

IMPACT

Health Access Programs Coalition receives final allotment of grant

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced the renewal of the Galveston County Health Access Program (CHAP) grant for the third consecutive year. The additional \$441,000 in funding will be used to sustain the efforts of a coalition formed two years ago to increase access to health care for county residents.

Since the first installment of the three-year CHAP grant was received in 2001, medical, faith-based and social service organizations have joined forces with UTMB to break down the barriers to health care faced by Galveston County residents who fall at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and who are uninsured or underinsured.

This third and last portion of the grant will enable the coalition to maintain what it calls the medical safety net that has been woven since the group's inception.

"Our big focus this year will be sustainability," said Dr. Ben Raimer, vice president for community outreach. "We want to maintain what we're doing now and improve communication to keep it going for years to come."

HRSA began the CHAP grant program a little more than three years ago to bring communities together to collaboratively develop the infrastructure needed to improve access to health care to the general population in regions across the nation. Raimer explained that in the

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UTMB's Telemedicine Program this year's honoree at San Luis Salute Mardi Gras ball

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

One of Galveston's most popular parties—the San Luis Salute to Mardi Gras!—recently honored UTMB's telemedicine program.

The eighth annual San Luis Salute to Mardi Gras! ball, held Feb. 20 at the San Luis Resort, Spa and Conference Center, recognized the advanced telecommunications system, which allows the university's health care professionals to provide medical consultations to patients hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

The largest of its kind in the world, the telemedicine program features high-speed telephone lines and video cameras that provide two-way audio-video communication links between UTMB and clinics equipped with the technology. This technology even allows the university's faculty to inspect patients' X-rays, ultrasounds and laboratory test results.

Telemedicine and distance education programs are promoted and maintained by the university's Telehealth Center, a division of the Office of Community Outreach.

UTMB's telemedicine program began in 1994 when doctors started using the technology to help care for Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmates. The pioneering program has since become a model for providing health care services to special populations.

Logging more than 3,100 live, interactive consults a month at 90 sites throughout East and Southeast Texas, the telemedicine system enables the university to care for such populations as inmates in federal, state and county correctional facilities; women and children through the Regional Maternal and Child Health Program; seniors in rural areas of the state; epilepsy patients; East Texas children with chronic



Photo courtesy of Manny Chan/Creative Photography

UTMB's Telemedicine Program was the beneficiary of this year's San Luis Salute Mardi Gras ball. Pictured celebrating at the ball are, from left to right, Dr. Ben Raimer, vice president for community outreach; Dr. Jeanette C. Hartshorn, executive director of the Telehealth Center, and San Luis Salute host Tilman Fertitta, chairman, president and CEO of Landry's Restaurants Inc.

conditions; cruise ship passengers; and workers in Antarctica.

The San Luis Mardi Gras ball will help UTMB advance ongoing telemedicine projects, said Dr. Jeanette C. Hartshorn, executive director of the Telehealth Center.

"We're thrilled that the telemedicine program was honored at the San Luis Mardi Gras celebration," said Hartshorn, a professor in the School of Nursing and associate professor of neurology in the School of Medicine. "This visibility and support will aid our continuing efforts to demonstrate

the effectiveness of telemedicine technology in diagnosing and treating people who live in remote and medically underserved locations across Texas." Hartshorn and Dr. Ben G. Raimer, UTMB vice president for community outreach, served as honorary co-chairs of the black-tie gala.

Raimer thanked the chairs of the San Luis Mardi Gras ball—Houston restaurant magnate Tilman J. Fertitta and his wife, Paige—for supporting the academic health center's telemedicine program this year.

"Each year, a particular department at

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Submissions

The deadlines for submissions to be considered for the Calendar, People and Briefs sections of *Impact* is **noon, one week prior to publication**. Inclusion of all other articles is determined by the Public Affairs staff. Content is generally scheduled two to four editions in advance. Items submitted for consideration are subject to editing for style and length.

Wagner endowed scholarship established to support UTMB's allied health students

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

Longtime UTMB School of Allied Health Sciences Advisory Council member Donald Wagner, and his wife, Jan, recently pledged \$30,000 to establish the Brigadier General and Mrs. Donald B. Wagner Endowed Scholarship for allied health students. The Sugar Land couple's commitment is the first major gift to the School of Allied Health Sciences since the September 2003 start of UTMB's Timeless Values, Pioneering



Donald Wagner

Solutions Campaign, a comprehensive five-year, \$250 million fund-raising initiative.

