



Scoop

Sept. 3, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

September

6 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

8 Faculty Research Seminar, Dr. Stanley Reiser, Health, Humanities & Human Spirit lecturer, "Can Technology Make You Healthy?" noon, JLL, Rm. 405.

10 Medical School Blood Drive, in honor of Sept. 11 victims. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Leather Lounge.

15 Employee Appreciation Day, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Webber Plaza.

October

4 Dean's Town Hall Meeting, noon-1 p.m., MSB 3.001.

6 Faculty Honors Convocation. 4-6 p.m., TMC Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

8 Founder's Fun Fest, 2-6 p.m., TMC Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER BUYS HERMANN PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

Officials of The [University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston](#) and Memorial Hermann Healthcare System announced an agreement that will provide the university with its first "owned" outpatient clinic space and renew its commitment to Memorial Hermann Hospital as the primary private hospital teaching site for Medical School faculty members.



Hermann Professional Building

The agreement includes the purchase by the UT Health Science Center of the Hermann Professional Building, 6410 Fannin St., and its adjacent parking garage for a total \$31 million cash. The building will be renamed The University of Texas Health Science Center Professional Building.

"This acquisition is part of our strategic plan for campus growth" said **President James T. Willerson**.

At the same time, officials signed a re-affiliation agreement guaranteeing for the next 15 years that Medical School faculty continue on staff at [Memorial Hermann Hospital](#), where they treat patients, conduct research, and train more than 450 medical students, residents, and fellows each year.

Dean Stanley Schultz said, "Our teaching mission can only benefit for years to come from the accessible and enhanced outpatient clinical services that ownership of the Hermann Professional Building adds to our learning environment."

Financing of the purchase includes \$19.5 million in tuition revenue bonds granted by the Texas Legislature two sessions ago.

BYRNE NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN FOR RESEARCH AFFAIRS

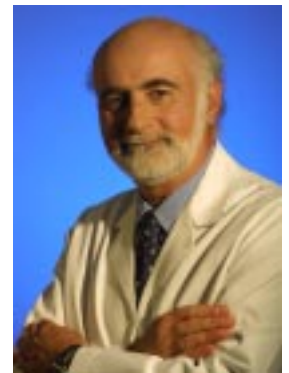
Dean Stanley Schultz has re-established the position of assistant dean for research affairs, naming **John H. Byrne, Ph.D.**, to it, effective **Sept. 1**.

"There is no person in the Medical School more suitable for this position in terms of scientific achievement and administrative abilities than Dr. Byrne," Schultz said.

Byrne, chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy and holder of the June and Virgil Waggoner Chair, has chaired the Research Committee for 10 years and is internationally known for his research on the neural and molecular bases of learning and memory.

In this new role, Byrne will play an important role in planning the Research Replacement Facility, which will replace the John Freeman Building, and will be an advocate of research in the Dean's Office.

"My goal is to enhance research activities in the Medical School and to help propel us into the nation's top-tier medical schools for research," Byrne said.



Dr. John H. Byrne

UTMost Interest

Jack M. Fletcher Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, and co-director, Center for Academic and Reading Skills, has been appointed chair, National Commission on Reading Research.



IN MEMORIAM

Edward McLaughlin, Ph.D., died Aug. 26, in a Houston area hospice. He was 83. Dr. 'Mac' as he was affectionately known to students and faculty alike was a former assistant dean for educational programs as well as an early leader in the development of the UT Health Science Center at Houston. Dr. Mac first joined the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in 1975 and served as chief psychologist for the department as well as for the Harris County Psychiatric Center. Prior to joining The University of Texas, he held key roles at NASA with the Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab programs as well as serving in the early 1970s with the US/USSR Joint Working Group on Space Biology and Medicine.



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*A part of The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston*

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CAPSULATED HISTORY OF THE HERMANN PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

While Hermann Hospital was completed in 1925 and stood proudly in front of a large forest that would be converted into the Texas Medical Center in due time, it was not until Dec. 16, 1946, that construction of the Hermann Professional Building began.

The steel for the building had actually been fabricated and placed in storage awaiting approval for use. In those post-World War II years, the Civilian Production Administration in Washington had to give approval for large steel and concrete projects due to war needs. The building permit was issued on January 28, 1947, and by June the steel-



The Hermann Professional Building, upper left, under construction in the summer of 1948.

work of the Hermann Professional Building as we know it from the Fannin Street side was topped out, with the building completed in early spring of 1949 at a cost of \$3,694,725.

Designed as one of the most modern buildings in Houston at that time, the building was adorned in pink Texas granite with sandstone and a red tile roof. Nearly half of the space was



The Hermann Professional Building, upper left. Photo, 1953.

rented before construction began, and offices were tailored to meet the needs of individual tenants.

In 1954, plans were made to double the size of the building, extending it to the Main Street sidewalk as we know it. The second phase was designed and constructed to match the first building so they could appear internally and externally as one. The construction of the second building began in July 1956 and was completed in December 1957 at a cost of \$4,427,398.

As for the Hermann Parking Garage, those plans were completed in February 1957 for a split-level facility, with two levels below grade and three above. The structure was designed to hold another three floors in the future. Completed in December 1958 at a cost of \$2,607,184, the new 370,000 square-foot garage with 1,000 spaces could handle 1,500 cars per day and was formally dedicated on January 27, 1959, with full-page coverage provided by the *Houston Post*.

In 1969, another three floors were added to the garage to increase capacity from 1,000 to 1,700 cars. The one-millionth automobile to park in the garage was driven by Mrs. Walter Mengden who, along with her 14-year-old daughter, must have been very surprised when they pulled up at 10:15 a.m. on January 26, 1961, to receive a large box of candy presented by the garage manager and members of the Hermann Hospital Estate.

- B. Boutwell

REQUESTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE KNOBIL DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP

On behalf of the Research Committee, **Dr. John H. Byrne** is requesting nominations from the faculty at the Medical School for the next Ernst Knobil Distinguished Lecture. The series was established to honor the academic and research accomplishments of Dr. Ernst Knobil. Previous scientists who have presented lectures in this series include Nobel Laureates **Eric R. Kandel, M.D.** (2002), **Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D.** (2003), and **H. Robert Horvitz, Ph.D.** (2004). **Leland H. Hartwell, Ph.D.** will present the next lecture **Nov. 17**.

In addition to being internationally recognized experts in their respective fields, nominees should be able to present a topic that would appeal to an audience of professionals with diverse research interests. In addition to the honor, there is a \$10,000 award. Include the nominee's complete name, title, institutional affiliation, mailing address, and a brief description of their scientific contributions. Please send your nominations to the Research Committee, Attn.: Dr. John H. Byrne, MSB 7.046 no later than **Sept. 21**.

SCHOLARSHIP MONIES PRESENTED



Dean Stanley Schultz, center right, receives a check for medical school scholarships from Lyn Shivshanker, president, Harris County Medical Society Alliance.

Others joining in on the happy occasion are (l. to r.): James Davis, chair, HCMS Medical Student Scholarship Fund; Jane VanSanten, president-elect, HCMS Alliance; Dr. Max Buja, executive vice president for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Gilbert Castro, vice president for Inter-Institutional Relations.