



Scoop

May 26, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

May

30 Quick Fit Seminars presented by fitness expert Rick Bradley. 2:30 p.m., MSB 2.135 and 4 p.m., Dental Branch, Room 207. Visit www.uthouston.edu/worklife/ or R.S.V.P. to Sam.Hester@uth.tmc.edu.

31 Dr. Irving Weissman (Stanford University School of Medicine) to present Dean's Lecture on "Normal and Neoplastic Stem Cells." 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.

31 Outstanding Employee Award nomination deadline. Forms available in MSB G.300, by guard's desk, or at med.uth.tmc.edu/ (Staff & Faculty).

31 Last day of 20 percent off sales at Medical School, Dental Branch, and School of Nursing Bookstores.

June

1 President's Update for MS community. Attend one of two sessions, 7:30 a.m. or noon, in MSB B.605.

2 Dr. Perri Klass, national expert on pediatric literacy promotion, to present FREE training seminar for doctors and nurses interested in including literacy promotion into primary care practice. 1 p.m.-4 p.m., MSB 2.135. Register at www.reachoutandread.org/internal/prod/TTT_TX_response.asp.

3 Discover Scuba Diving. 1 p.m.-4 p.m., UT Recreation Center. (Rain date is June 4.) Call Steve Fath at 281.414.5202 by May 26 to register.



Several vendors displayed their products and services April 26 at the Spring HUB Vendor Show in the Medical School's Fifth Floor Gallery. HUB stands for "historically underutilized business."

FOUR-YEAR RESTORATION PROJECT RENEWS CLASS ROSTERS

After nearly a four-year restoration process, the brand spanking new class rosters are up on the wall in what will soon be deemed the "Graduates Gallery" on the ground floor of the Medical School.



Chan Elizardo admires a newly restored class roster.

A hefty task undertaken by the Office of Communications, talk of restoring the class rosters to their original luster began even before Tropical Storm Allison flooded the school. Rosters are photographs of each class of Medical School graduates.

Aseneth "Chan" Elizardo, a graphic designer in the office, worked on the restoration project and said that due to the chemicals used on the rosters over the years, many of the photographs began to discolor and turn brown. She added that some of the photos were coming loose because of the adhesive used to apply them.

"Each roster had originally been made with a photo pasted down," Elizardo said. "On some photos, because of the humidity, the glue was coming undone. Administration decided the rosters would be redone digitally.

"And then the flood came, and they all had to be taken down from the wall," she continued, adding that the rosters then were put into storage, where they remained for four years.

The communications group gradually and carefully restored the rosters – one-by-one. "We started scanning them in sections to produce digital photos," Elizardo said. "Each year had to be" *(Cont'd. on back)*

ANDRASSY WINS DISTINGUISHED SURGEON AWARD

The Houston Surgical Society has named **Richard Andrassy, M.D.**, the Distinguished Houston Surgeon for 2006.



Dr. Richard Andrassy

Andrassy, associate dean for clinical affairs at the Medical School, received the award May 10 during a dinner at Trevisio's Restaurant. The executive committee of the Houston Surgical Society nominates members for the award, which is given annually to a surgeon who has made significant contributions to the medical field.

"Dr. Andrassy has achieved local and national distinction in surgical treatment of pediatric tumors, with special emphasis on surgical nutritional support, and related physiologic and immune responses to major trauma," said **Kamal Khalil, M.D.**, president of the Houston Surgical Society.

"He is a recognized leader in the training of general surgical and pediatric surgical residents," Khalil said. "Also, his contributions to the surgical community here in Harris County have been instrumental in fostering communication between academic and the private surgical practitioners."

Andrassy, surgeon-in-chief at Memorial Hermann Hospital, is the Denton A. Cooley, M.D. Chair in Surgery and professor and chair of the Department of Surgery. Recently, he also agreed" *(Cont'd. on back)*



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of TEXAS

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Stanley Schultz, M.D., Dean

Darla Brown, Director

Camille Webb, Editor

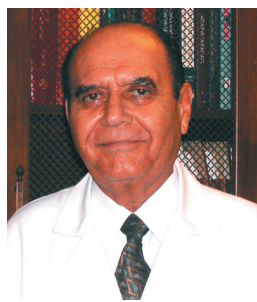
e-mail: scoop@uth.tmc.edu

Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: 713-500-5533

E-Scoop online: med.uth.tmc.edu/comm

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John P. McGovern Award – Dr. Octavio C. Pinell



Dr. Octavio Pinell

With now his sixth award to his name, **Octavio C. Pinell, M.D.**, has become the Lance Armstrong of the annual John P. McGovern Award competition – winning the award more times than any of his faculty brethren.

The John P. McGovern Award is given annually to the outstanding clinical faculty member as chosen by the senior class. Pinell, professor and director of undergraduate education in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, has been named the recipient of the award in 2006, 2004, 2001, 1999, 1997, and 1995 – nearly every other year since he joined the Medical School in 1994.

