

A campus newspaper for faculty, staff and students at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

McKinney Named Sole Finalist for Texas A&M System Chancellor

By David R. Bates, Institutional Advancement

Michael D. McKinney, M.D., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO) of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston since September 2003, has been named the sole finalist for chancellor of Texas A&M University System by the Board of Regents. State law requires that the board wait 21 days for public notice before considering McKinney's appointment to the position, in which he will oversee the A&M System's 17-member institutions and the System offices.



Michael D. McKinney, M.D.

affairs at The University of Texas System in Austin. As vice chancellor, he concentrated on business management and financial issues related to the six health science institutions in the UT System.

"We are proud of this honor for Mike McKinney and we are certain that he will be an outstanding leader of the Texas A&M University System," said UT Health Science Center President James T. Willerson, M.D.

"The A&M System and the people of Texas will benefit from his leadership. Mike has been dedicated, innovative and the epitome of selfless service here at UT Health Science Center. On a personal level, Mike has been a valued advisor, confidant and friend. I will miss

him very much."

McKinney joined the UT System in 2002 after serving as chief of staff to Gov. Rick Perry from August 2001 until November 2002. Before joining the Governor's Office, McKinney served for three years in a variety of executive positions with Centene Corp., a managed care company.

McKinney has served as Texas commissioner of health and human services (1995-98) and represented District 15 in the Texas House of Representatives from 1984-91. He was medical director of an insurance company and a health care plan and a member of the Physician Payment Review Commission in the Federal Office of Technology.

Early in his career, McKinney – a gradu-



Brent King, M.D.

ate of the University of Houston and the UT Medical Branch at Galveston – was the only family medicine practitioner in Centerville in East Texas.

Willerson announced that Brent King, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the UT Medical School at Houston, will act as UT Health Science Center's interim chief operating officer. "Dr.

King will assume the critical tasks that Mike was shouldering," Willerson said. "He immediately will start working with Dr. McKinney and Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Kevin Dillon to ensure a smooth transition in administration." ★

Administrative Changes in Academic Affairs, Development & Public Affairs

Academic Affairs Reorganization Moves Some Functions to Other Areas

In October, Michael McKinney, M.D., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer, announced a number of administrative changes related to areas once part of the Office of Academic Affairs.

"As should be the case in all we do as financial and human resource stewards of the UT Health Science Center at Houston, we continue to look for opportunities to reduce costs, eliminate redundancies and enhance service," McKinney said of the changes that were effective Nov. 1 "To that end, and with Dr. Willerson's support, I have authorized a re-organization of the Office of Academic Affairs."

Under the continued leader of Max Buja, M.D., the Office of Academic Affairs now comprises the Registrar's Office and the areas of faculty affairs and student services, he explained. "Dr. Buja will continue to collaborate on the UT Compact, Strategic Planning and Academic Accreditations."

The Office of Cultural and Institutional Diversity has been re-organized with faculty and student cultural and diversity programs assigned to the Office of Academic Affairs. Similar programs related to health science center staff are assigned to the EEO/AA function within the Office of Human Resources.

Other changes:

- Student Financial Services reports to Mike Tramonte in the Office of Finance and Administration.
- Strategic Planning and Institutional Analysis reports to Laura Smith in the Office of Finance and Administration.
- The Office of International Affairs reports to Arlene Staller in the Office of Legal Affairs and Institutional Compliance.
- Student Counseling Services has been re-assigned to Sherry Wilson, becoming part of the UT Counseling and Work/Life Services (formerly the Employee Assistance Program).

- Outcomes Assessment and Biostatistical Services reports to the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.
- Academic Accreditation and Special Academic-Related Projects reports to the Office of the Chief Operating Officer. Linda Brannon has been reassigned to the COO's Office and is responsible for coordination, facilitation and collaboration with the schools and Academic Affairs in these important efforts.

A significant re-organization such as this requires transitioning, McKinney said. "We have charged leadership with the task of ensuring as smooth a transition as possible to be completed by the end of this calendar year."

Cooperation, communication and collaboration on everyone's part will increase the likelihood of role clarity and increased efficiencies as we build these new partnerships and business processes, McKinney explained.

"I want to thank all those involved in roll-

ing out these changes," he said. "It is often difficult to adjust how we do business but I am assured that the professionalism and competency of those involved will achieve anticipated improvements and increased efficiencies."

New Office of Institutional Advancement Comprises Development and Public Affairs

The offices of Public Affairs and Development have long shared office space in the University Center Tower, along with the common goal of promoting the UT Health Science Center at Houston. Now the two have joined as the Office of Institutional Advancement. The new office includes the Office of Development and the former Office of Public Affairs, which includes Communications, Marketing and Community Relations, and Media Relations.

The consolidation of the departments into one central operation is intended to optimize efforts to publicize the health science center

continued on page 2

Emphasizing Professional Development One of UCSC Chair's Goals

By Pamela Lewis, Institutional Advancement

Nancy Shipley, research coordinator in the Medical School's Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, has several goals as this year's chair of the University Classified Staff Council. One of those goals is getting more people involved in UCSC.

"I'm an avid believer in voting and not just for UCSC — whether it's at the UT Health Science Center, your city or national elections. If you didn't vote (or speak up) when you have the opportunity, I don't want to hear you complain. You can't change the system unless you're part of the

system. If you really want to know what the system is about, you have to participate," Shipley asserts.

Her other main goal is helping to emphasize to both staff and administration the need for increased, strategic professional development training for classified staff.

"I got involved in UCSC because the longer I worked here in a laboratory setting, the more estranged I felt from the UT Health Science Center at large," explains Shipley, who has been involved in UCSC for more than five years, serving on the elections committee and procedures committee. She was

continued on page 4

Inside:

Research Day	2
Genetic Counseling	2
Meet	3
Jimenez Award	3
SPH Awards	3
Honors Convocation	4
CSW Banquet	4
Stars	4

Buy a Book, CD or Game & Help Educate Our Students

Help support scholarships for UT Health Science Center students by purchasing a book — or two, or three — during the Fourth Annual University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Holiday BookFair, Wednesday, Nov. 29, through Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 3003 W. Holcombe Blvd.

A voucher found at <http://www.uthouston.edu/community/barnesnoble/> ensures that your purchase of books, CDs, calendars, games, DVDs and other items will result in financial help for those students with the greatest needs. (Vouchers also will be available at the checkout counter.)

continued on page 4



THE UNIVERSITY
of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
AT HOUSTON

NIH Official Featured at HSC's Research Day, Nov. 17

Barbara Alving, M.D., acting director of the National Center for Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health, will be one of the featured speakers during faculty symposium of New Pathways to Discovery — Clinical and Translational Research in the 21st Century, 2006 Research Day, Friday, in the Beth Robertson Auditorium of the Faye S. Sarofim Research Building. Faculty symposium begins at 9:30 a.m.

"Dr. Alving is coming to Houston for Research Day to meet with our researchers, to learn more about our institution and its research programs and to answer questions about this controversial new program and the vision that has inspired it," explains Peter Davies, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice president for Research at the UT Health Science Center.

Other faculty speakers include Frank Arnett, M.D., director of the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences; Joseph McCormick, M.D., regional dean of the Brownsville Regional Campus of the School of Public Health; and Robert Bast, M.D., vice president for Translational Research, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

In addition to the research poster presentations, Davies says, there will be a series of tables and posters set up in the foyer to explain the different components of the university's new Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences. "The directors of many of these components will be present to meet with faculty and trainees to answer questions and to discuss the program and the opportunities it provides for training in and

support of clinical and translational research at our campus. This year's Research Day should provide an excellent opportunity for health science center researchers interested in clinical

and translational research to come together to share ideas, discuss their research and hopefully develop research initiatives and collaborations," Davies says. ★

9:30 a.m.	James T. Willerson, M.D., president, UT Health Science Center at Houston "The Future of Clinical and Translational Research in the TMC"
9:50 a.m.	Frank C. Arnett, M.D., "The Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences - Overview & Examples"
10:30 a.m.	Robert Bast, M.D., "Translational Research at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center"
11:20 a.m.	Joseph McCormick, M.D., "Translational Research: Beyond the Clinic into the Community"
Noon	Barbara Alving, M.D., "The Roadmap for Re-engineering Clinical Research: Where Are We Going?"
12:40 p.m.	Peter J. A. Davies, M.D., Ph.D., closing remarks
12:45 p.m.	Box lunches provided
1-4 p.m.	Faculty and Trainee Poster Session

Genetic Counselors Inform, Counsel Patients during Emotional Times

By Diana Lazzell, GSBS Student

Ashley Haubein's obstetrician knew something was wrong with her baby during a routine ultrasound. "They saw a lot of abnormalities," says Haubein. The fetus was not growing well and had several midline deformities, including incomplete closure of the abdominal cavity at the navel and swelling in the heart and brain. Referred by her obstetrician, Haubein met with genetic counselor Jennifer Hoskovec.

Analysis of the fetus's chromosomes showed that Haubein's unborn child had a fatal defect called Trisomy 13, the presence of an extra 13th chromosome which results in severe birth defects and death of the infant within days to a few weeks after birth, Hoskovec explains. It was Hoskovec's job, as a genetic counselor working at The Women's Clinic in the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at the UT Medical School at Houston, to educate Haubein on the meaning and results of chromosomal analysis and to discuss options for the pregnancy.

Like Haubein, the majority of patients seeking the advice of professional genetic counselors are pregnant. They may have had a routine ultrasound that concerned the obstetrician, or they may be having a high-risk pregnancy due to age or family history. "Trisomy 13, 18 and 21 are the three most common chromosomal defects," says Hoskovec.

However, a broad range of patients is seen by genetic counselors, including pediatric and cancer patients. "Most clinical genetic counselors are affiliated with a hospital or university, seeing about 400-500 patients per year," says Sarah Noblin, assistant professor in the

Departments of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Pediatrics and assistant director of the UT Genetic Counseling Program.

"In a prenatal setting, the majority of patients are already pregnant ... and many are over the age of 35, because anyone over the age of 35 has a slightly increased risk of having a baby with a chromosome condition, such as Down syndrome (Trisomy 21). Those under the age of 35 might have had a previous child or family member with a genetic condition," she says.

Patients come to UT-affiliated Genetic

Counseling services not only from Houston, but also from the Dallas/Fort Worth and Austin areas. The genetic counselors see people from a variety of cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, says Noblin. "Genetic problems can happen to anybody from any walk of life. We see patients from any kind of background, from highly educated patients all the way to patients with very little education," she says. "We translate the information so that it's understandable for them."

A genetic counselor is an educator and communicator, presenting patients with information so that they can make the best decision for them. "We're translating very complex medical information to a level where a patient can understand what risks they may have, what their options are for screening and/or testing and why they might or might not want to pursue testing, based on their personal feelings," says Claire Singletary, assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics and director of the Genetic Counseling Program.

In Haubein's case, Hoskovec provided information on how to cope with loss of a baby. "Some people just kind of shut down ... they're in shock," Hoskovec says.

Hoskovec's main role was to provide all the necessary tools for Haubein to make an informed decision about how to handle the impending loss of her baby. "Anything that I would call and ask her, she would find out for me," Haubein recalls. "Having someone to call with all my questions made it a lot easier."

Genetic counselors are highly trained in handling patient reactions and helping them cope with their emotions in order to make an informed decision under difficult circumstances. "The majority of my job is counseling," Hoskovec explains. "Providing information is the other half. We get the whole range of emotions ... they're all normal reactions." Although many patients consult genetic counselors with dread, "we see way more good news than bad," states Hoskovec.

Haubein is now pregnant with her fourth child. She and Hoskovec share a special kinship rarely seen between doctors and patients, a result of sharing a highly emotional experience.

When Haubein discovered she was pregnant again, "I was scared to death." However, the baby is perfectly healthy. "The kids are very excited. They talk to my belly and kiss it," she says with a smile. "We're very happy."

For more information about the Medical School Genetic Counseling Service, visit <http://ped1.med.uth.tmc.edu/divisions/genetics/gcp.html> or call 713-500-5700. ★



Ashley Haubein, left, a client of the UT Medical School Genetic Counseling Services, visits with counselor Jennifer Hoskovec in the genetic counseling consultation room at The Women's Clinic. Photo by Diana Lazzell

Administrative Changes in Academic Affairs, Development & Public Affairs

continued from page 1

and to garner philanthropic support for the institution.

