

## ***Campus Connection*** Friday, May 1, 2009

### **People, plans and progress at Fort Worth's Medical School *and more***

#### **UNTHSC monitors the swine flu**

UNT Health Science Center is making preparations to minimize the potential impact of the H1N1 or "swine" flu on our campus and is taking steps to protect the health, welfare and safety of our students, faculty, staff and patients. The threat of a pandemic flu is a rapidly evolving situation, and in this case one that is unprecedented. We will continue to provide periodic updates about our response, as well as more information on the issue as it becomes available.

#### **What UNTHSC is Doing**

We have activated our campus Emergency Preparedness Plan to deal with the many dimensions of a pandemic flu threat. Over the past week, Safety Officer James Sims, PhD, has coordinated planning with our Emergency Operations Center commanders, clinical managers, safety coordinators, UNT Denton, the City of Fort Worth, Fort Worth Emergency Management, State of Texas Division of Disaster Management and the CDC.

Due to the number of confirmed cases now in Texas and locally, we have moved to the Alert Phase of our Plan related to a pandemic flu situation. Also as you may know, the Fort Worth ISD and a few other schools closed today and are expected to be closed for at least one week to reduce potential transmission.

We ask that all areas of our organization review and update all emergency preparedness plans. We also encourage you to take precautions to protect yourself, your family, students, co-workers and patients.

#### **Who is in Charge**

Kathleen Forbes, MD, executive vice president of Clinical Affairs and Business Development and president of UNT Health, has been appointed as the UNTHSC Emergency Preparedness Commander, working closely with Dr. Sims and 11 other senior incident commanders as outlined in our Emergency Plan. Given the risk of having multiple people impacted in a pandemic, we also have a list of back-ups for these people. [Click here](#) for the list of incident commanders and their back-ups.

#### **Classes and Events**

At this time, all classes, clinics and research activities are continuing as scheduled. We have not made any decisions on cancelling banquets, commencement or other activities other than our High School Art Show reception planned for Saturday, May 2. We will continue to monitor the situation and act appropriately.

#### **Symptoms of Swine Flu**

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of regular seasonal flu and may include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, body ache, headache, and fatigue. Some people also are reporting vomiting and diarrhea with the flu. A real signal is a fever of 100 degrees or more.

You can be contagious one day before you experience symptoms, and remain contagious for 5-7 days. Duration of the flu can be up to 14 days.

### **Staying Healthy**

- Cover your nose and mouth with your arm or a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people
- Try to avoid highly-trafficked, enclosed spaces

### **If You Feel Sick**

Stay away from work, contact your supervisor and see your healthcare professional if you have an influenza-like illness, fever over 100 degrees, and a cough and/or sore throat. This is especially true for anyone who has recently traveled to Mexico (within 7 days) or had contact with a person who has been diagnosed with the flu. If you become ill at work, contact your supervisor, go home, and contact your healthcare professional

### **Monitoring the UNTHSC Family**

We are taking steps to coordinate the counting of all employees (staff and faculty) and students who are absent for any reason as well as confirmed cases of swine flu in order to plan continuation of academic, research, clinical and other services on campus. These tracking systems will be supported by Rand Horsman, vice president of Human Resource Services, Thomas Moorman, EdD, vice president of Student Affairs, and Dr. Kathleen Forbes in UNT Health. Also, we are tracking any suspicious and/or confirmed cases of this flu identified throughout UNT Health. Confirmed cases of swine flu will be monitored daily and then communicated to all appropriate campus leaders as well as Fort Worth Emergency Management.

### **Further information:**

We are creating a web page to post ongoing updates that will be linked from our Internet front page. It will be available soon. Meanwhile, more information can be obtained on the following sites:

[Centers for Disease Control Swine Flu page](#)  
[Tarrant County Public Health Swine Flu page](#)

### **US News & World Report ranks TCOM 29<sup>th</sup>, PA Studies 34<sup>th</sup>, Family Medicine 17<sup>th</sup>**

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) jumped to 29<sup>th</sup> in rankings for primary care medical schools this year, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* ranking for 2010. This is the college's eighth consecutive appearance in the top 50. The Physician Assistant program ranked 34<sup>th</sup>, and the Department of Family Medicine ranked 17<sup>th</sup>. We were also listed as 3<sup>rd</sup> in percentage of graduates entering primary care residency.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of TCOM," said Alan Podawiltz, DO, acting dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. "Not only do our students continue to outscore all other osteopathic medical students on the COMLEX exam, our class size continues to grow. We are now educating more osteopathic physicians than ever before, and more of our graduates enter primary care than any other Texas medical school."