Dr. Charles H. Christiansen, dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences, said the Wagners' contribution will provide much-needed financial support for the school's students.

"This scholarship commitment is especially noteworthy, not only because it bears the names of two of the school's most stalwart supporters, but because it will help us in our important quest to reduce the growing financial burden for education that all of our students are currently enduring," Christiansen said. "We are grateful once again to General and Mrs. Wagner for their generosity."

Wagner said he and his wife wanted to help future generations of physical therapists and other allied health professionals. He credited UTMB President John D. Stobo's administration for establishing inclusiveness among all four of the university's schools.

"Dr. Stobo truly has recognized the existence of the four schools on that campus," he said. "The enormous attention he pays to the value of all the schools is very impressive to me."

Wagner also said he respects Christiansen's

work as dean. "I think Dr. Christiansen has brought great leadership to the School of Allied Health Sciences."

Wagner began his career as a physical therapist in the U.S. Air Force in 1952. After working a year and a half as a physical therapist, he had a career-changing conversation with his supervisor. "I had a boss who thought that I should be working in health care administration," he said.

Wagner, who received his undergraduate degree in physical therapy from Columbia University, wasn't initially enthused about adding the administrative side of Air Force health care to his job.

"I felt like it was a violation of my clinical privileges and that I would miss the patient contact," he said.

But after more than 50 years as a health care administrator, including 21 years in the civilian sector, the York, Pa., native says he made the right career choice after all.

"I like the variety of involvement and the service element of it," said Wagner, who earned his master's degree in health care administration from Baylor University in 1960. "I enjoy working in an organization and bringing together its disparate parts. The combining of essential support elements for providing clinical care in an institution is what inspires me. I find that challenging and rewarding at the same time."

Wagner worked at Air Force hospitals in England and San Antonio. He achieved the rank of brigadier general in 1979 and served as deputy surgeon general for operations while at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio. That role made him responsible for the professional medical operations of 130 Air Force hospitals around the globe. After leaving active duty in 1982, he ventured into private hospital health care administration.

Wagner is presently an internal consultant for Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in Houston. He has been chief executive

officer of Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, as well as administrator and associate vice president for patient care at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Wagner has also contributed to international health care, developing an educational exchange program between Memorial Hermann Hospital and medical facilities in China and Saudi Arabia. He has consulted in various countries, including Japan, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Wagner is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Royal Society of Health. He was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Baylor University Graduate Program in Hospital Administration in 1993.

He has been an active supporter of and volunteer with UTMB for many years. In addition to serving on the School of Allied Health Sciences Advisory Council, which comprises citizens dedicated to developing and supporting the school's programs and increasing its visibility in the state, Wagner is a member of the UTMB Development Board. The organization helps create fund-raising strategies for the university, and its members act as "ambassadors" for the university, assisting in outreach efforts to alumni, patients and other supporters.

Wagner also chaired the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative, a \$1.25 million fund-raising campaign to boost UTMB research in the rehabilitation of stroke and brain injury survivors. The initiative surpassed its goal by \$100,000.

Contributors to UTMB since 1985, the Wagners have given to such programs as the School of Medicine Annual Fund and the Russell Shearn Moody Distinguished Chair in Cognitive Rehabilitation, one of three endowed faculty positions established by the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative.



Numbers to know

UTMB Fraud and Abuse Hotline

1 (800) 898-7679
Your guide to honesty!

- To report suspected waste, abuse and fraud.
- All calls are strictly confidential and anonymous.
- Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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www.utmb.edu/identity_system

- Log on for information to help you understand and properly apply the UTMB Identity System to your promotional materials, including publications, web sites, speciality items and videos.

(409) 772-2618

- Call Public Affairs if you have any questions, or to arrange for the required institutional review of your promotional materials.

UTMB Suggestion Box

www.utmb.edu/esp/

- Have a good idea to make UTMB a better place to work, or a better place to be a patient? Log on to the web site and send your suggestion to the people who can make it happen.
- No web access? Drop your suggestion in the box on campus.

Seniors, caregivers invited to explore ‘Abundant Aging’

Piney Woods retreat to focus on mind, body and spirit

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

UTMB invites seniors and those who care for them to a retreat on Abundant Aging: Mind, Body and Spirit, March 9–11 at Camp Allen Conference & Retreat Center in Navasota.

UTMB faculty from the Sealy Center on Aging and the Institute for the Medical Humanities will make presentations on subjects such as arthritis, heart disease, spirituality and poetry.

