

Campus Connection Friday, September 19, 2008

Your biweekly source of news on UNTHSC people, plans and progress.

UNTHSC helps Hurricane Ike evacuees

In the early hours of Sept. 13, Hurricane Ike rumbled through Galveston, the Bolivar Peninsula and on through Houston, Texas, leaving destruction in its wake. Thankfully, most residents evacuated before the hurricane hit, fleeing to shelters across Texas, including several in Tarrant and Dallas counties.

UNTHSC doctors, physician assistants, nurses, medical assistants and even students were ready to help by treating, testing and caring for evacuees in shelters across the Metroplex.

In addition, the employees of UNTHSC have contributed \$5,000 to the [Tarrant Area Food Bank](#) whose supply of food has been severely strained by the recent disasters. The contribution was made through the UNTHSC Fund for Excellence, to which employees contribute through the annual *Campus Pride* Campaign.

At press time, the following UNTHSC healthcare providers have served the evacuees:

Roberto Cardarelli, DO, Family and Community Medicine
Linda Davis, PA, Internal Medicine
Tonya Davis, MA, Family and Community Medicine
Kelly Grabbe, TCOM Class of 2009
Hunaid Gurji, TCOM Class of 2009
Jan Jowitt, RN, Family and Community Medicine
Vicki Maxfield-Small, MA, Family and Community Medicine
Elizabeth Palmarozzi, DO, Family and Community Medicine
Damon Schranz, DO, Family and Community Medicine
Bobbie Richards, DO, Family and Community Medicine
Jon Sivoravong, DO, Family and Community Medicine
Judy Steudeman, RN, Family and Community Medicine
Nastassja Weaver, MA, Family and Community Medicine

Please send names of other healthcare providers that we may have missed to news@hsc.unt.edu.

Can you dig it? 2008 *Campus Pride* Campaign

Help UNTHSC break new ground by donating to the 2008 *Campus Pride* Annual Giving Campaign, which supports UNTHSC's Master Plan to expand our campus, enhance our capabilities and support the community. The 2008 campaign runs Oct. 1-31, and every employee is encouraged to give what he or she can.

Last year, 70 percent of employees contributed to the *Campus Pride* Campaign. That generosity helped fund important UNTHSC initiatives, including community relief, research in cancer and Alzheimer's disease, student scholarships and the demolition of the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas.

The new campaign will kick off with events for faculty and staff:

- Sept. 30 at UNT Health offices on May Street and in Everett Hall for the evening shift
- Oct. 3 at Alumni Plaza and the Patient Care Center

Click here for a printable schedule to post in your department.

After the rallies, employees will receive a packet from their department's Campus Pride team captain. These packets include campaign details and pledge forms. Please complete and return them to the team captains.

Employees who make a donation will receive a "thank-you" gift and will be eligible for three prize drawings. A drawing will be held each week of the campaign. Also, each department with 100 percent of employees donating will be eligible for a pizza party. A drawing for the pizza party will be held after the campaign ends.

Remember, every gift counts... so give what you can.

For more information on the 2008 *Campus Pride* Annual Giving Campaign, contact Susan Smith (ext. 2174) or Jen Pendell (ext. 2430) in Institutional Advancement. For information about the State Employee Charitable Campaign, contact Marco Mendoza (ext. 2230) in Human Resources.

TCOM grads do it again: Highest scores in U.S. on board exams

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) Class of 2008 scored the best in the nation on the [Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination \(COMLEX\)](#) Level 2 for the second consecutive year. The class had a 100 percent pass rate on the exam. In June, the TCOM Class of 2009's COMLEX 1 performance was also the top in the nation.

All states require medical students to pass a licensing exam before they receive licenses to practice medicine. The MD equivalent is the United States Medical License Examination (USMLE).

Dillon named VP of Research

Glenn H. Dillon, PhD, has been named vice president of research at UNTHSC. In this new position, Dr. Dillon will facilitate and oversee all aspects of research conducted at UNTHSC. He will help formulate the institution's strategic plan for research and work to enhance research collaborations.

Dr. Dillon joined UNTHSC in 1994 and has served in many capacities, most recently as associate vice president for research. A professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, Dr. Dillon will continue to teach, mentor graduate students and direct a research lab.

A graduate of Southwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical science, he earned his master's and doctorate degrees in physiology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He also completed post-doctoral studies at the Upjohn Company (now Pfizer). Dillon and his wife Dawn reside in Weatherford. Their older son, Luke, is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, and their younger son, Ben, is a senior at Weatherford High School.

NEWS BRIEFS

Gala celebrates 15 years of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

On October 25, the UNT Health Science Center will present *To Your Health: Unmasking Discoveries*, a masquerade ball celebrating 15 years of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). The event will be held at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth, with a reception at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm. The annual black-tie gala will feature a cocktail reception, a three-course meal, a silent auction and music from [The Party Crashers](#). Money raised from the gala supports our world-class educational, research, patient care and community outreach programs. Co-chairs for the event are Dr. Annita Bens, founding president of the GSBS Alumni Association (GSBS '93); Lavi Vishwanatha, wife of Dr. Jamboor Vishwanatha, GSBS dean; and Elena Yorio, wife of Dr. Thomas Yorio, provost. For more details, tickets and sponsorship information, visit the [To Your Health Web site](#).

New guidelines for obituaries and flag protocol

UNTHSC has established new guidelines for communicating the passing of a UNTHSC “family” member (employee, student, alumni or retiree). Also, UNTHSC has clarified rules for lowering the campus flags to half staff during periods of mourning.

Obituary guidelines

To share the news of a UNTHSC “family” member’s passing in a timely and accurate manner, the Office of Marketing and Communications will continue to help post information about deaths in Daily News, but only after receiving complete memorial/funeral service details.

Note that this information can be posted by anyone affiliated with UNTHSC on Daily News. Also, departments or schools that have lost a member are welcome to alert their department and/or the campus via e-mail. However, Marketing and Communications will no longer send these all-campus e-mails. The only exception will be if a Daily News posting would not allow enough time for faculty, staff and students to attend the service.

Flag guidelines

In the past, the Health Science Center often lowered the U.S. and Texas flags to half staff upon the death of someone important to UNTHSC. However, [federal law](#) states that the U.S. flag may only be flown at half staff to mark the death of a principal figure in the U.S. Government or by decree of the U.S. president. Additionally, the [Texas flag](#) may only be lowered to half staff by order of the governor.

UNTHSC soon will display its own school flag, which will be lowered to half staff to honor the passing of significant current or past faculty, alumni, etc., at the discretion of the Office of the President. Watch for the debut of our new flag later this year.

Earn CME credits at women's health symposium

Women's health professionals from across the country, including UNTHSC faculty members, will present new trends and controversies in women's healthcare at the 20th annual Pelham P. Staples Jr., MD, Educational Symposium. The symposium, which offers 20 hours of CME credit, is Sept. 25-27 at the Sheraton Arlington Hotel in Arlington. To celebrate the 20th anniversary, the symposium will feature a performance by [Le Freak](#), the self-described "greatest disco band in the world." For registration information, contact [Leah Argo](#) in Obstetrics and Gynecology at ext. 2198.

Distinguished Speaker to discuss ethnic disparities in birth outcomes

Michael C. Lu, MD, from the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Community Health Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles, will present "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes: A Life Course Perspective" as part of UNTHSC's Distinguished Speaker Series. The talk is set for Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 5 pm at Luibel Hall. Register at the [Office of Professional and Continuing Education Web site](#). Two hours of CME credit are available, and the public is invited to attend.

DNA Lab earns three new grants

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has awarded a \$2,552,511 grant to UNTHSC for DNA technology to identify missing persons. The money will aid state and local law enforcement agencies as well as medical examiners and coroners throughout the U.S. in investigating missing person and unidentified human decedent cases. The DNA Lab also received a grant of \$601,632 to improve efficiencies in amplification and sequencing, automation, process control, data analysis and technology. In addition, a grant for \$495,826 was awarded on Oct. 17 to help reduce the backlog of DNA cases at our Center for Human Identification.

UNTHSC spreads the word with radio ads

As part of our current advertising campaign in various media outlets, banners and advertisements highlighting UNTHSC stream on Web sites of the six CBS radio stations in the Metroplex:

[KJJK-FM 100.3 Jack FM](#)

[KLLI-FM Live 105.3](#)

[KLUV-FM 98.7](#)

[KMVK-FM Movin 107.5](#)

[KRLD-AM News Radio 1080](#)

[KVIL-FM 103.7 Lite FM](#)

These have been running this summer and will continue until the end of the calendar year. Listen to the radio spot here.

IN THE NEWS

Ransom begins monthly column in *Business Press*

The first in a series of monthly columns by President Scott Ransom appeared in this week's [Fort Worth Business Press](#). Each month, the column will address a health issue relevant to the local community, the state and the nation. This week's column focused on the need for the entire community to work together to improve community health.

Yorio named provost

The news that Dr. Thomas Yorio, executive vice president for Academic Affairs, was promoted to provost of the Health Science Center appeared in news outlets from [Los Angeles](#) to [Philadelphia](#), and many points in between. It also appeared in local outlets, including [wfaa.com](#) and the [Dallas Business Journal](#), and in some national outlets, including [Yahoo!](#), [MSN](#) and [AOL](#). More than 75 outlets posted the news.

TCOM tops nation on COMLEX 2

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2008's scores on the COMLEX 2 also made news in 70 outlets from [San Francisco](#) to [Boston](#). It appeared locally on [wfaa.com](#) and in the [Dallas Business Journal](#), and on [Yahoo!](#), [Forbes.com](#), [Healthcare Industry Today](#), [State House News Service](#) and [TecTrends](#).

9/11 scientist helps Chilean families find closure

Dr. Rhonda Roby, who has been working in our DNA lab, was featured on the front page of the [Dallas Morning News](#) because of her work identifying victims of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and her work with the Center for Human Identification for the government of Chile which was featured in the last issue of *North Texas Health & Science*. The story also appeared on [kvue.com](#), [Calibre Macro World](#) and [Macro*World Investor](#).

The heart is the matter

The [Fort Worth Business Press](#) also printed a story about heart health and preventive screenings for heart problems featuring Dr. Roberto Cardarelli, assistant professor of family and community medicine, and Dr Kristine Lykens, assistant professor of health management and policy.

HR UPDATE

Reminder: Complete staff performance evaluations by Sept. 30

All staff performance evaluations for work performed during fiscal year 2008 must be completed by Sept. 30 using the new [staff performance review forms](#). Completed staff evaluation forms and merit recommendation forms must be in Human Resource Services by the close of business on Oct. 3.

Each year the UNTHSC requires performance evaluations for all benefits-eligible faculty and staff members (non-student). These evaluations aim to identify employee strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for growth.

If you need assistance with the forms or process for staff evaluations, please contact Human Resource Services at ext. 2690.

KUDOS

Dr. Russell Gamber, professor of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

... was awarded UNTHSC's Clyde Gallehugh, DO, Memorial Award for 2008. The award is given annually in recognition of outstanding participation as a clinical science faculty member in the teaching of basic sciences.

Dr. Kristine Lykens, assistant professor of Health Management and Policy

...was elected vice chair of the UNTHSC Faculty Senate for a one-year term.

Dr. James Simpkins, chair and professor of Pharmacology and Neuroscience

... is the newest member of the [American Aging Association](#) (AGE) board. AGE is a non-profit organization that promotes research in aging.

Dr. Simpkins' research appears this month in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America](#) (PNAS), a multidisciplinary scientific serial that publishes cutting-edge research reports.

Dr. Mark Sanders and

Dr. Roberto Cardarelli

... were recently promoted to associate professors of Family and Community Medicine.

Dr. Jamboor Vishwanatha, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

... and UNTHSC's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Collaborative Summer Training Program in Prostate Cancer are featured in a U.S. Department of Defense

magazine highlighting its [prostate cancer program](#). The summer training program is one of many [outreach programs](#) offered by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Lisa Hodge, assistant professor of Molecular Biology and Immunology and Osteopathic Heritage Foundation basic science research chair at the Osteopathic Research Center ... received the Established Researcher Award at the International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research in Bradenton, Fla. Dr. Hodge presented her research exploring the impact of osteopathic manipulation on the mobilization of lymphocytes and the possible role in health. This work was a result of collaboration with Dr. Fred Downey in the Department of Physiology, and Dr. Hollis King and Dr. Scott Stoll in the Osteopathic Research Center.

Dr. Ronald Blanck, former UNTHSC president, and **Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu**, who holds an honorary DO degree from UNTHSC ... were appointed by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to the [Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences](#) Board of Regents. Dr. Blanck will be the board's chair.

SAVE THE DATE

September 25-27

**Pelham P. Staples Jr, MD, 20th annual Educational Symposium
Women's Health Care: New Trends and Controversies**
Sheraton Arlington Hotel

September 26 - 27

Alumni Reunion 2008
6 am – 9 pm
Atrium and Fort Worth Hilton

October 3

Campus Pride kick-off
8 – 9:30 am
Alumni Plaza

October 14

Distinguished Speaker Series
Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes: A Life Course Perspective
Presented by Dr. Michael C. Lu of the University of California Los Angeles Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
5 pm
Luibel Hall

October 25

UNTHSC Annual Gala

Celebrating the 15-Year Anniversary of the GSBS
Renaissance Worthington Hotel
www.hsc.unt.edu/toyourhealth

DO Dash 5k/1k

8 am
UNTHSC Campus

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Campus Connection is published the first and third Fridays of each month by the Office of Marketing and Communications for UNT Health Science Center employees, students and friends. Please feel free to forward this e-newsletter to others and print it for those who don't have access to a computer.

Our goals are to:

- Keep you informed about the Health Science Center's strategic plan, priorities and goals.
- Promote the UNTHSC values of compassion, integrity, teamwork, innovation, pride and excellence
- Demonstrate how the people and programs of the Health Science Center really do make a difference
- Enable you to be a well-informed UNTHSC ambassador

You're invited to contribute to the continuous improvement of this e-newsletter and other UNTHSC Family communications by sending story ideas, news, suggestions and questions to news@hsc.unt.edu.

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