



Scoop

March 21, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

25 Fire Extinguisher Training for Fire Wardens, 9 - 10:30 a.m., MSB 2.135. Call 713-500-3288.

Health Care and the Arts Series, Dr. Stuart Yudofsky, "Stigma and Psychotic Illness," noon, SPH auditorium.

28 Volunteer signup deadline: UT House Medics, Home Repair. Bring your paint brushes to help elderly homeowners on Sat., **April 26** and Sat., **May 3**. <<http://is.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/projects/housemed.html>>.

For more Events to Know, see e-scoop, via Hot Spots at <www.med.uth.tmc.edu>.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Guy Clifton, chair, Neurosurgery, recently was featured (*Houston Chronicle*, 3/13/03) in an article on emergency room hypothermic treatment of brain-injured trauma patients.

ZERO-TOLERANCE ON CONSTRUCTION NOISE DURING EXAMS

With the progress of the Medical School's reconstruction comes the problem of noise. While it is not easy to work with the sounds of hammering and pounding, it is nearly impossible for students to take exams under such circumstances. In spite of well-intentioned efforts, miscommunication led to such noisy disruption during the March 3-7 exams week.



Shhhh...Construction noise and exam time don't mix.

As a solution to this problem, the Health Science Center and Medical School leaders have issued a "no-noise, zero-tolerance" directive, banning any construction activity during examination periods (both basic science and clinical clerkship exams). This position is shared by Vaughn Construction Company, which vows to be "part of the solution, and not part of the problem."

This no-noise policy is in effect for both interior and exterior work during exam periods and will be applied on a case-by-case basis for lectures and meetings when requested by the Dean's Office.

"We are doing everything possible to prevent any recurrences through better advanced planning with more visibility of exam schedules," said **Jim Victor**, program manager of the Health Science Center's Flood Recovery Projects. (*See back page*).

NEW MHH INITIATIVES AFFECT CLINICAL FACULTY

Dean Max Buja and **Dr. Jeffrey Katz**, assistant dean for clinical operations, recently announced two new initiatives at Memorial Hermann Hospital (MHH) that affect clinical faculty.

MHH will go live with mandatory electronic signing of all dictated physician notes in the electronic medical record (EMR) through Care4 software May 17. Care software instructors will be at the hospital **April 17** and will spend a month in various hospital sites instructing the medical staff on the software and processing log-on numbers and passwords. This new method will be the only way to sign dictated history and physical, discharge summaries, consults, and progress notes. The following functions will remain manual until further upgrades are provided: completing and signing short-stay forms, birth records, obstetrics discharge summaries, verbal orders, discharge notes, cancer staging forms, anesthesia records and physician orders. "These new additions to the EMR are another stage in Memorial Hermann's effort to create a totally paperless archiving system," Katz said. "Other hospitals in the system that have already gone live with these features have experienced ready acceptance by the medical staff once they are familiar with the advantages it brings."



Dean Max Buja

In addition, MHH will undergo a Cancer Registry Survey in **June 2003** and failure to have 90 percent of cancer cases staged in the registry could result in withdrawal of accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Section on Cancer. Medical records personnel are working hard to see that past and current cancer staging forms are complete and up to date. Failure to keep these records current can result in loss of credentials at MHH since it will soon become a part of the chart completion process.



Dr. Jeffrey Katz

SAD NOTE - Memorial Hermann CEO **Dan Wolterman** recently announced, "It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I tell you **Anne** and **Dan Wilford** were involved in a car accident March 13, in Laurel, Miss. The tragic news is Anne died and Dan was injured."

Wilford is retired president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Healthcare System. Contributions in memory of Anne can be given to Sugar Land First United Methodist Church, 431 Eldridge Road, SugarLand, TX 77478, or Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, 7737 Southwest Freeway, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77074.



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NOISE ABATEMENT ISSUES, CONTINUED

Specific activities that fall under this ban are:

- Any use of power tools
- Any striking, concussion, percussion (shot anchors) or assembly creating shock noise
- Assembly and disassembly where risk of falling items can create shock noise
- Delivery or receipt of bulk assemblies requiring power equipment in or outside the building
- Concrete pouring or formwork
- Moving of materials by powered means
- Testing, assembly, or installation that puts any member of the building structure at risk of transmitting noise throughout the building.

