**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Upcoming SIC Events**

**SIC Crawfish Boil**

*By: Jocelyn N. Triplett, SPH*

The Student InterCouncil will host its 7th Annual Crawfish Boil on **Friday, April 8th** from 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm in the Cooley Center Courtyard. All UTHealth students, and one guest, are welcome to attend! Remember to bring your student ID and driver license. Limited crawfish are available, so don’t be late!

**Join SIC for the 2016 UT House Medics!**

*By: Melissa Bing, SPH*

The UT House Medics is a team of student, staff, and faculty volunteers who have donated their time over the past twenty years to help renovate the homes of elderly citizens in Houston. The team partners with ‘Rebuilding Together-Houston,’ a community outreach organization that works to preserve homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods. They accomplish this by providing home repair and renovation services at no cost to low-income homeowners in need.

This spring UT House Medics will be rebuilding a Houston house on **April 16th and April 23rd**. Sign-up for either day, or even both days! No previous experience with carpentry, landscaping, or rebuilding needed to participate. April 16th will be the official count for the SIC Volunteer Service Award presented to one of the six UTHealth schools at Salutation each year.

Volunteers will be provided with a commemorative t-shirt, a boxed lunch, and the knowledge that they helped make a difference in somebody’s life. For questions, please contact Dennie Clemons at Wanda.d.clemons@uth.tmc.edu, or at 713-486-2235.

---

**Sign-up for House Medics here:**

[https://www.uth.edu/house-medics/index.htm](https://www.uth.edu/house-medics/index.htm)
Come re-discover the SIC at your nearest Meet-and-Greet!

By: Margaret Wang, MS

The Student InterCouncil (SIC) is taking advantage of the diversity and breadth of our student government to reach out to students all across UTHealth! In these inaugural SIC meet and greets, SIC student representatives from each school will set up a booth with refreshments on a designated day and location. This is the perfect time for you to approach student leaders with questions regarding university-wide policies, socials, scholarships, funding, or any other suggestions you have for our campus.

The McGovern Medical School, School of Nursing, and the School of Public Health have already had successful events where students started discussions how the university can improve student life on campus while also learning more about the SIC at UTHealth! The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will be hosting their next meet-and-greet in April (date TBD), at the Onstead Auditorium. For updates on this event please contact: Angie Torres-Adorno (Angie.M.TorresAdorno@uth.tmc.edu).

The School of Dentistry and School of Biomedical Informatics events are still being planned.

Come and learn more about your UTHealth student government and start discussions with your peers to improve student life at UTHealth!

Students are always welcome to contact your student representatives at sicgov@uth.tmc.edu.

SIC Scholarships are waiting for you!

By: Morgan Thigpin, SON

The Student InterCouncil (SIC) has various scholarship opportunities available to UTHealth students!

- **SIC Academic Scholarship** will award $1000 to a UTHealth student who has stellar academics and academic achievements while also demonstrating their activities in mentoring others and research. Students who apply must be enrolled at least part time and in good academic standing.

- **Shohrae Hajibashi Memorial Leadership Award** will award $1000 to a UTHealth student. This scholarship is in memory of Shohrae Hajibashi who served on the SIC from 2004-2011 and embodied what being a leader is all about – passionate, selfless, and compassionate. This scholarship will be given to a UTHealth student involved in student leadership who shares the same characteristics that Shohrae showed during her time at UTHealth.

- **Toshi Nikaidoh Service Award** will award $1000 to a UTHealth student. Toshi was the SIC President from 2000-2001, and as a medical student strived to bring better healthcare to the disadvantaged and showed kindness for all humanity. The SIC honors Toshi by awarding a student who shows the qualities, drive, passion and love for humanity with the Toshi Nikaidoh Service Award.

All applications are due Friday, March 18 by 4:00pm. Students who are chosen are asked to attend the SIC Dean’s Reception Dinner on April 25, 2016, in recognition of their award.

