

Editor: Henny van Dijk

www.uthro.org

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The Vaccine is Here...

UT★PhysiciansSM
A Part of UTHealth

▲ By invitation only, a COVID-19 vaccine is currently available to priority at-risk patients. [Learn more.](#)

UTHealth UTHRO – COVID-19 Vaccination Online Appointment



When UTHealth President Dr. Colasurdo announced that employees, and students could make appointments to get the Covid 19 vaccine, it was clear that UTHRO members could not make appointments as they were required to fill out a survey that asked for their UT ID number which we do not have. I contacted Chief Operating Officer Kevin Dillon and asked him what about the UT Retirees and specifically UTHRO's retirees. Kevin told me that that could be arranged if we could give him names, email addresses and cell phone numbers so UTPhysicians who would administer the Covid -19 vaccinations could contact them. I've heard from our members that they indeed were contacted, appointments made very efficiently and quickly and many have gotten the first dose (of two) of the Moderna vaccine. The place to get the vaccinations is my favorite address in TMC, 6410 Fannin where I started my career at UT Med School in 1972. Kudos should go to Andrew Casas and Melinda Douglas for smoothly organizing the follow-up with appointments made through email and phone calls. Barbara Kelly has been the go-between for UTHRO and UTHealth and our thanks to her because she has been inundated shortly after I send out an email blast announcing the vaccination. It is quite popular and I am thrilled that so many of our members and their spouses wanted to get vaccinated. Please make sure that you follow up with the second dose.

I got a number of emails from non- member UT retirees and I sincerely hope the administration will make sure they get the vaccine as well. Benefits seems the logical place to find those answers for the retirees.

I hope that this is the beginning of the end of this dangerous pandemic that cost so many lives and derailed so many homes, families, the economy and basically stopped the country in its tracks during 2020.

Henny van Dijk

The New UTHRO Officers...

President—Kathy Bradley



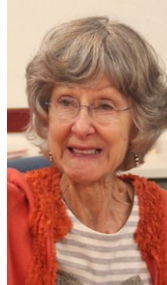
As President of UTHRO for the next two years, I will continue to strive to increase our membership and membership participation as well as encourage our members to support our UTHRO Endowment on Healthy Aging. I look forward to the time when we can all get together in person once it is safe.

Vice-President—Barbara Kelly



"I consider it an honor to serve on the UTHRO Executive Committee. I am grateful every day for my 40 year career at UTHealth, and I am extremely proud that through UTHRO I am able to give a little back. I thoroughly enjoy the opportunities for continued fellowship with my UTHealth friends that UTHRO provides."

Secretary—Daun Gray



This is Daun first Committee assignment after being a Member-at-Large for several years.

"I like the fellowship of being where the action is, and keeping up with people and things at UTHealth."

Treasurer—Margaret Zambrano



Margaret starts her second term as treasurer and she tells me :

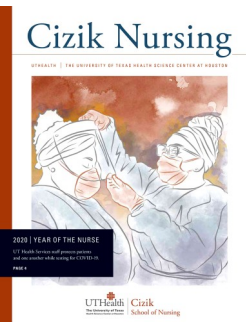
"I am happy to be part of the UTHRO group and glad that I can serve in any capacity. I pray that this pandemic comes to an end so we can plan group activities with our members."



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Cizik School of Nursing Magazine



Graphic Andrea Rodriguez

We will always remember 2020 as a year of challenges and changes. Before COVID-19 emerged, 2020 was fittingly designated as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. The compassion and dedication of nurses has never been more important. Faculty, students, staff, alumni, and supporters of Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth met COVID-19 head on, adapted to a transformed educational landscape,

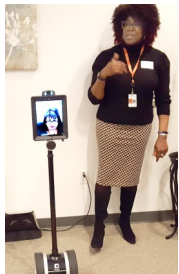
and led from the front lines of the pandemic. The nursing school's annual magazine highlights the many milestones and accomplishments achieved at Cizik School of Nursing this year. In this issue of Cizik Nursing, you will read about:



Diane Santa Maria, DrPH, MSN, RN, FAAN, who was named the fifth dean in the school's 48-year history.

Emergency nurses confronting COVID-19.

The growing importance of telehealth during the pandemic



The opening of the nursing school's expanded simulation lab and Smart Apartment to test aging-in-place technology

A nursing school alum using her DNP degree in informatics to improve health care delivery

How emerging nurse scientists are leading cancer symptom science.

