

The 2023 Events Calendar

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Debbie Garcia Remembered



Debbie Garcia passed away on Valentine's Day and the picture shows how I will always remember her—a big smile, and engaged. My first memory of her was in 2011 when she became a member of UTHRO and I added her email address to my long list of Evergreen readers—**confettitheclown**. I knew she retired from HCPC so I called her about that unusual username and so began a decade + relationship. I featured her in the October 2013 Evergreen and would like you to get to know her as I did through her own words. *“‘Confetti’ was born shortly after I was introduced to clowning through my friend and former HCPC co-worker, Shirley Hickman in 1998. It just hit me three years later after trying to recruit me to attain information and an application to enter clown school and by the second week, when we started doing makeup, I knew I was hooked. Out going and with good ideas I was always eager to lend a helping hand at The University of Texas Health Science Center, Harris County Psychiatric Center, and Baylor College of Medicine and I loved it. I kept doing it because I felt it brought a lot of smiles and joy to the children.”* Rest in Peace Debbie and Confetti too, you'll be missed.



The Valentine Luncheon Crowd

Gill Rittman emailed me with this image and text: “It was a small group but good to get together.” Yoka and I had to miss this event for the first time ever due to a doctor's appointment as we are getting more and more of these.



The 2022 S.T.A.R. Awards ...



UTHealth Houston relies on the dedication, knowledge, and expertise of our employees to continue to further advancements in the university's key mission areas of education, research, and health care.

“If people are truly the heart of any organization, then this university has a heart the size of Texas,” said Eric Fernette, vice president and chief human resources officer. Each year, UTHealth Houston celebrates the longevity of our employees by recognizing their milestone years of service at the university with the STAR Awards.

The university is honoring more than 1,000 STAR Award recipients, including faculty and staff who are celebrating five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 years of service. I have chosen to only publish the real longevity aces 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50. If you recognize a name of a colleague, please contact them and congratulate them.

STARS WITH 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

ARDUINO, ROBERTO C.
CAMPOS-FRIAS, DIANA
CHOUCAIR, BASSEL
DE YBARRONDO, LISA
DOSEKUN, AKINSAN K.
EMERY, ROBERT J.
FERNANDEZ-ESQUER, MARIA E.
FORD, RHONDA K.
GRIFFIN, SANDRA MARROQUIN
HAGLER, DERRICK
HAYNIE, MARY P.
KELDER, STEVEN H.
LI, LI
MARKHAM, CHRISTINE
MORROW, JOE T.
NAVARRO, PATRICIA
POSADO, DAVID A.
RAPINI, RONALD P.
REINECKER, CARMEN L.
RODRIGUEZ, MARIA E.
STANTON, MICHELE L.
SWANSON, YAKI B.
WALLER, KIM
WANG, ZHIYING

STARS WITH 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

BAKER, JANET L.
BELLON, AUGUSTUS
BIRD, DEBRA C.
ELDIWANY, MAGDA S.
GILBERT, HARRY D.
HWANG, LU-YU
KHAN, HUMAIRA
LEGATE, BARBARA S.
MACKEY GODINE, ARSLEE
MCINROE, LISA A.
MOCK, ARDELL
PEARSON, DEBORAH A.
QUIMBY, JIMMY
REVEILLE, JOHN D.
RIDALL, AMY
RODRIGUEZ, ANITA B.
THOMPSON, CATHERINE R.
VALENZA, JOHN A.
WONG, MARK E.

STARS WITH 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

BYRNE, JOHN H.
CLANTON, DONNA R.
EWING-COBBS, LINDA
JOHNSON, PHILIP C.
MULLEN, PATRICIA DOLAN
NORRIS, STEVEN J.
SCHNUPP, BRIAN K.
WALTERS, EDGAR T.

STARS WITH 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

MAYER, LARRY D.
MCNEESE, MARGARET C.
PIERPONT, HUGH P.

STARS WITH 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

DAFNY, NACHUM
DOWHAN, WILLIAM

I happened to have worked with those two colleagues for more than 30 years—I retired, they stayed and of course I send both my congratulations for being able to hold their breath that long.

Henny van Dijk

1972—The Way We Were...

Last year UTHHealth celebrated their 50th Anniversary with emphasis on the enormous strides our University has accomplished, but I would like this opportunity to take you back to 1972, October to be exact when I joined UTHSC-H for the next 33 years.

I was invited to join the Dept. of Biomedical Communications and was brought to Houston for an interview. I was employed by Duke at the time but the chance to start something from the bottom up was something I was very excited about. Our hosts did their best to sell Houston and this new Medical School with a tour of not only TMC but Houston's highlights such as the Galleria and the Astrodome (just 7 years old at that time). However it was the visit to Westbury Square that made my wife and I almost immediately decide for our new future in Texas, Durham was a lovely city but coming from Utrecht, The Netherlands we were more geared to lots of entertainment and a special ambiance and Westbury had plenty of that—to us it was if we were transplanted to Europe and a feel of an Italian opera scene; to top it all of it had a Dutch store, man what more could one ask for.