More information and scholarship applications can be found at: https://www.uth.edu/sic/scholarships.htm

The Deans’ Colloquium in InterProfessional Collaboration

By: Bilal Trufant

Register today for a free, 4-day interprofessional training event that will be open to all students. Presented by the UTHealth Center for Interprofessional Collaboration (CIPC), the Spring 2016 Deans’ Honors Colloquium in Interprofessional Collaboration will take place at the School of Dentistry (Fullerton Classroom SOD-4310), from March 31, 2016 to April 21, 2016.

Meet students from across all health disciplines at UTHealth, receive training in TeamSTEPPS (Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance & Patient Safety), take part in team-building activities and learn how to solve interprofessional case studies.

Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion for completing all 4 sessions. The UTHealth CIPC will also offer validated parking. If you would like to register, please visit www.uth.edu/ipc/apply.htm. Registration ends on Thursday, March 24th.

For more information, please contact the UTHealth Center for Interprofessional Collaboration at:
- **Telephone:** (713) 500-3579
- **Website:** http://www.uth.edu/ipc
- **Email:** UTCIPC@uth.tmc.edu, or Juliana.J.Brixey@uth.tmc.edu.
- **Twitter:** @UTHealthCIPC
Successful SIC Christmas Toy Drive

By: Anna Xu, SBMI

The Student InterCouncil teamed up with the University of Texas Police Department and all six UTHealth schools to collect toys for the annual UTPD toy drive, making it a great success again in 2015! The SIC collected, and donated, a treasure trove of toys to UTPD! These toys were greatly provided by UTHealth students from all over the institution to benefit children in need during the holiday season (picture shown below).

Joining into the efforts, individual schools also developed parallel events to donate toys to the Texas Children’s Hospital to celebrate the winter season. Specifically, the School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI) Student Government Organization donated $239 worth of toys to the Texas Children’s hospital volunteer center (pictures show below).

Canvas is replacing Blackboard at UTHealth

By: Gregory Orcutt

Canvas is UTHealth’s online learning management system, and although it is great, awesome, and fantastic (I am one of the folks that runs it, so of course I say that) it can be used efficiently or used poorly.

The Canvas Admin Team really wants your feedback this year – what do you like about online learning at UTHealth? What courses have you taken where you have felt Canvas was used effectively? What courses have you taken where you felt it was NOT used effectively, and why?

Canvas Administrators will be at the SIC Meet-And-Greets at the various schools, with swag—tumblers, pens, blankets, t-shirts. We’ll be here to answer any questions you may have about Canvas, and hear your ideas on how we can make it even better. So come meet your SIC representatives and also the ghostly people behind the Canvas application that you use every day!

If you have questions about how to use Canvas, contact the admin team at lms.admins@uth.tmc.edu, or bookmark our blog at https://goo.gl/9iaL1E

UTHealth welcomes Dr. Eric Boerwinkle, new SPH Dean

By: Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D., Dean SPH

I am honored to be the dean of UTHealth School of Public Health. Here, we offer advanced degrees in the diverse field of public health including behavior sciences, genetics, and health care management. Our diverse graduates are professional and innovative leaders of population health programs in universities, the private sector, and government organizations in Texas and across the nation. We are continually challenging ourselves to expand the educational mission to meet the growing demands of the workforce, and to expand our repertoire of excellence to lead the ever-changing field of health care.

Why public health?

Public health is a profession. UTHealth School of Public Health is here to improve the health of Texas and Texans — our faculty and students have been doing so for nearly 50 years.

We are doing some of the most exciting research to identify new ways to keep people healthy and to reduce their risk of future disease. This includes investigating new ways to get young people to eat healthier; new ways to prevent teen pregnancy through better education; new ways to prevent and treat infectious diseases; and new ways to identify the genes that may make some of us more susceptible to or protected from disease.

What sets us apart from other public health programs?

Texas is a big and diverse state — both ethnically and economically. UTHealth School of Public Health has six campuses that span the entire state: from Houston to El Paso; from Brownsville to Dallas; and with San Antonio and Austin in the center. At each campus, we have strong ties to health care organizations, but our strongest ties are to the local communities. We are working side-by-side with partners in clinics, schools, and in people’s homes to prevent or delay the onset of disease and to improve health care outcomes. The Houston Campus of UTHealth School of Public Health is the best place in the world for biomedical research.