Participants will hear the latest research on the aging body and self-care, discover new ways to communicate with health care providers and learn about palliative care and end-of-life issues.

Dr. James Goodwin, George and Cynthia



Mitchell Distinguished Chair of Geriatric Medicine and director for the Sealy Center on Aging, will deliver the keynote address, titled “What is Good Medical

Care for Older People?”

The Rev. Helen W. Appelberg, visiting scholar with UTMB’s Sealy Center on Aging, will act as labyrinth facilitator and

Seniors from UTMB’s Academy for Lifelong Learning recently traveled to Las Vegas for the International Senior Theatre Festival hosted by the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Their presentation Remembrance as Performance was based on the theater work the learners have done within the Academy class. They also participated in a number of workshops designed to enhance their acting skills and their understanding of theater. The group will be featured during the upcoming Abundant Aging retreat for seniors and senior caregivers.

spiritual director for the event. Seniors from UTMB’s Academy for Lifelong Learning will perform “Life Story Theatre,” in which actors depict scenes from their childhood.

The three-day retreat is open to seniors and their family members, their health care, pastoral care and residential care providers, social workers and leaders of all faith communities.

The fee for Abundant Aging is \$200 for double-occupancy lodging, presentations, workshops, all meals, socials, coffee breaks and taxes.

Along with UTMB, the event is sponsored by Camp Allen Conference Center for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, and The Episcopal Health Charities.

For information, contact Camp Allen at (936) 825-8495, or register online at www.campallen.org.

Researchers here to participate in national stillbirth research

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

Each year, more than 26,000 women in the United States experience a stillbirth, or death of a fetus that is 20 weeks or older, according to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

Still, the cause of more than half of all stillbirths is unknown, and the problem remains understudied—but that’s about to change.

UTMB has been selected by the NICHD to participate in The Stillbirth Collaborative Research Network with four other medical centers and one data coordinating center.

The grant, which totals nearly \$3 million nationwide, will fund a five-year study to

By tracking stillbirths in Galveston and Brazoria Counties, UTMB researchers hope to ultimately find ways to prevent fetal deaths

determine the scope and causes of stillbirth in the United States.

Dr. George Saade, principal investigator at the UTMB site, said that because criteria and practices for reporting stillbirths vary nationwide, the real scope of the problem is not known. Through this study, researchers plan to change that by gathering information on fetal deaths as they happen.

The initial phase will be limited to resi-

dents of Galveston and Brazoria Counties in order to obtain a geographically-based sample.

Saade said that the goal is to work with area specialists, including grief counselors and obstetricians, to establish a network to track and report stillbirths.

Jennifer Lee Rollins, UTMB genetic counselor and clinical research coordinator, said that this will be an excellent opportunity to collaborate with community hospi-

itals that care for families and patients who have experienced stillbirth.

“Together, we hope to help more families find the reason for their loss,” she said.

“Stillbirth is a major obstetrical problem that remains understudied relative to other pregnancy complications,” Saade added. “This effort should pave the way for future research to, hopefully, prevent this devastating problem.”

The five other institutions participating in the study are Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island at Providence, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, University of Utah at Salt Lake City, Emory University in Atlanta, and the Research Triangle Institute in Raleigh, N.C.

Survey ranks more than 75 UTMB docs among nation's best *Physicians nationwide say in survey that they would refer their loved ones to UTMB*

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

Best Doctors Inc., a company dedicated to keeping consumers informed about the best medical care available to them, has named more than 70 members from UTMB among the top specialists in their respective fields in the United States.

In an annual peer review survey, Best Doctors Inc. asked 35,000 physicians, "If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?" The results of the survey showed that a great number of UTMB physicians in various fields are considered the best in their field.

"This recognition reflects UTMB's commitment to the highest standards of clinical care," said Stanley M. Lemon, dean of the UTMB School of Medicine. "We have many equally outstanding physicians who were not included in this list, but those who were named to the list can be especially proud of this honor. This recognition reflects not only their technical excellence but also their dedication to the health of their patients."

The individuals listed to the right are those UTMB physicians listed among the Best Doctors.

