

Events to Know

October

16 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Dr. Farrah Kheradmand (Baylor College of Medicine) to present "Adaptive Immunity in Smoker's Lung Disease." Noon, MSB 2.135.

18 "Religion, Aging, and Health: Historical Perspectives, Current Trends, and Future Prospects" presented by Dr. Jeff Levin, pioneering scientist whose research helped create the field of religion, spirituality, and health. Noon-1 p.m., MSB B.100. Lunch provided for first 50 attendees.

18 Faculty Honors Convocation. 4 p.m., Beth Robertson Auditorium in the Faye S. Sarofim Research Building.

19 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Seminar: Dr. Kevin Morano to present "All in the family: Regulation of Hsp70 by a divergent Hsp70 chaperone." 4-5 p.m., MSB 3.301.

23 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Dr. Francisco Asturias (The Scripps Research Institute) to present "Structural Studies of Eukaryotic Transcription." Noon, MSB 2.135.

25 "Effective Communication," an HR-Training and Development course. 9-11 a.m., MSB B.605.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was nominated by UT Health Science Center President **Dr. James Willerson** to serve as research director on the Dell Search Committee.

Juanita Romans, chief executive officer of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, appointed **Craig Cordola** to the position of chief executive officer for Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, effective Aug. 8.

Dr. Margaret McNeese, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, was appointed by **Gov. Rick Perry** to the Texas Medical Board.

Hearing dog helps Moore at work, at home

Bo has a furry black coat with a splash of white on his chest, wags his tail enthusiastically, and has the important duty of alerting **Wilhelmina "Willy" Moore** to common, everyday sounds she can't hear at work at the Medical School.

Moore is severe to profoundly deaf. She gradually began losing her hearing after a viral infection in 1987. Hearing aids help her understand some sounds, but she communicates with people mainly by lip-reading. She works at the Medical School as administrator of the Harris County Jail contract.

Bo is a professionally trained hearing dog from International Hearing Dog, Inc. (IHDI) – a nonprofit organization in Henderson, Colo., with a mission to train and place hearing dogs with persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, with and without multiple disabilities, at no charge to the recipient.

"The dogs are worth over \$6,000, but we give them to the people free of charge," said IHDI Field Representative **Bob Cooley**. The \$6,000 fee covers training and placement of the dogs and is funded through donations to IHDI.

Moore decided that a hearing dog would help her become more aware of sounds and actions going on around her, so she applied for a hearing dog through IHDI.

"Getting my hearing dog has been great for the help and secure feeling he gives, so that I will be aware of important sounds," Moore said. "Bo is a wonderful creature to have around, and I feel much more at ease now that I know nothing of importance happens around me that he does not let me know about."



Hearing dog **Bo** helps **Willy Moore** at work at the Medical School.

(Cont'd. on back)

Mayes to be honored by Scleroderma Foundation

Dr. Maureen Mayes, professor of internal medicine, will be among four honorees to be recognized during the Scleroderma Foundation's National Gala Oct. 14 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Las Vegas.

"This year's group of honorees is worthy of our adulation based on their commitment, passion, and dedication toward finding a cure for this difficult disease," said **Dr. Joseph Camerino**, board chair of the Scleroderma Foundation. "In their own ways, they have been champions for the cause and for that we owe them our deepest gratitude."

Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive, autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own body. It can cause thickening and tightening of the skin and, in some cases, causes serious damage to internal organs. It affects about 300,000 nationwide, mostly women ages 25-55.

Mayes, who has worked in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunogenetics at the Medical School since 2002, is the principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases' Scleroderma Family Registry and DNA Repository.

She is the author of more than 80 publications relating to scleroderma and leads the Houston site of a multi-center clinical trial that is studying the effectiveness of a cancer drug and stem cell transplantation in the treatment of scleroderma.

Mayes also is author of *The Scleroderma Book: A Guide for Patients and Families* (Oxford University Press, c1999).

Other Scleroderma Foundation honorees this year are actor **Jason Alexander**, the Scleroderma



Dr. Maureen Mayes

(Cont'd. on back)



HCPC presents childhood mental health program

There is still time to register for Current Challenges and Controversies in Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20 at the UT Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC) on 2800 S. MacGregor Way in Houston.

