



Scoop

May 27, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

May

28 Commencement, 10 a.m., George R. Brown Convention Center. Commencement speaker is **Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis**.

June

2 Center for Membrane Biology Seminar, **Dr. Joachim Seelig**, "When Peptide Meets Lipid: Greasy Folding," noon, MSB 6.018D.

15 Basement Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Medical School basement.

UTMost Interest

Judy Mayfield, a candidate for the TRS Higher Education seat on the Board of Trustees, came in second place when the vote totals were announced this week. Gov. Rick Perry appoints a trustee from among the top three vote-getters for the higher education seat **Sept. 1, 2005**...**Stephanie Lee, M.D.**, chief infectious diseases fellow, received first place for her poster presentation at the Annual International Society of Travel Medicine Conference held earlier this month in Lisbon, Portugal. Her research mentor is **Dr. Pablo C. Okhuysen**, professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, and program director for the ID Fellowship Program.

SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC SCOOP DELIVERY

Due to budget constraints, as of **June 3**, the paper version of *Scoop* will no longer be mailed to the readership outside the Medical School. *Scoop* will continue both its paper distribution within the Medical School and its electronic availability and distribution to the general readership.

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RRF PROGRESSES; ROOF AND GENERATOR FOR MSB

Although there have been day-to-day minor setbacks in the ongoing construction phase of the \$80.53 million Replacement Research Facility, **Jim Victor**, manager, Project Management and Engineering Services, said that he is optimistic that the building will be completed on time and within budget. The biggest challenge recently, he said, is constructing nine large transfer beams to span Harris Gully on which the RRF will be built. "Vaughn Construction is doing a creative job to shorten the amount of time it takes to build and position keystone beam structures for the RRF building," Victor said. They've basically shrunk a 108-day timeframe to build the beams down to an 82-day timeframe. "There's an additional premium of \$50,000 for the extra forms, but they've cut the time by 20 percent," he added.



Not only is a new day dawning for the Medical School, but also a new roof. Work is expected to commence in mid-June and is projected to take nine months to complete. **Wes Stewart** is the senior project manager in charge of that effort and the contractor for the \$2 million project is Competition Roofing. The Medical School roof, said Victor, is more than 20 years old, so it's been due to be replaced.

A new gas-powered generator to serve the Medical School's emergency power needs has been installed on the eighth-floor penthouse. "Hurricane season starts the first of June, so we're optimistic that this new generator will be able to take on just about anything," Victor said. Normal storms and flooding won't affect it. About the only incident it couldn't withstand would be an earthquake. Unlike the diesel generator that was in use during Tropical Storm Allison, the new gas-powered generator is a more secure and environmentally friendly source of power, with lower emissions, Victor said. Presently there are temporary generators on the roof that will be phased out as the new generator goes online toward the end of June. In the event of an emergency, transfer switches put the generator online for emergency power. Cold rooms, lab equipment, emergency lighting, the light safety system, the fire alarm, and the fire pumps, are all dependent on emergency power in emergency situations.



Workmen pour concrete into molds for positioning beamwork over Harris Gully.

- C. O'Brien

MCKINNEY & MATTRESS MAC MAKE POINTS AT CONFERENCE

Dr. Michael McKinney helped kick off a lively health science center Classified Staff Council Spring Workshop May 20, attended by over 200 employees at the Park Plaza Hotel, as a guest on a mock "Oprah" show, hosted by **Jane Brust**, assistant vice president, Public Affairs. "I make a living out of managing people who are smarter than me and I talk to people who are smarter than me," McKinney, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of the health science

(Cont'd. on back)



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

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2005 THE JOHN P. MCGOVERN AWARD - DR. ALBERTO PUIG

The John P. McGovern Award is given annually to an outstanding clinical faculty member chosen by the senior class. **Alberto Puig, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of General Medicine, is this year's McGovern Award recipient.



Dr. Alberto Puig

Puig, who received the Smythe Excellence Award from his department's residency program in 2004, additionally was a Dean's Teaching Excellence Award recipient for the past three years. He is a member of the Faculty Senate, the Curriculum Committee, the Dean's Vision subcommittee, and serves in a variety of other educational committees. He received both his medical degree and doctorate with honors from Baylor College of Medicine.