"By renaming and formally joining the two offices, we are demonstrating our intent to create a collaborative, focused effort to advance our institution, by presenting a positive public face to the community, encouraging the flow of communication within our schools and attracting private sector support," said James T. Willerson, M.D., president of the health science center. "The cooperation between the departments has always existed. Now, the various divisions within Public Affairs and Development will operate under central leadership to better coordinate strategic plans."

Randa Safady, Ph.D., vice chancellor for external relations for The University of Texas System and a consultant about the reorganization, explained that the changes come at an ideal time, between the successful conclusion of one campaign and before

the start of a new fundraising initiative.

"Following the extraordinary success of the New Frontiers Campaign, President Willerson requested that we pause and reassess the potential of two key offices — Development and Public Affairs — to support the next generation of strategic initiatives," Safady said. "Integrating the two offices and recruiting highly experienced professionals to staff it will allow the health science center to build the type of fundraising and communications capacity it needs to support the important philanthropic goals of each of the schools and the vision of President Willerson."

C. Gwin Morris, Ph.D., formerly vice president for Public Affairs, has been named interim vice president for the Office of Institutional Advancement. As part of the restructuring, several staff additions, promotions and recruiting efforts have been announced. An assistant vice president for fundraising and advancement programs is

being recruited for the Office of Institutional Advancement.

"Friend-raising and fundraising are two sides of the same coin. Our mission does not change," Morris said. "The merger allows us to focus more intentionally on advancing the mission and vision of the health science center by increasing awareness about and support for the institution."

Advancement Services

Development Operations, now Advancement Services, still processes gifts, does prospect research, donor database management and endowment compliance. Lisa Christison, with the office since 2004, has a new title and expanded role as director of Advancement Services.

Medical School

At the Medical School, Shernaz Boga has been named senior executive director of Development and Alumni Relations. Boga has worked at the health science center since 2002.

Dental Branch

A new director of development, John Greer, was hired at the Dental Branch in October.

Greer is working with Jerre Iversen, the newly named senior development advisor for the Dental Branch. Iversen has spent the past few months laying the groundwork for the future campaign, which has included meeting with key supporters of the school and drafting a comprehensive fundraising plan.

More Restructuring Anticipated

No restructuring has occurred yet in the departments of Communications, Media Relations or Marketing and Community Relations. A campus-wide audit of all internal and external communications efforts and products is planned and should be completed sometime in early 2007. Recommendations of the audit then will be integrated into the restructuring strategy for these departments. ★

— Mary Maher, Wendy Mohon and Pamela Lewis contributed to this report

Meet ... Wilhelmina Moore and Bo Hearing Dog Helps at Work, at Home and in Between

By Camille Webb, Medical School

Bo has a furry black coat with a splash of white on his chest, wags his tail enthusiastically and has the important duty of alerting Wilhelmina "Willy" Moore to common, everyday sounds she can't hear at work at the Medical School.

Moore is severely to profoundly deaf. She gradually began losing her hearing after a viral infection in 1987. Hearing aids help her understand some sounds, but she mainly communicates with people by lip-reading. She works at the Medical School as administrator of the Harris County Jail contract.

Bo is a professionally trained hearing dog from International Hearing Dog Inc. (IHDI). The nonprofit organization in Henderson, Colo., has a mission to train and



Willy and Bo in their office space in the Jesse Jones Library Building.

place hearing dogs with persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, with and without multiple disabilities, at no charge to the recipient.

"The dogs are worth over \$6,000 each, but we give them to the people free of charge," said the organization's Bob Cooley, a field representative. The \$6,000 fee covers training and placement of the dogs and is funded through donations to IHDI.

Moore decided that a hearing dog would help her become more aware of sounds and actions going on around her, so she applied for a hearing dog through the nonprofit.

"Getting my hearing dog has been great for the help and secure feeling he gives, so that I will be aware of important sounds," Moore said. "Bo is a wonderful creature to have around, and I feel much more at ease now that I know nothing of importance happens around me that he does not let me know about."