Each year, *U.S. News & World Report* ranks professional school programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine. The rankings are based on expert opinion about program performance and statistical indicators that measure the quality of the school's faculty, research and students. To gather the opinion data, *U.S. News & World Report* surveyed deans, program directors and senior faculty to judge the academic quality of programs in their field on a scale of 1, which was marginal, to 5, which was outstanding. Professionals who hire new graduates were also surveyed for the rankings. The print version of *U.S. News & World Report* went on sale April 28.

### **ITS takes new name**

To streamline services, the five departments that used to be called Information Technology Services (ITS), have joined Biomedical Communications, the Library and Academic Information Services under a new division—Information Resources and Technology (IRT). IRT is headed by Renee Drabier, PhD, vice president for Information Resources and chief information officer, who joined the Health Science Center in November. Though some of the groups' names have changed, they still offer the same services with some new features and organizational adjustments to improve support—including a new Web site, a new online service-request system, and a universal phone number for IRT support.

Groups under Information Resources and Technology:

- [Helpdesk and Client Services](#)
- [Academic Information Services](#)
- [Biomedical Communications](#)
- [Infrastructure and Security](#)
- [Lewis Library](#)
- [Records and Information Management](#)
- [Telecommunication Services](#)
- [Web and Programming Services](#)

What you should know:

- All groups will offer the same services with an increased focus on collaboration across teams.

- In addition to providing desktop computer support, **Helpdesk and Client Services** will take and rout support calls for all IRT groups at ext. 2192 or by e-mail ([helpdesk@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@hsc.unt.edu)). However, you can still contact any IRT group or its members directly.
- **Classroom Education and Technology Services (CETS)** has joined Helpdesk and Client Services to streamline support. CETS will provide the same services and will move to the Helpdesk area on the second floor of the library.
- The group known as central computing and networking under ITS is now called **Infrastructure and Security**.
- Information Systems Services is now called **Web and Programming Services**. The group is relocating to the fourth floor of the library.
- To improve computer support, IRT soon will adopt Bridgetrak, a new software system that tracks computer issues so they can be addressed as soon as possible. Customers can check the status of their requests via the Internet, Helpdesk or e-mail.

For more information on IRT, its groups and their services, visit the new [IRT Web site](#).

### **UMA staff to transition to UNTHSC**

At the recent UNT Health Town Hall meetings, Kathleen Forbes, MD, executive vice president of Clinical Affairs and Business Development and UNT Health president, discussed the recent unanimous decision of the UNT Health Board regarding the transition of all current University Medical Associates (UMA) employees to the Health Science Center employee base, beginning Sept. 1.

Human Resource Services and UNT Health administrative staff are at work on the transition's key issues to lessen any impact on the UNT Health/UMA employees. Supervisors will meet with their respective staffs to discuss more specifics, and employee orientation sessions will start next week and be offered through July. See your supervisor for the orientation schedule. Frequently asked questions about the transition will be posted on the [UNTHSC Intranet](#) soon. Click here for the UMA Transformation Fact Sheet or contact Human Resource Services at ext. 2690 for more information.

In addition to the UMA staff transition, Dr. Forbes discussed the strong financial performance of the group through April, then added that the upcoming budget planning process period for each department would require thoughtful consideration.

Another highlight for the practice group is the Raving Fans approach to excellence in customer service on behalf of all clinic staff and providers.

### **HRS expands employee training**

Human Resource Services (HRS) is rolling out a new Management Development Program that will provide new opportunities for Health Science Center employees' to enhance their leadership skills.

