December is a busy time for UTHealth students. Many of us are occupied studying for exams, writing papers, or fighting traffic to purchase that one last thing on our shopping list. In the midst of holiday hustle and bustle, it's a wonderful exercise to pause and remember the various ways we can make this season more joyful for others. It was Helen Keller who said “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” Serving others is one of the ways we can “feel with our heart.”

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the UTHealth Student InterCouncil (SIC) partnered with Star of Hope to help give others a Thanksgiving meal. The SIC Community Outreach Committee purchased turkeys to be donated to the Star of Hope mission organization that aims to serve and support Houston’s homeless population. With these turkeys, the Houston non-profit was able to make this delicious tradition a reality for those who would otherwise go without food and festivities this holiday season. (continued on p.3)

Career Fair

The Student InterCouncil (SIC) will be hosting a Career Development Colloquium on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 at the The Denton A. Cooley, MD and Ralph C. Cooley, DDS University Life Center. The event encourages students to collaborate and develop interprofessional skills with their peers across the UTHealth schools.

To facilitate this, SIC will providing students with the ability to discover their unique personality strengths with the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) test and expert personality evaluation suited to different careers. SIC will also host specialists to provide one-on-one resume critique sessions and workshops to build interview skills among our students.

In the spirit of promoting interprofessionalism, SIC will feature guest speakers renowned for their leadership and expertise in health, medicine, technology and the life sciences. The following speakers are confirmed in attendance: Dr. Walter Suarez (Executive Director of Health IT Strategy and Policy at Kaiser Permanente), Dr. Jonathan C. Findley (Director of Medical Student Education) (continued on p.4)
Festivity and celebration plentiful at SPH Diversity Fair

The UTHealth School of Public Health Student Association held its ninth annual Diversity Fair on Oct. 20 at UTHealth’s Cooley University Life Center. This year’s event was a vibrant celebration of cultures for students, faculty and staff themed, “There is more to me than what you see.” “The fair allows the UTHealth community to rejoice in its diversity and increase cultural awareness within the community through performances, exhibits and cuisine,” says Susan Tortolero Emery, Ph.D., senior associate dean of academic and research affairs at UTHealth School of Public Health. “The School of Public Health boasts a student body comprised of citizens from 49 countries on six of the seven continents.” Diversity Fair is a tremendously popular event and was attended by 250 people this year. This year’s head event planner, Ashwini Joshi (M.P.H. candidate, 2018, epidemiology), speaks about why it is important. “Diversity Fair is one of the greatest events at SPH showcasing diversity, which is not just about cultures, know that hands on practice will more real to [students]. Physical memory and neural plasticity will kick in the time of need. There is one on one contact here. You can touch it and feel it. Watching you guys is brilliant.” At the end of the evening, students assembled kits to be placed with AEDs for use in case of an emergency. They also left with what Dr. Adams phrased as an “essential skill: the ability of any lay person, regardless of background, to save a life.” She also noted that “these kits will be all over campus, so now it’s important to know how to use them.” In order to gain knowledge of what you can do in a traumatic situation, visit www.bleedingcontrol.org and www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed.

Brittany Ellis Jewell

Stop the Bleed

On November 2, 2017 the SIC was proud to partner with the UTHealth community to increase our trauma situation preparedness at Stop the Bleed. This event was a collaborative group volunteer effort to increase education regarding what to do in case of a mass casualty or trauma event. This event was organized by Dr. Sasha Adams, Dr. Robert Emory, Dr. Elsa Ramirez, Stephen Simington (SIC President and SBMI student), and Laura Leining (SPH student) to engage the student body at UTHealth in the nationwide Stop the Bleed campaign. Stop the Bleed was launched in 2015 by the White House after the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary. At this event, we worked together to be prepared should a trauma situation present itself, especially at UTHealth. In the words of Dr. Emory: “If we all work together, we can keep our campus safe.” In order to empower students to make use of the 120 AEDs on campus, each equipped with tourniquets and other supplies, participants were trained to be the first person to respond to a traumatic emergency. Each student was given hands on training on how to use a tourniquet and care for severe wounds to minimize life-threatening blood loss. There were several volunteers from Memorial Hermann Life Flight and McGovern Medical School Department of Acute Care Surgery and the Cizik School of Nursing to guide participants in the proper protocols. Students worked in small groups to practice the skills that were presented on training equipment and gain experience, should they ever be faced with a traumatic emergency. Dr. Ramirez spoke on the importance of this training event: “As educators, we...
Diversity Fair (cont’d)

