



Scoop

April 8, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

April

- 8 TODAY. Dr. Stanley Fisher,** "Future Directions in Parkinson Disease," noon, MSB 2.135.
- 10 Run for the Rose,** 8 a.m., 5 K Run, Reliant Park. See <<http://www.RunfortheRose.com>>.
- 12 Groundbreaking celebration** for the Replacement Research Facility, 9:30 a.m., Fifth Floor Gallery. All invited.
- 13 MSRDP Quarterly Board Meeting,** 4 p.m., MSB 2.103. All clinical faculty invited.
- 13-16 Concepts in Contemporary Cardiology,** George R. Brown Convention Center, see <<http://www.cardioconcepts.org>>.
- 15-16 Alumni Reunion Weekend.** Visit <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/alumni/index.htm>>.

May

- 19 ANNUAL FACULTY MEETING,** 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., MSB 2.006.
- 28 Commencement,** 10 a.m., George R. Brown Convention Center. **Dr. Catherine DeAngelis,** commencement speaker.

GILSTRAP NAMED TO ALMA MATER'S HALL OF FAME

Dr. Larry Gilstrap, the Emma Sue Hightower Professor and chair, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, recalls the telegram he received back in 1966 telling him the news of his acceptance to the University of Miami School of Medicine. "That telegram is one of my most cherished possessions and I keep it locked away in my safety deposit box." Gilstrap had reason to reminisce. At Alumni Weekend 2005 at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables last month, the event culminated with Gilstrap's induction into the school's Hall of Fame. Gilstrap was cited for his many contributions to the field of maternal fetal medicine. "Receiving the University of Miami School of Medicine Hall of Fame award was truly an honor. Having my wife Jo Ellen, my three daughters, Lori, Lisa, and Erin, my son-in-law Michael, and nine other family members there to share this award with me was an even greater honor," Gilstrap said.



Dr. Larry Gilstrap

About 150 alumni, students and friends attended the festivities. Gilstrap's colleague, and the second woman to be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame, genetics researcher **Julie Korenberg, M.D., Ph.D.** joined him on the platform. There are 16 alumni in the school's Hall of Fame and nine are from classes that graduated during the 1970s.

- C. O'Brien

MD/PhD PROGRAM CELEBRATES 23 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 1982, with just two students, the Medical School initiated an M.D./Ph.D. program. This year's class number was 25. "Their success reflects the excellent and successful students in the program," said **Dr. Dianna Milewicz**, director, Division of Medical Genetics, "as well as the quality of the combined M.D./Ph.D. training program." Matriculating students and their future residency programs are: **Drs. Gregory Aune**, Johns Hopkins, Pediatrics; **Laurel Fohn**, Vanderbilt, Pathology; **Travis Hollmann**, Brigham & Women's, Pathology; **Susan Ritter**, Brigham & Women's, Internal Medicine; and **Suzanna Martin**, Duke, Pediatrics.

STUDENTS' CADAVER EXPERIENCES INSPIRE PHOTO JOURNAL

Meryl Levin will be on campus at noon Tues., **April 12**, in MSB 2.006 where she will give away 100 copies of her *Anatomy of Anatomy* book. Levin's book is a collage of her photos, and reflections from medical students during their cadaver experiences in anatomy courses. "The openness and honesty with which this special group of students so carefully wrote is beyond what I ever could have imagined. I cannot express enough appreciation to my collaborators for sharing themselves in this way," the author said. **Dr. Abraham Verghese**, a Grover Murray Distinguished Professor of Medicine at Texas Tech University in El Paso, penned a foreword for the book.



Meryl Levin

Lunch will be available for the first 100 attendees. A reception to view the photographs will be held 4 - 5 p.m., Learning Resource Center, MSB G.200. The event is sponsored by The John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit.

GOING, GOING, GONE!



The final clearing away of the John Freeman Building makes way for the Replacement Research Facility. Join us for the groundbreaking celebration for the new six-story building, 9:30 a.m. Tues., April 12, Fifth Floor Gallery.



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of TEXAS

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A part of The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

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DEAN'S LECTURER IS MICROBIAL GENETICS EXPERT



Randy Schekman, Ph.D.

Randy Schekman, Ph.D. will address "Mechanism and Disease Implications of Intracellular Vesicle Traffic" as the Dean's Lecturer, at 4 p.m., Wed., **May 11**, MSB 3.001.