Presented by the HCPC, this continuing medical education program will feature keynote speaker **Dr. Ellen Leibenluft**, chief of the Unit on Affective Disorders in the Pediatrics and Developmental Neuropsychiatry Branch, Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program, National Institute of Mental Health.

Dr. Robert Guynn, executive director of the HCPC and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, will welcome program participants.

Panel discussion topics include diagnosis, treatment, and aggression and impulsivity and will be led by members of the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and The University of Texas Medical Branch.

To register, see <http://hcpc.uth.tmc.edu>.

Scoop's new deadline

Effective Oct. 13, *Scoop* has a new deadline. Submit event items or news tips for *Scoop* by noon on Thursday preceding the week of publication in which you would like your event or news to appear (eight days in advance). To submit content for *Scoop*, send an e-mail to scoop@uth.tmc.edu.

Any last-minute events should be submitted to the **dna** TV monitors via e-mail at ms.dna@uth.tmc.edu. Instructions for **dna** can be found at the **dna** Web site at med.uth.tmc.edu/dna.

Hearing dog, cont'd.

Bo was specially matched to be Moore's companion to help her both at work at the Medical School and in her home. He was trained to alert her to three specific sounds: the doorbell or a knock at the door, the telephone ringing, and the smoke alarm.

In July, Bo flew on a plane with Cooley to meet his new owner and see his new Houston home. The dog spent a day at the Medical School, learning Moore's routine and even taking a ride on the light rail.

"He's listening to everything going on around him," Cooley said, referring to Bo. "He's supposed to take in everything and then decide what she needs to know about."

Moore's office is tucked away in a quiet suite at the Jesse H. Jones Library Building. "Bo warns me when people enter the suite," she said. "It is pretty isolated, and he alerts me to the phone."

In public, Bo wears an orange cape and leash at all times – the official legal symbols of a hearing dog. At work at the Medical School, he also is outfitted with an official UT badge.

At home, Bo is still hard at work. "He alerts me to the doorbell or a knock, telephone, and smoke alarm, as well as to my husband coming in or leaving," Moore said. "While many dogs do this, Bo is trained to lead me to the sounds."

Cooley has trained dogs through IHDI for more than 12 years and said the dogs' abilities to help others never cease to amaze him. "I am still amazed on a daily basis by what these dogs can do," he said.

All dogs trained at IHDI come from animal shelters. Bo is a border collie/labrador/spaniel mix who started the training program when he was a 6-month-old puppy. He trained for one year and was given to Moore when he was 1 1/2 years. He was the 1,000th dog placed through the organization.

"I like that he comes from a shelter – a 'second chance' dog," Moore said.

Moore said Bo is becoming better adjusted to life at the Medical School and in the city of Houston.

"Bo is adjusting very well to life at the Texas Medical Center and city," she said. "Even though he spent most of his life in the IHDI training facility in Henderson, he has become used to the hustle and bustle of city life. He rides the bus and train very well. He sleeps in the office or chews his bone but is always alert and ready to jump up when he hears a sound he feels I should know about."

To learn more about hearing dogs or to donate to International Hearing Dog, Inc., visit www.pawsforsilence.org/.

-C. Webb

Mayes honor, cont'd.

Foundation spokesman for the last decade; **Sen. Harry Reid**, D-Nev.; and **Cindy Nolen**, a scleroderma patient and member of the foundation's board.

-M. Raine

Doctors Orchestra announces new season

Doctors Orchestra of Houston is pleased to announce its 2006-2007 concert season to commence at 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 19. Additional shows this season include performances at 5 p.m. Feb. 18, 2007, and 5 p.m. June 10, 2007. Concerts will be held at the Lillie and Roy Cullen Theater in Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.doctorsorchestrahouston.org or call 832.202.2882.

TIAA-CREF is the 2006-2007 concert season sponsor for Doctors Orchestra of Houston.

SEEN AROUND CAMPUS



Drs. Heinrich Taegtmeier and Yang Xia were two of the many Medical School faculty members who attended the 7th Annual Medical School Research Retreat last week at the Faye S. Sarofim Research Building.



A grand time was had by all at this year's Fun Fest, held Oct. 6 at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.