At this special time of year, I want to wish all of our students a very happy holiday. We all have much to be thankful for – our families, friends, faculty and staff, and your excellent academic program. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we are so pleased that you are advancing your career goals in the School of Health Professions at UTMB Health. We are almost finished with the fall semester, and you all can take a well-deserved break in your studies.

I want to also specially recognize our PAS students who are completing their Master’s program this fall. We wish you every success on your Board exams and in finding your perfect first Physician Assistant position.

Best wishes to you all in the coming New Year!

Dean Protas

In French: Joyeuses Fêtes!
In Spanish: Felices Fiestas!
In Swedish: Trevlig Helg!
In Portuguese: Boas Festas!
In Turkish: Mutlu Bayramlar!
In Romanian: Sarbatori Fericite!
In Mandarin: Jie Ri Yu Kuai
In Japanese: Tanoshii kurisumasu wo!
In Italian: Buone Feste!
In South African (Xhose): Ii holide eximnandi
In German: Forhe Feiertage
In Hawaiian: Hau’oli Lanui
In Slovenian: Vesele Praznike
In Indonesian: Selamat Hari Raya!
In Croatian: Sretni praznici!
In Latin: Felix feriarum
In Vietnamese: ოạnh phục ngày lể

Spread some holiday cheer and surprise a few people on your holiday gift card list or party by greeting them in another language!
2013 SHP Scholarship Benefactors

Walt Jones, Sr. (father), Jana Jones (sister), student recipient Megan Dronet, Larry Feeler and Carlene Jones (mother). Larry Feeler set up a scholarship named “The Larry Feeler Work Steps Inc.” Physical Therapy Scholarship in memory of Walt Jones. Pictured are Walt Jones’ mother, father and sister.

Camellia St. John, Jill Kaiser (UFCU), recipient Ruby Calderon, Freda Davis from the University Federal Credit Union and scholarship recipients Christie Escobar, Taylor Pace and Jerin Thomas.

With Dr. Protas is Cecilia and Jim Akers, who established the Cecilia Garcia Akers Endowed Scholarship in Physical Therapy. Recipient Erynn Frenchak.

With Dr. Protas – recipients of the Dean’s Academic and Competitive Scholarship – Tahirra Akber, Jaclyn Collins, Kristen Kyrish, Allison Poussard and Jennifer Warshaw Dees.

Brigadier General Donald Wagner and his wife Jan. Recipient of Wagner Scholarship is Christopher Ladd.
My name is Jenilette Velasco and I am a first year PA student. I just wanted to share a photo that was taken during Halloween. My community group (a Bible study small group from Coastal Community Church) consisting of OT's, PT's, PA's and med students volunteered at Ronald McDonald house on Halloween. We had a blast spending time with the children and families that night. It was such a privilege to be a part of an organization that makes such a huge difference in the lives other people. We decorated cookies with the kids and also played some games. It was definitely challenging for some of us who were not fluent in Spanish, but we all had fun.

Respectfully,
Jenilette Velasco
PA-S1
Physician Assistant Day at Texas Children’s Hospital

SHP Faculty Barbara Schlusher, and Physician Assistant students Hanna Schwartz, Austin Marshall and Tayler Thompson participated in PA Day at Texas Children’s Hospital. It was a day of informing patients and their families, as well as other Healthcare providers, about the PA profession. The response was warm and they were able to get the message out that PA’s are a big part of the Health Care solution. Literature was handed out about UTMB’s PA program and parents were encouraged to tell their children about the profession. They even encouraged some seasoned professionals to consider a career change. They were able to speak to some pediatric patients and showed their true compassion and caring – lighting up their hearts with UTMB red hearts and of course, a little bit of sweetness (candy)!
The MOT class of 2014 had their Mentor Day and Pinning Ceremony on Friday, October 18.

Dr. Gayle Hersch, OTR, PhD was the class Mentor.

Several Physician Assistant students took time out of their busy schedule to offer free blood pressure screenings at Walgreens during PA Week.

From left to right back row: Braelen Svoboda, Amara Childers, Shannon McLean
From left to right sitting: Sara Wilmot, Samantha Gore, Jenilette Velsasco, Eunji Lee
HALLOWEEN ROCKED
PUMPKINS, COSTUMES
AND TREATS!

1st place best costume
Amanda Thurman as
“Ms. St. John”

1st place winner for best pumpkin
Jennifer Delgado, PAS,
Tootsie Roll Pop Scholar

2nd place winner for best pumpkin
Dominca Vargas, CLS,
Despicable Me/Minions

2nd place best costume
Krystal Fielden
““The Beaker”

2nd place best costume
Mr. Salazar as
“Clark Kent”
Aka “Superman”

3rd place winner for best pumpkin
Madison Carbaugh, CLS,
The “Shot” pumpkins

3rd place best costume
Krystal Fielden
““The Beaker””

S P E C I A L   H O L I D A Y   E D I T I O N
P A G E  7
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER
1—Online Registration Opens
2—Study Day
3-6—Final Exam Week
6—Classes End
12/24 thru 1/1—Winter Holidays
(School closed)

JANUARY
6—Classes begin for Spring 2014
20—MLK Jr. Holiday (School closed)
21—Classes resume
21—Last day to add or drop a course

FEBRUARY
17—President’s Day Holiday
(School closed)
18—Classes resume

MARCH
10-14 Spring Break
17—Classes resume

APRIL
1—Online registration opens
21—Study Day
22-25—Final Exam Week
25—Classes End

Check out the “Student Event Calendar” from Student Life

Save This Link
For Current Updates on Street Closures and Parking click on:
Parking and Street Closures
GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW SGA REPRESENTATIVES!