"My laboratory has identified genes and gene products that are implicated in the early phases of protein secretion," Schekman, who has been associated with the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California, Berkeley for almost 30 years, said. "We discovered new membrane proteins that form a complex that allows secretory proteins, which generally are water soluble, to pass through a water-insoluble membrane."

He studied DNA replication as a graduate student with **Arthur Kornberg** at Stanford University. His current interest in cellular membranes developed during a postdoctoral period with **S. J. Singer** at the University of California, San Diego. Schekman introduced the techniques of microbial genetics and molecular biology to the study of the mechanism of protein transport in eukaryotic cells. A large number of mutations have been isolated that define the genes, gene products, and organelle intermediates in the secretory process in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

In recent years, Schekman has turned his attention to an evaluation of the role of the secretory pathway in certain diseases, such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Membrane proteins implicated in familial forms of Alzheimer's are substrates for vesicular trafficking, and defects associated with protein transport may play a role in the pathology of AD. With the advent of California's stem cell initiative, Schekman is organizing an effort at UC Berkeley to develop studies on human embryonic stem cells as a means of evaluating the pathology associated with diseases such as AD.

Among Schekman's awards are the Eli Lilly Award in Microbiology and Immunology and the Albert Lasker Award in Basic Medical Research. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1999, he was the president of the American Society for Cell Biology. In 2002, he was elected chair of the Biochemistry Section of the National Academy of Sciences.

- C. O'Brien

MARCH OF DIMES BENEFIT: WALKAMERICA, U OF H CAMPUS, MAY 1

Monica Cantu, MS1, Medical School, is helping out with the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, which will be held 9 a.m. Sunday, **May 1**, at the University of Houston.

"March of Dimes is a great organization," she said. To participate, contact <Monica.E.Cantu@uth.tmc.edu> or 1-956-324-5154. Cantu can deliver information, money-raising envelopes, and/or a participant form.

For any other interested walkers, or to become a team captain, call **Rose Mary Betancourt-Trevino**, 713-500-3209.

PRICE COMPARISON SHOWS TEJAS SAVINGS

Looking to save an estimated \$50,000 a year in pens and paper, the health science center recently switched to a sole-source vendor for office supplies.

Tejas emerged as the winner of a competitive bid process among four qualified "historically underutilized business" companies, which were evaluated on cost, quality, service, and technical capability, and became the sole vendor in December.

The health science center decided to use a sole-source vendor in an effort to improve cost savings by pooling the purchase power of the institution and to improve HUB participation rates, explained **Jerry Fuller**, assistant vice president of procurement.

"HUB rates are important because it is something that the Legislature looks at when it is deciding our state budget," he said.

The 33-month Tejas contract, which has the option for five one-year renewals, gives the health science center a 62 percent discount off general office supplies and 35 percent off toner cartridges.

A "market basket" sample of 23 commonly ordered products from the health science center shows about a 40 percent savings on the discounted Tejas rate compared to the discounted Boise/Office Max rates.

"And Tejas is responsible for finding and delivering any office supply product regardless if it is something they don't normally carry," Fuller added.

Computer supplies are not technically considered office supplies and, therefore, may be purchased from approved computer supply vendors, Fuller said.

He also reminded purchasers of the HUB rule. "The rule is, if all things are equal – service, price, and quality – between a non-HUB vendor and a HUB vendor, choose the HUB vendor," he said.

- D. Brown

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER NOMINATIONS!

It's never too late for nominating a co-worker, family member, friend, or even yourself for Employee of the Quarter. If you know of someone, or even if you're the one, go to the Web site at <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>>, under Hot Spots, click on "Nominate Employee of the Quarter," print out the nomination, and send it in to **Alexis Basha**, JLL 400. You may also e-mail your nomination to <Alexis.L.Basha@uth.tmc.edu>.

ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA NEW MEMBERS' INDUCTION



Front row (l. to r.): Cade McDowell, Chris Stutz, Mark Hammonds, John Munz, Jeffrey Duman, Sergio (Rod) Burguete, Erik Askenasy
Second row (l. to r.): Malisa Lester, Cameron Coury, Audrey Ahuero, Lori Howell, Shade Ehiemua, Jody Smith, Kelly Gabler, Elise Roe, Michelle Rodriguez, Magdalena Peixoto, Kristel Polder
Third row (l. to r.): Jon Schneider, Jeffrey McDaniel, Robert Koval, Joshua Dimmick, David Clark, Ryan Veurink, Kathryn Boyd, Christopher Moreland, Travis Hollmann, Laurel Fohn