Computer Corner
contributed by Bill Poling

There are many ways to keep your computer “healthy” and protect yourself from unwanted e-mails, identity theft and viruses. Below are pointers on how you can make sure your computers at work and home are in top shape.

1. BACK UP YOUR DATA
2. Install the latest updates from Microsoft for your operating system and Microsoft Office
3. Keep your anti-virus up-to-date. If you don’t have anti-virus software, purchase a full version from the Medical Library for only $5. The CD also offers other software to remove spyware from your home computer. Remember, this CD is for HOME USE ONLY.
4. Use caution when downloading from the Internet. The old adage, “nothing is free” applies here. Jeopardizing your personal information is not worth downloading so-called “free” programs. These types of programs often come with spyware software attached to track your activity.
5. Again, BACK UP YOUR DATA
6. Run anti-spam software.
7. Don’t publish your main e-mail address in a publication. Use a disposable e-mail address or one you don’t rely on.
8. Be careful when opening or responding to e-mails. Legitimate companies will NEVER ask for credit card information via e-mail. NEVER give your credit card information to a Website you click from an e-mail. Instead, go directly to the company’s Website.

School of Nursing receives scholarship endowment from local bank

Bankers, health care professionals, the Mayor, team members of the Odessa Parks and Recreation Department and other distinguished citizens gathered at American State Bank, a corporate leader in the prevention of a nursing shortage, for a check presentation to the School of Nursing on Feb. 19.

For the second year in a row, Mike Marshall, bank president, presented an endowment in the amount of $25,000 for nursing scholarships to Sharon Cannon, Ed.D., regional dean.

“My greatest fear is that some day there might not be a nurse there to take care of you and your family and me and my family, and through the efforts of American State Bank and all who have contributed to School of Nursing Scholarships, that fear has not come to pass,” said Cannon. “We are making strides to resolve the nursing shortage in the Permian Basin.”

The endowment was raised at the American Tribute last fall sponsored by ASB and Parks and Recreation.

Other speakers included Mayor Larry Melton, Mike George, Chris Pipes, Steve Patton and Gay Fields. The children’s choir from Zarada Elementary School serenaded the attendees.

Nursing students comment on importance of scholarship

“The scholarship means a lot to me and my family, because we have two special children with medical needs... I am the only individual in my household that is able to bring in an income.”

-Genea A. Roberts, RN, BSN, BC

“The scholarship was a very pleasant surprise for me. The money goes a long way in helping toward the expenses involved in books and tuition but goes to extreme measures to try to help students get all the help they can through these offerings and assistance.”

-Don Owens, RN

“This scholarship has emphasized the fact that individuals in our community are highly supportive and truly inspiring. With this scholarship I am now secure that I will be able to begin the Master’s program next fall. Someday soon, I hope, I too will be able to give back to my community by providing the best health care possible.”

-Diana Parras, RN

Annual Scholarship Stampede provides assistance to TTUHSC nursing students

At the Fourth Annual Scholarship Stampede, students of the School of Nursing received scholarship dollars from area donors.

On March 10, at a reception in the Rotunda, Sharon Cannon, Ed.D., regional dean of the School of Nursing, recognized and thanked the scholarship donors who were present.

Linda Terrell, vice president of private banking-marketing, and Marion Bryant, trust officer, both of American State Bank, announced the recipients of six scholarships on behalf of the bank.

Mary McClelland, executive assistant, School of Nursing, named the scholarship recipients and a total of 26 scholarships were presented at the event for a total of $1,522.69.

Each recipient was asked to individually speak about the importance of the scholarship to their educational efforts and were also given the opportunity to thank donors in attendance.

Scholarship recipients include nursing students, Mike Aguilar, Deanna Anaya, Mandy Anderson, Tamera Bavousett, Rowena Bullen, Sammie Bustamante, John Chavez, Aaron Cox, Yvonne Cruz, Robin Davis, Katherine Degenstein-Gartman, Kathy Dendy, Warren Dill, Jeffrey Dominguez, Rode Felix, Glori Ferguson, Kim Gonzalez, Michelle Gonzalez, Stan Harmon, Neelia Hetu, Michael Kahler, Kim Kwiatkowski, Jonathan Luna, Stella Makanu, Tamaara Merrill, Dan Nabibya, Leticia Ortiz, Martha Ortiz, Don Owens, Tiffany Page, Carie Relyea, Genea Roberts, Domenica Rodriguez, Judy Roever, Dawn Smart, Michelle Tedder, Jeffery Vidal and Mary Williams.
People First committee visits campus to offer initiative update

On April 1, committee members from the People First initiative presented outcomes and future goals during a visit to the Odessa campus.

The task force began in 2001 with David Smith, M.D., who charged human resources with finding ways that employees could be better served, to facilitate recruitment and retention.

The task force began by holding Town Hall Meetings, focus groups and surveys. The results include increasing employee confidentiality, the applicant tracking system, human resource availability and training and staff development to name a few.

Accomplishments to come include an employee handbook, the development of career ladders and paths and application screening.

The task force asks that each employee complete a survey. Those not in attendance can find the survey at www.ttuhsc.edu/HR/PeopleFirst/Survey.asp

For more information or for a detailed account of accomplishments, please see The People First full report is available on the website at www.ttuhsc.edu/HR/PeopleFirst/default.asp

Announcements

Research

Valerie J. Knotts, Ed.D., presented a research paper in Richmond, Va., in Feb. at the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She will be presenting in San Francisco, Ca., in April at the Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council of the Aging.

Pediatrics

Christina Carnes, M.D., M.P.H., instructor, in the Department of Pediatrics, passed the Medical Board Exams in January. Before moving to Odessa, in 2003 she practiced pediatric medicine at Harlingen Pediatrics Associates in Harlingen, Texas.

Compliance Changes

The TTUHSC-SOM has undergone major changes in the Compliance Program. Effective Jan. 16, Mike Kreck, MBA, CMPE, of the Lubbock campus, was appointed as the Chief Billing Compliance Officer. Dr. Dale Dunn is the Chief Medical Officer for the revised program.

On the Odessa Campus, Melissa McCall, CPC, assumes the position as Senior Analyst and will work directly with Kreck on compliance issues.

Opportunities for a wider outreach educational effort will occur during this year’s Compliance Program Refresher Training sometime this summer.

As always, issues guiding compliance activities will be the expectation for high moral and ethical conduct, use of resources and commitment for avoiding fraud and abuse.

Elective Employee

Dean Johnston, security guard, was elected Ector County Constable for Precinct 3 in Odessa. He will begin his duties January 1, 2005 and serve a four year term. Johnston has 31 years experience in law enforcement and retired after 26 years with the Odessa Police Department.

His duties as a Constable will include serving subpoenas, attending sessions of the justice court and performing general duties of precinct peace officers. “I have the authority to make arrests, issue traffic citations and as a Constable, the only law enforcement official that can arrest the sheriff,” said Johnston.

Child Abuse Presentation

On Mar. 23, the Department of Family and Community Medicine, the Office of GME, along with the Ector County Medical Society, ECMS Alliance and Medical Center Hospital hosted a presentation titled "Child Abuse: Medical Recognition, Management and Ethics."

The presentation was given by Cindy W. Christian, M.D., associate physician, department of pediatrics at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Penn.

Upon completion of the program participants were able to differentiate common patterns of abusive injury; assess children who are victims of abuse, considering the differential diagnosis; explain to families reasons for social services evaluation and discuss the moral and ethical responsibilities of healthcare providers to report abuse to authorities.

Whether you think that you can, or that you can’t, you are usually right.” - Henry Ford

PA students represent Texas Tech University at national challenge bowl

The Texas Tech University Physician Assistant program was invited by the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants to represent Texas in the AAPA South Central Regional Challenge Bowl, a competition coordinated by the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

PA students Sixtus Atabong, Rob- bert Baldree and Trisha Trevino repre- sented Texas Tech and the State of Texas by winning first place in the challenge bowl. This earns them a first round buy in the national challenge bowl. This earns them a first round buy in the national challenge bowl.

In February, Valerie J. Knotts, Ed.D., associate professor, received the Heritage of Odessa Foundation’s 2003 Community Statesman Award in Education.

“I am very grateful and honored to be in the company of this fine groups of citizens who are truly dedicated to serving the community,” said Dr. Knotts.

The awards are given by the Foundation to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Odessa and Ector County.

At age 70, she keeps herself busy with various civic groups and community service organizations. But, perhaps her greatest accomplishment was graduating with her doctorate degree in education last May.

With a continuing love for her profession, Dr. Knotts offers help and resources to seniors by teaching about fall prevention, home safety, caregiver resources and money management.

Professional recognition was awarded to her when she was designated as a Presidential Scholar in Geriatrics by the Chancellor of Texas Tech University. She was also a nominee for the Athena Award last year and named to the West Texas Hall of Fame by the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission and the Area Agency on Aging.

Dr. Knotts has written and published articles related to gerontology and along with her occupational therapy students, she has donated thousands of hours conducting research and offering community service to the aging of the Permian Basin.

Employee Spotlight

The Texas Tech Seal was designed by the campus’ master planner, William Ward Watkin, in 1924.

The Seal’s symbols are the lamp, representing scholarship; the key for home, the book for church and the star for state.

Cotton bolls represent the area’s strong cotton industry and the eagle is suggestive of the United States.