Students are not allowed to elect consecutive year winners.

Pinell received his medical degree from the Universidad Nacional de Nicaragua and did residencies at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York and Spring Grove Hospital in Maryland.

Pinell has continued to receive teaching awards at UT just as he did at Baylor College of Medicine before he moved here. "Teaching is about sharing knowledge – and that's what motivates me," he said.

Since 1980, he has received more than 20 teaching awards – most

bestowed upon him by those who know, his students.

Students who nominated him for this most recent award wrote that they enjoyed his stories, which made remembering lessons easier. "He also always made time for students and welcomed their input," wrote one student.

Pinell teaches students throughout their medical careers, from lectures in the second year to fourth-year electives and directing the department's clerkship program, where students help to evaluate new acute patients at the UT Harris County Psychiatric Center. "Seeing patients and moving the teaching to the examining rooms is an important step," Pinell said.

The award is made possible by an endowment from the McGovern Foundation. McGovern, founder of the McGovern Allergy Clinic, has maintained a deep interest in excellence in teaching at the health science center, where he holds faculty appointments.

Previous recipients include **Alberto Puig, M.D., Ph.D.**, 2005; **Frank C. Arnett Jr., M.D.**, 2003, 2000; **Eugene Toy, M.D.**, 2002; **Edward Yeomans, M.D.**, 1998; **John F. Donnelly, M.D.**, 1996, 1993, 1990; **James T. Willerson, M.D.**, 1994; **John M. Passmore, M.D.**, 1992; and **Herbert L. DuPont, M.D.**, 1991.

-D. Brown

Summer Research Program Under Way

The Medical School's 2006 Summer Research Program began May 22 with 65 participating first-year Medical School students and undergraduate students. The students will spend 10 weeks this summer conducting laboratory research with Medical School faculty mentors, and two of the students will conduct research with Dental Branch faculty.

The Medical School again will host three medical students from Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taiwan, who arrive June 26 for eight weeks. Under a new collaboration, the Medical School is hosting two medical students from the Shanghai Jiao Tong Medical School in China, who will participate in the program for eight weeks from May 22-July 14.

Dr. Gary Rosenfeld, director of the program, welcomed students at orientation last week, and **Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, associate dean for community affairs, spoke on "The 'Ig Noble' Research Awards."

Part of the program is a weekly seminar series, held every Thursday and open to all health science center faculty, staff, and students, as well as the Texas Medical Center community. Check *Scoop* and bulletin boards for listings of speakers, topics, and locations.

Contact **Jimmie Pope**, Summer Research Program coordinator, at 713.500.5334 for details.

Class rosters, cont'd.

done in sections. We had negatives for some; some were scanned from yearbooks because negatives were not found."

Elizardo had the task of formatting and production, which included typing names, cropping photos and placing them, and layout. "I had to format and redo all the names," she said. "Each year seemed to be in different sizes, according to class size. We decided to use a standard format for layout."

In total, 31 class rosters were remade in digital format, beginning with the first class of 1973. "1982 and 1986, because they were so badly discolored, were the last ones to redo," Elizardo said, adding that 1998 was the only undamaged roster. "Eventually, it will be redone digitally for archival purposes."

-C. Webb

UT Rec Center Offers Summer Activities

Discover Scuba Diving with **Steve Fath** June 3 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. This is an introduction to the sport, not a certification course with a maximum of six participants. Rain date is June 4. Call 281.414.5202 by May 26 to register.

Group Swim Lessons begin June 5. There will be four, two-week sessions of "group classes" for all ages from 3 years and above, including adults. Private and semi-private lessons are available by appointment. Visit <http://ae.uth.tmc.edu> or call 713.500.8420 for details and class schedule.

Summer Sports Camp for children ages 7-12 begins June 12 and runs through July 10. Camp lasts one week and includes a field trip, camp shirt, and morning and afternoon snacks for campers. Visit <http://ae.uth.tmc.edu> for details.

Andrassy award, cont'd.

to direct and oversee the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery as acting chair, until permanent leadership can be identified.

Andrassy joined the faculty in 1985 as professor and division director of pediatric surgery. Since 1995, he has been the chair of the Department of Surgery. While leading that department, he also served as interim chair in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1996.

He has been a member of the Houston Surgical Society since 1988. Andrassy, chief of pediatric surgery at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, has served as a consultant in surgery to the U.S. Surgeon General since 1981. He also is a member of the Board of Governors for the American College of Surgeons.

An award-winning teacher at the Medical School, Andrassy has been the lead author or co-author of more than 230 scientific publications related to pediatric and adult surgery.

Other UT faculty members who have won previous Distinguished Houston Surgeon awards include **James "Red" Duke, M.D.**, **Frank Moody, M.D.**, and **O. H. "Bud" Frazier, M.D.**

-M. Raine