

# UT School of Nursing Building Garners National 'Green' Design Award

By David R. Bates, Public Affairs

The School of Nursing and Student Community Center, home of The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, has been selected by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Committee on the Environment (COTE), for the national organization's "Top 10 Green Projects Award" for 2006.

"It's gratifying to see the School of Nursing receive the country's most coveted green build-

ing award, and it is a testament to the vision of BNIM Architects, the university and the entire design team," said Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., dean of the UT School of Nursing at Houston. "The building continues to inspire its occupants — and it symbolizes one of the school's most important aims, which is to provide our students and faculty with a healing and caring learning environment."

Starck attended the May 3 awards reception in Washington, D.C., where the winning projects also were presented at the National

Building Museum. Project displays will be featured in a traveling exhibit and will be shown at the upcoming AIA national convention in Los Angeles.

BNIM Architects, in partnership with San Antonio-based Lake Flato Architects, designed the facility with a focus on energy efficiency, increased air quality, improved natural daylighting, reduction of polluting emissions and run-off, and increased user satisfaction. The eight-story, \$57 million building encompasses 195,000 square feet. The building includes approximately 20,000 square feet of classrooms, a 200-seat auditorium, café and dining room, bookstore, student lounge, student government offices, research laboratory and faculty offices.

The largest green academic building in the southwest, the facility is expected to receive a LEED® Gold rating. It is located in the Texas Medical Center at 6901 Bertner on a site adjacent to Grant Fay Park.

"We are pleased that the AIA/COTE has selected this project as a high performance building that is both healing and teaching — a building that can explain its own benefits to visitors," said Steve McDowell, BNIM design principal and principal-in-charge. "Being selected from hundreds of entries by a jury of sustainable design experts for the most coveted green design award is truly an honor, and it speaks to the potential of sustainable architecture in and around Houston."

AIA's Committee on the Environment



West side entrance to School of Nursing and Student Community Center. Copyright © 2005 Hester+Hardaway Photography. Courtesy of BNIM Architects.

works to sustain and improve the environment by advancing and disseminating environmental knowledge and values, and advocating to the profession, industry and public the best design practices to integrate built and natural systems.

The AIA/COTE Top 10 Green Projects are selected annually as exemplars of the standards and goals of sustainable design and construction.

This is the ninth award earned for the design of the School of Nursing and Student Community Center. The other eight design awards are:

- Recognized Value Award, DesignShare International Award for Innovative Schools
- Honor Award, AIA Kansas
- Honor Award, AIA Kansas City
- Honor Award for Excellence in Sustainable Design, AIA Kansas City
- Honor Award for Excellence in Sustainable Design, AIA Houston
- Honor Award, AIA Houston
- Merit Award, AIA Central States, and
- Honor Award, AIA San Antonio. ★

## New Nursing Doctorate to Be Added to Nursing School Offerings

A new clinical practice doctorate for nurses, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree, was approved to begin at The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at its recent April meeting. The program could start in fall 2006 and would be the first in Texas.

For the last four years, the UT School of Nursing at Houston has been part of a national consortium of nursing schools planning the degree because of concern about future health trends that indicate problems with both primary and urgent care, as well as concern for the burden of chronic illness for an aging population.

The addition of the practice doctorate gives students another option in doctoral studies along with the existing research doctorate (D.S.N. degree).

"Our focus in the D.N.P. will be an interdisciplinary practice model emphasizing evidence-based practice and translating research into practice more expeditiously," said Patricia Starck, D.S.N., dean of the School of Nursing. "It is a collaborative model built on advanced practice education at the master's level."

Elizabeth Fuselier, D.N.P., new executive clinical director of UT Health Services, is the one faculty member at the School of Nursing who holds the degree. Two other faculty members, Julie Lindenberg and Cynthia Freeman, are enrolled in the D.N.P. program at Columbia University. For information about the UT School of Nursing, visit <http://son.uth.tmc.edu/> ★



Dean Patricia Starck, D.S.N.

## They Trained, They Rode, They Conquered

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Research Affairs, also took part for the first time this year. She had thought about this for several years and in the past tried to generate some interest with a few of her "athletic" friends — to no avail. "This year I thought I wanted to try it (I'm not getting any younger) and when I saw the announcement in *News on the Go*, I called and joined. I borrowed a friend's road bike — that had been ridden on one MS ride but was put away for 2 years — had it tuned up, new tires, seat, cables, etc., and started training."

