



Scoop

Jan. 21, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

January

21 TODAY. Dr. Marilyn Gaston to address health care issues of low-income and uninsured Americans, noon, JLL 3rd floor auditorium. Lunch for the first 200.

February

5 Preventive Cardiology Forum, 7 a.m. - 12:40 p.m., MSB 3.001.

21-22 Molecular Medicine Conference. Houston-Hilton Americas. See <<http://www.utsystem.edu/hea/molecular/homepage.htm>>.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Michael Blackburn, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, reported on a cell surface protein's role in mitigating the damage caused by chronic pulmonary diseases in the January edition of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

COMMENCEMENT REGALIA ORDERS DUE

Orders for the rental of regalia are being taken through **Feb. 1**. For questions and to order, contact Student Affairs at 713-500-5160, MSB G.400.

MSRDP MEETING JAN. 26

All members of the Medical Service, Research and Development Board (MSRDP) are encouraged to attend the annual meeting 4 - 6 p.m. Wed., **Jan. 26**, MSB 2.103.

In addition to presentations on MSRDP's past activities, plans, and finances, **Cathy Thompson**, our in-house risk manager and an attorney from UT System, will be discussing the recently enacted tort (definition: a civil wrong - any wrongdoing for which an action for damages may be brought) reform law, including settlement maximums. Also, the increasing investigative role of the State Board of Medical Examiners will be discussed, including patient complaints (of physicians), lawsuits, and practice issues.

DRS. CASTRO AND RIESENBERG NAMED ASSISTANT DEANS

Dean Stanley Schultz has announced two new assistant dean appointments: **Gilbert A. Castro, Ph.D.**, assistant dean and director of the Office for Special Projects, effective Jan. 1, and **Lee Ann Riesenbergh, Ph.D.**, assistant dean and director, Educational Programs, effective Jan. 3. "These two appointments are crucial to the furthering of our academic mission - in both the community that we serve and in the education that we impart," Schultz said.



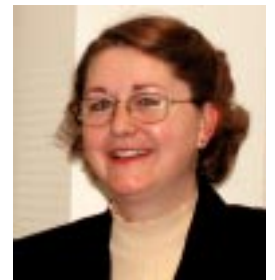
Dr. Schultz congratulates Dr. Castro

"Dr. Castro's responsibilities," Schultz said, "will be largely to develop programs that will encourage and increase our diversity representation in the Medical School. This will involve, in part, assisting me in developing a program for early admission or assured admission of qualified students from UT El Paso and, in addition, executing a plan that he has proposed for increasing our representation of women and underrepresented minorities on our faculty."

Castro joined the Medical School in 1972 and holds the position of professor, Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology. He also is vice president, Inter-Institutional Relations, as well as vice president, Health Affairs, The University of Texas at El Paso.

Castro has been involved in diversity in medicine issues for years. "The state demographer has recently commented that we are already a majority minority state, and we need to make sure the Medical School accurately reflects this population," he said.

Riesenbergh's most recent appointments were with the Department of Family Medicine, Upstate Medical University, SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse, Clinical Campus at Binghamton; and Family Practice, Internal Medicine, and General Surgery residencies, Guthrie/Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, Pa. (Cont'd. on back)



Dr. Lee Ann Riesenbergh



Dr. Nancy McNeil

MCNIEL APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dean Stanley Schultz and Kevin Dillon, health science center executive vice president for finance and business affairs, have appointed **Nancy McNeil, Ph.D.** to the position of executive director, Office of Finance and Administration, effective Jan. 1.

"Nancy is a strong asset for the Medical School. Her decisiveness and her focus during the School's many months of ongoing construction phases, have been outstanding. I have no doubt that as executive director, Nancy will continue to provide effective administrative skills," Schultz said.

"I'm very pleased with the work Nancy has done in the Medical School. In particular, she has been invaluable with respect to the myriads of construction and facility issues confronting the (Cont'd. on back)



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

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

Stanley Schultz, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Director
e-mail: M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597

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“LOVE IS IN THE AIR”

Come hear Doctors Orchestra of Houston, now in its fifth season, in its Valentine Day concert celebration, “Love is in the Air,” 5 p.m. Sun., **Feb. 13**, Cullen Theater, Wortham Center.