faculty, family and friends that differ in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities (both visible and invisible), religious beliefs, political opinions and so much more,” says Frazier. “With each of these differences brings so much beauty. Our theme this year was ‘There is more to me than what you see’ and with this theme, we were truly able to celebrate just how diverse our community is.”

Six booths represented five countries: India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Taiwan, Togo, and one U.S. region – Pacific Northwest.

Twenty booths represented the various organizations including SIC.

In addition to celebrating culture, the fair featured foods from many countries, and six performances (see list at the end) representing the global talent of the school’s student body.

Support for Diversity Fair was provided by UTHealth School of Public Health Office of the Dean, UTHealth Student InterCouncil, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Office of Diversity and Inclusion and faculty members from the School of Public Health.

Photos of Diversity Fair 2017 are available to view on the school’s Flickr page here.

Written by Shannon LaDuke

SIC Serves: Star of Hope (cont’d)

(continued from p.1) SIC member Prithvi Patil said that it was a wonderful opportunity to “bring a smile to others’ faces”. The SIC is looking forward to future service opportunities with Star of Hope.

Star of Hope takes a comprehensive approach when tackling issues of poverty and homelessness. Their website illustrates just how they plan to make such a difference: “We encourage positive life changes through programs in spiritual growth, education, employment, life management and substance abuse recovery.” Many of the programs that the organization has put together help those who are struggling in various capacities to get back on their feet. Some of the invaluable services they offer include Career Development Curriculum, Spiritual Life Program, Workforce Development, Computer Learning Centers, Counseling, an Emergency Walk-in Center, Health Clinics, Parenting Classes, and much more!

Even with November in the rearview mirror, the holidays have only just begun! Star of Hope employees want Houstonians to know there are many ways you can volunteer and donate this season. Whether it is donating so that others may have a Christmas dinner, or giving of your time in the countless opportunities Star of Hope has available, there are many ways you can help the organization serve the thousands of individuals they encounter every day. The SIC would like to encourage and help engage UTHealth students in volunteering this holiday season. As member Prithvi Patil stated, “It’s what really matters”.

Brennan Welch
SIC Representative
UTHealth School of Dentistry
On a beautiful day in November, students from all six UTHealth schools gathered to participate in the second annual SIC Sports Day.

Students were able to enjoy both competitive and non-competitive events throughout the day, with activities for the whole family! Teams from the medical school and the graduate school rose victorious in the soccer and dodgeball events, respectively, battling relentlessly to emerge at the top. Several students also competed in our competitive ping pong bracket to show off their skillsets in the table game. Other events throughout the day included sand volleyball, yoga, and Zumba. If you missed us this year, make a note on your calendars now for next year’s event and be sure to stay on the lookout for our event champions sporting their SIC Sports Day shirts!

Tristen Tellman
SIC Representative
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Career Fair

(continued from page 1) and Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at McGovern Medical School) and Dr. Julianne Cenac (Director of Learning and Development at UTHealth).

The event is free and all students from UTHealth are invited to attend.

We look forward to participation from all our students at UTHealth.

For further details, please contact SIC at sicgov@uth.tmc.edu.

Kimberly D’Souza
SIC Representative
UTHealth School of Public Health

Follow us!
Facebook: Student InterCouncil at UTHealth
https://www.facebook.com/UTHealth.SIC

Instagram: studentinter_councilUTH

Twitter: @UTHSIC

Save the Date for the Annual SIC Crawfish Boil
on Friday, April 6, 2018 at the Cooley Family Center Courtyard
from 4:30 to 7:00 pm.
Bring your ID to enter.
One guest per student welcome!
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 planning and implementing activities that encompass all students across UTHealth. Remember that we are here to be your voice, so contact us anytime at sicgov@uth.tmc.edu.

**What is the Student InterCouncil?**

A look back at Salutation 2017