Bo was specially matched to be Moore's companion to help her both at work at the Medical School and in her home. He was trained to alert her to three specific sounds: the doorbell or a knock at the door, the ringing of her specially equipped phone, and the smoke alarm.

In July, Bo and Cooley flew to Houston to meet his new owner and see his new Houston home. The dog spent a day at the Medical School, learning Moore's routine and even taking a ride on the METRORail.



Hearing Dog symbol

"He's listening to everything going on around him," Cooley said, referring to Bo. "He's supposed to take in everything and then decide what she needs to know about."

Moore's office is tucked away in a quiet suite at the Jesse H. Jones Library Building. "Bo warns me when people enter the suite," she said.

"It is pretty isolated, and he alerts me to the phone."

In public, Bo wears an orange cape and leash at all times – the official legal symbols of a hearing dog. At work at the Medical School, he also is outfitted with an official UT badge.

At home, Bo is still hard at work. "He alerts me to the doorbell or a knock, telephone and smoke alarm, as well as to my husband coming in or leaving," Moore said. "While many dogs do this, Bo is trained to lead me to the sounds."

Cooley has trained dogs through IHDI for more than 12 years and said the dogs' abilities to help others are uncanny. "I am still amazed on a daily basis by what these dogs can do," he said.

All dogs trained at IHDI come from animal shelters. Bo is a border collie/labrador/spaniel mix who started the training program when he was a 6-month-old puppy. He trained for one year and was given to Moore when he was 1½ years. He was the 1,000th dog placed through the organization.

"I like that he comes from a shelter – a 'second chance' dog," Moore said.

Moore said Bo is becoming better adjusted to life at the Medical School and in the city of Houston.

"Bo is adjusting very well to life at the Texas Medical Center and city," she said. "Even though he spent most of his life in the IHDI training facility in Henderson, he has become used to the hustle and bustle of city life. He rides the bus and train very well. He sleeps in the office or chews his bone but is always alert and ready to jump up when he hears a sound he feels I should know about."

To learn more about hearing dogs or to donate to International Hearing Dog Inc., visit <http://www.pawsforsilence.org/>. ★



Willy, Bo and Bob Cooley take a "get acquainted" walk around the Medical School and the Texas Medical Center area.

Second Annual Jimenez Leadership Award Nominations Sought

Faculty and staff at the UT Health Science Center are urged to nominate a deserving colleague for the Second Annual Michael J. Jimenez Leadership in Action Award. The deadline for submitting nominations is **5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21**.

The award honors the memory of the late Mike Jimenez, former vice president and chief human resources officer. The award will be presented at the Feb. 7, 2007, STAR Awards luncheon, the annual occasion honoring personnel on their five-year service anniversaries.

"Eligible persons are those individuals

among our faculty, A&P staff and classified staff members who have demonstrated the traits that we so admired in Mike and in Dr. Bob Emery, recipient of the first Jimenez award," explains James T. Willerson, M.D., president.

"The continuation of this award will offer great honors to deserving current and future campus leaders. The \$5,000 cash prize underscores the importance of leadership within the health science center community," Willerson added.

The selection committee comprises various faculty and staff who serve on the university's

Work/Life Council and are appointed by Willerson.

Nominations should describe the nominee's demonstration of the following leadership traits:

- excellent two-way communication skills;
- a commitment to enhanced collaboration and productive relationships with faculty and staff at all levels of the organization;
- energy and enthusiasm for the work of the university;
- appreciation for the contributions of others;
- a commitment to the professional development of others;

- a consistently positive attitude; and
- a commitment to do the right thing.

Please use a Word document to make the nominations using any format that you choose, but not to exceed five typewritten pages (12 pt. type). Multiple nominators may support a nominee as long as the complete nomination does not exceed five pages.

Nominations should be sent directly in a Word document attachment via e-mail to Work/Life Coordinator Sam.Hester@uth.tmc.edu. For more information or any questions, please contact Hester, 713-500-3013. ★

SPH Programs Receive National Awards

CATCH Program Garners 'Innovation in Prevention Award'

A UT School of Public Health program that successfully tackles childhood obesity has received a prestigious 2006 Secretary's Innovation in Prevention Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

CATCH (Coordinated Approach To Child Health), part of the school's Michael & Susan Dell Center for Advancement of Healthy Living, is a proven, school-based effort promoting physical activity, healthy food choices and tobacco prevention in elementary age children.