A supporter whose gratitude for nurses inspired a monumental estate gift.

The school's first virtual graduation.

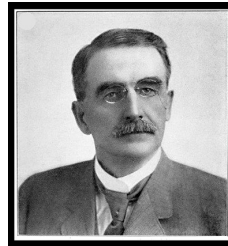
"A number of our faculty members are driving what this looks like in the classroom, making sure that students in their clinical placements are able to work with patients across a variety of different races, ethnicities, and communities," said Santa Maria. She also highlighted the work being done by the school's nurse scientists regarding food and housing insecurity.

Finally she mentioned the Sheri Clark Henriksen Distinguished University Chair, establishing the Sheri Clark Henriksen Scholarship Endowment, and enhance the PARTNERS Scholarship Endowment Fund. Together, these will help carry out Sheri's vision to educate nursing students, recruit exceptional faculty and help them develop professionally, all key components of ensuring well-trained nurses for years to come.

Sherri Deatherage Green

Interesting Facts about TMC (cont)

This is the last in the series of articles by Peggy O'Neill on Texas Medical Center street name origins. Hopefully, they have been of interest to you, and in the future, when you drive through the Medical Center, you will think about the men who helped to create the wonderful and best complex of health care facilities in the world. Note that the word "men" was used, as there are no streets named for women!



MacGregor Drive skirts the Medical Center, winds around Hermann Park and meanders out past the University of Houston. It is named for Henry Frederick MacGregor. He is the first in the series that really had nothing to do with the Medical Center, but was very active in Houston affairs and development. MacGregor was born

in 1855 in New Hampshire. He was well educated and moved to Galveston and then Houston in 1873 to begin a business career. His first involvement was with railroads – the Galveston Railroad Company and the Houston Railroad System which operated the streetcar systems in those two cities. He ventured into real estate, oil and gas, the Houston Post newspaper, the Bay and Bayou Company, South Texas Commercial National Bank, and the Houston Printing Company. He lobbied for improvement of the Houston Ship Channel which made possible Houston's growth as a major port during the 20th century. Henry and his wife, Elizabeth, were active in civic and social activities in Houston. Elizabeth was very instrumental in establishing the YWCA. Henry was also a leader in the Republican Party of Texas. He was a trustee of the George H. Hermann estate which oversaw the development of Hermann Park and dedicated land for Hermann Hospital. Henry owned land along Brays Bayou and conceptualized a park set aside for nature with the bayou serving as a path from Hermann Park to his park. He died in 1923 before the development of the park, but his widow donated the land to the City of Houston for creation of MacGregor Park. Will Hogg donated trees to form a World War I memorial, the War Mothers Memorial. The park today is used for recreational activities. MacGregor is buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston.



UTHRO Endowment Update ...!

Many thanks to each of you who contributed recently to our UTHRO Endowment for Healthy Aging. Following our October mailout, donations totaling \$6,230 from 34 donors were sent to the UTHealth Office of Development for the Endowment; donations of \$1,060 had been received in September. This brings the current total value of the Endowment to **\$80,161.57**. Only \$1,000 was spent in 2020 from interest earned for a small funded project to Harris Health. This year there should be a very nice sum in the interest account that can be used for seed grant awards.



In Memoriam Mo Overturf...



On New Year's Eve UTHRO lost one of its own—Merrill Overturf, husband of Linda, also a member. As is my tradition I asked several of his friends and colleagues to pay tribute to Mo. The picture is Linda's favorite so I made sure it opened the tribute. Henny van Dijk

Mo Overturf and I have been friends for 38 years - "forever friends" as we used to joke. Mo from Iowa, and I from Germany. Mo's real name was Merrill Overturf, but he was called by his initials (M.O.) since childhood. He knew quality when he saw it. Mo was a person you can imagine having a beer with after work. That's exactly what we did when I saw Mo for the last time about a year ago - we washed down our fish-n-chips with a pint of bitter. Mo will be sorely missed - *Rest in peace Mo.* *Heinrich Taegtmeier*

I have known Merrill Overturf for almost four decades. He and Linda are good friends and it was saddened to hear of his death on New Year's Eve. I grew up in Houston, but I never knew the beauty of the Texas Gulf Coast until Mo revealed it to me. Whether we went fishing in the bay or off shore, getting up early and driving to the coast was always a magical experience. Whether we caught anything or not, it was always a great day of friendship and fellowship. *Phil Johnson*

