



Scoop

June 3, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

June

4-10 Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice Conference. For information, call Cynthia Clark, 713-563-4005.

10 Deadline for Dean's Research Scholarship Awards, 5 p.m. \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded to up to 10 students who have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy prior to June 10. For applications, contact <Kimberly.J.Campbell@uth.tmc.edu>.

15 BASEMENT RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY & OPEN HOUSE, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join **Dean Schultz** and other university leadership. Program commences in Medical School Leather Lounge. Continental breakfast available.

15 MEDICAL SCHOOL BOOKSTORE REOPENS. MSB B.600.

July

28 Nano Summit Conference, visit <<http://www.nanotechfoundation.org/WWO.html>>.

UTMost Interest

Channel 11 carried exclusive coverage of the Medical School's commencement, including an interview with **Dean Stanley Schultz...Dr. Pedro Ruiz**, professor and vice chair, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, recently received the "Irma Bland Award for Excellence in Teaching Residents" during the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association held in Atlanta...**Dr. Sharon Hymes**, associate professor, Dermatology, was quoted concerning skin cancer, (*Houston Chronicle*, 5/29/05)...**Dr. Katherine Loveland**, professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and assistant dean, Faculty Affairs, recently served as program chair for the International Meeting for Autism Research in Boston...**Dr. Ali Azzadeh**, assistant professor, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, performed an endovascular aortic aneurysm repair on May 25, which can be viewed at <<http://www.OR-Live.com>>.

COMMENCEMENT HONORS GRADUATES, FACULTY

The eyes of Texas — or at least the eyes of parents, friends, and relatives — were on 180 graduating Medical School students May 28 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Commencement speaker was **Catherine DeAngelis, M.D., M.Ph.**, editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association* and editor-in-chief, *AMA Division of Scientific Information and Multimedia*.



Dean Stanley Schultz and Dr. Catherine DeAngelis catch up at commencement.

Awards handed out included the Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence to **Keith Gates**, who presently is serving in Iraq (see story below). The student recipient of the Leonard Tow 2005 Humanism in Medicine Gold-Headed Cane Award was **Jeremy Dalton**; honorable mentions went to **David Clark** and **Joseph Weinpel**. **Mark Ellis** received the Hitoshi C. Nikaidoh, M.D. Award for Humanism in Medicine. The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to **Dr. R. Andrew Harper, ('84)**; the Alpha Omega Alpha Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award went to **Dr. Julie Toll**; **Dr. Margaret Uthman** received the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award; **Dr. Victor Lavis** received the Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award; **Dr. Alberto Puig** received the John P. McGovern Award; and **Dr. Larry Gilstrap**, received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

STUDENT WHO IS SERVING IN IRAQ WINS AWARD

As seniors at the Medical School celebrated commencement in the comfort of an air-conditioned convention center May 28, one of their classmates, **Keith Gates**, was in Al Anbar Province, doing his part for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Instead of a cap and gown, Gates, a father of two, was wearing combat gear. He could have graduated with the rest of his class, but earlier this year, he chose to put his medical education on hold so he could serve our country.

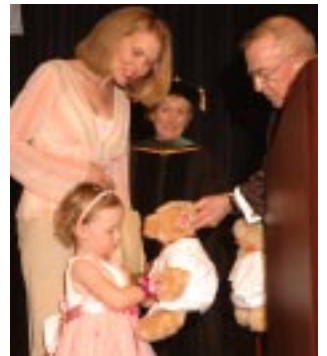
The U.S. Navy reservist signed up for a seven-month tour of duty as a special operations medic attached to a Marine unit.

Brent King, M.D., chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, said Gates' decision was not at all surprising. It was fitting for Gates, whom King described as having an eagerness to learn, calm demeanor, and keen ability to focus on patients. "A lesser person would have considered his own benefit first and the benefit of others after," King said. "Keith felt a sense of loyalty to his team and duty to his country and elected to put himself in harm's way."

This is one of the many reasons King and others nominated Gates for the 2005 Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence. Upon reviewing the nominations, the Student Evaluation and Promotions Committee selected Gates as the winner.

The award recognizes a student who has exhibited scholastic superiority, outstanding interpersonal

(Cont'd. on back)



Darby Gates accepts a teddy bear from Dean Schultz as Jeri Gates and Dr. Margaret McNeese look on.



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

Stanley Schultz, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Director
e-mail: M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597

E-Scoop online:

http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm

Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



2005 JOHN FREEMAN FACULTY TEACHING AWARD - DR. MARGARET UTHMAN

For students at this Medical School, the pathology teacher who hits the high notes every time she lectures is **Margaret O. Uthman, M.D.**, professor and vice chair, education, in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Said one student who nominated Uthman for the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award, "Pathology is probably one of the most important classes we took during the first two years because it applied to nearly everything we did for the next two clinical years. Dr. Uthman's lectures were always informative and straight-to-the point."