"The rewards that come from medical education are often personal, so it is a wonderful feeling to be recognized by those for whom we work so diligently," said Puig, who also is course director for Fundamentals in Clinical Medicine. "It is an honor to receive this year's John P. McGovern Award and to be chosen by the graduating

class to join such a distinguished list of past recipient medical educators. I feel privileged to accept this award and energized to pursue my academic and educational goals."

What makes Puig such an outstanding clinical teacher? In the words of one of his students, "I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Puig the last month of my third year. Though I expected to feel rather tired and burned out, he managed to reaffirm my desire to pursue a career in internal medicine. His enthusiasm for medicine is absolutely contagious. One of his favorite words is 'fantastic!' and he is, quite simply, that."

Another student commented, "I only had Dr. Puig when he gave Friday afternoon Internal Medicine lectures, but when he did, I knew I was going to learn something that day. He is so enthusiastic about what he does, that it really makes learning from him fun. He has a great sense of humor."

Yet another student said, "With his charisma and vitality, Dr. Puig rejuvenates students and residents. Excitement about education and health care oozes from Dr. Puig and seeps into all those around him."

Other winners of the John P. McGovern Award since 1990 include: **Drs. Frank C. Arnett, Eugene Toy, Edward Yeomans, John F. Donnelly, James T. Willerson, John M. Passmore, Herbert L. DuPont, and Octavio Pinell.**

- C. O'Brien

SPEAKERS MCKINNEY & MATTRESS MAC ADDRESS CONFERENCE, CONT'D.

center, said. "I came here two years ago on a 90-day assignment. Back then, it was hard to find many people who could smile. We were doing good things, but I think we forgot what we had signed up for. Our job is to teach students, do research, and to support." McKinney said that he is focused on continued improvement in salaries and stability for health science center employees.

Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale, the featured speaker, endeared himself to the audience when he gave away a \$2,000 television and a \$2,000 mattress. McIngvale said that the greatest challenge we have is to use our talents, and that success consists of persistence and not giving up. "I came to this town in 1982 with \$5,000 in my pocket and a dream," he said. "Cars, clothes, computers, and money are temporary. Here today; gone tomorrow. Your values are what stay with you. And remember, as the Outback Steakhouse slogan says, 'no rules, just right.' The customer, the constituent – in this case, the patient – is right. It's all about making a connection, making a difference. Do the unexpected, and do it well."



Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale autographs his book, *Always Think Big*.

The UCSC Classified Staff awarded \$1,000 to selected children of employees, toward their college expenses. They are: **Andrew Chiu, Roy Emanuel, Lauren Messer, Connie Yu, and Robby Xiao.**



Dr. Ali Denktas

interventional cardiology fellow. He is back doing what he loves, as a staff interventional cardiologist, working closely with cardiologist **Dr. Richard Smalling.**

Just this week, behind the scenes, both doctors were quietly saving the life of a 62-year-old woman through their PATCAR (Pre-Hospital Administration of Thrombolytic Therapy with Urgent Culprit Artery Revascularization) method.

"She has a good chance of recovery; the catheterization is proceeding nicely," Denktas said.

He also is intensely interested in stem cells taken from blood cells and has taught associates back in Turkey the technique. His ongoing study in this area is "Transplantation of peripheral progenitor cells into the infarct area using interventional or surgical techniques."

His spouse, **Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas**, has joined the Medical School as an assistant professor, Pediatrics/Cardiology. "We do ultrasounds of fetuses as young as 20 weeks, and up, as well as older children. We're interested in picking up the problems, whether it's congenital heart disease, anatomical abnormalities, or arrhythmias, as soon as possible," she said.

DENKTAS IS BACK HOME AGAIN

Dr. Ali Denktas, a former cardiology fellow at the Medical School, recently has returned as an assistant professor, Internal Medicine/Cardiology. Denktas received his medical degree from Istanbul University and he later went on to serve at the Mayo Clinic as a chief



Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas