



Scoop

Feb. 28, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

3 Town Hall Meeting, "Conversation with the President," UT-H President **James T. Willerson** invites all faculty, staff, students, and residents, noon, MSB 2.006.

5 Withers Lectureship, Dr. Ewigman, "Marcus Welby Meets Perry Mason: Integrating Evidence Into everyday Practice," 12:30 p.m., MSB 2.135.

Cooper Lecture, Dr. Goldman-Rakic, "The Prefrontal Cortex: Memory, Mind and Madness," 3 p.m., Jesse Jones Library, Sammons Auditorium, 3rd floor.

15 The Injured Brain: Stroke & Trauma, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Medical School Room 3.001. Will focus on research, recovery, and rehabilitation, moderated by **Dr. "Red" Duke**. A free forum, part of Brain Awareness Week. To register, call 713-500-5538. Sponsored by the Neuroscience Research Center.

20 Free Brain Night Fun, 6 p.m., for kids, 1515 Hermann Drive, phone 713-500-5538. Sponsored by the Neuroscience Research Center.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Richard Yee, Ophthalmology, was quoted concerning laser technology called "wavefront sensing," that can identify and correct eye abnormalities (*Houston Chronicle*, 2/19/03)...**Dr. Nora Volkow**, formerly assistant professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and known for her work on the brain's dopamine system, is the new director of the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse, effective April 15. Volkow is currently director of the Neuroimaging Center at Brookhaven in Upton, New York.

BIOTERRORISM EXPERTS STRESS HOUSTON'S A TARGET

"Clearly we're all stakeholders in this, said organizers at the "Preparing for Terrorist Attacks at Work and Home," a second in a series of town hall meetings being conducted at the various UT-Houston schools. **Robert Emery, Dr. P. H.**, associate professor of Occupational Health and executive director of Environmental Health & Safety, reserved the bulk of the time for questions and led the discussion Feb. 18 at the School of Public Health.



Dr. Robert Emery

Based on a Federal Bureau of Investigation analysis, Houston exhibits all major characteristics of a likely terrorist target, said experts at the meeting. They advised individual departments and units to get together and discuss a plan of action for emergency situations.

One of the discussion panelists, **Capt. Thomas Engels** of the UT Police said in case of an emergency, call 713-792-2890 or dial 911. "Terrorism is designed to instill apprehension, uncertainty, and fear. The key to counter-terrorism is education," he said.

What can you do to help? Heighten your own awareness by noticing suspicious activities and reporting such to UTPD, wear your badges, and be mindful of access to buildings. Ventilation intakes and bulk storage areas are sites that are vulnerable and under UTPD scrutiny.

How can you prepare at home? Make a list of all current contact numbers for all family members; identify two family meeting places, one near home and one off-site; identify an out-of-state contact person; understand your child's school plan. Experts also offered advice on assembling a disaster survival kit that includes a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, three days worth of water, non-perishable food, mechanical can opener, flashlights, prescription medications, diapers and baby food if applicable, tools, copies of important papers, duct tape, plastic sheeting, and accommodations for pets, if applicable.

The key decision in the event of an attack will be to evacuate or to seek shelter in place. If shelter in place is the plan of action, close windows and doors, turn off the ventilation system, seal windows and doors with plastic and tape, and tune into the radio for instructions.

"Chance favors the prepared mind," Emery said. Informative Web sites are available on *e-scoop* via Hot Spots at <www.med.uth.tmc.edu>. - C. O'Brien

HEALTH CARE AND ARTS LECTURE SERIES TO ADDRESS STIGMA

"Illness as Stigma: A View from the Arts," is the theme of the 2003 Health Care and the Arts Lecture Series sponsored by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The program begins Tues., **March 11**.

All lectures run from noon - 1 p.m. in the UT School of Public Health at Houston Auditorium, 1200 Herman Pressler Blvd. Lunch is provided for the first 100 attendees.

On Tues., **March 11**, **Megan Cole**, actor and visiting professor, will speak on "Through a Lens Darkly: Film, Television, and the Stigma of Illness."

For a complete listing of talks, see *e-Scoop*, via Hot Spots at <www.med.uth.tmc.edu>.



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Leadership Conference 2003:**“INSIDE EACH ONE OF US A CHAMPION’S HEART BEATS”**

Nearly 200 UT-Houston faculty and staff, along with several people from the sister institution — The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston — attended the annual Leadership Conference Feb. 20-21, at the San Luis Hotel and Conference Center in Galveston.

