

Campus Connection Friday, Jan. 16, 2009

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

UNTHSC's legislative priorities

The Texas Legislature's 81st Session is officially underway, and it opens with a new House speaker, Joe Straus, R-San Antonio.

The Health Science Center's top legislative priority for the session, as always, is to ensure faculty and staff salaries and benefits. Our special item requests include funding for tuition revenue bonds for Building H of our 15-year [Master Plan](#), biomedical research, primary care education and primary care residencies.

We should learn the outcome of those requests in late spring. You can read more about these bills and monitor the legislature's actions at the [Texas Legislature Online Web site](#).

Join the President's Fitness Challenge

The UNTHSC President's Fitness Challenge, a new free program organized by the Founders' Activity Center, can jump-start your healthy lifestyle on your own terms. The 12-week program is open to all faculty, staff and students and is focused on weight loss and physical activity. It starts with a physical analysis and consultation that will determine a fitness plan that is right for you. After that, you exercise and track your progress on your own. You don't have to be a member of the Founders' Activity Center to participate, and there are no mandatory classes or exercise requirements. At the end of the 12 weeks, awards will be given to the participants who made the most progress. The President's Fitness Challenge runs Feb. 1 – April 25.

The program includes:

- Initial weigh-in and physical analysis (by appointment Jan. 22 – Jan. 30)
- Six weeks of free fitness classes designed specifically for the Fitness Challenge
 - 1 – 1:30 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, starting in March (classes are optional)
- A food and exercise journal for all participants to keep track of their progress
- Online support with fitness tips and healthy recipes
- Awards for the finishers with the highest percentage of weight lost, total inches lost, and highest body fat percentage lost

Contact [Nicki McGee](#), health promotions manager, at ext. 2069 to sign up and schedule an assessment.

The UNT Health Science Center is dedicated to the health of its faculty, staff and students. Along with the President's Fitness Challenge, the Health Science Center offers health consultations, the PATCH smoking cessation program, the [Health Saver Program](#), and many other health and fitness programs throughout the year. Learn more at the [Founders' Activity Center Web site](#).

MD Degree Study Group chair selected

Kenneth Barr, former Fort Worth mayor, was selected to serve as chair of the newly formed MD Degree Study Group. As a longtime Fort Worth business and community leader, Barr is familiar with the health care needs of North Texas and has experience leading this kind of discussion. He currently holds several positions on business and community boards, including chairman of the [North Texas Commission](#).

The MD Degree Study Group was established to complete a comprehensive and balanced evaluation of the major issues related to the possibility of adding a parallel MD degree at UNTHSC in addition to continuing and improving the DO degree program of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. On Jan. 29, when the group meets for the first time, they will discuss preliminary perspectives and plans, and prepare for the upcoming UNT System Board of Regents meeting. For more on the MD Degree Study Group and a list of its members, visit the [Study Group Web site](#).

NEWS BRIEFS

Data you can use

The Office of Strategy and Measurement posts facts and information about the Health Science Center under the "[Data You Can Use](#)" section of its Web site. The first issue includes fall student enrollment numbers by gender, ethnicity and program. "Data You Can Use" will be posted periodically. To request specific information to be included in a future issue of "Data You Can Use," contact Marc Foster in the Office of Strategy and Measurement at ext. 0370.

Board of Visitors meet next week

The UNTHSC Board of Visitors meets on campus Jan. 23 - 24. The board will discuss many topics affecting the Health Science Center, including our five-year strategic plan and the MD Degree Study. The Board of Visitors is a national advisory group established to help support and advance UNTHSC's mission and programs. [Click here](#) for a list of the Board members.

Get ready for RAD

This year's [Research Appreciation Day](#) will feature a keynote presentation by Josephine Briggs, MD, director of the National Institutes of Health's [Center for Complementary and Alternative](#)

[Medicine](#). Research Appreciation Day 2009 is scheduled for Friday, March 6. Deadline for submitting abstracts is noon on Feb. 2.

Parking on campus during the rodeo

The City of Fort Worth will use our East parking garage for paid public parking again during this year's [Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo](#) from Jan. 16 through Feb. 8. The public will be allowed to park in the East Garage on Fridays after 5 pm, and all day on Saturdays and Sundays during the event. Students and employees can park in Lots A, C, M and R during those times. There will be no free parking at the Will Rogers Memorial Center during the rodeo, and most of the free street parking around the center will not be available. Employees and students are also asked not to park in the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. Those who normally use this free street parking during business hours can purchase temporary campus parking passes for Lot M during the Stock Show.