Allergy and Immunology

Dr. J. Andrew Grant Jr.
Dr. Frank C. Schmalstieg

Anesthesiology

Dr. Donald S. Prough
Dr. Daneshvari R. Solanki
Dr. Harry K. Wallfisch

Cardiovascular Disease

Dr. Barry F. Uretsky

Dermatology

Dr. Sharon Raimor
Dr. Ramon L. Sanchez

Endocrinology/Metabolism

Dr. Martin L. Nusynowitz

Family Medicine

Dr. Jennifer R. Raley
Dr. Angela J. Shepherd
Dr. Victor Sierpina
Dr. Barbara L. Thompson

Gastroenterology

Dr. Manoop Bhutani
Dr. Daryl Tan Yeung Lau
Dr. Pankaj "Jay" Pasricha
Dr. Don W. Powell
Dr. Joseph H. Sellin

Dr. Joseph Marc Shabot
Dr. Roger D. Soloway
Dr. Gottumukkala Subba Raju

Geriatric Medicine

Dr. James S. Goodwin

Hand Surgery

Dr. Steven F. Viegas

Internal Medicine (general)

Dr. Alice Speer

Nephrology

Dr. August Ray Remmers Jr.

Neurological Surgery

Dr. Haring J. Nauta

Neurology

Dr. John R. Calverley

Nuclear Medicine

Dr. Martin L. Nusynowitz

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Garland D. Anderson
Dr. Gary D.V. Hankins
Dr. Gayle Olson
Dr. George Saade
Dr. James W. Van Hook

Ophthalmology

Dr. Allan H. Fradkin
Dr. Rosa A. Tang

Otolaryngology

Dr. Byron J. Bailey

Dr. Ronald W. Deskin

Pathology

Dr. Daniel F. Cowan
Dr. David H. Walker

Pediatrics (General)

Dr. Ralph W. Noble III
Dr. Ben G. Raimor
Dr. Sally Sue Robinson

Pediatric Specialists

Dr. Steven C. Diven
Dr. Alok Kalia
Dr. Susan E. Keeney
Dr. Lillian H. Lockhart
Dr. James L. Lukefahr
Dr. Michael H. Malloy
Dr. Reuben Matalon
Dr. Janak A. Patel
Dr. Joan Richardson
Dr. Karen E. Shattuck
Dr. Lawrence R. Stanberry
Dr. Luther B. Travis

Plastic Surgery

Dr. Steven J. Blackwell
Dr. Ted Huang
Dr. Linda G. Phillips

Psychiatry

Dr. Terrence S. Early
Dr. Jean Patricia Goodwin
Dr. Karen D. Wagner

Radiation Oncology

Dr. Martin Colman

Radiology

Dr. Sanford A. Rubin
Dr. Melvyn H. Schreiber
Dr. Leonard E. Swischuk
Dr. Eric M. Walsler

Rheumatology

Dr. Bruce Armo Baethge

Surgery

Dr. B. Mark Evers
Dr. Beverly Guillory Lewis
Dr. William H. Nealon
Dr. Courtney M. Townsend Jr.

Surgical Oncology

Dr. Thomas D. Kimbrough
Dr. Courtney M. Townsend Jr.

Thoracic Surgery

Dr. Vincent Conti
Dr. Scott Lick
Dr. Joseph B. Zwischenberger

Urology

Dr. Eduardo Orihuela
Dr. Michael M. Warren

NEWS IN BRIEF

CIRWH issues call for abstracts for upcoming poster session

All investigators who have research relevant to women's health are invited to participate in a poster session sponsored by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health in honor of National Women's Health Week.

The poster session will be May 12 in the Levin Hall Dining Room. Check-in and set-up for presenters will be 1-3 p.m. Poster viewing will be 3-5 p.m. Judging will be 3-4:30 p.m. and awards will be presented at 5 p.m.

The purpose of this event is to showcase women's health research being conducted at UTMB, as well as to provide a venue for researchers to interact and discuss their data and interests, and to reward excellence in research by our trainees.

Trainees eligible for awards are students, residents, postdoctoral fellows and those in non-faculty training positions. Presenters must be the first author and presenter of the poster. UTMB women's health research investigators with faculty appointments will be judges for the best posters in the clinical, basic and translational research categories. Each category winner will receive \$250.

Submit abstract via email by April 12 to Jo Bremer at jobremer@utmb.edu. Abstracts should be limited to 350 words. A sample abstract is shown on the CIRWH web site at www.utmb.edu/cirwh/sampleab.htm. Abstracts will be reproduced and bound in booklets for distribution at the event.

Spirituality, healing and modern medicine topic of lecture

Dr. Larry Dossey will discuss how random events in healing can be scientifically linked to a higher force or consciousness when he speaks at the Spirituality in Healthcare Dialogue, 5:30-7 p.m. March 12 in Levin Hall. Dossey will sign copies of his books from 5-5:30 p.m.

Dr. Harold Y. Vanderpool, professor in the Institute for Medical Humanities, will participate in the dialogue.

The Spirituality in Healthcare series is sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities and the William Temple Episcopal Center. Dossey's lecture also is supported through contributions from the UTMB Department of Family Medicine's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Education Grant, and from the W.D. and Laura Nell Nicholson Family Professorship in Integrative Medicine.

Nominations sought for 'Silent Angels'

National Nurses Week is approaching, and organizers are seeking nominations for nurses whose compassion, caring and advocacy made a difference in the life of a patient or a patient's family member or friend.

The Silent Angel Award is so named because it's often the small, unnoticed and silent actions that make the biggest difference to patients and their loved ones. The winner of the Silent Angel Award will be honored at a ceremony during National Nurses Week May 6-12.

Send your story of how you, a family member or a friend was touched by a UTMB Silent Angel to Susan Meads-Leahy at sdmeads@utmb.edu campus mail route 0518. Submissions should be 500 words or less and received by April 9. Include your name and phone number.

Undergraduate Research Symposium set for March 4-5

The UTMB community is invited to attend the 18th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium March 4-5, sponsored by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and is hosted by the school's Committee for Diversity in Graduate Education and Educational Outreach.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Clifford W. Houston, deputy associate administrator for education with NASA and UTMB associate vice president for educational outreach. Houston also holds the Herman Barnett Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Microbiology.

The symposium provides opportunities for students to present their research in a formal setting and learn about UTMB's graduate and summer research programs.

The symposium schedule is:

Student oral presentations

- March 4, 10:20-11:25 a.m. in Levin Hall North Auditorium
- March 5, 10:20-11:25 a.m. in Levin Hall North Auditorium

Poster session and mixer

- March 4, 4-6 p.m. in the Levin Hall foyer

UTMB faculty presentations by Drs. Joan Nichols and Alfredo Torres

- March 4, 9-10 a.m. in Levin Hall North

UTMB graduate student/post-doctoral fellow presentations by Shawn Castro, Elias Jackson and Diana Ortiz

- March 5, 8:30-10 a.m. in Levin Hall North Auditorium

Seminar series to focus on future SAHS planning

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

The School of Allied Health Sciences is tackling some of the challenges facing tomorrow's allied health professionals during a series of brown bag seminars this spring. The series, titled "Vision 2010," will culminate in a planning retreat for SAHS faculty, staff and students April 30.

Speakers from around the country and UTMB faculty and administrators from across campus present the seminars, addressing such issues as shifting demographics, shrinking resources and the increased use of technology in allied health fields.

"Through these important planning activities, the school hopes to provide an informed foundation for identifying goals and strategies to guide it during the second decade of the century," said Dr. Charles Christiansen, dean of the SAHS. "During the interim, health care and demographics will experience striking changes, and it is likely that the healthcare workforce will need different 'skill sets' and different 'mindsets' than those of the recent past."

Christiansen added that the SAHS itself is a different environment than it was a decade ago, and by the year 2015, the difference from today's environment will be equally profound. "These activities are helping us to anticipate and prepare for these needed changes," he said.

The series and retreat were developed as part of this year's goals for the SAHS chair's council. "Our external advisory board members, faculty, staff and students participated in environmental scan exercises that identified trends and issues that will impact our vision," said Dr. Henry Cavazos, associate dean for academic affairs and co-chair of the retreat planning committee. The series and retreat will help as the school prioritizes its goals, Cavazos said.

Dr. Betty Protas, chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and co-chair of the retreat planning committee, said the seminars are already making a difference in SAHS classrooms. "One of the lectures was about generational differences in practice, and I've already started changing the way I teach about working with older patients," Protas says. Students have also responded well to the series, initiating discussions with faculty members about what they have learned.

"These seminars are stimulating thought and activity in the school, just as we had hoped they would," Protas said.

The brown bag sessions are open to campus, but seating is limited. Please contact Jenifer Buyten at (409) 772-9437, to request a space.

For a seminar schedule and information about speakers, visit the "Vision 2010 Retreat" link on the SAHS web site at www.sahs.utmb.edu/vision/schedule.htm.

Symposium to acknowledge work of Dr. E. Brad Thompson

The Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics is hosting a symposium on March 12 titled, "Signaling Life and Death—An acknowledgement of the contributions of E. Brad Thompson, M.D., to 40 years of progress in molecular endocrinology." The symposium, which will be in Levin Hall, will honor and celebrate Thompson's contributions to science and to UTMB. Thompson is the retired chairman of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics, a position he had for 19 years.

