

**Editor: Henny van Dijk**

**[www.uthro.org](http://www.uthro.org)**

**June, 2023**

## **The June Event...**



### **Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum**

The Ocean Star is retired jack-up drilling rig that operated in the Gulf of Mexico from 1969 to 1984 and drilled over 200 wells during that timeframe. In 1995, the Offshore Energy Center (OEC) purchased the Ocean Star, and after lengthy refurbishment, opened it as a museum in 1997.

The Ocean Star drilling rig was built in 1969 at the Bethlehem shipyard in Beaumont, Texas. operating in water depths up to 175 feet.

The Ocean Star Museum offers a fun, hands on way to learn about the offshore oil and gas industry in a comfortable and accessible facility. It features three floors of models, exhibits, equipment and interactive displays illustrating the story of offshore exploration and production. The museum features a 1.5-hour guided tour and offers visitors the unique opportunity to board an actual offshore rig. Lunch will be on your own at The Pleasure Pier (restaurant of your choice). **On June 22** we will travel by bus from OCB at 9:00 AM. Tickets will set you back \$8.00/pp.

If you like to go on this adventure please call or email Janice Thomas at [flyte99@yahoo.com](mailto:flyte99@yahoo.com) or 832-515-0280 and give a contact person when they go by bus.

## **The Annual Benefits Meeting...**



I'm giving you plenty of warning so put **July 12** on your calendar for this Annual Benefit Event for UTHealth employees and Retirees.

The UTHealth Houston Benefits team will host an in-person annual enrollment benefits and retirement fair on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the UT Brown Foundation IMM building located at 1825 Pressler St, Houston, TX 77030.

This year we will feature a themed fair, "The Main Event" with a boxing flair, please feel free to bring decor or giveaways that will be a "knock-out" for our employees and retirees. We will have UTCARE/retiree presentation with OEB and BCBS from 11-noon for retirees in our large auditorium.

Yes, all vendors will also be present for questions for retirees as well.

We also would like UTHRO to have vendor booth similar to last year. If UTHRO representatives can, please stay till 3. Whatever works best.

I will confirm the parking rates soon.

UTHealth Houston Benefits  
 7000 Fannin St. Suite 1019 c/o Stephanie Jones  
 Houston, TX 77030  
 Kindly,

**Jennifer Figueroa**

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## The Tunnel Few Knew About ...

In the April issue I wrote a bit about what I experienced when I took the job in Houston and the challenges of having several spaces to perform the job. One of these assignments for my team was photographing the orthopedic children at the old Shriner's Hospital on McGregor. We would walk from suite 610 in the Hermann Professional Building (our home base), walk across Fannin to the Cullen bldg. the original corner stone of TMC, go to the basement in Cullen and take the tunnel to Shrine. I don't know why I recalled that trip,

But back to the Shriner/Cullen Tunnel— when I was trying to get my 50 year old memory confirmed it soon became apparent that only a few people remain that knew about it and many of you might have never heard about it. I thought I had hit a brick wall but then I got in touch with Matt Richardson at the TMC Archives where one can find a treasure trove of historical files, items etc. from those who donated their personal items to the Archives. I had known about the place when my friend and collaborator Dr. Herb Fred gave his files to the archives including his bronzed running shoes, but that is another story...

I visited the Archives, saw the impressive collection of personal and institutional papers and asked Matt to write an article about the TMC Archives and he did.

*Henny van Dijk reporting*



The TMC Library and the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston have a long history of supporting one another.

At the McGovern Historical Center (MHC), archivists collect, preserve, and make accessible the archives of Texas Medical Center's institutions, faculty, and staff. In addition to the records of the UT Health Science Center at Houston, the MHC holds archival collections from components like the McGovern Medical School, School of Public Health, Cizik School of Nursing, and more. The manuscript collections include the papers of leaders like R. Lee Clark, James Steele, and Patricia Starck. And then there are the more than 500 boxes from the Hermann Hospital Archives!

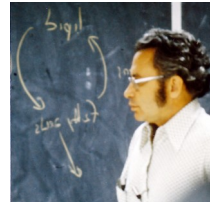
With their longstanding ties to UTHealth in Houston, UTHRO members would be welcome to tour the archives and get a look "behind the scenes." In the meantime, you can learn more about the archives at <https://archives.library.tmc.edu/>.