We are here to serve YOU!
If you have any suggestions, ideas, comments, or concerns, please contact any of us below.

Voice your concerns, suggestions, ideas or comments with any of your new SGA senators. They will be happy to take them to the SGA for resolution! Many changes have occurred on campus because of the works of our SGA senators. Some changes in the past include healthier foods in the café’s, more bike racks, more tables and more places to sit outside. Please take the time to thank them for their great service to SHP.

Gritty Goddess Run
PA students and Professors participated in the 2013 Gritty Goddess Run that took place at Moody Gardens. Pictured left to right: Madison Crider, Barbara Slusher, Erin Kergosien, Katy Davis, Amanda Johnson, Heather Ashford
RESPIRATORY CARE EVENTS

From left to right: Brittany Lostak, Lillian Wang, Kelley Cuellar, Sayka Maknojia

Click on nutcracker to read about the history of the nutcracker.

Respiratory Care Week

Scholarship Luncheon

Dr. Jon's Birthday Celebration
UTMB Physician Assistant Career Fair

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies held its first ever career fair on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 for the recent graduating class of 2013. More than 20 recent PA graduates were in attendance and took part in residency/fellowship presentations, mock interviews, resume review sessions and recruiter interviews. PA presenters from four of Houston’s leading healthcare employers to include, Texas Children’s Hospital, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Ben Taub Hospital, and the Veterans Administration, were also there and presented information about residency and fellowship opportunities in the fields of oncology, emergency medicine, geriatrics and pediatric surgery. Recruiters from other hiring agencies attended as well.

The PA studies career fair was a great success thanks to the support of students, SHP, faculty and area employers. We look forward to making this an annual event with the next career fair scheduled for early summer 2014.
Several Clinical Laboratory Sciences students volunteered at St. Vincent’s Wellness Fair on November 9. They conducted glucose hemoglobin A1c and cholesterol point of care tests. Several medical and PA students volunteered as well, and offered blood pressure screens and tips for healthy eating.

St. Vincent’s Student Clinic is a free clinic that has become the place in the community where someone, who lacks medical benefits and has no other means, can go and receive quality medical care from people who care. In partnership with the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), St. Vincent’s House offers free primary care to those men, women and children who might otherwise go without medical care or treatment; the indigent, transient (homeless), under and/or uninsured members of our community. UTMB medical and health professions students volunteer endless hours to help make a difference.
Flexors vs. Extensors volleyball game; both teams played each other.

Halloween Mixer hosted by the class of 2015.

Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

New Year Traditions Around the World

Click here or on the clock.

Student Night in Houston—(SED) South Eastern District of TPTA (Texas Physical Therapy Association).
SOTA's First Annual Adaptive Equipment Olympics!

Professors from the Department of Occupational Therapy participated in SOTA’s first annual Adaptive Equipment Olympics!

$120 dollars was raised to buy boppy pillows for the pediatric floor of John Sealy Hospital.

Thanks to all of the professors that participated, including our champion Dr. Kira Beal!
“PA Students Lend a Hand for Galveston Seniors Health Fair”

Class of 2015 PA Students were very helpful at the Galveston County Parks and Senior Services “Thankful for Good Health” Health Fair held on November 7, 2013 at Walter Hall Park in League City. The Fair was a great success with many health care providers and vendors offering free health screenings. The PA students practiced their skills and interviewing techniques while checking participant’s blood pressure. The students also counseled participants about hypertension and the importance of preventive measures such as diet and exercise.
Get involved!

The School of Health Professions needs your help.

All departments have been asked by Dean Protas to participate by volunteering prior to and on race day. Each department will handle a logistical aspect of the run, for example preparing race packets, setting up and tearing down the event, assisting with registration and packet pick-up, etc.

Sign up to volunteer by contacting your department representative:

- PT - Laurie Farroni, ljwarrin@utmb.edu
- PAS - Heather Ashford, heashfor@utmb.edu
- REHAB - Vivian Brannen, vbrannen@utmb.edu
- NUTR - Angelica Cazares, aqcazare@utmb.edu
- CLS - Hank Thierry, lthierry@utmb.edu
- RC - Tammy Babcock, tlbabcoc@utmb.edu
- OT - April Cowan, accowan@utmb.edu

For more info, please contact Michelle Conley, 772-3006 or Clay Wade, 772-3023 or log onto http://shp.utmb.edu/fundrun/
The Office of Academic and Student Affairs offers the following services to our students:

Academic Calendar, Clinical Affiliation Contracts, Commencement, Degree Audits, Liaison Roles with the Book Store, Enrollment Services, the Library, Financial Aid and SIS Access Information, SHP Bulletin, Background Checks, Grades, Grievances, New Student Orientation, Exam Proctoring, Liaison Roles with SHP Student Organizations, Tutoring, the View Book and the student e-newsletter Splash Page!

If you have any questions, please call our office at (409)772-9411 or contact us by email.

Dr. Henry Cavazos          Darlene Bordelon          Michelle Conley          Mary Ellen Beaupre          Theresa Pye

Splash Page is about students, student groups and academic programs in the School of Health Professions. Please keep the pictures and articles coming. Remember, NEWS is the main component in NEWSLETTER! Please send your articles and pictures to the editor to be included in the next edition of Splash Page.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!