



# Statline

[Feb. 2]

Monthly Information and news provided by the Office of Communications and Marketing



Protect your heart this month [p.4]



TTUHSC signs agreement with UTEP [p.2]



Preparing children for athletics [p.2]

## events calendar

**[Feb. 4]**

### *National Wear Red Day*

Americans will wear red to show their support for women's heart disease awareness. Wear your favorite red tie, dress, shirt or accessory.

[Click here](#) for more info.

**[Feb. 10]**

### *To Bones, With Love*

6 p.m., American State Bank Conference Center, 1501 Ave. Q

TTP doctors will discuss joint pain, when to seek further evaluation, and non-surgical options for minor pain. Patient testimonies and questions are encouraged after the presentation.

For more info., call 743-4263.

**[Feb. 12]**

### *F.I.T. Tech Challenge Kickoff*

9 a.m., Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center

Get a team of four participants for an eight-week competition to eat healthy, exercise regularly and get fit with F.I.T. Tech. Registration through Feb. 13 at [www.healthylubbock.org](http://www.healthylubbock.org) is \$10 for employees and spouses and \$8 for students. Competition begins Feb. 14. E-mail [kristi.louder@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:kristi.louder@ttuhsc.edu) for more info.

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## **Notable alumnus visits TTUHSC Lubbock**

Former astronaut and TTUHSC School of Medicine alumnus Bernard Harris Jr., M.D., recently visited Lubbock to promote his most recent book, *Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration*.

After graduating from TTUHSC in 1982, Harris went on to complete a residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in 1985. In addition, he completed a National Research Council Fellowship at NASA Ames Research Center in 1987, and trained as a flight surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio in 1988. Harris also earned a master's degree in biomedical science from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1996.

Selected by NASA in January 1990, Harris became an astronaut in July 1991. Harris was assigned as a mission specialist on STS-55, Spacelab D-2, in August 1991, and later flew on board Columbia for ten days, marking the shuttle's one year of total flight time.

*TTUHSC alumnus Bernard Harris Jr., M.D., recently visited TTUHSC in Lubbock to promote his book, Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration.*

Harris was the first African-American to walk in space. He has logged more than 438 hours and traveled more than 7.2 million miles in space.

Harris left NASA in 1996. In addition to founding **The Harris Foundation**, he is president and CEO of Vesalius Ventures Inc., a venture capital accelerator, that invests in early-stage companies in medical informatics and technology.



## appointments & awards

**Doris Marien Cortes**, a research assistant in the Department of Cell Physiology and Molecular Biophysics, recently had her study, "On the structural basis of modal gating behavior in K<sup>+</sup> channels" published in the *Nature* research journal. Cortes worked with Eduardo Perozo, Ph.D., University of Chicago, as a research assistant more than a year ago. She participated in this project by helping with the crystallization of one of the protein mutants and purification of the Fab antibody. She is currently working with Luis Cuello, Ph.D., at TTUHSC on studying the structural dynamics of ion channels functioning.

**Wrennah Gabbert, R.N., Ph.D.**, was recently named academic associate dean for the future Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing in El Paso. Gabbert will move the Hunt SON through the Continuing Nursing Education accreditation self-study process, lead the new faculty through the curriculum revision processes, and assist in guiding the student enrollment growth for the newest TTUHSC School. She will also oversee the Board of Nursing site review for approval and other processes for launching the School. Gabbert will remain the pediatric nurse practitioner coordinator and faculty in the MSN track until the SON hires another qualified pediatric nursing practitioner.

**Valerie Robinson, M.D.**, Texas Tech Physicians-Psychiatry, was recently reappointed to the **Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee** by Gov. Rick Perry. The committee, which consists of six physicians and five pharmacists actively participating in the Medicaid program, develops recommendations for preferred drugs lists adopted by the U.S. Health and Human Services Commission.

**LaMicha Hogan, R.N., MSN**, assistant professor, family nurse practitioner, and Geriatric Scholar in the TTUHSC SON Graduate Program, has been selected to attend the Donald W. Reynolds FD-AGE Mini-Fellowship in Long Term Care in Geriatrics Feb. 21-25 at Duke University in Durham, NC.

## TTUHSC, UTEP sign an Affirmation of Cooperation

Leaders at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and TTUHSC recently signed an agreement to formalize their commitment to work together to provide high-quality education, research and health care services to the Paso del Norte region.

