

## Events to Know

### November

#### 2 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

**Seminar: Dr. Wade Winkler** (The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas) to present "RNA-mediated control of bacterial metal transport." 4-5 p.m., MSB 2.103.

#### 4 Heart Walk 2006.

8 a.m., Sam Houston Park.

#### 7 American Heart Association grant program information session

presented by Brent Fields (AHA, Texas Affiliate). 11-11:30 a.m., MSB B.605.

#### 7 Cultural Humility in Medicine series: "Treating Latino Patients."

Noon-1 p.m., MSB 2.006.

#### 9 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Seminar: Dr. Scott Moye-Rowley

(The University of Iowa) to present "Coordinate control of multidrug resistance and sphingolipid homeostasis." 4-5 p.m., MSB 2.103.

#### 13 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Dr. Christian Raetz

(Duke University School of Medicine) to present "Structure and Inhibition of Enzymes that Assemble Gram-Negative Endotoxin, a Potent Lipid Activator of Innate Immunity." Noon-1 p.m., MSB 2.135.

#### 15 NRC Distinguished Lecture Series presents Dr. Donald Price

(Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine). 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.

#### 16 20th Annual Holiday Arts and Craft Fair.

9 a.m.-5 p.m., MSB Leather Lounge.



**Dr. Judianne Kellaway celebrates with former Dean Stanley Schultz at his surprise 75th birthday party last week.**

## Alumni Association honors Strobel

There was something new at the Student Retreat this year. Of course the highlights included the traditional outdoor relays, meeting with faculty advisers, and the hilarious song-and-dance skit.

But this year the Medical School Alumni Association had a special announcement – the group voted to create the Henry W. Strobel Ph.D. Freshman Retreat Fund to the tune of \$100,000 to help underwrite the costs of future retreats.

**Dr. Strobel**, associate dean for faculty affairs and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, organized the first Student Retreat in 1977 with a group of 16 ethics discussion group members and still is instrumental in organizing each and every retreat, which is hosted by the second-year students for the incoming class.

"The retreat was Henry's idea from the start," said **Dr. Alan Friedman**, '86, past president of the Alumni Association. "Without him, there never would have been one – he is the force. He put his time and energy behind it and he still does – he goes up a day early, and he is up all night with the students."

Friedman said that the Alumni Association Board first considered this larger gift to the retreat last year. The Alumni Association has been giving \$5,000 a year for the past seven to eight years to help offset the cost of retreat, which runs \$40,000-\$50,000.

"When we looked at the Alumni Association's funds, we thought about what the students would care about and what was important to us when we were students – we unanimously agreed – the retreat. The retreat is a unique event in the life of this medical school where students and faculty get to know each other and feel like a part of a family, knowing that the goal is success – it's very

*(Cont'd. on back)*



**Dr. Henry Strobel**

## Fuentes wins two cultural service awards

**Dr. Francisco Fuentes**, the Theodore R. and Maureen O'Driscoll Levy Endowed Professor in Cardiology Research, has received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and also was named a 2006 honoree of the American Heart Association's Cultural Initiatives.

A representative from Congressman **Al Green's** office presented Fuentes the certificate Oct. 3 for his tireless efforts in cultural service to the community.

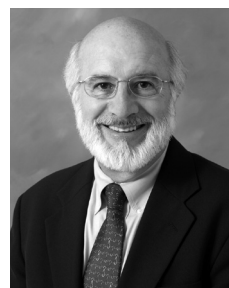
"Fuentes needs to receive this special recognition, as he has been a leader in championing active prevention of cardiovascular risk factors before major events (strokes/heart attacks) happen. Dr. Fuentes is working where cardiologists can make the most difference," said **Dr. David McPherson**, professor and director of the Division of Cardiology.

Fuentes devotes time to the community and has been a volunteer at the San José Clinic in downtown Houston for 18 years. He has been a part of the Houston medical system for 34 years, and his work has been recognized by organizations spanning two continents, three countries, and throughout the nation. As a 2006 honoree, this was Fuentes' 11th honor from the American Heart Association.

"We must bring the focus to prevention," Fuentes said. "The country spends roughly \$671 billion per year on health costs for diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and stroke. With awareness, we can reduce this number."

Fuentes was presented with the two awards during the 2006 American Heart Association Conozca Su Corazón luncheon in Houston.

*-N. Wong Camarata*



**Dr. Francisco Fuentes**



## Postdoctoral Affairs has new certificate program, one-year anniversary

With a new Postdoctoral Certificate Program and several successes, the UT Health Science Center's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs had good reasons to celebrate its one-year anniversary last week.

Located on the ground floor of the Medical School Building in the Office of Faculty Affairs, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs was created last year to serve as an information hub for postdoctoral fellows, as well as to facilitate communication among fellows, faculty, and administrators on issues related to postdoctoral training.

One way the office provides formal training for postdoctoral fellows is through its Postdoctoral Certificate Program, which was established this fall to augment traditional laboratory training.

"There is a trend in the entire postdoctoral community toward formal training of postdoctoral fellows," said **Leslie Shields**, coordinator of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs.

Shields said the idea stemmed from a general statement issued by the National Institutes of Health regarding a need for career development and ethics training for postdoctoral fellows.

"It's a trend in training throughout the country, and postdoctoral fellows have been asking for specific training outside the laboratory," Shields added.

The health science center is committed to enhancing postdoctoral training, by making it attractive to top level researchers. The university's Postdoctoral Certificate Program is a two-year, 15 credit hour program, and the curriculum includes supervised research, career development, ethics training, and an elective of choice.

"The university pays all tuition and fees for the certificate program, and postdoctoral fellows have access to all student benefits," Shields said.

Thirty-one postdoctoral fellows are currently enrolled this semester in the certificate program – 29 of which are fellows from the Medical School.

Shields expects the number of enrollees to increase in the spring semester. "For the first semester, it was a manageable group that allowed the institution to work with a reasonable number the first time," she said.

In addition to the new Postdoctoral Certificate Program, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs has had a number of successes over the last year, including the recent "Postdoktoberfest." Organized by the postdoctoral offices of the UT Health Science Center, Baylor College of Medicine, and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, this first-time event attracted more than 250 postdoctoral fellows. Plans are being made for future postdoctoral social events.

Additionally, over the last year, the office identified and catalogued all postdoctoral fellows throughout the health science center and has maintained this important resource for faculty and others. The office also provides an orientation for new postdoctoral fellows, assisting them in their transition to the institution and to living in Houston.

Through its certificate program, social events, and database of university fellows, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs has worked to provide constant communication to the postdoctoral community.

"I am extremely pleased with the great strides that the office has made in such a brief period and also that UTHSC-H is at the forefront of institutions that are providing an enhanced experience for postdoctoral fellows," said **Dr. John Byrne**, director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs.

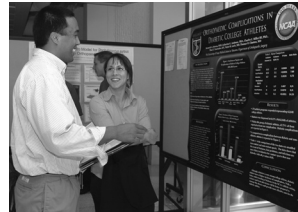
For more information on the Postdoctoral Certificate Program, contact Leslie Shields at 713.500.6612.

-C. Webb

## Students win Webber Prizes for research

The 2006 C. Frank Webber Prize for Student Research Competition was held during the annual Research Forum Oct. 26 in the Medical School's Leather Lounge. Medical students who participated in the 2006 Summer Research Program presented scientific research posters, which were judged for the Webber Prize awards.

Winner for first place was **Kerry Welsh** (sponsored by **Dr. Jeffrey Actor**, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine). Second place winner was **Kenneth Estrera** (sponsored by **Dr. Thomas Clanton**, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery). Third place winner was **Robert Lentz** (sponsored by **Dr. Theresa Koehler**, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics).



Second place Webber Prize winner **Kenneth Estrera** explains his research poster.

Interim Dean **Jerry Wolinsky** and **Dr. Patricia Butler**, associate dean for educational programs, sponsor the program, which is directed by **Dr. Gary Rosenfeld**, professor of integrative biology and pharmacology. Additional support is provided by a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

## LBJ chief of staff job open

So that **Dr. Michael Bungo** may commit fully to his responsibilities as vice dean for clinical affairs for the Medical School, the position of chief of staff of the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital is open.

Interested Medical School faculty may apply for the position, which is listed on the Medical School's Web site ([med.uth.tmc.edu](http://med.uth.tmc.edu)) under Staff and Faculty. Send expression of interest and curriculum vitae to **Abby Mitchell**, assistant dean for strategic development, in JJL-410 by Monday, Nov. 6.

## Student-run drive benefits charity

The Family Medicine Student Association is holding a drive to benefit Casa de Esperanza through Nov. 15. The student organization is collecting items for infants and children, including diapers, clothes, shoes, car seats, linens, medicine, baby formula and food, personal hygiene products, and cleaning supplies.

Boxes will be located in the Medical School's Office of Student Affairs and the Student Mail Room. For details, contact **Kristen L. Stegemoller** at [L.Stegemoller@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:L.Stegemoller@uth.tmc.edu).

## *Strobel retreat fund, cont'd.*

reassuring," Friedman explained.

And to name the fund after Strobel was a "no-brainer," Friedman said.

"When Alan Friedman called me to tell me the news, I had no words – I was astonished, humbled, and grateful," Strobel recalled. "The retreat is integral to what we do as a medical school – it's about teaching, and the students get that."

The fund establishes a pool of money for the annual tradition, the cost of which has been shared by the Medical School, the Alumni Association, and the participating students – who must all pay an entry fee.

"The goal now is to raise money to make the retreat free for all students. Some students don't attend each year due to the costs," Friedman added.

For more information on how to donate to the Henry W. Strobel Ph.D. Freshman Retreat Fund, see [www.utmsalumni.org](http://www.utmsalumni.org).

-D. Brown