



# Scoop



Friday, November 6, 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

## Calendar Week of Nov. 6 - 13

**11 Dr. Nancy Dickey**, President, AMA, "The Challenges of Academic Medicine: Advocacy and Accountability," 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., 3.001. (See story to right).

**11 Dr. Joan A. Steitz**, Dean's Lecturer, Yale University School of Medicine, "The Nucleolar Machine: RNAs Acting on Other RNAs," 4 - 5 p.m., 3.001.

## UTmost Interest

Effective Dec. 1, **Dr. David Mercer**, Surgery, will become the Chief of Surgery at LBJ General Hospital...**Dr. Harinder S. Juneja** presented Internal Medicine Grand Rounds entitled "Advances in Sickle Cell Diseases" at the University of New Mexico Cancer Research Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico

on Oct. 22 and attended a Scientific Advisory Board meeting of SuperGen, Inc., a pharmaceutical company, in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Oct. 23-24...**Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, assistant dean for Community Affairs and Public Education, recently returned from the Boston area where he was an invited member of a National Cancer Institute (NCI) site visit team evaluating cancer center support grants...**Dr. David W. Marshak**, Neurobiology and Anatomy, has been invited to present a seminar entitled "Primate Retinal Ganglion Cells" to the Dept. of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Dec. 4...**Dr. Larry Gilstrap**, chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology, was elected to membership in the American Gynecology Club, one of the oldest societies in Ob/Gyn, at the Gynecology Visiting Club of the United Kingdom, Dunkeld, Scotland.

Hot News

## DR. NANCY DICKEY, PRESIDENT OF AMA, HERE NOV. 11

**Dr. Nancy Dickey**, the first woman president of the American Medical Association (AMA), and 1976 graduate of the Medical School, will be in town next week, Wednesday, **Nov. 11**, to lecture here on "The Challenges of Academic Medicine; Advocacy and Accountability," from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., in Room 3.001. On health insurance coverage Dickey has stated, "We ought to take the same energy and imagination that created organ transplantation and say 'How do we make it doable to make sure every American has access to health care and a way to pay for it?' The American physician has an obligation to demand that we be part of the solution and have others belly up to the bar and help us create that solution." Dickey is also the Residency Program Director of the Brazos Valley Family Practice Residency Training Program in Bryan, Texas. Her background includes: residency training at the Memorial Southwest Family Practice Residency Training Program, private practice in Richmond, and a Clinical Associate Professorship in the Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine.



Dr. Nancy Dickey

## KUDOS FOR FIRST NEW UTHHSC FACILITY IN 20 YEARS

The first new UT-Houston building in 20 years is \$20 million closer to the \$60 million cost of construction, thanks to students' financial support through general use fees. A new Nursing and Biomedical Sciences building will be built on the present site of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, on Bertner between Holcombe and Herman Pressler, with a projected completion of 2002. A thank you picnic was held at Grant Fay Park, Holcombe at Bertner, on Wednesday, **Nov. 4**, with **President M. David Low** giving the main address.

## JAMES T. WILLERSON VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE, NOV. 17

**Dr. Christine Seidman**, professor of medicine and director of the Cardiovascular Genetics Center at Harvard Medical School will be the 1998 James T. Willerson Visiting Professor. Seidman will present "Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy From Mouse to Man" in 3.001 at 1 p.m. on **Nov. 17**. Dr. Seidman received her medical degree from George Washington University and completed residency training at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Her research interests include molecular approaches to understanding cardiac pathophysiology as well as genetic approaches to understanding inherited human disorders.

## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE PROPOSALS DUE NOV. 20

Proposals for Faculty Development Leave are due **Nov. 20** in the Office of Faculty Affairs, 7.130 MSB. The guidelines allow for the submission of proposals twice a year (November and April) and can be found at: <http://deanweb.med.uth.tmc.edu/Faculty/index.html>.

## CONGRATULATIONS HALLOWEEN SPOOKY DOOR WINNERS

Judging was last Friday, **Oct. 30** and the winners of the 1st annual Halloween Door Decorating Contest are - 1st: Radiology, "We Can See Right Through You;" 2nd: Neurology, "Facing My Fear;" 3rd: Family Practice, "Graveyard;" and two honorable mentions - 4th: Animal Care, "Beast in the Basement;" and 5th: Surgery, "Condemned, Enter At Your own Risk."

## SCENE FROM OCT. 28 RESEARCH FORUM



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean  
Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., Assistant Dean  
Colleen O'Brien, Editor  
e-mail: [cobrien@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu](mailto:cobrien@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu)  
FAX: (713) 500-0597

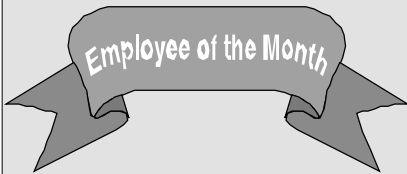
E-Scoop online: <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>



Produced weekly by the Office of Community  
Affairs and Public Education

## November Employee of the Month - Pat Simonson

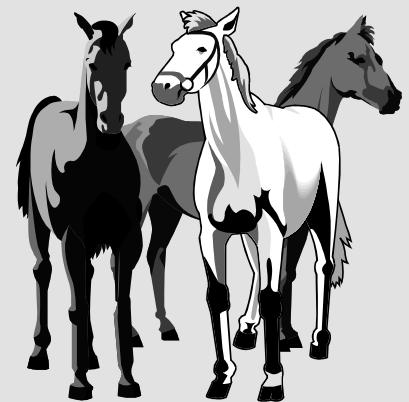
If there was just one word to describe our November Employee of the Month, **Pat Simonson**, Administrative Services Officer, Pathology, it would be “re-invention.” Through thick and thin, through drought and the good times, this highly respected employee just keeps on rolling.



The reasons she was nominated and got November Employee of the Month are almost too numerous to count. Pat’s highly regarded reputation precedes her in many departments here, including accounting under **Jim Darcy**, accounts receivable, payable, capital assets, BPPS, personnel, payroll, travel with **Mary Brown**, and MSRDP. Pat credits **Dean Maximilian Buja**, when he was pathology chair, of doing a “good thing” in standardizing pathology’s teaching labs with monitors and sound. As you read this, she is probably on an Amtrack train, heading north, somewhere between Washington, D.C. and Montreal, Canada. Keeping her skills honed, she’s been attending an annual National University Council of Research Administrators (NUCRA) meeting this week and plans to put in a couple of days tasting Montreal’s cuisine as well. Originally born in Chaffee, Missouri, moving to Oklahoma when she was two, where she later attended the Oklahoma School of Accounting, Pat has lived in Texas most of her life.

Daughter **Anita** works in medicine and has two sons, seven-year-old **Shawn** and five-year-old **Ryan**. Daughter **Angela**, formerly a CT/MRI technician and now a field engineer for Halliburton, travels to places like Argentina and Jakarta, and lives on an off-shore oil rig helping to locate oil.

Back in the 1980s “it was all good times.” Pat reminisced about the life she and her husband of 16 years, **Glenn**, put together, when they followed their dream and started ranching 425 acres, the Lazy S, in Gatesville, along with Pat’s two daughters, Anita and Angela, 14 and 16-years-old at the time. “I guess we had a touch of the milk of human kindness, you might say,” she said. “At one time I was bottle-feeding ten calves, four goats, and two deer. Our brood mares gave us 27 foals one year. And two of our rottweilers, **Shadow** and **Chelsea**, had litters two days apart; one had 17 and the other had ten.”



And how did she get into pathology? Pat confided, “Eight and a half years ago, **Charlotte Wilcox** asked me to fax my resume over. I did and was immediately hired. Again, Pat’s excellent reputation, preceded her “It’s been a challenge trying to keep people on track but I do love my job.” Right now, Pat works with pathology chair, **Dr. Robert Hunter**. “I have pretty much of an open door policy. If there’s a way for my staff to advance in their career or I see a job posting that might suit one of them, I pass the information on. I encourage them to keep their resumes current and up-to-date and to avail themselves of free classes that will sharpen their skills. I’m not going to stand in their way,” she commented.

The woman who won’t stand in the way of her employees, won’t let life pass her by, either.

**Reminder:** **Dr. David Satcher**, Surgeon General of the United States, will be speaking tomorrow, Saturday, **Nov. 7**, 1 p.m., at the Cullen Auditorium, Baylor College of Medicine. For more information call **(713) 665-8108**.



Dr. David Satcher

**Editor’s Note:** The long address in *Scoop* (10/23/98) for the Medical School’s Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office website will take the browser directly to Upcoming Events, but the address for the home page is <http://cme.uth.tmc.edu>. For more information, call **Matt Sturm**, 500-5127, a CME conference coordinator. Other coordinators are **Julie Thomas**, **Beverly Osterloh** and **Barbara Wojilhan**.

### LAB ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASSES

- Introduction to Laboratory Animal Science  
- Tues., **Nov. 10**
- Practical Research Methodology-Rabbits  
- Wed., **Nov. 11**
- Practical Research Methodology-Rodents  
- Thurs., **Nov. 12**
- Aseptic Surgical Techniques-Rodents  
- Fri., **Nov. 13**



Registration required. Forms available in Rm. B.236. For more information, contact **Danny Sampay**, 500-7542.