Mo's passing caught me by surprise because he and I had just talked by phone and that we would try to get together in the near future for a fishing trip in Galveston Bay. I always viewed Mo as a friend who would be around indefinitely, however, he left behind memories of an industrious and clever worker, an objective and critical thinker and of many joyful times for which he will be remembered with fondness. *Gil Castro*

When Mo learned that I had an eight-year old son who liked to fish, he began inviting him to go fishing with us. In 1987 when he was nine, he caught a very large Kingfish on one of the trips. Like most kids he wanted to have a picture AND he wanted Mo in the picture with him and the fish. It was a dinky 4x6 photo on which he wrote a thank you note "To Mo". I had forgotten about the picture but when my wife and I were visiting Mo and Linda at their home there on a bookshelf was the picture in the original dinky metal Walgreen's frame - Mo had kept it for 34 years! When I spoke to my son (now 43) a week ago to tell him that Mo passed away, he told me he still has a copy of the picture. He also kept it for 34 years. through elementary school, high school, college, medical school, residency, fellowship, six-years in the Air Force, and five years in practice in Tennessee. *George Stancel*

Affectionately known as Mo, he retired in 2017, one of the longest-serving members of the Department of Medicine. While I never worked with Mo as a colleague, we became friends shortly after my arrival at UT in 1974 because of our mutual interest in fishing. Mo was skilled in catching fish of all types. He even earned a license as a gulf fishing guide, and guided off-shore parties on the weekends. Mo had an outsized personality, with a laugh to match. He was highly intelligent, and loved to argue. However, he did not suffer fools, and was quick to criticize those who did not live up to his high standards or judgments. Those of us fortunate to know Mo have lost a good friend. *Gage van Horn*

Frieden wins award...



Lex Frieden, MA, professor of health informatics at UTHHealth School of Biomedical Informatics, was named the 2020 Katie Beckett Award recipient for his lifelong work advancing the rights of people with disabilities.

Frieden has a long legacy in disability advocacy, policymaking, and the community living movement. His work was instrumental in shaping the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which President George H. W. Bush signed into law in 1990. Frieden co-authored the report that included the original legislative report, and he helped write the original draft bill. He also led the federal panel that proposed the 2008 amendments to the ADA.

Frieden can relate to the award's namesake. Katie Beckett inspired health care reform through her own personal experience, which led to a Medicaid waiver to allow very sick and disabled children to receive care at home. Beckett was born in 1978, and was hospitalized for most of her early life. In 1981, her parents petitioned for a Medicaid waiver so that they could care for her at home, without being disqualified from Medicaid. President Ronald Reagan established the Katie Beckett Waiver in 1982, and since then, the waiver has helped more than half a million children receive home-based care.

While accepting the award, Frieden, who uses a wheelchair, thanked his own family for their support after his neck was broken in a 1967 car crash.

"Just like Katie Beckett, I would have never had the opportunity to achieve what I have without the support of loyal, loving, and caring family members, and without the benefits of federal programs, including at one point Social Security Disability Insurance and vocational rehabilitation services," he said.

"The vision of equal rights and full participation that inspired me and thousands of people with disabilities, our families, our friends, and advocates nearly half a century ago might have never been realized had it not been for the wake-up call that Katie Beckett and her mom Julie gave George Bush," Frieden said. "Bush's involvement in Katie Beckett's case enabled him to convince President Reagan that federal rules affecting people with disabilities needed to be fixed, but equally as important is the drama resonated with Bush due to his and Barbara's own personal experience with disability in their family, and it preconditioned his commitment to the ADA."

Frieden is currently leading a national research study to evaluate the impact of the ADA and to identify population group disparities related to employment, transportation, housing, and community living. He is also investigating the effects of COVID-19 on behavior of people with disabilities and older adults.

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UTHRO

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*To update your address or phone number
please contact us at 281-655-1983*

And Now For Something Completely Different...

Reflecting on a year lost...

Here are 12 things to consider when we closed the door on one of the most horrible years of our lifetime:

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & ask for money.

*Here's hoping for a Happier, Healthier and maybe even Prosperous New Year
In which we might get together again!*

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