I am the luckiest person on earth to have the privilege to work with so many varied, interesting, competent, and smart people. I look forward to working with you to achieve these important and shared goals.
What is the Student InterCouncil?

The Student InterCouncil (SIC) is the UTHealth student governance organization and is the recognized forum of student opinion and the primary vehicle for student participation in the governance of UTHealth. The organization is comprised of representatives from each of the six schools and from underrepresented student and international student constituencies.

The SIC contributes to the quality of student life at UTHealth by participating in the development and implementation of policies and procedures affecting students; providing funds to support special projects of other student organizations; representing student interests on external and internal committees; improving communication among the schools through the publication of an SIC newsletter, UTHealth Student Pulse; and planning and implementing activities that address the special needs of students.

We represent your voice at UTHealth

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences:
- Angie Torres-Adorno, Co-Historian
  Angie.M.TorresAdorno@uth.tmc.edu
- Margie N. Sutton, Secretary
  Margie.N.Sutton@uth.tmc.edu
- Jillian S. Losh
  Jillian.S.Losh@uth.tmc.edu

School of Dentistry:
- Marian Chen
  Marian.M.Chen@uth.tmc.edu
- Mason Borth
  Mason.D.Borth@uth.tmc.edu
- John Franzen
  John.M.Franzen@uth.tmc.edu

School of Public Health:
- Alokananda Ghosh
  Alokananda.Ghosh@uth.tmc.edu
- Melissa Bing
  Melissa.M.Bing@uth.tmc.edu
- Jocelyn Triplett
  Jocelyn.Triplett@uth.tmc.edu

School of Biomedical Informatics:
- Melissa Resnick
  Melissa.P.Resnick@uth.tmc.edu
- Anna Xu
  Anna.Xu@uth.tmc.edu
- Swati Goyal
  Swati.Goyal@uth.tmc.edu

McGovern Medical School:
- Alixandra Baycroft, Vice-President
  Alixandra.M.Baycroft@uth.tmc.edu
- Margaret Wang, Co-Historian
  Margaret.Y.Wang@uth.tmc.edu
- Gina Duong
  Gina.Duong@uth.tmc.edu

Underrepresented Student Representative:
- Michelle Martinez-Rivera, President
  Michelle.MartinezRivera@uth.tmc.edu
- Chigozie Dike
  Chigozie.Dike@uth.tmc.edu
- Camille Range
  Camille.P.Range@uth.tmc.edu

School of Nursing:
- Pamela P. Abella
  Pamela.P.Abella@uth.tmc.edu
- Morgan Jones Thigpin
  Morgan.A.Jones@uth.tmc.edu
- Katherine Langston
  Katherine.E.Langston@uth.tmc.edu

International Student Representative:
- Smruthi Vijayaraghavan, Treasurer
  Smruthi.Vijayaraghavan@uth.tmc.edu
- Nizar Bhulani
  Nizar.N.Bhulani@uth.tmc.edu
- Pritul Patel
  Pritul.V.Patel@uth.tmc.edu

2014-2015 Student Inter council

Good luck on the last mile!! I am Angie Torres Adorno, the Student InterCouncil (SIC) Co-Historian. As historian, I am the Editor-in-Chief of the SIC student newsletter, the Student Pulse. The Student Pulse is released every semester to increase students awareness of events and available resources, as well as to increase communication among students of all six UTHealth schools. Do you wonder how could you be part of enhancing communication with other schools and students? Simply by sending us news from your school, and student organization! Send us announcements about upcoming events, scholarship awards, fundraising opportunities, volunteering events, etc. With your help, we can achieve a more unified UTHealth student community, supporting one another towards our common academic goals.

Please send your announcements and articles to sicgov@uth.tmc.edu, using the subject line: “Student Pulse Article”.

Sincerely,
Angie Torres Adorno
Student Pulse Editor-in-Chief
2015-2016 SIC Co-Historian
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences