

# UT Medical Students Match a Rising Tide

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The cameras stopped rolling before her second year at the health science center, but the action never stopped. Since then, she has recovered from a car accident that put her career in jeopardy, earned scholarships, attended her two daughters' after-school activities in between rounds at the hospital, mentored pregnant teen-agers and followed her dream of becoming an obstetrician and gynecologist.

"When I finally got to do my ob/gyn rotation, I was ecstatic because I was doing what I love," said Thompson, who celebrated her 34th birthday on Match Day. "I got a rush every time I did a delivery. Sometimes I cried. It is a very emotional experience. I love it."

Derick Sager, 29, is among three dozen seniors who will train in internal medicine. He matched with UT Medical School's program. Sager lives by the motto: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Sager had to hurdle a number of academic obstacles in his pursuit of a medical degree. Haunted by low SAT scores and a less-than-impressive academic record in high school, Sager had trouble getting into college. "The public school system doesn't always understand your academic ability. That doesn't

mean you aren't smart," Sager said. "You just have to be persistent, and you can't take 'no' for an answer. I was told my grades weren't good enough to get in to medical school, but that didn't stop me."

After his residency, Sager plans to practice medicine in a rural area of Texas. "I think this is my calling," Sager said.

Ana Leech, 33, who will do her residency in surgery at the UT Medical School, said she is fulfilling a dream her grandmother was never able to. "I think I've known since in utero that I wanted to be a doctor," Leech said. "As a child, I remember telling people that my

dad was going to buy me a hospital and I was going to be chief of staff." Leech's grandmother also had wanted to practice medicine, but in the 1930s in a small Mexican town, opportunities for women to become doctors were nonexistent. "She felt that being a doctor was really what she was meant to do, and if she had been born a boy, she would have been able to pursue that dream," Leech said.

Times have changed, and Leech is among a growing number of women who are becoming surgeons. "If you want it bad enough, you figure out a way to make it work," Leech said of going to medical school while starting a

family. Leech and her husband have a son who turns 4 in May and a 6-month-old daughter.

Meredith and Manny Reyes are among numerous seniors at the UT Medical School who participated in the "Couples Match." Like individual applicants, they competed for their own residency slot, but the goal was to land those positions as a couple at the same program. They achieved their goal and will do their residencies at the UT Medical School.

"It's a tricky process, and there is a lot you have to take into consideration when you are in the couples match," Meredith said. "You can't just think about yourself. You have to consider your family and what is best for both of you."

Meredith and Manny, both 25, met when they were in the Longhorn Band at The University of Texas in Austin. After their second year of medical school, they married. Meredith originally set out to become a pediatrician, but after completing her clinical rotations, she decided pathology was a better fit for her. Manny will do his residency training in internal medicine. "I always knew I wanted to be a doctor and use science to help people on a daily basis," Manny said. ★

## Specialties Chosen by Class of 2005 Medical School Graduates

Internal Medicine	36	Radiology-Diagnostic	4
Family Practice	17	Child Neurology	3
Anesthesiology	15	Deferred	3
Obstetrics/Gynecology	15	Dermatology	3
Surgery	15	Otolaryngology	3
Pediatrics	14	Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery	2
Pathology	13	Transitional	2
Emergency Medicine	8	Child Psychiatry	1
Surgery-Preliminary	8	Internal Medicine-Preliminary	1
Psychiatry	7	Neurological Surgery	1
Orthopaedic Surgery	6	Ophthalmology	1
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	4	Pediatrics-Dermatology	1

# Behind the Scenes, Office Keeps Facilities Clean, Safe and Operating

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science center.

## Facilities Planning

Gerard B. Marchand is manager of the Facilities Planning team, which works with other facility departments and the university administration to prioritize the capital improvement plan. Another of the team's important tasks is recording and reporting space for use in funding formulas at the state and federal level. All departments participate annually in the space survey.

"Facilities Planning is here to assist all departments with space planning," says Marchand. "We can help you define your needs, figure out the best way to configure your space for optimal functionality ('programming')."

For space programming, Marchand explains, his team would need answers to the following questions, among others:

- How many people will use/be housed in the space?
- What type(s) of work will they do?
- Any extraordinary equipment needed?
- Offices vs. workstations?
- Placement adjacent to another group's space for optimal interaction?
- Are the workers dealing with internal and/or external customers and do they need to communicate with customers face-to-face,

by telephone, or e-mail?

- Can the unit be housed at the Operations Center Building or University Center Tower, or do they need to be housed on the main TMC campus?

"We are also involved with planning for new facilities and with updating the capital improvement plan. Now, we not only are looking at immediate needs for fiscal years 2006-07, but beyond that to what we might need to do in FYs 2008-2011," Marchand says.

## Maintenance

Sam B. Samuel is the manager of the Maintenance team, which includes:

- building technicians — responsible for per-

forming routine preventative maintenance and repair of existing mechanical, electrical, plumbing and structural deficiencies;

- a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week work control team; and
- a contract manager, who supervises house-keeping, pest control, landscaping, waste management, recycling and rental storage space at the Operations Center Building and the University Center Tower.

