

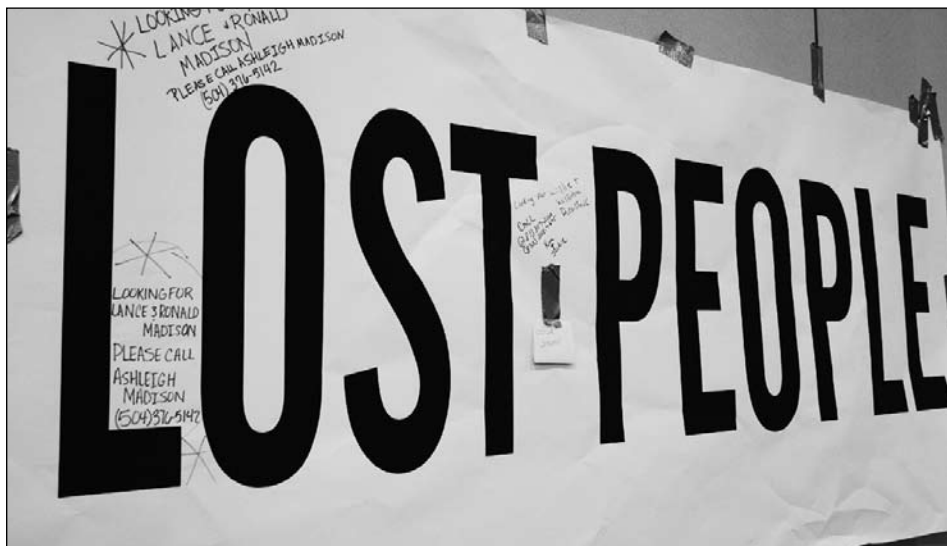
Art Wall has Spring Show, FotoFest Exhibit, New Donor

By Darla Brown, Medical School

With a FotoFest exhibit, a new donor, and a meet-the-artist event planned March 15, the UT Medical School Art Wall is gearing up for an exciting spring show now on display.

This year the UT Health Science Center is participating in the citywide FotoFest with the exhibit, "Unity, Hope, and Healing in the Hour of Need" — a series of photos taken by Medical School photographer Ester Fant during the Hurricane Katrina evacuation. FotoFest, a biennial event since 1986, runs March 10-April 23 in venues throughout Houston.

Fant, who has been a photographer with the Medical School for more than 30 years, captured the historic event unfolding at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center, and the Astrodome. When others said the situation was dangerous, grim and unpleasant, she was not deterred



Medical School photographer Ester Fant's "Sign of the Times" photo is part of the Art Wall exhibit now on display on the school's ground floor.

and soldiered on, her camera in hand. As a result of her determination and artful eye, her photos have been used in local and national publications, on Web sites, and by

faculty and staff in presentations around the world.

The exhibit is on display on the new UT Medical School Art Wall, on the ground

floor of the Medical School Building. Along with the FotoFest exhibit, other Medical School family artists are featured in the newest rotation of art, including John Griffen, first-year medical student; Shaina Berkowitz, fourth-year medical student; Martha Rac, second-year medical student; Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., associate dean for community affairs; Sher-Lu Pai, fourth-year medical student; Philip T.Y. Chang, spouse of Lily Chang, a senior surgery research associate; and Carrie Harmon, a third-year medical student.

A reception with cookies will take place at noon, Wednesday, March 15, at the Art Wall (first come, first served).

The Medical School Art Wall takes submissions on a continuing basis. To submit, please fill out the online form found under the faculty/staff section of the Medical School's home page, <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>. ★

Regina Verani, M.D. — From Art Wall Committee Member to Donor



The UT Art Wall recently received a \$15,000 gift from Regina Verani, M.D., professor of pathology and artist, who stepped down from the Art Wall Committee and stepped up to the status of donor.

"I am glad to have the opportunity to support the Art Wall as a donor. I have been in the Medical School for 28 years, and it feels good to be a part of the Art Wall," Verani said.

Lynne Arnett, chair of the Art Wall Committee, said that Verani always has been an asset to the Art Wall.

