SIC 8th Annual Crawfish Boil

The Student InterCouncil (SIC) Crawfish Boil is a long-standing tradition held every spring, now in its 8th year! Students from all six UTHealth Schools are welcome to enjoy this free event. Expect a music filled atmosphere with students happily chatting away while enjoying veggie dogs, hotdogs, corn, beverages and of course the star of the show, crawfish! “Absolutely awesome. Fantastic southern cuisine experience” said Wayne Yingda Jiang, 2nd year GSBS student. “It was the best school event I have been to this year” said Alex Li another GSBS student who attended the 7th annual crawfish boil in 2016. We predict that this tradition of fun will continue to be a great success again this year. In addition, the SIC gives away free sunglasses and bottle openers, while the supplies last so don’t be late! The 8th annual SIC Crawfish Boil will be held on Friday, April 7, 2017 from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM at Denton A. Cooley, MD and Ralph C. Cooley, DDS University Life Center Courtyard, patio area.

What do you need to attend this event? You must present your UTHealth Student ID and a valid driver’s license at the check-in table. Students are allowed to bring one guest. No pets please. UTHealth shuttle is available to take students with an UTHealth ID to the Cooley Center, located right next door to the School of Dentistry where the festivities will be held. For those who plan to drive, parking validation will be available for the East Road parking lot located right across from the School of Dentistry. This is a much anticipated event where you learn how to eat crawfish, play games, and meet and mingle with students from all UTHealth Schools while enjoying the spring weather. We hope to see you all on April 7th!

Be sure to check out www.uth.edu/sic for more information and other upcoming SIC hosted events!

Alem Belachew
SIC GSBS Representative

Save the Date for the Annual
SIC Crawfish Boil on April 7, 2017 at the
Cooley Center Courtyard from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.
Must present UTHealth Student ID to enter.
One guest per student welcome!
No Pets Please!

Follow us on Facebook!
Student Intercouncil at UTHealth
https://www.facebook.com/UTHealth.SIC
Make sure to mark your calendars for Saturday April 22nd and Saturday April 29th! The time has come once again to start signing up for one of the SIC’s biggest community service events - UT House Medics! UT House Medics provides home repairs and renovations to the elderly at no cost. The service offered by UT House Medics allows homeowners to stay in their homes and increases the value of their property. Projects that volunteers will tackle could include: repainting, replacing wood siding, replacing doors and window screens, removing weeds and yard debris, and installing wheelchair ramps. There’s no need to worry though - you don’t have to be a home repair expert to volunteer for UT House Medics! Although it is recommended to bring tools that you may have, especially stepladders and paintbrushes, UT House Medics will provide all of the supplies and training you need. In addition, the organization recommends that you bring items such as water, sunscreen, bug spray, a hat, and work gloves. Lunch will be provided, and proof of community service hours can be obtained. The workday starts at 8am and lasts until 5pm. However, the long hours will be well worth it when you see the impact that you have made for the homeowner. Come end the semester with a fulfilling and fun community service project; let’s show the community how much UTHealth is capable of giving back! You can find the volunteer form and more information at: https://www.uth.edu/house-medics/index.htm.

Hallye Fogtman
SIC SON Representative

Interprofessional Team Training workshop begins on April 6

Registration is now open for the spring 2017 Interprofessional Team Training. This workshop will enhance a student’s ability to function in interprofessional health care teams and introduce all UTHealth students to interprofessional collaboration. Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion for attending all four sessions.

Who: All UTHealth students
What: Interprofessional Team Training

UT House Medics Provides an Opportunity for UTHealth Students to Step into the Community

When: April 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2017 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Where: University of Texas School of Dentistry, Fullerton Classroom (SOD 4310)

Register online by Friday, March 31, 2017 at 5:00 PM CST.
Learn more about the event by calling the CIPC at 713-500-3579, visiting the website at www.uth.edu/ipc, or attending next month’s meeting of the Association of Students for Interprofessional Healthcare (ASIPH).
Women In Surgery Lecture Series

While the numbers of women entering surgical residencies has significantly increased over the past few years, women still remain vastly underrepresented in surgical specialties and academia compared to other specialties. Numerous reasons have been cited, one of them being the perceived lack of surgical role models early on in medical school.

Therefore, the Women in Surgery (WIS) a registered student organization at McGovern Medical School put together a lecture series where women surgeons can share their experiences to medical students. Through Student InterCouncil (SIC) Project Funding, WIS provided food during these lecture series and was able to expose medical students to women surgeons in male dominated fields. On 2/2/17, Dr. Christi Blakkolb came to provide a lecture about her experiences as a plastic surgeon here at UTHealth. She currently holds an assistant professor position in the Division of Plastic Surgery at McGovern Medical School. On 2/9/17, Dr. Audrey Ahuero came to speak about her experiences as an oculoplastic surgeon in private practice. Her lecture focused on her career as a physician as well as being a business owner. Lunch was provided for both with the support of SIC Project Funding.

Cindy Gu
Women in Surgery Organizer
McGovern Medical School

SIC visits UT Police Department

Building a positive relationship with the University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) became a primary initiative for the SIC’s Community Outreach Committee this year. Despite many negative representations, especially in the media, as it relates to the role of law enforcement within our communities, we decided to bridge the gap between UTPD and students of UTHealth. We were invited on a tour by Maribel Salazar, UTPD Community Outreach, to learn more about how UTPD protects and serves the Texas Medical Center community. Our tour started with an introduction from Chief William Adcox and Mr. Raymond Gerwitz, Director of Police Administration & Support Services. We learned about the metrics that are used to prevent crimes on our campus and strategic plans that are evaluated yearly to ensure the efficiency of ongoing programs. We watched a presentation about how UTPD works with the community to resolve root crime and safety problems, identify process improvements and security enhancements, track trends and patterns, and apprehend suspects.

