



# Scoop

July 26, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### July

**31 Benefits Open Enrollment Deadline.** Questions, call 713-500-3935.

**Clinical Research Curriculum, Scientific Writing Workshop, on manuscripts, with Maureen Goode, Mariann Crapanzano, and Michael Worley, 5 - 6:30 p.m., MSB 2.106.**

### August

**8 UT-H Physicians Lecture Series, Speakers Drs. Asra Ali and Adelaide Hebert, on skin damage and protection. Samples and lunch for first 100, 11:45 a.m., MSB 3.001.**

**Mobility Program Deadline.** Online registration, <<http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/mobility/asp/home.asp>>. Questions, call 713-500-3430.

## UTMost Interest

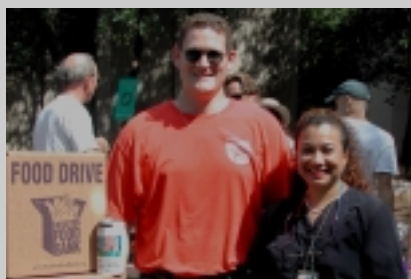
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine's **Dr. Steve Norris's** expertise was recently cited



(*Journal of Biological Chemistry*) on telltale

protein in the Lyme disease bacterium.

**TMC FOOD DRIVE-** The UT-Houston family contributed about 1,300 lbs. of food and \$850 (which equals \$17,000 in wholesale buying power). Thanks for your donations!



Scott Sherrill, Public Affairs, and Isabel Alvarado, president, Employee Relations Council, helped with the tally.

## CASTRO DIRECTS INNOVATIVE SPRING BRANCH SCIENCE AGENDA

The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston is working to implement an innovative science curriculum for students at Spring Branch Independent School District's middle schools this fall. The program, designed by and featuring UT-Houston faculty in interactive video presentations, aims to educate children about science not only as a discipline, but also as a career. "This is a really exciting program, and we are looking forward to its unveiling this fall," said UT-Houston Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs **Gilbert A. Castro, Ph.D.**, the program's director.

The project, Health Education and Discovering Science While Unlocking Potential (HEADS-UP), uses computer and video technology to increase middle school students' proficiency in science and math while at the same time encouraging their interest and confidence in pursuing careers in these two fields. UT-Houston faculty will be taped conducting research, teaching classes, and delivering lectures on selected topics. Children will tour lab facilities via CD-ROM, and students also can watch a heart dissection and other medically-oriented demonstrations. Castro also is planning to offer the curriculum to middle school children in the Hidalgo, Mission, and Lajoya Independent School Districts in the Rio Grande Valley. The HEADS-UP program was made possible by a grant of more than \$860,000 from the National Center for Research Resources, a division of the National Institutes of Health. - *S. Rasp*



**Ellen Taft, Pediatrics,** accepts book donations from **Wayne Rogers.**

## MAKING A DONATION TO THE CAUSE

**Wayne Rogers**, a second-year linebacker for the Detroit Lions football team and former Conference-USA co-defensive Player of the Year at the University of Houston, delivered approximately 1,000 children's books for the Reach Out and Read - Texas Program at the Children's Assessment Center Medical Clinic. The Texas Reach Out and Read chapter is directed by UT-Houston's **Susan Cooley, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pediatrics. **Ellen Taft**, a pediatrics instructor at the Medical School, accepted the books, which were donated as a result of the Half Price Books annual book drive.

## NOMINATE A MENTOR FOR CSW STATUS OF WOMEN AWARD

The Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) is accepting nominations through Thursday, **Aug. 15**, for the Presidents' Award for Mentoring Women. The mentor (male or female) must be someone at UT-Houston who coaches, teaches, advises, supports, guides, and helps the person being mentored (female) achieve her goals. Three mentors will each receive this \$2,000 award, one each from faculty, administrative and professional staff, and classified staff. To nominate a person for the award, describe in a maximum of two pages double-spaced, how your nominee has affected your career path or your life. Send the nomination to **Dr. Susan John**, MSB 2.100. For questions contact <[Susan.D.John@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Susan.D.John@uth.tmc.edu)>.



The University of Texas  
Health Science Center at Houston  
Medical School

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean  
Darla Brown, Manager  
e-mail: [M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu)  
Colleen O'Brien, Editor  
e-mail: [Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu)  
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597  
E-Scoop online:  
<http://deanweb.med.uth.tmc.edu/comm/scoop/>  
Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



## DEAN'S GRADUATE PROGRAM AWARDS IN MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

Recent award winners in the Dean's Graduate Program Awards in Molecular Pathology were — Outstanding: **Meredith Moore**, Ph.D. candidate; and Meritorious:



(l. to r.), Joye Purser, Jessica Indrigo, Dean Buja, Meredith Moore

also gave out Dean's Graduate Program Awards. Watch future issues of *Scoop* for winner announcements in other departments.

**Joye Purser** and **Jessica Indrigo**, Ph.D. candidates. Other graduate programs — Cell and Regulatory Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, and Neuroscience



UT★HOUSTON  
PHYSICIANS

*UT Physicians are the preferred providers for all employee health plans, as well as for Student Insurance.*

*For your medical needs, call 1-888-4UT-Docs, or visit the Web site at <a href="http://www.UTDOCS.com">www.UTDOCS.com</a>*

## JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - TAMARA OWENS

**Tamara Owens**, health education coordinator, Office of Educational Programs, and our July Employee of the Month, has been with UT-Houston since July of 1990. She is considered a tremendous asset to the office and has excellent management and interpersonal skills. Tamara was a psychology major at the University of Houston, where she graduated, and is presently enrolled in a master's program at the School of Health Information Sciences.

At the Medical School, Tamara works with **Dr. Linda Perkowski**, director of educational programs. The office — which is headed by **Dr. Patricia Butler**, associate dean for educational programs — also includes **Dr. Andrew Harper**, assistant dean for educational programs; **Dr. Gary Rosenfeld**, assistant dean for educational programs; and **Dr. Margaret Uthman**, assistant dean for educational programs. The office provides general oversight and management of all aspects of the curriculum. These efforts include program evaluation; curriculum scheduling in the first two years; administration of the problem-based learning curriculum; management of the Standardized Patient (SP) Program; educational research; and faculty development.

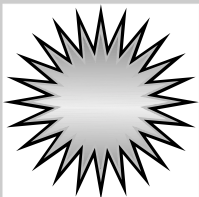
Tamara manages the SP Program for the Medical School. Her responsibilities include developing and coordinating sessions for first-year through fourth-year medical students and residents. Sessions can either be practice sessions or examinations, and focus on history-taking skills, physical examination skills, and communication skills.

The definition of a standardized patient, according to Dr. Howard Barrows, who created the concept back in the 1960s, is an individual, normally an actor or actress, “who has been trained to accurately recreate the history, personality, emotional structure, responses, and physical findings of an actual patient.”

Tamara's other responsibilities include working with **Dr. Elizabeth Jones**, Emergency Medicine, in training students in technical skills courses, such as basic life support and CPR. Fourth-year students are trained in advanced cardiac life support, EKGs, intubation, and defibrillation.

Tamara is from Port Arthur. She belongs to a book club that travels; their last trip took them to Las Vegas. She has two brothers, one sister, and two nephews — Cory, age 10, and Jamal, age 13.

Tamara and Dr. Perkowski just returned from the University of California at San Diego, where they spent several days observing a model education program for third-year medical students. She said her recent summer trip to Ottawa to attend the Association for Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE) meeting left its mark, and with a sly grin, showed a temporary Moroccan henna design on her left arm. “Well yes, I did have *some* fun on the trip,” she said.



**Tamara Owens**