The symposium also is sponsored by the

Office of the President, the Dean of Medicine's Office, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dean's Office, the Sealy Center for Molecular Science and the Sealy Center for Structural Biology.

PEOPLE OF NOTE

Dr. Thomas A. Blackwell, professor of internal medicine and associate dean for graduate medical education, was elected to a two-year term as a member of the board of directors for the American Board of Internal **See BRIEFS on Page 6**

Nominate your special support person for 'Stars Hall of Fame'

On April 27 and 28, UTMB will host the 2004 Office and Administrative Support Staff Conference at the new Galveston Island Convention Center at The San Luis Resort. This year's theme is "Taking Center Stage: Shining the Spotlight on Us."

A new activity this year is the "Stars Hall of Fame." Nominations for the hall of fame are currently being solicited. These "stars" should be outstanding individuals in support staff roles. The stories submitted will be prominently displayed at the April conference. In addition, names from among the submitted stars will be drawn, and a few will receive special prizes.

If you manage or work alongside one of these special people, let everyone else know about them. It's easy. Here's what you do:

In a brief essay of between 250 and 500 words, explain who your outstanding support staff person is and what he or she does that is extraordinary. Be sure to include where the nominees work and any fabulous stories about something these individuals have done.

Send the nomination online, using the form on the OASSC web site at www.utmb.edu/oassc.

If you have a digital photo of the star, send that also. Otherwise, we'll try to make arrangements to have a photo taken.

If you don't have access to the Internet, call Eartha Dotson at (409) 772-2671 to make arrangements to nominate someone or send in a photo.

Either way, be sure to get the nomination in by March 25.

Your nomination, essay and the star's photo will be displayed at the "Stars Hall of Fame," and could be incorporated into a dynamic presentation. Your nominee will also be entered into a prize drawing; five prizes will be drawn each day of the conference. The "star" does not need to be present to win. We also will print some of the best essay excerpts in an upcoming *Impact*.

Support staff conference set for April 27-28

The 14th annual UTMB Office and Administrative Support Staff Conference will be 8 a.m.-5 p.m. April 27 and will be repeated the same time April 28 at the new Galveston Island Convention Center at The San Luis Resort. This year's theme is "Taking Center Stage: Shining the Spotlight on Us."

The objectives for the conference are personal enrichment, collaboration, team-building, celebrating accomplishments and building pride in the institution and its people. Tracks are designed to enhance participants' interpersonal and professional skills, maintain health and achieve a good life balance.

The target audience is all UTMB support staff employees and anyone who is not in a faculty, technical or nursing position.

The cost is \$50 per person and include conference activities, educational sessions, lunch, refreshments, materials and the vendor exposition. This is an official UTMB continuing education program. Payment is allowed from any source.

Watch iUTMB and the web site at www.utmb.edu/oassc for information about the agenda and registration.

Something to note: This year, all conference material is online. The only printed material being produced is a conference postcard. All invitations will be sent out electronically, and all registration will be online.

For information, contact Organizational Development, Training and Recognition at (409) 747-6700.

Forum participants discuss HIV/AIDS in the African-American community

Dr. Stanley Lewis, medical director of the St. Hope Foundation, was the featured speaker at the recent "Turning AIDS Upside Down" forum on HIV in the African-American community. The St. Hope Foundation is a community-based HIV/AIDS service organization that provides medical care and social services to HIV-infected people in the greater Houston area. Following his presentation, which was sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the HIV/AIDS Awareness Panel members presented Lewis with a token of appreciation. Pictured from left to right are Denise Justice Burrell, coordinator with the Texas NeuroAIDS Research Center; Debra Liedy, administrative manager with the Dean of Medicine's office; John Rodriguez, chairman of the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit; Dr. Stanley Lewis, medical director of the St. Hope Foundation; Corlie Jackson, representing St. Vincent's House; and Carrie Derkowski, coordinator with the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit.



BRIEFS from Page 5

Medicine (ABIM) beginning July 1. The board comprises 29 directors and sets policy for all of the ABIM's programs.

Dr. Ramon Flick, assistant professor of pathology, recently was chosen to be the UTMB nominee for the Ellison Medical Foundation New Scholars Program in Global Infectious Disease for 2004. The award is designed for new independent investigators of outstanding promise in basic biomedical research or clinical sciences relevant to understanding global infectious diseases.

Dr. Sandra S. Hatch, the Ruth Levy Kempner Professor and vice chair and director of clinical operations in the Department of Radiation Oncology; **Dr. Karin N. Westlund High**, professor of anatomy and neurosciences; and **Dr. Cheryl S. Watson**, professor of human biological chemistry and genetics and associate director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health, recently have been nominated by the School of Medicine to submit applications to participate in the 2004-2005 Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. This program is designed for senior women faculty who want to assume higher levels of responsibility within their institution and to advance to

positions of leadership. Details about the program are available online www.drexel.edu/elam/progsum/home.htm.

Watson also will represent UTMB as the nominee for the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation Innovative/Translational Cancer Research Program Award. Her research proposal is titled "Clinical Significance of Membrane Estrogen and Progesterone Receptors in Human Breast Tumors."

UTMB's **Labor and Delivery/Birth Center nursing staff** recently received notification that the Childbirth Nursing Team was nominated by a patient for the Johnson's Childbirth Nursing Award. The Johnson's Childbirth Nursing Awards, in partnership with the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), invited patients to say thank you to their childbirth nursing team. The UTMB patient nominated the Labor and Delivery/Birth Center staff for the care she received when her baby delivered in June 2003.

The nomination means that our maternity center is automatically entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of four \$1,000 educational grants and two complimentary registrations to the 2004 AWHONN convention.

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Nursing student to receive Spirit of Nursing Award

By SEENA SIMON

Nursing student Lisa Coffey recently received the Spirit of Nursing Award, which is presented to the nation's best nursing student.

Coffey, 26, is a senior in the School of Nursing, and is the first UTMB student to win the prestigious national competition that recognizes nursing students for their community service, leadership and scholarship.



Lisa Coffey

The Spirit of Nursing Award is presented by the United States Army Nurse Corps and the National Student Nurses' Association. Each participating school nominates

one outstanding undergraduate nursing student who best exemplifies the qualities recognized by the award; nominees needn't be members of the military to be considered. The sponsoring organizations choose one winner each year.

Coffey is active in many volunteer activities. She has a student leadership role in UTMB's campaign to increase immunization rates for pre-school-age children, helping to coordinate UTMB student volunteers for community vaccination drives. She's also worked on food and clothing drives in Mexico, and has volunteered at an orphanage there.

Coffey expects to work as an emergency room nurse upon receiving her bachelor's degree in nursing in April. She hopes ultimately to use her nursing skills to carry out missionary work in underdeveloped countries.

The Spirit of Nursing award at the National Student Nurses' Association conference, March 31–April 4 in Nashville. She also will be honored at the School of Nursing commencement ceremonies April 23.

BRIEFS from Page 6

Texas Gov. Rick Perry recently reappointed **Dr. Ben Raimer**, vice president for the Office of Community Outreach, as chairman of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. The council developed the Texas State Health Plan and works to integrate planning, education and regulation of the health care work force to ensure quality health care for all Texans.

The UTMB chapter of the scientific research society **Sigma Xi** recently was awarded the Sigma Xi Certificate of Excellence for outstanding chapter activity during the year ending June 30, 2003. Certificates are awarded for exceptional activity and innovative chapter programs, particularly those that address the four major issues at the foundation of the society's mission: honor in science and engineering, science education, science policy, and the public understanding of science.

Dr. Alice J. Speer, associate professor and director of the Division of General Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, recently was appointed to the Admissions Committee of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. The Admissions Committee, which includes deans and ELAM alumnae, reviews all application materials submitted by the candidates to the program. ELAM is widely recognized as an excellent leadership educational program for women and receives applications from medical and dental schools throughout the United States and Canada. Speer was the first faculty member from UTMB to attend the ELAM fellowship program in 1997. In addition, she was elected president of the Society for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (SELAM) for 2002–2003. SELAM is an international organization dedicated to the advancement and promotion of women to executive positions in academic health centers through programs that enhance professional and career development and provide networking and mentoring opportunities. SELAM was formed in 1997 by alumnae from the ELAM Program.

The following names were drawn for the first quarter of TEXAS Program this year. Each person will receive \$1,000. The TEXAS Program promotes attendance at work and rewards individuals with perfect attendance each quarter. The first quarter winners were **Steven Armstrong** with Logistics/Post Office, **Jessie McNair** with Pediatrics Rehabilitation, **Tam Pham** with Cardiology, **Jaimey Rougeaux** with the ACE Unit and Wanda Sennette with Radiology.



