

Editor: Pamela Lewis

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October 2011

Put Oct. Health Symposium on Your Calendar

When: Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-noon

Where: OCB, Rio Grande Room (2nd floor), 1851 Cross Point

Who:

- Vaunette Fay, Ph.D., RNC, FNP, GNP, head of the Division of Gerontology at the UTHSC-Houston School of Nursing and Associate Director for Education at the UTHSC-H Center on Aging. She is a certified family nurse practitioner and a gerontological nurse practitioner, teaching gerontological nursing at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and is currently working with an Alzheimer's Day Care Center. Her research interests include the impact of co-morbidity on physical functioning in older adults and the competency level of nurses working in long term care.
- **Elda Ramirez**, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP, developed the SON animal lab which enables students to learn life-saving procedures; she established the first cadaver lab for the School of Nursing. She created ties with emergency medicine departments and physicians through educating the physician about the advantages of having an emergency nurse practitioner with the extensive skill acquired clinically in this program. She spends 60% of her time at the university in clinical practice in five facilities. Many of these facilities are also used for student clinical sites.
- **Jean Garza**, a staff member from the School of Dentistry, has brought us new information for at least 5 or 6 years and also brings goodies such as brushes, floss, etc.

Mixing Fun & Business at the Annual Meeting



Events committee members Ted Jones, Katherine Cortaigne (chair), Susan Papalexandris, and President Henny van Dijk getting ready for the meeting and luncheon. Some 45 members attended the meeting, got the latest info on what the Officers are doing, voted for a new slate of Officers, amended the Bylaws and enjoyed good company and food.



Come One and All to the UTHRO Fall Holiday Luncheon

**Thursday, Nov. 17
11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**OCB, 1851 Cross Point,
Rio Grande Room
(Second Floor)**

*Enjoy companionship & yummy
food from*

*Ben's Chuck Wagon in Wallis
(More info in November issue)*

*Reservations are due to either
Katherine Cortaigne
(713 -988-3080; kcort66@hotmail.com)
or Susan Papalexandris, at
spapalexandris@comcast.net
by Saturday, Nov. 5.*

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An Enlightening Visit to the Bush Library

By Henny van Dijk

The organizers for our trip to the Bush Library in College Station did a tremendous job – excellent weather, a very comfortable bus, and a driver, James, with a sense of humor. He started the day with the announcement that FedEx and UPS had merged that morning and will be known henceforth as FedUp.

From that moment on the trip couldn't possibly go wrong. We reached College Station--in record time and our first stop was Rudy's BBQ, where around 10:45 we enjoyed the earliest lunch I ever had, and the food was excellent.

At noon we drove to the library and got an in-depth look into the life of one of America's most active civil servants: George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States. Presidential Libraries have that added effect—you get a much more complete view of the human being,

George H.W. Bush served this country in so many ways, from the time he was 18 and in the naval air force in WWII over Japan, to being elected in 1988 as President. I also learned something I didn't know—he was only the second Vice President to be elected President other than those who, like Truman or Johnson, were forced into the role by the demise of a sitting President..

Every assignment he was handed had its own vignette in the museum and thus we learned of his time as Ambassador to the UN and to China, his CIA directorship, his VP time under Ronald Reagan and finally the White House.

There was also a good display of the Gulf War and the influence Barbara had on each stage in his career. They had 6 children together, one of whom Robin, died of leukemia when she was three and so there is a part of the exhibit that concentrates on that humanitarian side of the Bushes—the thousand points of light and the war against cancer.

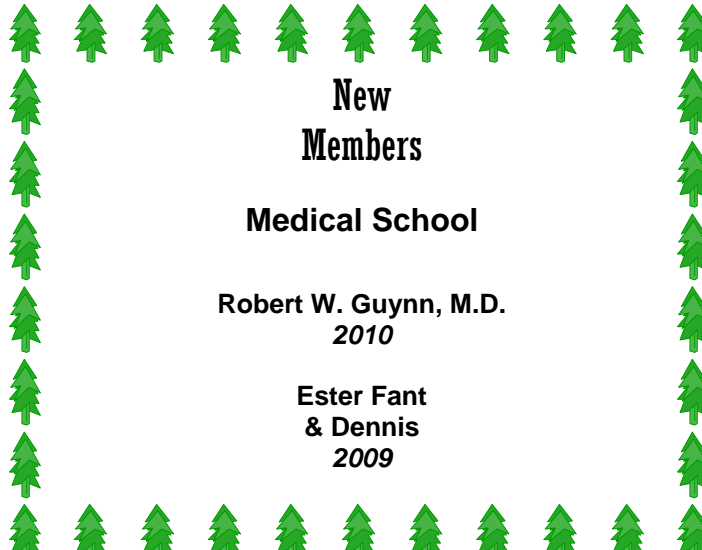
The Berlin Wall came down during his Presidency and the sculpture outside is a tribute to that, but inside is a full original slab of the wall with numerous graffiti of a people who wanted to be free--very impressive.