The award was presented Oct. 25 at the "National Prevention Summit: Prevention, Preparedness and Promotion Luncheon" in Washington, D.C. Steven H. Kelder, Ph.D., co-principal investigator of CATCH and professor of epidemiology and behavioral sciences at the UT School of Public Health, accepted the award on behalf of the program.

"CATCH is an example of how health education for children can be interesting, sustainable and highly effective," said HHS Secretary

Mike Leavitt. "Their comprehensive approach to teaching and increasing general childhood health on this scale is a blueprint for success."

The award is part of "STEPS to a Healthier US," an HHS initiative that advances U.S. President George W. Bush's goal of helping children live longer, better and healthier lives. It celebrates outstanding organizations that have implemented innovative and creative chronic disease prevention and health promotion programs.

"The honor recognizes that CATCH has taken research and translated that into a proven program in communities across Texas," said Deanna M. Hoelscher, Ph.D., director of the Dell Center for Healthy Living and associate professor of health promotion/behavioral sciences and nutrition in the UT School of Public Health.

The CATCH program reaches approximately 900,000 children in 1,911 elementary schools across Texas. It is the largest school-based health promotion study ever funded in the United States (through the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute).

A launch of the CATCH program is currently underway in Travis County with funding from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

— Deborah Mann Lake

HEADS UP Multimedia Efforts Receive Award of Excellence

The UT Health Science Center at Houston has won a prestigious Award of Excellence from the 2006 Accolade Competition. The award was given for the exciting videos in HEADS UP Advanced Genetics, a multimedia curriculum module that explores the use of animal models, genes, and stem cells in human disease research. Advanced Genetics features exceptional content, career stories, classroom activities, and ethical and policymaking considerations with the goal of exciting middle and high school students about health science.

"We are absolutely thrilled with this recognition and are proud to share this honor with a phenomenal team of researchers, teachers, students, production and curriculum special-

ists, and collaborators who contributed countless hours of their time and expertise for this project," said Nancy Murray, Dr.P.H., principal investigator of HEADS UP and assistant professor of behavioral sciences at the UT School of Public Health.

The Accolade Competition was created to honor and give recognition to outstanding craft and creativity in film, video, television and commercials. Entries are judged by highly qualified individuals in the film and television industry. In winning an Accolade, the health science center joins the ranks of other high-profile winners of this most sought-after award. Thomas Baker, PhD, competition chairperson, said, "The judges are pleased with the exceptionally high quality of entries in the Accolade Competition. The winners of this coveted award are truly among the best in the industry. The Accolade sets standards for creativity and craft."

In addition, segments of HEADS UP Advanced Genetics were featured at the American Public Health Association Film Festival in Boston in early November. ★

Emphasizing Professional Development One of UCSC Chair's Goals

continued from page 1

lected to serve on the Southwest Insurance Advisory Committee in Austin, representing the health science center.

"I like to know what goes into making decisions rather than being told about it after it has been decided. I figured I better get involved to get the information I needed," she adds.

Shipley says it is her perception that staff morale is on the upswing and "I want to help make sure that it keeps going up. One way to do that is to help get training for people," she explains.

Say a staff member has job X, but now the powers that be want her to do jobs A, B and C as well. Or another staff member would like to move from what he is doing to a more responsible position. "I'd like to make sure staff members know where to go to get the kind of training they deserve as they are asked to do or want to do more," Shipley says.

"You have to be proactive about your career. The way the job climate for the university is becoming, there is no such thing as a specialized little niche that you are going to be hired for," Shipley says. "You are going to have to broaden your horizon. You have to look beyond where you start, from the moment you start."

Whenever a department is being looked at by administration — and they are all being looked at, she says — you've got to be serious about your career. If you want to protect the benefits you've got now and those you hope to have in the future, you've got to be proactive. You've got to go out and learn what's happening and where things are headed. You can't use the excuse anymore, "Well, that wasn't in my job description when I was hired."