Mardi Gras revelry

Eight-year-old Hope Kennedy, a patient at Children's Hospital, accepts Mardi Gras beads from Mike Doherty, King Frolous LXXXIX of the Krewe of the Knights of Momus. Mardi Gras royalty visit the pediatric patients each year to spread the Mardi Gras spirit.



Rounding-up rodeo fun

Ten-year-old De'Ming Scott, a patient at UTMB Children's Hospital, decides to join in the chicken dance with a character from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo during a sing-along at the hospital Feb. 17. Lauren Allen, a local country music recording artist, lead the dance, which included Porky Pig, Howdy Hotdog and several members of the rodeo's Merchandise Committee.

Dr. Courtney M. Townsend Jr., the John Woods Harris Distinguished Chair of the UTMB Department of Surgery, was recently elected president of the Southern Surgical Association. The association, which was founded in 1887 by Dr. W.E. Davis of Birmingham, Ala., initially was developed by surgeons from the South. After World War II, the membership grew to include surgeons from across the United States. The organization is limited to 300 active members. Townsend received his medical degree from

UTMB in 1969. He remained at the university to complete an internship and residency program in general surgery. In 1974, he left Galveston to serve as an assistant professor at the University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine and later as surgical director at the National Naval Medical Center. In 1978, he returned to UTMB. Townsend has since served in various faculty and leadership positions in the Department of Surgery, including Robertson-Poth Professor, director of the Surgical Research Laboratory, interim director of the UTMB Cancer Center and John Woods Harris Distinguished Chair.

GRANT from Page 1

Galveston area resources may have been available but barriers such as lack of transportation or education prevented those in need from tapping into those services.

In the first two phases of the grant, the Galveston CHAP coalition used the HRSA funding to contract with the Gulf Coast Center Connect Transit program for patient transportation services from the mainland to clinics on the island. At the same time, UTMB and the City of Galveston agreed to a plan that allows Galveston residents free public transportation to and from clinic appointments at UTMB. In addition, community members were trained to teach specialized health care education programs. Pharmaceutical formulary guidelines have been adopted by regional health care providers to streamline patient care and eliminate duplicate services. Doctors now prescribe medications based on the formulary of the 4C's Clinic, a federally-funded, county-run clinic that provides medical and dental services to county residents regardless of their ability to pay.

"Before we had the county-wide formulary, a patient might come to Mainland Medical Center and be given a prescription for



"About 80,000 people in Galveston County do not have health insurance and we know that at any given time, the 4C's Clinic is taking care of 20,000 to 25,000 of those individuals."

Dr. Ben Raimer,
Vice President for Community Outreach

blood pressure medication, for example. If the patient didn't have the money to fill the prescription at Mainland, he might go to the 4C's Clinic for his medicine. But because their pharmacy may not carry the same medication as the prescription, the patient would have to undergo another exam and receive a new prescription," Raimer said

"We said, 'Enough of this. This is a waste of resources for people to be seen twice just to get a prescription filled,'" Raimer

said. "So we sat down with the 4C's and examined their public health pharmacy and public health formulary. By adopting the same guidelines throughout the county and using the medications we've cut out a lot of the redundant visits."

Raimer said one of the shining accomplishments of the last year was the launch of a comprehensive web site, www.galveston-chap.org, that provides patients a wide variety of information on health care access, health tips, participating CHAP organizations and the resources CHAP agencies provide.

Raimer said of the 200,000 residents of Galveston County, more than one-third have inadequate or no health insurance. With budget cuts, county and state money is not enough to maintain and continue to weave the safety net that CHAP began. The coalition continues to solicit funding to continue the programs.

"We are investigating the possibility of applying for a second CHAP grant as well as looking for philanthropic support," Raimer said. "About 80,000 people in Galveston County do not have health insurance and we know that at any given time, the 4C's Clinic is taking care of 20,000 to 25,000 of those individuals."

SALUTE from Page 1

UTMB is fortunate to be recognized by the San Luis Salute to Mardi Gras! party," said Raimer, a professor of pediatrics. "We certainly appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Fertitta's commitment and dedication to helping UTMB fulfill its mission to deliver high-quality, compassionate health care to Galveston and the rest of Texas."

Previous UTMB honorees of the San Luis Salute are:

- Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Cancer Stop Program (2003)
- Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Diabetes Center (2002)
- Infant Special Care Unit and newborn nursery (2001)
- Trauma Center and Department of Emergency Medicine (2000)
- Division of Cardiology's Galveston Heart Study (1999)
- Office of Educational Outreach's Summer Science Camp (1998)
- Department of Radiology's Breast Imaging Program (1997)

UTMB IMPACT

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