This work is being rescheduled for times other than the 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. academic hours of the School, Monday through Friday.

Certain “quiet” activities, such as painting, tape and float of drywall, and insulation work, will be allowed on a case-by-case basis with a minimum 48-hour advance approval of the Office of the Dean/Director of MSB Management Services.

If you have any questions about this policy, contact **Claire Brunson**, 713-500-5018.

TMA RECEPTION — All clinical faculty are invited to a UT-Houston Alumni Reception, Thurs., **April 3**, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk in the Rio Grande Center, West Ballroom, during the Texas Medical Association meeting. RSVP to Office of Alumni Affairs, 713-500-5121 (phone), or 713-500-0606 (FAX).



FUN RUN - The 25th Annual Eeyore's 5K Run brochure says “Run, walk, or just come for the party!” That should be enticement enough to participate in a great running/walking event Sat., **March 29**. Proceeds provide scholarships to deserving Houston-area high school students. Call 713-627-3938 or go to <www.houston.texasexes.org>; click on Eeyore's Fun Run.

TEACHING & LEARNING

REGIONAL CONFERENCE MARCH 28

The fourth-annual regional conference, “Advances in Teaching & Learning 2003,” will be 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fri., **March 28**, at UCT, 15th floor. Free lunch for the first 100 registrants. On-site registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

The conference is sponsored by the School of Health Information Sciences. The keynote address will be “The New Scholar: Hidden Rewards for Developing Non-Traditional Learning Resources,” by **Susanne Stensaas, Ph.D.**

Podium and poster presentation topics include: technology in education, scholarship in teaching, clinical education, patient education, and educational research.

Contact: <Connie.j.tapper@uth.tmc.edu>, 713-500-3973.



Dr. Patricia Kuhl

LECTURER TO ADDRESS THE SOUNDS THAT ROCK THE CRADLE

Experts now consider babies to be hard-wired for learning — scientists in the crib — to be exact. Enter **Dr. Patricia Kuhl**, the baby talker. And listener, it turns out. Kuhl studies language and speech; and her research has shown that speaking to infants is a critical part of good language development. When mom or dad talks or reads to their infant, the baby listens intently. And what

the child hears will help her brain to make connections and to develop synapses. These neurological steps prepare babies to start to learn to speak long before they can say their first words.

Kuhl is a co-author of *The Scientist in the Crib: What Early Learning Tells Us about the Mind*. She will be guest lecturing at 4 p.m., Thurs., **March 27**, in MSB 3.001 as part of the Distinguished Lecture in the Neurosciences series. The series is sponsored by The Neuroscience Research Center, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Kuhl's work is far-reaching in its implications, from psychology and biology for its identification of critical periods in development; to linguistics and education for its applicability to bilingual education; to neuroscience for its implications for brain mapping of complex information; and to engineering for its implications concerning how computers might be programmed to respond to spoken language.

The researcher has an affiliation with the Neuroscience Research Group in La Jolla, Calif., and also is the William P. and Ruth Gerberding Professor at the University of Washington and co-director of the UW Center for Mind, Brain, and Learning, as well as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Society, and the Acoustical Society of America.

REUNION NEWS

Graduates from the Medical School's classes of 1978, 1983, 1993, and 1998 will be having their reunion **May 16 & 17**. If you graduated from one of the above classes and have not received your registration packet, please contact **Jeanie Mullin** in the Office of Alumni Affairs at 713-500-5121.

Future MS Looks -

Drawings of the future Medical School Ground Floor are now available on the Web. They can be accessed via the Medical School home page



on the right, under “Hot Spots.” Click on “New Ground Floor.”

BISTRO NOW OPEN IN JESSE JONES LIBRARY

Ground Central Station, lower level, is open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Mon. - Fri., and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., on Saturdays, with breakfast and lunch items.