



# Scoop

August 29, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### September

**10 Blood Drive**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Medical School Leather Lounge (Ground Floor).

**17 Employee Appreciation Day**, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Webber Plaza (ID required). Food, DJ, Give-aways. Sponsored by Medical School Employee Relations Committee.

**18 Blair Justice Lecture, Dr. James Pennebaker**, "The Power of Words: How Emotional Talking and Writing Improves Health and Reduces Medical Costs," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., SPH, RAS auditorium.

## UTMost Interest

**Dr. Kim Anderson** is Vice President (president-elect) of the Association for Surgical Education and **Dr. John Potts** is president-elect for the Association for Program Directors in Surgery...**Dr. Margaret Uthman** and **Dr. John Spudich** were named President's Scholars and will receive accolades at the Faculty Honors Convocation, Thurs., **Sept. 25**.

### **BRIDGING GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE**

Requests must be received by Mon., **Sept. 15** for a renewal grant application that has not been funded within the past nine months by a federal agency and is within the top 35<sup>th</sup> percentile. Send to the Research Committee chairman, **Dr. John Byrne**, MSB 7.046. Proposals up to \$30,000 for up to one-year maintenance can be submitted. Include a statement letter from the primary investigator's chairperson, a summary statement, the reviewer's comments, and continuing and new research. Also, provide the previous summary budget.

## **MCKINNEY: HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER BUDGET BACK ON TRACK**

With the news of an improved budget, the expectation of few layoffs, and the promise to run the Health Science Center like a business, incoming Senior Executive Vice President and Chief



**Dr. Michael McKinney**

Operating Officer **Dr. Michael McKinney** addressed a group of classified staff employees and fielded their questions Tues., Aug. 26.

Invited by the Medical School's Classified Staff Council, McKinney told the group that the Health Science Center needs to concentrate on its business – education, research, and patient care. "This is where we need to focus our money," he said. "We have to run this as a business – we don't have to make a profit, but we have to break even."

As of Aug. 31, McKinney reported, the Health Science Center is projecting to be \$1 million "in the black" – up dramatically from a \$13 million deficit in May. "There were a whole lot of things that were already going on that made that happen. There was a parade already going

on, and I just got in front," he said.

Changes in structure and reporting lines, facilitating coordination with the other schools, will be the result of ongoing personnel evaluations at the Medical School, McKinney said. "I don't think you're going to see a whole lot of layoffs at the Medical School," he said.

McKinney said he wants to end the culture of "us vs. them." "I want you to get paid fairly, and I want you to enjoy your work," he said. "There'll be a lot of things you don't like, but at the end we'll all be on the same team."

He added that there will be no reprisals for voicing disagreements or offering suggestions, and he encouraged employees to call him at 713-500-3365. "There's no penalty for getting mad at me," he said.

McKinney served as interim chief operating officer of the Health Science Center from May to August.

- D. Brown

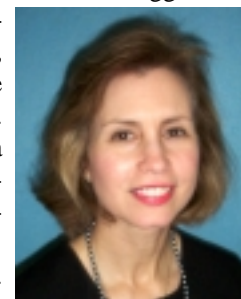
## **EARLY SKIN CANCER DETECTION TOOL**

MoleMax II, one of only three digital imaging systems in Texas, helps to document more accurately suspicious moles and skin lesions. The machine's microscope is housed in a trigger-like device that **Dr. Adelaide Hebert**, professor and vice chairman, Dermatology, points directly at a mole or skin spot. It illuminates the mole, magnifies the image 30 times, takes a picture, maps the position of the mole on the patient's body, and then saves the image to a computer disk.

"MoleMax can display side-by-side comparisons of the moles on a split computer screen, eliminating doubt. With the MoleMax, you literally measure the size of the mole with the computer, so you know categorically whether it's bigger or smaller," **Hebert** said.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call 713-500-8267.

