



# Scoop

March 28, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### March

**28 Volunteer signup deadline: UT House Medics, Home Repair.** <<http://is.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/projects/housemed.html>>.

### April

**8 Friends of the Medical School Lecture Series, 5:30 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m., Program.** The Warwick Hotel. Featured Speaker: **Dr. Gaile Marshall**, "The Allergic March." Space is limited. RSVP: 713-500-5010.

## UTMost Interest

**Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, Family Practice and Community Medicine, was the invited speaker for the Medical School's Organization of Parents and Friends on March 24. **Dr. Skip Gleason**, Assist. Dean for Admissions, provided a schoolwide update.

**NOW MORE THAN EVER** - Give blood. The Memorial Hermann Hospital and Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital Blood Center is open **Mon., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, Robertson Bldg., 1<sup>st</sup> floor, near Shock Trauma Waiting Room and Garage 4. Or visit <[www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org)>.

## NOTICED ANYTHING DIFFERENT?



The Medical School has reached a new milestone. The yellow "life support" tubes, post Tropical Storm Allison, that have permeated the interior and exterior of the school, have been removed.

## DEAN'S LECTURER TO DISCUSS GENOMIC ADVANCES APRIL 9



**Dr. Matthew Scott**

What possible relationship can there be between a fruit fly, more specifically the fly *Drosophila*, and a mouse?

You just might want to ask **Dr. Matthew Scott** that question. Scott, a professor in Developmental Biology and Genetics at Stanford University School of Medicine, and an investigator at Hughes Medical Institute, will deliver his talk, "Genomic Approaches to Mesoderm Development," at 4 p.m., Wed., **April 9**, in MSB 3.001.

Key words that show up in Scott's research include: basal cell carcinoma of the skin, and medulloblastoma of the cerebellum. His lab is interested in the embryonic development of the fly *Drosophila*. They have completed the sequence of the *Drosophila* genome, making it possible to study the activation of all genes during the entire life cycle.

By working with mouse models and by using knowledge of the signaling pathway derived from studies in flies, Scott and his colleagues are investigating the changes that occur in the conversion of normal cells to tumor cells.

## FOUR YEARS OF EFFORTS CULMINATE IN MATCH DAY

Last week more than 180 graduating seniors from the Medical School learned where their medical careers will take them after graduation at the annual Match Day.

The top three areas of medicine that UT-Houston students chose for their residency training are internal medicine, pediatrics, and surgery.

More than half of the UT 2003 graduates will stay in Texas, at least for the first year of residency.

Nationwide, almost 24,000 applicants were matched to their specialties. Internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, anesthesiology, diagnostic radiology, and pathology saw increased interest nationally, and family practice saw a decrease.

The Match is coordinated by the National Resident Matching Program, a private, nonprofit organization established in 1952, to provide an impartial venue for consistently matching applicants' and programs' preferences for each other. Non-U.S. citizen international medical graduates increased 10 percent this year, reversing a five-year decline.

- photos by C. O'Brien



More than 180 UT-Houston medical students gathered for Match Day, March 20.



(l.to r.), Patrick Paratore, brother; Gay Paratore, mother; Amber Paratore Sanchez, MS IV, and spouse Joey Sanchez, are all smiles at the Match.



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## STUDENT FORUM AT UTMB

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual National Student Research Forum, at UTMB, on **April 3 - 5**, will have over 100 participants from around the country. Faculty and students are encouraged to come see all the stellar research. For more information go to <http://www2.utmb.edu/nsrf/main.htm>, or call **Scott Larson**, 1-409-747-6812.

## ADA FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Research Committee of the American Diabetes Association, Houston/Southeast Texas area, encourages students, fellows, and established investigators to apply for funding.

The local ADA deadlines are **May 1** and **November 1**. For more information call 713-977-7706, or go online at [www.diabetes.org/research](http://www.diabetes.org/research) for applications.

## READY? MS 150 BIKE TOUR COMIN' UP

The MS 150-mile bike trip to Austin, **April 12 and 13**, is expecting 10,000 riders this



year. The MS 150 organization raises funds for multiple sclerosis (MS) research.

Visit the Web site at [www.ms150.org/ms150](http://www.ms150.org/ms150).

## TEE IT UP FOR BO'S PLACE

The UT Housestaff Association is holding its annual golf tournament "Tee It Up for Bo's Place" Sat., **April 26**, at Wildcat Golf Club.

Bo's Place is a nonprofit center that provides grief counseling for children who have lost a sibling or parent.

The \$85 entry fee includes box lunch, range balls, cart, and a seated dinner. A silent auction will be held during dinner.

For more information, go to <http://utsmf.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/news3.html> or call **Dr. Christian Erikson**, at 713-383-0493.

## MUSICAL NOTES

Music as therapy in the fields of medicine, psychiatry, rehabilitation, research, and education is the theme for this year's Southwestern American Music Therapy Conference, **April 3 - 5**, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Onsite registration is available. For more information, contact **Chris Webb**, music therapist, UT HCPC, 713-741-5989.

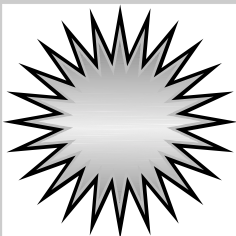
The VA-National Medical Musical Group is recruiting new members for its chorus and symphony orchestra. Participation is open to physicians, students and their families, and other healthcare professionals. The group is nonprofit, the oldest medical musical group in the country, and highlights health problems of concern to veterans and the general public.

The Eighth Congressional Flag Day Concert is Tues., **June 10**, at the Cannon Caucus Room on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

For more information see [www.medicalmusical.com](http://www.medicalmusical.com).

## MARCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - ALVERA RHODES

**Alvera Rhodes**, senior support specialist, Conference Operations, is our March Employee of the Month. And a charm school graduate? "Believe it or not, I went to charm school when I was a little girl! I guess that's rubbed off," she smiled. To those who know her, Alvera is a model of quiet professionalism.



She has a demanding job. She dispatches scheduling for all meeting rooms in the Medical School, all problem-based learning classroom assignments, and numerous daily requests that come in to set up and strike needed audiovisual equipment for any and all events. Sometimes the people she serves can be abrupt, bossy, or uncivil. Through it all, Alvera has "the patience of Job." "You have to," she will tell you. "That's the nature of my work. My motto is: If I don't have the answer for you, I'll move heaven and earth to find it for you."

Noted for her calm and authoritative demeanor, Alvera often is called upon to be the enforcer in conferencing disputes. When two people are harranging over who has the appointed space at the appointed hour, or when a speaker has gone over his allotted time and another waits in the wings, Alvera enters the fray. "You have five minutes, sir," they will hear.

Through her 24 years of service at the Medical School, Alvera has steadfastly worked with **Ted Jones**, her immediate supervisor. "When I first knew Ted years ago, he had two left feet; now he's a dance instructor and has been known to win fiercely competitive dance contests!" she said proudly.

Alvera's also proud of her greatest personal triumph, her daughter, **Ashley**, who she will tell you, is a sophomore doing quite well at the University of Houston. What's Ashley's major? You might have guessed it -- communications. The apple doesn't fall so far from the tree.



**Alvera Rhodes**