The Mariachi band “Mariachi Los Gallitos” will perform during the Doctors Orchestra concert at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, Feb. 13.

Works to be performed include: “Moon River,” “My Funny Valentine,” “Embraceable You,” “April in Paris,” and other selections by George Gershwin, Leroy Anderson, and Richard Rogers. The concert also will feature Houston’s leading Mariachi band, “Mariachi Los Gallitos,” who will perform love songs by famous Latin composers.

This concert, sponsored by TIAA CREFF, will benefit Hadassah, a Jewish charity that focuses on women’s health and prevention.

Tickets are \$10, \$20, and are available at the door or online at : <<http://www.DoctorsOrchestraHouston.org>>.

ASSISTANT DEANS, CONT’D.

“Dr. Riesenbergs has a wealth of experience in faculty development, curriculum evaluation, and educational research. She is an important addition to our office,” said **Dr. Patricia Butler**, associate dean, Educational Programs.

“I am delighted to be in Houston, where I have received a warm welcome, and I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, and Curriculum Committee in Medical Education,” Riesenbergs said.

Riesenbergs replaces **Dr. Linda Perkowski**, who relocated to Minnesota.

- C. O’Brien

MCNIEL’S APPOINTMENT, CONT’D.

Medical School. I’ve also been greatly appreciative of her leadership with the DMOs and ASOs. She and **Angela Hintzel**, the Medical School’s director of finance, have collaborated very well, addressing the administrative, financial, and related issues of the School,” Dillon said.

McNiel came on board in the Medical School’s Office of Finance and Administration last April.

“I really appreciate the reception I have received in the Medical School. I am very pleased to be part of the School during this exciting phase of bringing closure to the flood recovery projects and pushing forward with the construction of the new Replacement Research Facility. All of us in the Office of Finance and Administration will continue to work toward streamlining administrative functions in the School and providing the best services for our faculty, staff, and students,” McNiel said.

- C. O’Brien

FREE PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY FORUM SAT., FEB. 5 CELEBRATES A 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Francisco Fuentes, Division of Cardiology, is the program director for this year’s free forum, to be held from 7 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. Sat., **Feb. 5**, in MSB 3.001.

The forum will focus on “Obesity, Metabolic Syndrome and Cardiovascular Disease: Prevention and Treatment.”

Registration and breakfast is at 7 a.m. To register, call 713-610-5090. For questions, call **Sandra Vick**, 713-500-6576.

CME credit is offered.

CHIRAG PATEL WINS NATIONAL TOP VOLUNTEER AWARD

Chirag Patel, an M.D., Ph.D. candidate at the Medical School, will be one of 10 national recipients of the 2005 Lewis Hine Award for Service to Youth **Jan. 31**, in New York City. The award is administered by the National Child Labor Committee; previous recipients include **Hillary Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Bolton, and Harry Belafonte**. Each recipient receives \$1,000 and a trip to the awards ceremony.



Chirag Patel

Patel is designating his monetary award to the Indian Ocean tsunami relief efforts.

Besides having a generous nature, Patel is a stellar volunteer and has engineered many volunteer efforts. Recently he helped organize a day of service for 235 volunteers at nine Texas Medical Center member institutions.

The award is named after photographer **Lewis Wickes Hine**, who early in the 20th century shot over 10,000 images of children working under deplorable conditions. His efforts helped to enact state and federal laws to protect the rights of children.

“HAS ANYONE SEEN MY DESK” ORGANIZATIONAL & PRODUCTIVITY WORKSHOP JAN. 27

Organizational expert **Denise Landers**, who recently led a well-attended e-mail organizing workshop, will be back to lead a free, two-hour lunch-and-learn seminar, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thurs., **Jan. 27**, in MSB 3.001.

Space is limited, so please r.s.v.p. to <Sam.Hester@uth.tmc.edu>. Bring your lunch and learn how to get organized.



CANDLELIT CADAVER CEREMONY IS A MEDICAL SCHOOL TRADITION

Medical School students, faculty and staff gathered in a quiet tribute in the Fifth Floor Gallery last week -- reading poetry, playing violin and piano, and paying fond farewell to those who in death contributed to the education of medical students.

The first-year class honors their gross anatomy cadavers in this moving ceremony each year.