Lot M, on the west side of the former OMCT property, is lighted and patrolled regularly by Campus Police. Parking Passes are \$15 and can be purchased at the HSC Police Department Monday through Thursday between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm, and on Friday between 7:30 am and noon.

Wear your Western duds on Fridays

Get into the spirit of the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo by wearing jeans and/or Western duds on Fridays through Feb. 8. Send photos of you in your cowboy chic to news@hsc.unt.edu, and we will check out who sported the fanciest boots in an upcoming issue of Campus Connection.

Chili Cook-Off Challenge

The Division of Student Affairs and the Financial Aid Office are sponsoring the Chili Cook-Off Challenge to raise money for UNTHSC student scholarships. Faculty, staff and students are invited to enter their chili in the contest or just come for lunch. The Chili Cook-Off Challenge is Feb. 18 in the EAD Atrium from 11 am to 1 pm.

To enter the challenge, contact Kristina Randolph at ext. 2627 by Feb. 12. Entry fee for the challenge is \$10 and lunch is \$5. President Scott Ransom and a panel of judges will give the President's Award for the best chili, and those who come for lunch can cast their vote for the People's Choice award.

Hulen clinic now seeing pediatric patients

UNT Health's Hulen Clinic has expanded its services and now accepts pediatric patients in addition to general internal medicine patients. Toyya Goodrich, DO (TCOM '99), and Deborah Alexander, PA-C, see pediatric patients, while Susan Conroy, DO (TCOM '99), and other medical

residents see general internal medicine patients at the Hulen Clinic. To make pediatric appointments at Hulen, call (817) 361-0397.

UNT Health expanded the Hulen Clinic's services when the Bluebonnet Clinic closed last October. The Patient Care Center (PCC) at UNTHSC also sees some the Bluebonnet Clinic's former pediatric patients. Sarah Matches, DO (TCOM '89), and Lauren Fallis, PA-C, see pediatric patients at the PCC.

IN THE NEWS

UNT system financially stable

Fitch ratings scored the UNT system "AA-" for current revenue system financing bonds scheduled to sell this month and outstanding revenue financing system bonds. The rating means the financial outlook for the bonds is stable based on the system's stable student demand and steady enrollment growth; consistently positive operations; and strong state support for both general and capital purposes. The story appeared in [Yahoo! Finance - News & Opinion](#), [MarketWatch](#), [StreetInsider.com](#), Forbes.com, [Yahoo! Canada](#) and [Business Wire](#).

Fort Worth Business Press features UNTHSC

The [Fort Worth Business Press](#) included the Health Science Center in a round-up of the booming healthcare industry in the area. The article included how the campus, student numbers, faculty population and research dollars are all on the rise. The [Business Press](#) also featured the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's rural medicine program, examining the need for this specialized care in the state. Both the [Business Press](#) and the *Dallas Business Journal* included announcements of new faculty and staff at the Health Science Center.

Dangers of children's medicines

Reprints of the *Star-Telegram* article including the expertise of Health Science Center pharmacist Dan Hooper appeared in [The Island Packet](#), [Catholic Online](#), [The Billings Gazette](#), [Kansas.com](#), [Stamford Times Online](#), [Modesto Bee](#), [Wilton Villager Online](#), *Belleville News-Democrat*, [The State.com](#), [STLtoday.com](#), [timesleader.com](#), [Savannah now](#), [signonsandiego.com](#), [SouthBendTribune](#) and [The Columbus Dispatch](#).

Dr. Brenner on the economy and health

The School of Public Health's Dr. Harvey Brenner continues to appear in media with commentary on the affect of the current economy on mental health. Articles appeared in

[CNN.com](#), [Apria Healthcare Online](#), [Cox.net for Rhode Island](#), and *The Providence Journal* on the subject.

NEED TO KNOW

HRS: Release of Employee Information

The Texas Public Information Act requires that all state employers, including the UNT Health Science Center, release certain types of an employee's personal information, including home address and home phone number, if a request for that information is presented in writing. [Personnel Policy 5.04 on Employee Information](#) details the information that can be requested under the Texas Public Information Act. As the policy notes, an employee may choose to restrict the release of his or her home address, home phone number and family information if he or she indicates this choice in writing. To restrict the release of your information or check to see if you already have, contact Human Resource Services at ext. 2690.