“Raise your hands those of you who supervise two or more people, are parents, or are here because they want to become leaders,” extolled one of the speakers.



(l. to r.), Janet Smith, Kathy Rogers, Jim Jacobus, and Holly Chandler.

Speaker **Jim Jacobus** rewarded audience participation with slogan buttons, and glass heart-shaped paperweights with the inscription “Inside each one of us a champion’s heart beats.”

Organized by **Janet Smith**, Auxillary Enterprises, **Holly Chan-**

dler, Information Services, and **Kathy Rodgers**, Research and Academic Affairs, ably assisted by volunteers from a number of departments, led by **Jaime Smith**, Office of Development, the conference’s focus was learning to lead in the workplace “jungle.”

Don’t worry about being employed; worry about being employable. Become charismatic communicators who are technologically competent with good people skills, the speakers said. Four personality styles were discussed: the analytical score-keepers, who are at the same time industrious and persistent; the visionary drivers who need to slow down and explain what they’re doing; the amiables who are dependable but stubborn when it comes to change; and the expressives, who are creative, outgoing, and ambitious, but who can be egotistical and undisciplined. For all four styles, conflicts with others are just P.O.T.D. (part of the deal). A good leader,

though exhibiting any one of those styles, is able to effectively communicate at the employee’s style level, the leadership speakers said.

“Know your audience and keep it as simple as possible,” **Pam Lewis**, editor, *The Leader*, said when asked about communicating with others. “I’m a firm believer in managing expectations,” said **Jane Brust**, assistant vice president for public affairs. In addition to these speakers, **Mike Jimenez**, vice president for human resources, led a brief discussion of the current budget situation and answered questions from the audience.

The best leaders serve the people they work for. If you want to build a team that has common objectives, goals, mission, and vision, find out what your team members want and help each achieve their goals. Have the attitude: “I care more about you.”

Body language gestures — such as tone of voice, smiling, having an open posture with palms up and hands apart; if sitting, showing an interest by leaning forward; having good eye contact, and in conversation, nodding in agreement — are important. A person’s personal space extends from 12 inches in circumference to 16 feet. If someone literally invades your physical space, pick up some papers and sweep the papers around you to make a visual boundary, was one tip. When dealing with someone who cannot be trusted, write down the conversation as it occurs. It will flatter the person and helps maintain a factual flow of information. Leading is not about us, it’s about them, said the speakers. When dealing with angry customers, patients, or employees, leaders were advised to get their offended egos out of the way and ask, “What can I do for you?”

“The most powerful words ever given to me were by my parents,” said **Emory Austin**, the first principal speaker. “When I faced a dilemma or problem, my parents would say ‘What a fascinating situation.’ That phrase helped me throughout my life to meet obstacles and to overcome.”

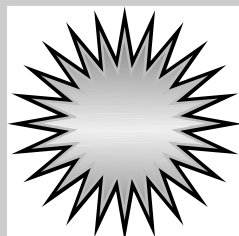
Other tips included: You are one decision away from being the best and you also are one decision away from being the worst. It’s up to you. Tell others what you do well and how you can be more effective.

FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - PATRICIA HOKANSON

“My two sisters and I are all graduates of UT-Austin,” **Patricia Hokanson**, a senior research assistant at the Mental Sciences Institute, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, proudly pointed out. Patricia is our February Employee of the Month. She also is a lifetime Girl Scout member, a camper, and a canoeing enthusiast, as a quick perusal of the walls in her office indicate. Some of those personal endeavors have obviously rubbed off on her career persona. Co-workers consider Patricia a role model. She’s always one step ahead of everyone; she finishes people’s sentences, and just “stays on top of things,” they say.

Patricia works with the UT Treatment Research Clinic, which offers free confidential assessments and medications for substance dependences, including alcohol and smoking. Patricia joined UT-Houston in August of 1998. Her colleagues say she is intelligent, organized, and most importantly — single-handedly recruits and maintains two studies at the clinic.

“Right now I’m involved with an HIV-Hepatitis C research effort. I co-authored a poster at UT-H’s Research Day on “Increasing Knowledge of HIV and Hepatitis C in a Substance Abuse Population.” Our primary goals are to measure knowledge acquisition, retention, and harm reduction, through education,” Patricia said. Ever the professional, Patricia said, “If you know of anyone who would be interested in our programs, please have them call me at 713-500-2802.”



Patricia Hokanson