The agreement affirms the commitment of the two universities to meet regularly to share plans and opportunities for new collaborations in health sciences education programs, research and community service that will benefit the residents of the Paso del Norte region.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio and TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell,

*(From left) TTU Chancellor Kent Hance; TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D.; UTEP President Diana Natalicio; UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa; and UT System Board of Regents Vice Chairman Paul L. Foster sign an Affirmation of Cooperation.*

M.D., envision the partnership will allow UTEP and TTUHSC to develop shared goals, collaborate on research projects and achieve efficiencies to maximize resources.

"Given the present budget difficulties in our state, we will continue to work diligently with UTEP to identify areas of collaboration that will result in conservation of resources, improved educational opportunities for our students and enhanced health care for the El Paso community," Mitchell said.



## Good sports

*Winning a little league championship is a good goal, but it should never come at the cost of what is best for a young athlete's long-term development.*

Toby Brooks, Ph.D., ATC, assistant professor in the SOAHS Master of Athletic Training Program, encourages parents and coaches to critically analyze their children's athletic activities.

Studies show that early sport specialization is linked to chronic injury, burnout and early withdrawal from sports. Chronic overuse injuries account for about 50 percent of injuries in pediatric sports medicine practices. The developing skeletal system is especially at risk, with bone and growth plate injuries in young athletes being seen more often.

Brooks said parents and coaches should look for long-term athletic development programs to slowly develop abilities over time. The end result is athletes who are happier, healthier and more effective.

## Mr. Bear, the doctor will see you now...

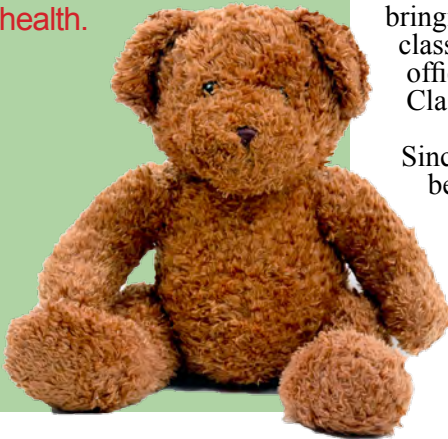
Recognizing that many children are terrified of visiting the doctor, TTUHSC School of Medicine students recently hosted a Teddy Bear Clinic at the F. Marie Hall SimLife Center.

Students performed routine physical exams on teddy bears to help local children ages 4 through 8 understand that doctor's appointments aren't always scary.

Common childhood fears about medical exams include:

- Separation
- Pain
- The doctor
- The unknown

For tips on how to help ease your child's fears about seeing the doctor, visit [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org).



The Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing is accepting donations for the Stork's Nest Baby Shower. The event is from 12:30 to 3 p.m. April 15 at the International Cultural Center, 601 Indiana Ave. [Click here](#) for this year's wish list. To make a tax-deductible donation before April 7, contact Linda Brice, R.N., Ph.D., at 241-3652.



## A Healthy Start

### Ring ceremony comes to TTUHSC

TTUHSC students recently participated in a class ring ceremony. Although Texas Tech students have participated in this tradition for several years, this was the first time for TTUHSC.

In 1998, the Student Alumni Association Board of Directors and what was then known as the Ex-Students Association formed a committee with the hopes of bringing back the tradition of a single class ring to Texas Tech. What is now the official Texas Tech Alumni Association Class Ring was unveiled in March 1999.

Since its unveiling, the class ring has been a universal symbol of academic achievement among all Texas Tech campuses. The ring is a tradition that dates back to the 1950s that encompasses the Double T, Masked Rider, the Administration Building Bell Tower and the Texas Tech University Seal. Each



*TTUHSC students participate in the institution's first class ring ceremony at the International Cultural Center Hall of Nations.*

ring is inscribed with the words "Strive for Honor," which are taken from "The Matador Song."

According to tradition, students wear the ring with the Double T logo facing them. Upon graduation, the ring is turned so the logo faces outward.

# Matters of the Heart

February is American Heart Month. Here are a few facts from WebMD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the body's most important muscle:



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## feral feline or stray cat?

The TTUHSC campus is home to several cats. According to the **Humane Society of the United States**, it's important to know whether the cats are feral or stray before attempting to help.

**Strays:** tame lost or abandoned pets accustomed to human contact. These cats and may be reunited with their families or adopted.

**Feral cats:** the offspring of strays or other feral cats who aren't spayed or neutered and aren't accustomed to human contact. Feral cats are typically too fearful and wild to be handled. Because they haven't had extensive human contact, feral cats can seldom be adopted.

For tips on how to help feral or stray cats, [click here](#).



Regional Newsletters

Statline submissions:  
beth.phillips@ttuhsc.edu



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