HRS: Health Insurance Reminder

Your HealthSelect benefits are determined on a calendar-year basis (January 1 - December 31), and no deductible or coinsurance amounts are carried over from the previous calendar year. Please note that the deductible for the Prescription Drug Plan (administered through CareMark) is determined on a plan-year basis (September 1 - August 31).

HRS: New Training Resource site

Human Resource Services has launched a new Training Resource Center on the UNTHSC Intranet. The site includes information about the HRS Training and Development team; training opportunities available to faculty, staff and students; and more. [Click here](#) for the HRS Training Resource Center site.

Travel: New Mileage Rate for 2009

Beginning on Jan. 1, the State of Texas mileage reimbursement rate was reduced from 58.5 cents (\$0.585) to the new federal level of 55 cents (\$0.55) per mile. Contact the Travel Office at ext. 2546 for more information.

KUDOS

Larry J. Sharp, DO (TCOM '83), recently completed an Integrative Medicine Fellowship under Andrew Weil, founder and program director of the [Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine](#) at

the University of Arizona Health Science Center in Tucson. [Dr. Weil](#), a leading proponent of integrative medicine, has written several best-selling books and maintains the popular Web site, [www. Drweil.com](http://www.Drweil.com). [Dr. Sharp](#) practices family medicine in Fort Worth with a focus on chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome.

Research by **Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MPH** (TCOM '01, SPH '01), and **Jennifer Thomas, GSBS student**, is featured in the January – February 2009 issue of the [Annals of Family Medicine](#), a peer-reviewed research journal focusing on new, evidence-based information affecting the primary care discipline. Their research assesses the relationship between having a personal health care provider and receiving colorectal cancer screenings. You can [read the full article](#) on the journal's Web site.

Members of the **PA Class of 2010** volunteered their time to paint kid-friendly scenes in pediatric exam rooms at the Patient Care Center. The volunteers painted two rooms: one with a Dr. Suess theme and the other featuring Jungle Book. PA students have participated in the Pediatric Clinic's Adopt-a-Room Program for the past three years. .

PA Class of 2010 volunteers:

Cortney Hanson

Ruth Pinkerton

Erika Kafka

Cory Kern

Randy Moore

Vanessa Pickard

Angelica Salazar

Brenda Wallace

Tanya Smith

Katie Krueger

James Leddy

America McGuffee

Kristen Morton

Jared York

Tate Rubley

Laura Solano

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name: Karen Carpenter

Title: Public Service Officer

Department: HSC Police

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

This April will mark my second year with the UNTHSC family. Prior to my employment here, I worked at the Wal-Mart Super Center in Hurst as a training coordinator in the personnel department.

What are your job duties as public service officer?

It is my job to help faculty, staff, students, visitors and clinic patients locate their destinations on campus. I try to be as professional and courteous as possible, because it is also my duty to insure that everyone has a pleasant parking experience.

What makes you proud to work at the Health Science Center?

I'm always proud when I'm assisting guests of faculty and staff, and they tell me how friendly and kind everyone is here at UNTHSC.

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

I always enjoy spending my spare time with family and friends!

SAVE THE DATE

January 19

Martin Luther King Holiday

UNTHSC administrative offices closed

January 23 – 24

Board of Visitors Meeting

UNTHSC Campus

February 3

Career Fair

4 pm

Atrium

February 5

American Osteopathic Association President Carlo DiMarco, DO, visits UNTHSC

February 19

Fort Worth Chamber West Area Council Lunch

10:30 am

Atrium

February 26

Cowtown Marathon Kick-off Reception

5:30 pm

Atrium

February 28

Cowtown Marathon

Sundance Square, Fort Worth

March 6

Research Appreciation Day

8:30 am – Poster Presentations

Fort Worth Community Arts Center

12:15 pm – Luncheon, Keynote and Oral Presentations

Alcon Auditorium, UNTHSC Center for BioHealth

<http://www.hsc.unt.edu/RAD/>

April 6 – 12

National Public Health Week

Multiple events throughout the week

April 7 (tentative)

President’s Invitational Golf Tournament

11 am

Ridglea Country Club

<http://www.hsc.unt.edu/invitational/>

April 24

9th Annual TCOM Alumni Association Specialty Round Table

5 pm

Atrium

SPH Student Awards Banquet

6 pm

Hilton, Fort Worth

May 1 – 2

PA 10-Year Reunion

UNTHSC

May 16

Commencement

2 pm

Fort Worth Convention Center

Arena and Ballroom

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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