The award is given annually to an outstanding basic science faculty member chosen by the senior class. The recipient is first of all an effective teacher who can reach out to students, empathize with their problems, and yet set a high standard.

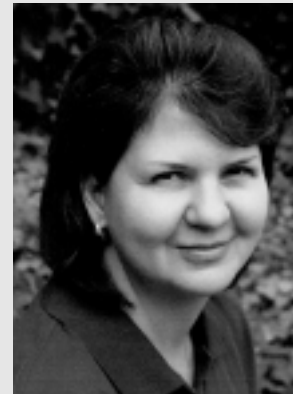
Said another student who nominated Uthman, "She truly wanted us to understand the material and do well in class."

Uthman, also an assistant dean for Educational Programs, is a 17-year faculty member. This is her fourth John Freeman Faculty

Teaching Award.

She started her career path with an electrical engineering and mathematics degree and received her medical degree from the University of Arkansas College of Medicine. She is past-president, Association of Women Faculty, has won numerous other teaching awards, has served on many administrative committees, and is a member of a variety of medical associations.

Other winners of the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award since 1990 include: **Drs. Kent Heck, Norman Weisbrodt, Barry Van Winkle, Marsha Eigenbrodt, Ron Philo, Harley Sybers, Frank Booth, and Karmen Schmidt.**



Dr. Margaret Uthman

- C. O'Brien

ISMAEL PEREZ IS OUR EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

A little over eight years ago, in March of 1997, **Dr. Bruce Welch** interviewed and brought

Ismael Perez, Network Support Specialist III, Neurobiology & Anatomy, into the Medical School



Ismael Perez

fold. Lucky for us. He is considered by those who nominated him to be a consummate diplomat. Ismael works with more than 150 personnel, sometimes with very demanding time constraints, as well as problems. How does he keep all the balls in the air at the same time? "I'm very patient," Ismael said. "I try to listen to everyone, and I try to prioritize what's urgent."

Ismael is a member of the User/Desktop Support Advisory Committee. The committee advises the Medical School Information Technology (MSIT) Office regarding issues of computer uses and desktop support.

He is married to **Kimberly**, a PTO president at Manford Williams Elementary School in Richmond. They have twin seven-years-old boys, **Diego** and **Jordan**, and an older son, 10-year-old **Alec**.

STUDENT SERVING COUNTRY WINS AWARD, CONT'D.

relations, and energy, as well as having earned the respect and affection of his or her patients and colleagues.

"Keith is an exceptional person who defines honor and commitment," **Kimberly Anderson, Ph.D.**, professor of surgery, wrote in her nomination letter. "As a medical student, he is one of those rare individuals who takes everything in stride. He works diligently, has a positive attitude, always takes on more than is expected of him and never complains."

John B. Holcomb, M.D., colonel, commander and chief of the trauma division at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research in Fort Sam Houston, said civilians and soldiers are benefiting from Gates' decision to go to Iraq to care for patients. "I can think of no greater example of his desire and drive to translate his medical knowledge and expertise in a life-saving fashion," Holcomb said.

In an e-mail Gates sent from the Middle East to a mentor at the Medical School, he detailed some of his activities. He is the senior medical department representative for about 200 Marines, and he operates a daily clinic, treating soldiers with the "Iraq Hack," which is acute bronchitis and/or the flu, and other ailments.

Gates, a former Army Ranger, wrote about going to a village on the Euphrates and passing out candy and soccer balls to children while soldiers searched for a target. "So far it has been a great opportunity," Gates said. "I am continuing to learn... I have definitely changed in some ways and confirmed other things I already knew."

Gates, who won an Alpha Omega Alpha Research Fellowship in 2004, was working with **Rosemary Kozar, M.D. Ph.D.**, associate professor of surgery, on a research project in the lab when he was deployed.

"He has made an amazing transition from a medical student to a physician, and I'm very proud of his accomplishments," Kozar said. "The only M.D. in his unit was unable to go to Iraq at the last minute, so without much help or supervision, Keith has been the person taking care of the unit's medical needs, including combat and environmental injuries."

The audience gave a standing ovation as Gates' wife, **Jeri**, and their daughter, **Darby**, accepted the award on his behalf during commencement. Darby was just six weeks old when Gates entered medical school. She turns 4 this summer. They also have a 2-year-old son, **Saxton**.

Dean Stanley Schultz presented Jeri the award, along with a certificate for Darby, and two teddy bears for the Gates' children. "We're both soldiers," Jeri said. "He's trained for this for a very long time, and he felt very strongly about going."

Gates, 37, has been in the military since 1987. He was a certified emergency medical technician and paramedic before enrolling in medical school.

Jeri said her husband is expected to return home in September. He'll have two months' worth of medical school coursework to complete while he is reapplying to residency programs. He plans to specialize in emergency medicine, which his wife said is "his calling."

"He was very surprised to receive this award, and he considers it a great honor," said Jeri, a social worker at Texas Children's Hospital. "It means a lot to our family." - M. Raine