

Chancellor Yudof Launches a System-wide Volunteer Recognition Program

Service and civic engagement are cornerstones of our American way of life. Volunteer activity, by people of all ages, helps make the Texas community a better place to live.

A new volunteer recognition program — UT Service and Civic Participation — has been announced by Chancellor Mark Yudof, of The University of Texas System. The UT Health Science Center at Houston will join in this effort, and everyone's participation is needed for this system-wide campaign to be a success.

Many of those who work, study and teach at the health science center play a great role in this community through their individual and collective volunteer efforts. In addition, through their participation they influence

the growth of volunteerism in Houston and the state.

The new UT Service and Civic Participation program provides a way for all member of the health science center to be recognized for their service in their communities, churches, schools, etc., while serving as examples to others to become involved with charitable, service and civic organizations.

To acknowledge and promote these efforts, Yudof has partnered with the U.S. President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to bring the President's Volunteer Service Awards program to UT System.

The program will be rolled out individually

at each UT System academic and health campus. Visit <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/s/ut>, where those who want to take part can learn more about UT Service and Civic Participation. Simply click on the health science center logo to register and begin recording volunteer hours.

To launch this effort at the health science center there will be enrollment fairs at a variety of health science center locations to familiarize the faculty, staff and students with the UT Service and Civic Participation idea and Web site.

Those logging their volunteer hours and meeting a minimum of 100 volunteer hours in a 12-month period will receive an awards package based on number of hours served.

The awards include a certificate of achievement, a President's Volunteer Service Award lapel pin, a note of congratulations from the President of the United States, and a letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Chancellor Yudof plans to recognize those meeting the awards criteria at a special reception, where he will present a number of individual awards.

As plans for the campus-wide enrollment fairs progress, expect to hear more about the locations and scheduling to make them convenient for all. Contact Jenn Wagner, 713-500-3376 or jennifer.wagner@uth.tmc.edu, with questions or for additional information. ★



Deanna Ward and Jon Wiener, Ph.D.; entertain a young patient at Texas Children's Hospital as part of 2006 United To Serve volunteer activities. Photo by Ester Fant



House Medics' volunteers of all ages work to repair the homes of low-income community elders. Photo courtesy of House Medics

Volunteer Opportunities Abound through United To Serve

Enjoy a free breakfast, fun and camaraderie while joining others in volunteer activities to promote health or to benefit patients and their families, Saturday, April 21, during United To Serve.

Bring your friends and join The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center faculty, staff, students, residents and fellows to work

on a two-hour project at a health-related facility. Come team up and serve the TMC community by volunteering this year!

Check-in begins at 9 a.m. at the UT Dental Branch, where a volunteer kickoff – featuring breakfast fare and fellowship – will be followed by volunteer projects, 10 a.m.-noon.

Or come early and help with check-in and the breakfast. By starting early, you'll also finish early.

Complimentary parking will be available at the Mental Sciences Institute lot across the street from the Dental Branch.

For details and registration, see http://www.uthouston.edu/community/united_to_serve/. Sign up now!

16th Annual UT House Medics Project Needs You

Can you swing a hammer, wield a paintbrush, motivate yourself and others?

Then the organizers of the 16th Annual UT House Medics Project and several elderly homeowners in our community could benefit from your help.

For one or two Saturdays in April (April 14 and/or 21), you and others like you will help the homeowners by painting and repairing their homes. Step up to the plate and lend a helping hand to these deserving homeowners.

As part of a UT House Medics Team you'll work with fellow employees on this casual, constructive project. Even

if you're a novice at carpentry or painting skills, you are welcome to join this great campus-wide community service project!

For more information, visit <http://is.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/projects/housemed.html> or contact Dennie Clemens Spinks, 713-500-2235 or Wanda.D.Clemons@uth.tmc.edu.

UT Medical School Student Named to UT System Board of Regents



R. Matthew Camarillo

His term runs through February 2008.

R. Matthew Camarillo of Houston, a third-year student at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, has been named the Student Regent for The University of Texas

Camarillo said he was extremely honored to have been selected by Governor Perry to serve as the Student Regent for The University of Texas System and expressed his gratitude to the UT Health Science Center at Houston's Student InterCouncil and Chancellor Yudof for their part in the nomination process.

"I am keenly aware of the magnitude of the responsibilities of this position and pledge to work hard and to the best of my ability to represent the interests of every student within

the UT System's nine academic and six health institutions across this great state," Camarillo said. "I look forward to working with the Board of Regents and the Governor and his staff to promote and advance the mission of the UT System and higher education in Texas," he said.

As the Student Regent and as a medical student, Camarillo "will bring a most important perspective to the Board of Regents," said James T. Willerson, M.D., president of the UT Health Science

Center at Houston.

James R. Huffines, chairman of the Board of Regents, congratulated Camarillo on his appointment, saying "he is an outstanding choice and we look forward to serving with him."

Camarillo received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and kinesiology from The University of Texas at Austin. He is a member of the American Medical Association, American College of Surgeons and the Texas Medical Association. ★