

Events to Know

April

28 Lone Star Stampede 5K run to provide scholarships for Houston-area high school students attending UT-Austin. 7:55 a.m., UT School of Nursing and Student Community Center. See www.texasexes.com/.

29 March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2007 to support research and programs to help prevent or treat premature birth, birth defects, and other threats to babies' health. 9 a.m., Robertson Stadium at the University of Houston. See www.uthouston.edu/community/marchofdimes/index.html.

30 SHIS Research Poster Session. 4-6 p.m., UCT 14th floor. There will be wine and snacks for guests.

May

11 Meet the Artists reception, followed by talk (see next event). Noon-12:30 p.m., Medical School Art Wall.

11 "From the BroadStreet Pump to Oral Rehydration Therapy: A model of translational research" presented by Dr. Stanley Schultz. 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m., MSB 5th Floor Gallery. Lunch provided for first 30 attendees.

Become a Fulbright Scholar

The Fulbright Scholar Program is offering lecturing and research awards in approximately 150 countries for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Traditional Fulbright Scholar awards are available from two months to an academic year or longer. A short-term grants program – the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program – offers two- to six-week grants in a variety of disciplines and fields.

For more details, application deadlines, or to apply online, see www.cies.org/.

Berm Project wins engineering excellence award

Designed as a secondary flood protection measure following the devastation of Tropical Storm Allison, the Medical School Building's Berm Project recently won a 2007 Engineering Excellence Award from the Texas Council of Engineering Companies (CEC). The Berm Project was officially honored March 23 as a Silver Medal Winner in the Water Resources category at the Texas CEC Annual Meeting in Austin.

A distinguished panel of judges from around the state selected the Berm Project as one of 13 Silver Medal winning projects. Projects were chosen from a field based on uniqueness, originality, technique, value to the engineering profession, complexity, and how successfully the project met the needs of the client.

The Berm Project included a series of landscaped earthen berms, hydrostatic walls, large pumps for both sides of the building, new drain pipes for the roof, and new landscaping for Webber Plaza.

Walter P. Moore and Associates, Inc., the engineering services and consulting firm for the Berm Project, submitted the project's entry for an excellence award.

"This award recognizes the foresight of The University of Texas Health Science Center in creative solutions to flood protection in the design of the Berm Project," said **Charles Penland, P.E.**, senior principal of Walter P. Moore Houston. "I believe that everyone of the team greatly enjoyed the creative team work to create such a wonderful space through the FEMA grants, not to mention the increased flood protection provided. Walter P. Moore is proud to have been a part of the project."

The Berm Project was one of several reconstructions plans for the Medical School Building and its grounds following the June 2001 tropical storm named "Allison." The storm dropped 12-15 inches of rain in the Texas Medical Center in less than nine hours, causing high water build up

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Former classmates reunite for the weekend

Classmates from the years 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002 reunited to share old stories and catch up during Homecoming and Reunion over the weekend of April 21.

"We had a great turnout, and everyone had a fun time," said **Resa Ott**, associate director of alumni relations.

Alumni had a busy day Saturday, with lunch in the Leather Lounge, tours of the redesigned Medical School Building, a continuing medical education course taught by **Dr. Eugene Boisaubin**, the annual meeting of the Alumni Association, and the presentation of the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award (see next article). **Dr. Brent King**, '83, interim executive vice president and chief operating officer of the health science center, welcomed the group, whose members also included the Medical School's first registrar, **Betty Murphy**.

The day's activities capped off with a more formal dinner at Trevisio restaurant, where alumni mingled among old photographs and familiar faces, including **Peggy Post**, retired surgery residency coordinator; **Sondra Ives**, retired director of student and alumni affairs; and **Dr. James "Red" Duke**.

"The alumni office asks us what faculty and administrators we would like to have attend our reunion, and they invite them for us," explained **Dr. Mark Farnie**, '87.

Alumni Association President **Dr. Joel Dunnington**, '81, welcomed the attendees and thanked the group for the opportunity to serve as president.

Interim Dean **Jerry Wolinsky** told the audience of some of the recent achievements of the

(Cont'd. on back)



Friends share laughs at Reunion and Homecoming.



Souba, '78, selected for 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award

The highest honor bestowed to an alumnus of the Medical School is the Distinguished Alumnus Award, and this year's recipient couldn't be more deserving of the honor. The 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient is **Dr. Wiley "Chip" Souba Jr.**, a 1978 graduate of the Medical School and current dean of the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes outstanding contributions to medical science and education or the prevention and treatment of disease. The award was officially presented to Souba, during this past weekend's Alumni Reunion and Homecoming activities.

