital, Tian Tan Hospital and Beijing Children's Hospital.



Dr. Henry Strobel with visiting Chilean medical students from left, **Juan Zuñiga, Cristian Barrientos, Luis Barra, Juan Miranda, and Jorge Diaz.**

modern, open, and yes, trusting, than when I first went over," he said. Additionally, he hosts students from other countries as well (see photo).

Both a priest and a biochemist, he is proud of both accomplishments. His oriental-style sitting room has many carefully placed portraits of smiling couples he has married over the years and he speaks eloquently of his life's work with Cytochrome P450, an enzyme. "We hope by cracking its code, we can influence its interaction with brain chemicals, particularly in trauma cases."

AGING & THE NEW SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Ellison Medical Foundation is seeking nominations of suitable candidates for the 1999 New Scholars Program. The objective of this program is to support new investigators of outstanding promise in the basic biological and clinical sciences relevant to understanding aging processes and age-related diseases and disabilities. The award is intended to provide support to new investigators so that they may become established in the field of aging.

The New Scholars Program provides \$50,000 per year for a four-year period to successful candidates. To qualify, as of March 31, 1999, nominees must hold regular full time appointments (tenure or non-tenure) on the faculty of the sponsoring institution. They may not have been in such an appointment, at the sponsoring institution or other institution(s), for more than three years as of July 15, 1999.



As UT-Houston may only nominate one candidate for this award, please notify the Office of Research Services at 500-3075 of your interest in being nominated on or before **March 1**. Interested candidates will be required to provide a CV and abstract to the ORS, and an internal review of this information will be conducted in order to select the most qualified nominee. The deadline for receipt of all application materials by the Ellison Medical Foundation is April 1, 1999.



HEALTH CARE AND THE ARTS SERIES IN ITS FIFTH YEAR

Once again, **Dr. Stan Reiser**, program on Humanities and Technology in Health Care, will be joined by **Dr. Blair Justice**, psychology professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, SPH, and others, to present "Discovering Self Through Healing and the Arts," starting March 15 and running through April 19, noon - 1 p.m., MSB 2.006. Said Justice, "We found that the arts

and sciences converge in that they both try to bring order out of what is often chaos." Several of the speakers have had various illnesses and disabilities and have found that through the very disabilities themselves they went through a process of uncovering who they really are. One of the speakers is a doctor who's also an artist. In drawing his patients he came to better understand not only his patients, but himself. "We just think students need this kind of broadening experience and in the process, hopefully, learn something about themselves." Lunch will be available for the first 100 participants. Series dates and topics:

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| Mon., March 15 | Dr. Michael Hammond, "Engaging Oneself," (Part I) |
| Wed., March 17 | Dr. Michael Hammond, "Engaging Oneself," (Part II) |
| Mon., March 22 | Dr. Blair Justice, "Illness as a Way to Discover the True Self" |
| Wed., March 24 | Juliette Marshall, "Lessons in Living" |
| Mon., March 29 | Dr. John Lienhard, "I Engage and Then I See," (Part I) |
| Wed., March 31 | Dr. John Lienhard, "I Engage and Then I See," (Part II) |
| Mon., April 5 | Dr. Alan Blum, "Drawing Patients Toward Our True Selves" |
| Wed., April 7 | Lakahmi Vishwanathan, "Journey of Self-Discovery Through Dance" |
| Mon., April 19 | Kirk Farris and Dottie Price, "Songwriting: A Leap of Faith, Discovery for Yourself and Others." |