The six-month program will offer monthly courses and computer-based training on a variety of management topics, as well as important Health Science Center initiatives such as Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) accreditation and process improvement efforts. HRS will offer the program twice a year. The first session starts in June.

### **The program will cover:**

1. The UNTHSC Strategy Map and the Denison organizational culture survey

2. SACS accreditation and our Quality Enhancement Plan
3. Process Improvement and the Plan-Do-Check-Act model
4. Human Resource Services
5. Management and Leadership Skills (performance management, organizational change, problem solving and critical thinking, the five dysfunctions of teams, building trust, motivating and leading others, team building)
6. Community Engagement and Marketing and Communication

In addition to developing leadership skills, the program gives participants a chance to guide the direction of the Health Science Center by sharing ideas and input on our programs and initiatives.

The program is open to current UNTHSC directors, managers, supervisors, faculty and physicians who supervise others, but space in the classes is limited. To take part in the Management Development Program you must be nominated by your supervisor. You can also nominate yourself, however self-nominations must be approved by your supervisor. Click here for the nomination form.

E-mail completed forms to [Cassandra Molavrh](#) by Friday, May 15. She will notify program participants by Friday, May 29.

### **UNT Health to help celebrate Mother's Day with Pink Frogs**

UNT Health is sponsoring the TCU Baseball Team's Mother's Day game against Utah on Sunday, May 10, at 1 pm at Lupton Stadium. Attendees will receive a special voucher for \$75 DEXA bone scans (regularly \$278) at the UNT Health Center for Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment. Also, tickets are only \$4 for UNTHSC faculty, staff, students and their family members. Go to the [gofrogs.com tickets page](#) and use the promo code "UNT" to order the discounted tickets. It's a great way to enjoy the afternoon and help support breast cancer and women's health.

## ***NEWS BRIEFS***

### **Town Hall meeting May 18**

President Ransom's next Town Hall meeting is set for May 18 at noon in Luibel Hall. He'll discuss the latest Board of Regents actions and answer your questions. Send your questions to [townhall@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:townhall@hsc.unt.edu) and let us know if you'd like to remain anonymous. Note that there will not be a 7 am Town Hall this quarter. The May 18 meeting will be streamed live over the Internet for the first time. Check Daily News for more information.

### **TCOM Class of 2012 begins Legacy Project tree planting**

The TCOM Class of 2012 established a new tradition of planting a tree on campus dedicated to the people who donated or willed their bodies for science.

In association with this new living memorial program, family members of Willed Body program donors gathered on April 24 to remember the donors and plant a living legacy. Presentations were made by Diaan Osman, TCOM Class of 2012; Harold Sheedlo, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics;

Roy Martin, DMIN, assistant professor of clinical ethics; and family members of some of those who had donated their bodies. As a result of the program, a new little gem magnolia tree was planted between the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library and the Patient Care Center, next to the circle drive. An oak plaque explaining why the tree was planted will be replaced in the coming weeks with a permanent, marble marker. The TCOM Class of 2012 hopes future classes of TCOM students will continue the tradition.

### **Attend commencement on May 16**

Approximately 285 graduates from all UNTHSC schools will be part of 2009 Commencement ceremonies scheduled for **May 16 at 3 pm at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena and Ballroom**. Keynote speaker will be U.S. Congressman Michael C. Burgess, MD, a resident of Lewisville, Texas, who worked as a doctor in Denton County for more than 21 years. Dr. Burgess delivered more than 3000 babies in North Texas before heading to Congress in 2003. Devin Flaherty, who will be awarded both his DO and PhD degrees, will address attendees.

## ***IN THE NEWS***

### **Pot or not?**

Vicki Nejteck, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry, played devil's advocate to [NPR's](#) posit of whether or not marijuana should be legalized, and the ripple effect of legalization. The "All Things Considered" piece aired April 20.

### **Business Press includes several Health Science Center items, quotes**

[President Scott Ransom's latest monthly column](#) appeared in April 27's *Fort Worth Business Press*. The April 20 edition, quoted John Podgore, DO, professor of pediatrics, on [the possible link between autism and childhood vaccines](#). The [Health Care Briefs](#) section also included items about the TCOM Class of 2012 Legacy Project tree planting on April 24 and the first NorTex Convocation of Practices on April 25.