- M. Middleton



**Dr. Adelaide Hebert**



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HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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## SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL DEAN NAMED

The quest for a new Medical School Dean has begun. The Search Committee for the new Medical School Dean has already met twice, on Aug. 5 and 19, and will meet again Wed., **Sept. 3**. The Search Committee for the new Medical School Dean consists of: **Dr. Irma Gigli, John Mendelsohn, Catherine Flaitz, Ferid Murad, Guy Parcel, Michael McKinney, Peter Davies, Patricia Starck, Ronald Johnson, Richard Andrassy, Carlos Moreno, Bruce Kone, Carlos Hamilton, Thomas Clanton, Dan Wolterman, Frank Arnett, Peter Traber, and James Willerson.**

## MSRDP BOARD ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The following faculty members have been elected to the MSRDP Board as at-large members for the term **Sept. 1, 2003- Aug. 31, 2005**: **Drs. Michael Ritchey, Don Parks, John Potts, Pamela Berens, Alan Cohen, Beth Hartwell, Steve Larson and Gailen Marshall.** Almost 200 clinical faculty members voted during the recent election.

The MSRDP Board is the governing group of the faculty practice plan and is comprised of both department chairs and at-large members elected by the clinical faculty, 40 percent of whom cast a ballot during the recent election.

## CLASSIFIED STAFF SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

Results of the Classified Staff Perception Survey are now available for review online at [http://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/uth\\_orgs/ie/CSPS/CSPSIndex.html](http://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/uth_orgs/ie/CSPS/CSPSIndex.html).

**Billy Hinton**, chair, **Eileen Crues, Mary Ann Dhir, Jeanette Quintanilla, Kathy Rodgers** and **Tiffany Sheffield**, are survey team members. Ex-officio members are **Chris McKee**, who has provided his survey expertise to this project, and **Jane Brust**.

Hinton has asked that all members of the university community review the survey findings and reflect on ways to address key issues — maintaining improvements and addressing problem areas — toward the goal of enhancing employee satisfaction. “We invite everyone’s input and ideas via the feedback button on the Web site,” he said.

## PUT FRIDAY OCT. 10 FOUNDERS FUN FEST ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW

An extensive buffet by Ninfa’s, the return of the live band Nobody’s Fool, a chili cook-off competition, and a new Hot Salsa Contest should add up to an afternoon of fun and fellowship Fri., **Oct. 10**. All students, faculty, and staff are invited!

The annual university-wide party is scheduled from 2 - 6 p.m., at the Texas Medical Center’s Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. Free shuttle busses will be available. For more information see [http://www.uthouston.edu/anniversari/founders\\_fun/index.html](http://www.uthouston.edu/anniversari/founders_fun/index.html).

## AUGUST EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - SORAYA THOMPSON

**Soraya Thompson**, administrative assistant, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, has been with the UT system 13 years. She started out working for **Dr. John Byrne**, then for **Dr. Ernst Knobil**, and later returned to the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy in 2000. “This department is like my home really. I have so many friends here,” she said.



Soraya Thompson

Her co-workers say Soraya is a tremendous support, taking care of graduate issues in the department.

She has been willing to make the students’ academic interests her top priority and has made countless situations run more smoothly than ever imagined. She has a rare blend of caring, patience, enthusiasm, and conscientiousness that is unparalleled. She is a great asset to the graduate students, say colleagues, as she helps them navigate a tedious and sometimes difficult bureaucratic system.

“Entirely on her own initiative, she made the office a home outside of the lab for the students. This personal touch has built a greater sense of community necessary for the functioning and continued growth of an academic program,” wrote her nominator.

“I consider myself very fortunate to be working for **Dr. Neal Waxham**, director of the Neuroscience Program, and all the graduate students in the various departments affiliated with the program,” Soraya said. “Dr. Waxham is the perfect boss: kind, responsive, and a very effective decision-maker from whom I’ve learned a great deal. And the graduate students are just wonderful. They’ve offered me so much positive feedback and reinforcement on everything I’ve done. They make coming to work a pleasure. I’m also very grateful for all the support that **Dr. John Byrne**, chairman of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy; **Linda Soliz**, director of the department; and **Susan Papalexandris**, ASO of the department, have shown me throughout the years.”

Soraya has a husband, Brian, and loves to dabble in black and white portrait photography. She also enjoys classical and jazz music, yoga, attending art exhibits, and listening to classic audio books during her daily commutes from home, nine miles away.