"We could always count on Regina to provide an aspect or perspective other than the norm, thus broadening our understanding of the path before us," Arnett said. "Both her artistic sense and her analytical abilities were invaluable to us and will be greatly missed. In leaving committee service, however, she has given us a truly splendid gift. What a wonderful and generous gift

this was! It is even more meaningful because she is 'one of our own.' "

As an accomplished artist (her watercolors were a part of the Art Wall's first exhibit), Verani brought an artist's eye to her time on the Art Wall Committee

"I always had that feeling that one day I was going to be an artist," she said. "I guess that in the environment I grew up in, being an artist was not a professional choice. I also loved science and I decided to go into medical school, where I fell in love with the microscope and became a pathologist. In the present stage of my life, I have more time to pursue other activities, and I have chosen to dedicate my extra time to watercolor paintings."

Verani said that she finds parallels between art and medicine. "In the visual aspects there are similarities between being a pathologist and a painter," she explained. "Both are involved in the interpretation and expression of images by shape, size, color, etc."

— Darla Brown

Appraisers Learn 'Magnet' Tools at UT School of Nursing at Houston

By Shannon Rasp, Public Affairs

Magnet status for hospitals is so exclusive that it has been granted to fewer than 200 hospitals in 20-plus years. The Texas Medical Center contains the highest percentage of magnet hospitals in the United States, including Methodist Hospital, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital, and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston hosted the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Appraiser training Feb. 9-10. Magnet appraisers visit hospitals around the country to determine if their nursing practices and patient care merit "magnet" status.

"This was the first appraiser training the ANCC has ever held outside of their headquarters in Maryland, and the attendees enjoyed the opportunity to be in our thriving health care community and explore our state-of-the-art nursing building," said Pamela Klauer Triolo, Ph.D., director of nursing leadership and administration in health systems at the UT nursing school.

"I suggested that the UT School of Nursing host the training because we are eager to show off our wonderful new facility, and also because it's important for nursing administrators to visit the Texas Medical Center and see what happens here every day,"

Attendees from around the country — including nursing administrators, deans,

and chief nursing officers — learned skills magnet appraisers need to determine if a hospital has successfully recruited and retained a large number of high-performing nurses and delivered outstanding patient care.

"Everyone commented on how great the facilities are here, and they also made sure to compliment us on the dedication and enthusiasm of the students they met," said Triolo. "Plus, they all seemed to prefer visiting Houston in February rather than Maryland!"

The two-day, intensive conference included an overview of the magnet program, how hospitals become magnet hospitals, appraiser ethics, question-and-answer sessions and expert panels.

"Magnet hospitals have been thoroughly

investigated by trained appraisers and have shown that they:

- consistently outperform non-magnet organizations,
- deliver better patient outcomes,
- experience increased nursing time spent at the bedside of patients,
- have shorter lengths of patient stay,
- have lower patient mortality rates,
- have lower incidence of needle-stick injuries,
- enjoy increased nurse retention and recruitment rates,
- report lower rates of nurse burnout and higher rates of job satisfaction, and
- report higher patient satisfaction rates," said Elaine Scherer, director of the ANCC's Magnet Recognition Program. ★



Ready, Set, Fun Run!

It will be April Fool's Day, but you don't have to be a fool to take part in the Houston edition of Eeyore's Fun Run 2006 — Saturday, April 1.

The 5K race is open to runners, walkers and wheelchair participants of all ages. It will take place at the UT Health Science Center Recreation Center, 7779 Knight Road, with wheelchair entrants setting out at 7:55 a.m., run/walk registrants starting at 8 a.m. and the non-competitive 1K for children at 9 a.m.

The first male, female and wheelchair finishers will receive overall awards. Age group awards will be given to the first through third place male and female finishers in age groups: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 plus.

Adult entry fees: \$21 before Thursday, March 23; \$23 if paid between March 23 and April 1; and \$25 on Race Day. Entry fees for children 12 and under are: \$8 before March 23; \$9, if paid between March 23 and April 1; and \$10 on Race Day.

The proceeds from this fundraiser provide scholarships for deserving Houston-area high school students attending University of Texas System schools.

Download the mail-in registration form at <http://www.texasexes.com/Eeyore/flyer06.doc>.

Make payment online by credit card at <http://www.texasexes.com/order/eeyore.htm>.

Sign up online at <http://www.signmeup-sports.com>. For more information, contact Rose.M.Betancourt-Trevino@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-3209. ★