Shipley is a good example of professional development herself. "I have been in academia for 20 years now, at the University of California at Santa Barbara and the University of Florida at Gainesville, Texas A&M, and the University of Houston. I've been at UT now the longest. I've seen the way they do things at a lot of different places."

She started as a research tech. "It was always a good profession for me. I was always able to get a job. My husband's a faculty member and I've moved with him repeatedly. However, once I reached research associate, I had no place to go. I'm no spring chicken. Some of the stuff you have to do in the lab is physically exhausting and I didn't want to do it any more. So, I set out to look for some-

thing else to transition into, and now, I'm a research coordinator," she says.

Shipley's main focus is coordinating the workings of four of the CORE laboratories at the health science center, working with the robots in the CORE labs, getting programs written onto them for researchers from the satellite campuses involved in the Gulf Coast Consortium, a collaboration among five of the area institutions, as well as doing administrative work related to the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences and the CORE laboratories.

"There is going to be more and more collaboration among more and more of the

schools and hospitals in the Texas Medical Center because monetarily it's the only way we are going to be able to survive. Every time that happens, it's going to shift that job description. People," says Shipley, "have a hard time thinking about 'what am I going to be doing in two years, three or five years.' She firmly believes we all need not only to start thinking about those short-term and long-term goals but to start doing something about it — now.

Note: Shipley welcomes e-mails from classified staff members with questions or concerns about classified staff issues at Nancy.S.Shipley@uth.tmc.edu. ★



New UCSC Chair Nancy Shipley

Buy a Book, CD or Game & Help Educate Our Students

continued from page 1

If total in-store sales during the BookFair exceed \$10,000, the scholarship fund will receive a 25 percent donation from Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

Those who make purchases at the Holcombe Boulevard store must identify themselves as supporting the drive and designate one of the schools of the health science center on the voucher as the beneficiary of their scholarship support. For more information, contact Elease Jenkins, Office of Institutional Advancement, at Elease.P.Jenkins@uth.tmc.edu or 713-500-3035. ★