"The alumni association is proud to sponsor this award, which recognizes the accomplishments of such an eminent alumnus as Dr. Souba," said **Dr. Joel Dunnington**, '81, president of the Medical School's Alumni Association. "He has represented this Medical School well."

A Venezuelan native, Souba was born in Caracas but is an American citizen. He attended Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, for his undergraduate education in chemistry, graduating summa cum laude. In addition to his medical degree, he received his Doctor of Science degree in nutritional biochemistry from Harvard School of Public Health, and his Master of Business Administration from Boston University School of Management. He completed his residencies at the Medical School and fellowships at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and one in surgical oncology at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

His career started in 1987 with the University of Florida College of Medicine as an assistant professor of surgery, and he became a full professor before joining Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in 1993. He was professor of surgery at Harvard and chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology at the hospital.

From Harvard, Souba joined Penn State College of Medicine in 1999 as chair of the Department of Surgery and holder of the John A. and



Dr. Souba (right) shares a champagne toast with Dr. Dunnington at the Distinguished Alumnus wall.

Marian T. Waldhausen Professorship in surgery. He also was surgeon-in-chief at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and director of the Penn State Hershey Center for Leadership Development. He was with Penn State for seven years before being appointed to the deanship at Ohio State.

Souba is a firm believer in faculty advancement. He instituted a successful leadership program at Penn State, and he has published many articles and delivered lectures on the importance of leadership development in academic medicine.

An accomplished researcher, Souba studies the molecular regulation of glutamine transport and has 18 years of continuous federal research funding.

As a surgical oncologist, Souba is a compassionate caregiver. "He cares for his patients giving them his superb technical expertise and by giving them a place to repose their confidence and in so doing, lose their fears," said his nominator **Dr. Henry**

Strobel, who also is associate dean for faculty affairs and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his skills as a mentor, researcher, and clinician. For 11 years, he was named one of America's Top Doctors. He received the University of Florida College of Medicine Faculty Research Prize for Outstanding Research in the Clinical Sciences and the Lester R. Dragstedt Physician-Scientist Award.

"Chip is a leader in all the areas of his endeavor because he is a man who cares for people," Strobel said. "Chip's focus is on individuals; it never seems he has no time for one more."

Souba is married to **Lynne Hayes Souba**, and they have two children, **Matthew Hayes** and **Julia Lynne**.

Souba is also the Medical School's 2007 commencement speaker. Commencement is scheduled at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 29 at the Assembly Hall at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

-C. Webb

Reunion recap, cont'd.

Medical School. "We were one of 12 sites in the nation to receive a Clinical and Translational Science Award from NIH. And, we are increasing the class size to 230 students without compromising the caliber of our students."

Wolinsky said that when he asked the graduating seniors about commencement speakers, they replied that they wanted an outstanding alumnus – and their resulting choice was **Dr. Chip Souba**, '78.

"I thought they would want Oprah, because I'm told that's who all graduating classes want – but I'm glad they picked someone in my budget," he said, with a smile.

Souba, dean of the Ohio State University College of Medicine, said that almost all of his opportunities have had links back to the UT Medical School.

"Having to do a research project here in the 1970s changed my future into academic medicine. It was very unusual for a medical school to require research back then," he said. "I was here when I did my residency, and Peggy (Post) was my second mother, which was appropriate.

"At the end of the day, all that you have is your stand, and I want to thank you for the stand that you take for the Medical School," he told the group.

-D. Brown

Room Change: Please note the location for the 2007 Annual Faculty Meeting has been changed to **room 3.001** of the Medical School. It will be from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, May 15. Lunch will be available at 11:30 a.m. for the first 150 attendees. The meeting will be broadcast live to rooms 212 and 213 at the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital.

Berm Project award, cont'd.

on Fannin and adjacent streets. Eventually, floodwaters from the streets reached nearby buildings. An estimated 10 million gallons inundated the basement and ground floor of the Medical School.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided the funds necessary to commence the Berm Project in January 2005. Built like a floodwall encircling the Medical School Building, a perimeter berm was constructed to a protection elevation of 45 feet.

The Berm Project was designed to prevent flooding of the building and improve drainage around it. Work on the entire project was completed in November 2005.

The Engineering Excellence Awards Competition has been held by the Texas Council of Engineering Companies since 1975 to honor and recognize outstanding achievements within the engineering community.

-C. Webb