It is clear from almost every vignette that the Bushes are down to earth people who don't take themselves too seriously, value children and family very highly, and can laugh at themselves; in a bit by Dana Carvey who imitated G. H.W. Bush on *Saturday Night Live*, George gives him pointers about how to imitate him.

All in all, it was a very successful and pleasant day. Just a pity that so few members, 15 in all, took advantage of it. Please consider joining our wildflower viewing trip in March.



Vignettes from all aspects of George H.W. Bush's life, including World War II service, are there for viewing at the George H.W. Bush Library in Bryan/College Station. The Library was the spot that UTRHO members visited during the UTRHO Fall bus trip.



New Members

Medical School

Robert W. Guynn, M.D.

2010

Ester Fant & Dennis

2009

For Questions about Retirement Benefits, your contact person is:
Terry Calloway at 713-500-3822;
Terry.Calloway@uth.tmc.edu.



UTHRO
 Excellence Fund
 Requests Your Help

UTHRO is soliciting donations to the 2011 Excellence Fund benefiting the UT Brain Health Clinic at the Center for Healthy Aging.

Send your check, made out to UTHSC-Houston, to:
 The Office of Advancement
 7000 Fannin Street, 12th Floor
 Houston, Texas 77030.

Please note that your donation is sent on behalf of the “**2011 UTHRO Excellence Fund.**”

UTHRO thanks you for your donation to this worthy effort.

UTHealth MS NEEDS YOU!

Healthy Older Volunteers Needed for a UT Medical School Research Study

To take part, you must be between 60 and 70 years old. In the study, you will watch film clips while lying in an MRI scanner. You must have adequate vision (or contact lenses) to allow you to see the film clips, and normal hearing (no hearing aids) to allow you to hear the soundtrack of the film clips. You must not have a pacemaker or psychiatric or neurological disorders.

The study will take about 1.5 hours and will take place at the UT Medical School, 6431 Fannin St., Houston. You will receive \$40, free parking, and a picture of your brain, and your participation will help in the treatment of patients with language deficits.

For more information, contact Sarah.H.Baum@uth.tmc.edu; 713-500-5089.

From UTHRO’s President: This Year’s Goals

By Henny van Dijk

As I begin my second year as President of UTHRO, I’ve been reflecting on the direction of our organization and the benefits we can create for our members and for UTHealth. Goals are always helpful in focusing that direction and so, here are my stated objectives for 2011-2012:

- The Excellence Fund is our first foray into fundraising and the results of the first year were really encouraging, so we would like to build on that. I urge you to participate by donating to the fund and to make it a yearly contribution. Whatever you can do is worthwhile, but if you look at it this way – we have about 220 members and if each of you would donate just \$25/year, we would raise over \$5,000 that could be used to fund some special project at UTHealth in the name of UTHRO.

- Put together a UTHRO Health Symposium Committee made up of members, who will organize the event and recruit presenters for the traditional October Health Symposium. The agenda for that symposium should cover subjects of particular interest to retirees, be it medical, legal, or other things. A side effort could be a “health advice column” in the *Evergreen*
- Because financial support other than member fees is always an iffy situation, I would like to encourage the members to sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter wherever possible to cut down on printing and mailing cost which will help keep the yearly membership fee as low as it is now. Obviously we will not leave those members who do not have computers and internet access in the cold, so we will keep on mailing them the *Evergreen*.
- Use the *Evergreen* not only as a monthly interesting read but even more important to keep those who do not live in the Houston area

inside the Loop and in the know about research, academics, and general goings-on at all components of UTHealth.

This looks like a full plate and without your help and input it is highly unlikely that I could pull this off, so consider serving in an advisory capacity or on a committee to see that those goals are reachable and that UTHRO is accomplishing what the by-laws charge us with.

We have an outstanding group of Officers and Members-at-Large this year to help. Please try to attend one of our events and get to know again those you used to work with.

At almost any event I’ve attended there was the surprise recognition of a familiar face I haven’t seen for a while with an almost instantaneous connection and isn’t that the reason we are members of the UT Houston Retiree Organization?

UTHRO

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization
1851 Crosspoint, Suite 1.204
Houston, TX 77054

To update your address or phone number
please contact us at 281-550-8071

UTHRO OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 2010-2011

President	Henny van Dijk	10306 Goodrum Dr., Houston, TX 77041	713-937-7943	hvandijk@comcast.net
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Event Committee	Katherine Cortaigne, <i>chair</i> , Susan Papalexandris, Angie Scoggin, Ted Jones			
Caring Committee				
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Annual Excellence Fund Steering Committee	Fran Knight , <i>chair</i> (see At-Large Members listing)			