Carter said she wanted to do something that would be physically challenging and then she heard that a friend had been diagnosed with MS last November. "This gave me another motivation to participate. I had a pedal partner (an MS patient she connected with through the MS Society), whom I called. I told him I was raising money for the MS Society and that I was riding 150 miles (knees willing). He, as well as my friend, signed my bandana. I trained with Team UT and with another group at least once a weekend and sometimes on both Saturday and Sunday starting Feb. 1. I had an experienced MS rider friend training with me. It was very hard but I developed a real passion for riding — exercise, beautiful countryside, livestock, bluebonnets."

Carter said her worst moments were in the

training. "One weekend at a ride in Chappell Hill — the wind and hills were so tough. Embarrassingly, I requested a ride back in the SAG wagon after 50 miles — I had 15 more to go but was just so exhausted."

Her best moments, she said, "were the whole ride to LaGrange and the next day to Austin. Knowing that I was trained and going to do the whole ride. I stopped at one of the rest stops and felt drawn to an MS patient in a wheel chair. I went over and introduced myself to her — Deedee was her name and she had the biggest smile on her face in watching all of us come in, get refreshed and continue on the ride.

"Coming through Austin was extremely emotional for me — hearing the cheers, seeing the UT bell tower, the crowd, the Capitol, the finish line, and the fact that I did it (and all by 12 noon). Seeing the MS patients cheering was so rewarding!"

For **George Stancel**, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, it was his second ride. It wasn't any easier, he said, "but you understand better what training is required after the first year, so in a sense that makes it easier."

He trained about the same amount of time this year as last, but he trained differently: "Last year I did more short distance training rides.

This year I actually did fewer training rides but they were longer distances."

Stancel takes part in the MS 150 to help support research "so that those with MS who cannot ride now, will benefit and will one day be able to ride with us to Austin. It's also great exercise and a good way to meet other great folks from Team UT, two of my constant goals!"

Stancel also supports the Heart Walk and the Susan Komen Breast Cancer family walk. "I do a lot of other less well known rides for individual schools and charitable organizations. I probably do eight-10 a year within a 75-mile radius of Houston."

Stancel was enthusiastic about the great support Team UT received from colleagues from the health science center who support the riders.

"I can't tell you how much the riders appreciate those who make pledges to support us — it's those folks who are my real heroes! I carry the names of all my sponsors on index

cards (one name per card) in my fanny pack all 150 miles from Houston to Austin, so they can be part of the ride in spirit even though they're not physically present," Stancel said.

Team UT raised \$41,000. UT Development member and rider, David Koogler, raised \$9,000. ★

## Team UT Couldn't Have Done It Without the Volunteers



Team UT organizers Rose Mary Betancourt-Trevino and Pauline Habetz said they had the most amazing show of volunteers who helped with this year's MS150. "We don't know what we would have done without these folks." Pictured above are: left to right, back row: Larry Bible, father of Jason Bible, a rider from Environmental Health & Safety; his wife, Carol, also helped, she is kneeling in front; Rebecca Baddock, volunteered with co-worker Joannie Millee, both from Department of Pediatrics from the Medical School; Irene Shkatova, M. D. Anderson employee who just wanted to volunteer (not pictured are her husband and son, Eugene and Michael, who showed up later and helped the rest of the weekend); Cristina Boccalandro, M.D., and boyfriend Mike Winters. Boccalandro is an assistant professor in the Medical School's Department of Internal Medicine; she and Mike plan to ride next year; Heidi Hodgson, a School of Public Health student, who volunteered because a classmate was riding; Teri Mercatante, wife of M.D. Anderson rider Mickey Donnelly; front row, kneeling, left to right: Carol Bible; Joannie Miller, Department of Pediatrics from the Medical School; not pictured: Kay Marley from Austin, volunteered on-site Saturday and stayed to help through Sunday. She was supposed to work in a nearby tent, and they did not need her, so she asked if she could help us out Team UT.



Catey Carter, left, with Jennifer Fields. Photo by Park Carter