Then, we met with Mr. Loren Hebert, the manager of Police Telecommunications, and he discussed the intricate operations of the dispatch center. There is 24-hour video surveillance as well as a number of emergency, direct-ring telephones which are strategically located throughout the campus. When the red alert button is pressed, an individual can speak directly to a UT Police Telecommunications Officer (TCO). If necessary, the Police TCO will dispatch an officer or emergency team to respond.

The coolest part of the tour was a live demonstration of Police training of firearms. Sergeant Jose Reveles, who has over 35 years of experience as a police officer, was our instructor at the shooting range. We were offered a chance to hold and fire two different types of police weapons. This is an extra special treat that is only extended to visitors who register for UTPD tours. Sergeant Reveles was an awesome instructor and he stressed the importance of gun safety.

We concluded our tour by meeting Officer Samuel Elias who showed us his police car. Inside of the cruiser, we got to test out the lights and sirens, and most of us were just excited to sit behind the steering wheel. It is our goal to build a lasting relationship with the UTPD and positively influence the reputation of this department within the community.

Angelina Williams
SIC Underrepresented Student Representative
School of Public Health
Diversity in Healthcare Education

Why Diversity Matters?

One of the goals that the SIC aims to accomplish is to provide a platform for student’s interests to be valued and represented. As one of the underrepresented student reps for this year, I believe it is important to highlight why diversity matters to all students and faculty within the UTHealth family. The goal for our undergraduate and professional education within UTHealth is to gain a skill set that will benefit the treatment of people. One of my favorite reasons for being involved with the Student InterCouncil is the ability to see how every school is commissioned with a distinct purpose towards accomplishing an overall goal. Over the past few weeks, I have collected responses as to why diversity matters in a professional and educational setting from members of our McGovern Medical School family.

Patient Care Benefits

As I began this search towards answering the question of why diversity matters, I was delighted to talk with Dr. Omowunmi (Wunmi) Aibana, Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine and Internist at the McGovern Medical School. As an institution, our goal is to educate health science professionals, discover and translate advances in the biomedical and social sciences, and model the best practices in clinical care and public health. Dr. Aibana noted that since we live in Houston and are surrounded by so much diversity, efforts must be made to ensure that the healthcare workforce is diverse to maximize patient benefit. Additionally, she reminded me that there are disparities along racial/ethnic lines when it comes to quality of healthcare, health outcomes and access to healthcare in the US. Thus, embracing a diverse professional community from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups can help ameliorate some of current disparities.

Faculty Productivity is Improved

I then was given the opportunity to discuss this issue with Dr. Jennifer L. Swails, Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine and Internist at McGovern Medical School. She commented that promoting diversity is about pursuing excellence. Companies that are ethnically diverse outperform less diverse companies by 35%. I have seen this to be true on my clinical teams as well. Multiple perspectives always lead to better results for patients, better education for learners, and a better environment for everyone. Recruiting and retaining diverse physicians will be essential to solving the significant problems we face in health care.

Character Building

Representation allows for students to be encouraged to use their lived experiences towards improving the broken places within patient care. Stephanie Ihezie, a second-year medical student (MS2), pointed out that if we as a community do not prioritize embracing diversity we will continue to walk around with biases about different life perspectives. We must honor different life circumstances, be it age, culture, religion, or race. When we gain a deeper understanding of each other, we create the best possible version of our community.

Future Goals: Fostering a space where diverse opinions are valued

My final conversation left me charged with an idea for solving an area of improvement within our institution. Esther Osuji, another MS2 commented, “It would be great if our school had a dedicated space for students to simply get to know one another and feel safe to be vulnerable”. I agree with her sentiment and hope that in the future students will feel comfortable communicating with one another about complex topics.

So, I leave you with this challenge to get to know someone who has lived a different experience than your own upbringing. The SIC provides different experiences, like the upcoming Crawfish Boil and UT House Medics volunteering event, for students to meet one another. Let’s allow this vibrant community to enhance our vision for humanity! If you have any additional ideas regarding why diversity matters, feel free to express your thoughts to any of your SIC representatives.

Jacquelyn Randle
SIC Underrepresented Student Representative
MS2, McGovern Medical School
What is the Student InterCouncil?

The Student InterCouncil (SIC) is the official 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 three representatives from each of the six UTHealth schools and three from underrepresented student groups and three 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 UTHealth registered student organizations; representing student interests on external and internal committees; improving communication among the schools through the publication of an SIC newsletter- Student Pulse, and

2017 SIC Representatives

**Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**
- Alem Belachew
- Michael McGuire
- Robert Williams

**School of Nursing**
- Hallye Fogtman
- Gil Rosas

**McGovern Medical School**
- Alix Baycroft, Secretary
- Margaret Wang, President
- Gina Duong

**School of Biomedical Informatics**
- Pratikkumar Chaudhary
- Jingcheng Du
- Stephen Simington

**School of Dentistry**
- Marian Chen, Vice-President
- Mason Borth
- Brandon McCullough

**School of Public Health**
- Connor Cordray
- Palak Jalan
- Katie Oetken

**International Student Representatives**
- Smruthi Vijayaraghavan, Treasurer, GSBS
- Sunil Acharya, GSBS
- Pritul Patel, SPH

**Underrepresented Student Representatives**
- Brittany Jewell, Historian, GSBS
- Jacquelyn Randle, MMS
- Angelina Williams, SPH