### **Fewer calories may not mean a longer life**

Michael Forster, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, commented on the benefits of calorie restriction in an April 26 [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#) story. While Dr. Forester did say calorie constriction is beneficial for several human ills, such as high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol, it has not been proven to increase human mortality.

### **DNA lab continues identification work across the country**

An [Associated Press](#) story, run in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, named the DNA lab as the identifying agency in the case of a body found in a shallow grave in Arkansas. The man was identified as Jon Fincher, who was a suspect in his mother's murder. Additional stories about the case were included in the [Hope \(Ark.\) Star](#), on [KTHV](#) and [KLRT](#) (both of Little Rock).

Additional stories involving DNA lab work were included in the [Owensboro \(Ky.\) Messenger-Inquirer](#), the [Wilmington \(N.C.\) Star News](#), [WWAY TV](#), WTVW-TV, the [Galveston County Daily News](#), and [KFDM TV](#).

A presentation given by Bruce Budowle, PhD, executive director of the UNT Center for Human Identification, in Dubai, UAE, was the focus of an article in the [Khaleej Times](#). The presentation outlined how important forensic science is to a strong biodefense program. The article also appeared on [Individual.com](#).

## ***HR UPDATE***

### **May professional development opportunities**

Human Resource Services (HRS) is offering several new training opportunities for Health Science Center employees this month. Visit the [Professional Development and Training page](#) on the HRS Web site to see the schedule and register for classes.

New this month, HRS is offering training for the new On-Line Staff Performance Evaluation process. Reserve your seat as early as possible—the annual staff performance evaluation process begins this month.

For additional session information and department/team-specific training, please contact [Molavrh](#), staff development and training manager, at ext. 5091.

### **Policy Reminder: Drug-Free Workplace**

The Health Science Center's drug-free workplace policy ensures that we work in a safe and healthy environment. The policy, which applies to all HSC employees and students, prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of controlled substances and the abuse of alcohol in the workplace.

Assistance with drug- and alcohol-related problems is available to Health Science Center employees and students. Employees can get help through our group insurance. Students can contact the Student Assistance Program by calling 817-339-8936.

For more details, see [Policy 8.05](#), or call Human Resource Services at ext. 2690.

## ***KUDOS***

The **UNT Health Science Center** was honored by Carter Blood Care for the highest number of donations for colleges in Northwest Fort Worth in 2008—the third consecutive year that the Health Science Center has earned this honor. Last year faculty, staff and students donated 200 units of blood, enough to help 600 patients in need of blood. On top of that, the Health Science Center earned Carter's Four Seasons Award for hosting four blood drives in a year. The next blood drive at the Health Science Center is May 12 from 8 am to 3 pm in the Atrium. For more information about blood drives at the Health Science Center, contact [Sallie Spotanski](#) at ext. 2182.

**The Office of Marketing and Communications' Campus Connection newsletter** won second place in the Best Newspaper or Newsletter category at this year's American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Excellence in Communications awards. The award was announced at AACOM's Annual Meeting in Bethesda, Md., last month.

**The Office of Marketing and Communications** also won two Healthcare Advertising Awards from the Healthcare Marketing Report. UNT Health's "Called to Teach, Called to Heal" billboard earned a bronze award in the Outdoor Transit/Billboard category, and the North Texas Health and Science magazine earned a merit award in Publications/External category.

**UNT Health** physicians who made *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine's Top Docs list were honored at a reception on April 2. In all, 33 UNT Health physicians made the list for 2009.

**Olga Dreeben, Phd, PT, MPT**, associate professor of Physical Therapy, published her third book, "[Patient Education in Rehabilitation](#)," on April 15. This book applies patient education skills to the clinical process, in general, and rehabilitation, in particular. "Patient Education in Rehabilitation" explores various teaching and learning theories and models of instruction, as well as the ethical, legal, communicative and cultural variables in patient education.

Nine teams made up of 98 **UNTHSC faculty, staff, students and their family members** participated in the [American Cancer Society's](#) Relay for Life event at Fort Worth's Farrington Field on April 3. The UNTHSC teams raised more than \$12,400 for cancer research during the event.

**School of Public Health students** celebrated National Public Health Week by hosting a community-wide health fair on Tuesday, April 7, that featured healthy-cooking demonstrations, lipid screenings, body fat analysis, fire safety information and more. More than 200 "This is Public Health" T-shirts and souvenir water bottles were distributed within the first 15 minutes. The event included several community vendors and live cut-ins on 92.1 FM Country Legends Radio.

## **EMPLOYEE PROFILE**

**Betty Belton**

**Registrar**

**Office of Student Affairs**

**How long have you worked here, and what did you do before joining UNTHSC?**

I have worked at the Health Science Center for 32 years. Before joining UNTHSC, I worked at Texas Christian University (Brite Divinity School). At the Brite Divinity School, I served as administrative secretary to six professors and assisted them in preparing their lectures, manuscripts, exams and many sermons.

**What are your job duties as registrar?**



As registrar, I manage and maintain the academic records of all students at the Health Science Center. In maintaining the academic records of the institution and upholding the academic policies, I strive to assist our students, faculty and campus community in achieving their goals. This office is committed to continuous quality improvement, confidentiality, integrity, customer satisfaction, honesty and respect. A typical work day consists of processing enrollment and graduation verification letters and forms, processing transcripts, processing reports for internal and external agencies, certifying licensure applications for alumni and meeting with various departments and schools regarding policies and procedures.

**What should your fellow employees and students know about your department?**

The Office of Student Affairs oversees issues that are relevant to all programs at the Health Science Center from pre-enrollment through graduation. We provide leadership and support to help students with their learning experiences and have a variety of programs and services that monitor the quality of the campus environment. Retention efforts, student advocacy, and diversity issues are important concerns to our department. “Fostering student success” is our mission and we are committed to the professional and personal development of all students.

**What's the best part about working at the Health Science Center?**

The best thing about working at the Health Science Center is the campus community. I truly enjoy working with the students and helping them achieve their academic goals. The faculty and staff at this institution are dedicated to giving their time and resources to make sure that students are successful in meeting their goals.

During my tenure here at the Health Science Center I have had the privilege of serving under four presidents and six dean/vice presidents of Student Affairs, each bringing their own style in helping students succeed. I am glad that I have had the opportunity to see the growth and vision of the Office of Student Affairs and the Health Science Center. The University of North Texas Health Science Center will forever be a part of my life.

**What do you like to do when you aren't at the Health Science Center?**

When I am not at the Health Science Center, I enjoy working with the different ministries in my church. I especially enjoy visiting the nursing homes and working with our inner city youth. I also enjoy attending seminars, workshops and cancer support meetings sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

***SAVE THE DATE***

**May 1**

**GSBS Awards Banquet**

Cultural District Banquet Center

**Physician Assistant Update CME Conference**

8 am – 12:30 pm

Beyer Hall  
[www.registerwithunt.com](http://www.registerwithunt.com)

**PA Studies 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

6:30 pm  
Fort Worth Club

**May 12**

**PA Awards Banquet**  
Colonial Country Club

**May 13**

**TCOM Awards Banquet**  
Fort Worth Club

**May 16**

**Commencement**  
3 pm  
Fort Worth Convention Center  
Arena and Ballroom

**May 28 – 29**

**Texas Conference on Health Disparities ([website](#))**  
*Targeting Health Disparities Through Prevention*  
Luibel Hall  
[www.registerwithunt.com](http://www.registerwithunt.com)

**October 10**

**UNTHSC Gala**  
Celebrating the School of Public Health  
*Watch the Daily News and Campus Connection for more information on these events and more.*

## ***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](mailto:news@hsc.unt.edu).

**Carl Bluemel**

Electronic Media Manager

[@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:carl@hsc.unt.edu)

817-735-2115

**Matt Havlik**

Communications Coordinator II

[@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:matt@hsc.unt.edu)

817-735-2554

**Campus Connection**

University of North Texas Health Science Center

817.735.2554

3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard | EAD 834 | Fort Worth TX | 76107-2699