

Events to Know

September

8 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series, Dr. Wayne Backes, "Organization of Reductase and P450 in Reconstituted Systems," 4 p.m., MSB 2.006.

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).

October

1 AWF Promotion Reception, noon, speaker **Sherry Wilson**, "Emotional IQ - The Other Key to Success," Fifth Floor Gallery.

10 Fun Fest, 2 - 6 p.m., Hornberger Conference Center; see <<http://www.uthouston.edu/funfest>>.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Guy Clifton, chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, was quoted concerning the Harris County Hospital District's proposal for expanding its services by adding a hospital and a dozen new clinics and considering a sliding scale basis of payment (*Houston Chronicle*, 9/02/03)...**Dr. David Mercer**, professor, Department of Surgery, is president-elect of the Society of University Surgeons...**Dr. Ronald Portman**, professor, Pediatrics, and director, Division of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension, has been appointed by the Department of Health and Human Services to serve on the Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration until June 2007. The 11-person committee reviews and evaluates available data concerning the safety and effectiveness of marketed and investigational human drug products for use in the treatment of cardiovascular and renal disorders and makes appropriate recommendations to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs. Portman will be the first pediatrician to serve on the committee.

CHEN REPRESENTS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT AAMC CONFERENCE

Faculty women chosen to attend the annual Association of American Medical College's Mid-Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminars hold one attribute in common – excellence. This year's AAMC session July 19-22 was jointly held with the Harvard Medical School's Department of Continuing Education. **Dr. Phebe Chen**, associate professor in the Department of Radiology and chief of Ultrasound, was the Medical School's representative at the event in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Phebe Chen

What drives Dr. Chen to excellence? One clue might be what interests spark her passion. Her specialty in ultrasound includes evaluating gynecologic diseases. She is past president of the Medical School's Association of Women Faculty, has been a radiology team leader for the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine for the past five years, and has won the Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award three times.

"The AAMC sessions were informative; there were too many to attend, so you had to pick and choose and use your time wisely," Chen said. "What attracted me the most, besides the valuable information, was the ability to renew professional ties with others I had communicated with by e-mail in the past, as well as to meet new colleagues and form new bonds." Networking and being open to new ideas, she said, are necessary skills in the life of a medical professional.

BOUTWELL APPOINTED TO OSLERIAN PROFESSORSHIP

Dr. Bryant Boutwell, associate dean for Community Affairs and Professional Education and a faculty member in the Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine, has been named the first holder of the John P. McGovern, M. D. Professorship in Oslerian Medicine. "This is a tremendous honor and one that will further my faculty efforts as a medical educator, writer, and historian. That this professorship includes the names McGovern and Osler makes it all the more special," Boutwell noted.



Dr. Bryant Boutwell

Dr. John P. McGovern, who holds faculty appointments at each of the schools within the UT Health Science Center at Houston, has a long history of supporting excellence in medical writing, the value of medical history, and the Oslerian principles of humanism in medicine. **Sir William Osler**, regarded as the father of modern medicine, wrote one of the most published texts in medicine and his teachings survive through his valued axioms that capture the essence of the finest principles of medicine, education, character, and philosophy.

Boutwell joined the Medical School in 1993 following a 15-year career at M. D. Anderson, where he served in administrative roles as assistant vice president for Academic Affairs and as a research faculty member in the Division of Cancer Prevention.

HITOSHI CHRISTOPHER NIKAIDOH, M.D. 1968 – 2003



Hitoshi Nikaidoh, M.D.

A tribute ceremony was held Thurs., Aug. 28, at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston for **Hitoshi Nikaidoh, M.D.**, a 2003 graduate and recipient of the Gold-Headed Cane for humanism and service. Nikaidoh died in Houston Saturday, Aug. 16. He was 35.

Throughout his life, Nikaidoh demonstrated the very words adorned on the Gold-Headed Cane that his fellow classmates voted to present him upon graduation - Humility, Humanity, Fidelity. Entering this School in 1999, Nikaidoh excelled not only in the classroom but also as a role model for community involvement and service. Faculty and students alike came to know Nikaidoh was an individual committed to making a difference. Medical School was just one stop along the way in his journey to make a difference in this world.

As president of the Student Intercouncil for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, he represented students throughout all six schools of the campus. In that role he helped start the MediSend project to distribute surplus health-care supplies to under-developed countries among other valuable school-wide accomplishments.

Many speakers shared their memories of Nikaidoh, including **Dr. William Seifert**, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, who said "Each one of us has felt the goodness, truth, and beauty that Toshi brought to those around him...Toshi cared deeply about the homeless and the downtrodden."

Added **Dr. James T. Willerson**, "I've come to know him a lot better since his death...this is a very special young man...he had no greater ambition than to help others. Three or four days before his death he told friends, 'I believe we're here for a purpose. And when that purpose is discharged, we will be recalled.'

Dr. Maximilian Buja, who served as dean when Nikaidoh was a student, commented, "We in medicine are committed to the quality of life of our fellow patients. It's been said that to give life meaning, one must have a purpose, a meaning larger than oneself. Nikaidoh was a leader in the UTHSC Student Intercouncil. He gave of himself in countless volunteer activities. He had a deep and abiding spirituality, as reflected in his receiving the Gold Headed Cane award this past year."

A scholarship has been set up in Nikaidoh's name, the Hitoshi Nikaidoh, M.D. Scholarship for Humanism in Medicine. Contributions can be made in the scholarship's name to: The University of Texas Health Science Center, Office of Development, 7000 Fannin, Suite 1200, Houston, TX 77225-0036.

HARRIS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE DONATION

James Davis, Harris County Medical Society Alliance (left), and **Betty Bassili**, Harris County Medical Society Alliance, recently gave **Dr. Stanley Schultz** a \$5,000 check donation toward scholarship funds. Established in 1919, the Harris County Medical Society Alliance is headed up by Bassili, HCMSA president. The organization funds nursing scholarships, medical student scholarships, and important community health and educational programs. To date, its philanthropic fund has donated over \$1.7 million to these endeavors.



SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

William A. Weems, Ph.D., assistant vice president, Office of Academic Computing, and associate dean, Information Technology, will discuss "The Role of Digital Scholarly Works in Academe" at the Seventh Annual Houston Conference on Health Informatics 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Mon., **Sept. 8**, at the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science, 1515 Hermann Dr.

Sponsored by the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library, the conference will feature speakers on various aspects of the topic "It's a Brave New World: Challenges and Opportunities in Scholarly Communication."

For information and registration, see <<http://hchi2003.library.tmc.edu/>>.

CONVOCATION TO HONOR THREE PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS SEPT. 25

The highest faculty recognition given by The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston - the President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Research - will be awarded at the Faculty Honors Convocation Thurs., **Sept. 25**, to **John Spudich, Ph.D.**, and **Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D.** **Margaret Uthman, M.D.**, will be the President's Scholar Award for Teaching recipient. **James T. Willerson, M.D.**, president, will present the 2003 awards. Each award carries a \$5,000 prize. The event will start at 4 p.m. A reception will follow at 5:30 p.m. at the Edwin Hornberger Conferenc Center.

Funding is provided by the Lone Star Legacy Society President's Excellence Fund.

Past recipients of the President's Scholar Award for Research include: **Jack Schull, Ph.D.**; **Ernst Knobil, Ph.D.**; **James T. Willerson, M.D.**; **John Byrne, Ph.D.**; and **Kenneth Wu, M.D.** Past recipients of the President's Scholar Award for Teaching include: **James Turley, Ph.D.**; **Jeannette Adams, Dr. P.H.**; **Ron Phil, Ph.D.**; **Marianne Marcus, Ed.D.**; and **Stanley Schultz, M.D.**

BIOMOLECULAR MODELING COURSE

A new course is being offered in Biomolecular Modeling featuring a broad and practical introduction to computational modeling of biological structures, computational chemistry, and molecular dynamics. Sessions continue through Dec. 1. For more information contact **Dr. Willy Wriggers**, 713-500-3961, or <Willy.R.Wriggers@uth.tmc.edu>.