★ ★ ★ Stars ★ ★ ★

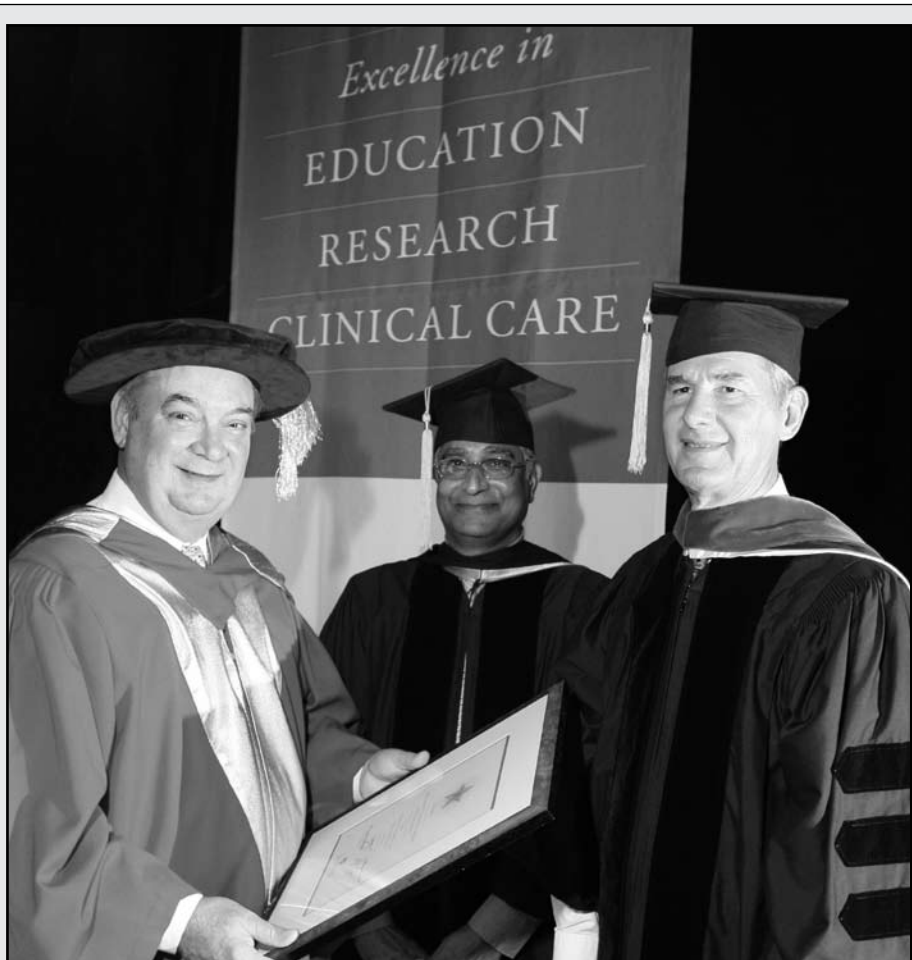
Students

★ **Delmar Imperial-Aubin**, a graduate student at the UT School of Nursing, under the mentorship of Jane Mahoney, D.S.N., assistant professor of Nursing for Target Populations, published an article in the September edition of the *Journal of Holistic Nursing*. The article examined the relationship between the nurse and the patient and found that a nurse has multiple roles within the role of a nurse and the nurse's role is also co-dependent on the patient.

★ **Gul Nowshad**, a doctoral student at School of Public Health, received an "International scholar award" from the Epidemiology Congress Conference 2006 and a \$400 monetary award.

Alumni

★ **Samuel B. Low, D.D.S.**, who received his dental degree, specialty training in periodontics and master's in biomedical science from the UT Dental Branch, was installed in September as secretary/treasurer of the American Association of Periodontology. He is associate dean and professor of the Department of Periodontology, College of Dentistry, University of Florida at Gainesville.



Faculty Honors Convocation

Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D., left, director of the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases (IMM), and Ponnada A. Narayana, Ph.D., center, director of Magnetic Resonance Research at the Medical School, received President's Scholar Awards for research, while Henry Strobel, Ph.D., right, associate dean for faculty affairs at the Medical School, received the President's Scholar Award for teaching at the 2006 Faculty Honors Convocation in October. Photo by John Everett

Committee on the Status of Women Distinguished Professional Woman's Award Banquet

An outstanding graduate of the UT Medical School at Houston will receive the Distinguished Professional Woman's Award at the annual Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) Award Banquet, Wednesday, Dec. 6. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Facility, 2151 W. Holcombe Blvd.

This year's award recipient is Nancy J. Dickey, M.D., vice chancellor for Health Affairs, Texas A&M University System, and president of the A&M Health Science Center.

The banquet also recognizes winners of the President's Mentor Awards. The 2006 recipients are:

- Faculty — John H. Byrne, Ph.D., Medical School and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- Administrative and Professional — Paula O'Neill, Ed.D., Dental Branch
- Classified Staff — Virginia Wall, Medical School

The CSW Women Students Travel Awards will be announced.

Tickets (\$25) are available through Monday, Nov. 27. To purchase tickets contact Kathy.Rodgers@uth.tmc.edu, 713-500-3065.



THE LEADER is published monthly for faculty, staff and students of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston by the Office of Institutional Advancement, 7000 Fannin, Suite 1200, Houston, Texas 77030, <http://theleader.uthouston.edu>.

DEADLINES

Submit information to be considered for publication in *The Leader* by the 15th of the month one month prior to the desired time of publication. Requests for feature articles require a longer lead time and will receive strategic consideration. Send electronic information in Word format (no PDFs or posters) and digital photos as unedited, high-resolution images at 300 dpi or better. E-mail to Pamela.Lewis@uth.tmc.edu. Include a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Mail hard copy to *The Leader*, c/o Pamela Lewis, Office of Institutional Advancement, University Center Tower, 1200, or fax to 713-500-3037. For information regarding *The Leader*, call Pamela Lewis, 713-500-3040.

James T. Willerson, M.D.

President

C. Gwin Morris, Ph.D.

Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Ina Fried

Executive Director of Communications

Pamela Lewis

Editor

Eli Gukich

Designer

Advisory Committee

Mary Maher

Human Resources

Dennie Clemons

University Classified Staff Council

Theresa Le

Administrative & Professional

Cheryl Pfennig

Student InterCouncil

Ted Pate, Ph.D.

Interfaculty Council

Michael Tramonte

Administrative & Professional