"Most people at the health science center may not see us, because much of what we do goes on after regular business hours or in areas that are not normally accessed by those not in Facilities," says Samuel. "But we are always

here, behind the scenes, keeping things going."

## Controls and Utilities

Mark E. Ferguson is the manager of the Controls and Utilities team, which includes digital controls technicians and data analysts. The team maintains the efficiency and reliability of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and associated controls.

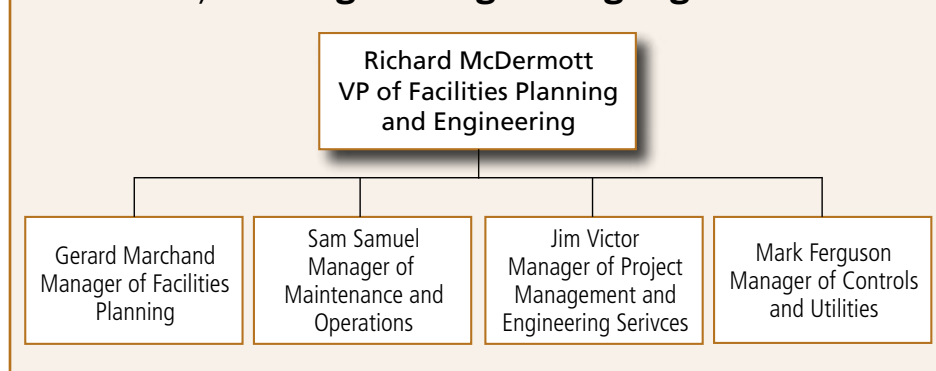
"It is important to maintain the appropriate temperature, humidity, and airflow," says Ferguson. "These factors determine the comfort level of the people in our buildings. They also provide for the efficient operation of sensitive research equipment and the consistency of experiments required by the researchers."

Team members monitor, adjust, repair, install, maintain the building automation system, and analyze utility data to satisfy day-to-day customer environmental needs while minimizing campus-wide utility costs.

*Note: There are no direct costs to building occupants for routine maintenance. Some items, however, are beyond the ability of the department to fund immediately, and are added to the deferred maintenance backlog.*

*For renovation work and office reconfigurations project managers are assigned and the customer is normally responsible for funding. The FEXT line, (713) 500-3498, will take calls regarding any of these areas and either handle a request or refer callers to the appropriate section, if necessary. ★*

## Facilities, Planning and Engineering Organization Chart



# Commencements Announced for UT Health Science Center's Six Schools

Distinguished speakers will address faculty, staff, students and guests when the six professional schools of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston hold their 2005 graduation ceremonies:

## UT School of Health Information Sciences at Houston

Carolyn Clancy, M.D., director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will be the featured commencement speaker, **4 p.m., Thursday, May 5**, University Center Tower, Suite 1505C. Created in 1989, AHRQ uses 80 percent of its annual budget to support research designed to improve the quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of health care for all Americans.

## UT School of Public Health at Houston

Commencement speaker is Darwin R. Labarthe, M.D., Ph.D., associate director for Cardiovascular Health Policy and Research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **2 p.m., Friday, May 6**, Texas Medical Center's Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe. Labarthe also is a former epidemiology professor at the UT School of Public Health.

## UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston

Principal speaker is Rita Colwell, Ph.D., chairman of Canon US Life Sciences Inc., Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland at College Park and the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, **10 a.m., Saturday, May 7**, Hornberger Conference Center. Colwell was director of the National Science Foundation, 1998-2004.

## UT School of Nursing at Houston

Principal speaker will be Kathleen Gainor Andreoli, D.S.N., dean of the College of Nursing and vice president for Academic Affairs at Rush University Medical Center, **7 p.m., Friday, May 6**, George R. Brown Convention Center, Section C, General Assembly Hall, 3rd floor. Before arriving at Rush, Andreoli was the vice president for Educational Services, Interprofessional Education and International Programs, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

## UT Dental Branch at Houston

Jerry Long, D.D.S., president of the UT Dental Branch Alumni Association, will be the principal speaker as special activities and guests commemorate the school's 100 years of developing dental professionals in Texas, **10 a.m., Saturday, May 21**, Verizon Wireless Theater, 520 Texas Ave. Mark G. Yudof, LL.B., chancellor of The University of Texas System, also is scheduled to make remarks.

## UT Medical School at Houston

Catherine D. DeAngelis, M.D., editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and editor-in-chief, Scientific Publications and Multimedia Applications, will be the commencement speaker, **10 a.m. Saturday, May 28**, General Assembly Hall, George R. Brown Convention Center. DeAngelis is a nationally and internationally respected author, researcher, clinician, administrator and educator, with a background in pediatrics, public health and medical business management. ★