We rented an apartment in Spring Branch and almost immediately adopted the tennis courts and the pool. The job was extremely challenging as my crew would have to negotiate 4 different locals—HPB 610 was the main office with a suite of rooms that held the printing room, the motion picture area, the job assembly room and the office. Our color development took place in a space in the Hermann Parking Garage; our neighbors there - the original UT School of Nursing. We did patient and specimen photography in a trailer stationed between the Cullen and Robertson Pavilions, while the television studio was housed in the brand-new dedicated (By then ambassador George H. Bush) Freeman Bldg. Finally I also was told that my team would photograph the pediatric patients at Shriner's Hospital. All in all busy logistics and home for the next 8 years.

However one of the most wonderful benefits and I'm sure any of you now traveling to the TMC would be jealous of, I could park for **free** in many areas before the start of the Med school construction on Oct. of '73. My family, wife and two children, adepted quite well and fast to Houston and found more and more interesting amenities, such as Pro Sport franchises with the Aeros the most fun and exciting. The team was housed in our apartment complex and the day after a game we would see many men with bruises laying by the pool. During that time the Aeros featured a major star Gordy Howe and his 2 sons and the game is just plain exciting even though their venue, the Colosseum, was quite decrepit. My first taste of Houston's bad site came in 1976 when looking down McGregor at about 2 PM I saw cars floating down to Main street. We were ordered to vacate the building via the dark stairs and when we walked onto Fannin the water had reached half-way up my legs. The ambulances at Hermann Hospital were under water and only recognizable by the red flashing lights below water. If you have your own memories of that time please email me and I will publish a UTHRO tribute to those pioneers as a separate pdf.

Henny van Dijk

The New Dental Bus ...



After thousands of miles and 20 years of service [UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry](#) has a new set of wheels for its Mobile Dental Van [program](#) to continue providing care to underserved communities.

The new van, replaces the existing unit that, since its inaugural trip in 2002, has logged nearly 130,000 miles from the Greater Houston area to rural communities in East Texas with the slogan "Healthy Smiles"

The school will continue to staff and operate the van, which includes three, fully outfitted operatories and a wheelchair lift. Services and operating expenses are funded by income from gifts and contracts.

"Replacing the old dental van was way overdue, and we can't thank our donors and partners enough for coming together to get us to this point," said John A. Valenza, DDS, dean UTHHealth Houston School of Dentistry. "This next generation of such a specialized vehicle in the School of Dentistry's mobile dentistry program will allow us to not only reach even more patients, but to expand educational experiences for our students."

Each year, fourth-year students complete a three-week rotation on the dental van as part of their clinical education. To date, providers have treated over 8,000 patients while providing in excess of \$2.5 million in free dental care, including preventive and therapeutic treatment (cleanings, fluoride therapy, nutritional counseling, and oral hygiene education), extractions, and restorative treatment such as fillings. Root canal therapy and interim partial dentures have also been offered.

"It is very rewarding to finally witness this new mobile dental van come to fruition in order for the School of Dentistry to continue and expand upon our commitment for community outreach programs. In doing so, this allows us to address the gap in oral health disparities and provide oral health care for those uninsured and underserved populations," said Margo Melchor, RDH, EdD, professor of periodontics and Dental hygiene and director of community outreach at the school. "In addition, our [Mobile Dental Van Program](#) enables our commitment to students and residents in providing community service learning and promoting civic engagement. It is our responsibility to the community to not only improve oral health, but to improve overall health."

Many patients seen by the mobile dental van team have not been to a dentist in months or years; in fact, many have never received oral care at all. Inconsistent or no oral care can lead to dental decay, gum disease, and widespread bacterial infections leading to systemic conditions.

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...

THEN

NOW

Long Hair
Disco

Longing for Hair
Costco

Crop Top
Praying for a BMW

Muffin Top
Praying for a BM

Hairstyle with Wings
Going to a New Hip Joint

Upper Arms with wings
Getting a New Hip Joint

All Nighter: Out With Friends
Acid Rock

All Nighter: Insomnia
Acid Reflux

Passing the Driver's Test
KEG

Passing the Vision Test
EKG

Rolling Stones
Hot Guys

Kidney Stones
Hot Flash

UTHRO OFFICERS 2023

President Barbara Kelly

Vice-Pres Efren Pena

Secretary Daun Gray

Treasurer Margaret Zambrano

Web Administrators Henny van Dijk, Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: uthro@uth.tmc.edu. This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efren Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.

Newsletter Editor Henny van Dijk