And, since the archives are always growing, we invite UTHRO members to consider whether they may have materials of their own to add to the collections.

*Matt Richardson, archivist and special collections librarian*

## Jack DeMoss remembered

During the very early days of the Med School few took to the task of organizing and developing the curriculum as Jack DeMoss. He was appointed the program director of Biochemistry and Microbiology and because there were no Med.School buildings the basic sciences were housed in Central Pavilion Hospital and that's where I first met Jack, teaching the 1972 freshman class where this image was taken. My second memorable memory of Jack when after he retired he and wife Karen became UTHRO members attending several events.



When I recently asked Jack to give me his impressions of what it was like to join the Med School in 1972 he wrote:

"At the CPH, I recall that when the weather was cold they turned up the temperature (an ancient hot water system) for the hospital rooms below so high that our rooms were so warm that our equipment that required ambient temp became inoperable. These were really good years for developing young faculty members for the growth that was to come."

*Ciao, Jack*

"Of all the people I've worked with in that time, you were the tops as a boss and friend. I learned so much from seeing how you operated, and your personal style was a role model for me. I often asked myself, 'What would Jack do?'"

*George Weinstock*

"Jack has been my model chair, friend, and scientific colleague for the 50 years I have known him. I am fortunate to be among his original hires for his guidance and friendship. Following him as interim chair of the department was easy. Just do as Jack would do."

*William Dowhan*

"Jack DeMoss – UT Health Pioneer. While there are many definitions and attributes of pioneers, the one I think applies best to Jack is a person who was the first at something that paved the way for others to follow. They are typically free-thinking, adventurous, creative, and original; and they originate and help develop new lines of thought, activities, and methods. They derive the most satisfaction from accomplishments of their mentees and colleagues rather than their personal recognition. He recognized that interacting teams accomplished more than simple collections of non-interacting people and he encouraged and fostered collegial interactions."

*George Stancel*



"Jack a mild mannered, but effective, very level-headed and highly regarded (chair) stepped down in 1992 to move to a brilliantly structured next phase of his career. He had become friendly with the group of the Univ. of Marseille and moved to work in their labs and thus stoking his love of France and things French."

*Dean Smythe in his book "An Advantaged Life"*



## New at UTHealth – Institute on Aging



*Drs. Naik and Holmes photo by Nathan Jeter, UTHealth*

Nearly 4 million people in Texas are over the age of 65, making up nearly 15% of the state's population. As the population of older adults continues to grow, so does the need for quality health care and powerful research. Researchers and physicians across all six schools at UTHealth Houston are prepared to take on this challenge with the newly established UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging, positioning the university to become a leader in aging and health care for older adults. The new institute will build on the foundation of the [UTHealth Houston Consortium on Aging](#).

"Establishing the Institute on Aging demonstrates the substantial commitment by UTHealth Houston to advance healthy aging and age-friendly care within our health care institutions, in the training of our students, through the promotion of research and clinical innovation, and through outreach to older adults and caregivers across Houston," said Aanand Naik, MD, executive director of the UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging.

Naik is professor and chair of the Department of Management, Policy, and Community Health with UTHealth School of Public Health, and is also a member of the Joan and Stanford Alexander Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine at McGovern Medical School.

The new institute will undertake innovative research and disseminate innovations that enable older adults to achieve what matters most in their lives. Faculty with the institute will enhance care for the elderly with a focus on overall healthy aging, frailty and resilience, as well as elder abuse, mistreatment, and financial exploitation.

"The institute provides a lasting home for innovations in healthy aging to advance the research, clinical models, education, and community outreach that will improve the lives of older people," said [Holly M. Holmes](#), MD, vice president of community engagement at UTHealth Houston and director of the Joan and Stanford Alexander Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine at McGovern Medical School.

Of the 650,000 physicians practicing in the U.S., fewer than 9,000 are geriatricians — Fewer than 3% of medical students choose elective courses in geriatrics. Likewise, there is a growing demand for nurses with specialized training in caring for older people, as well as dentists and pharmacists who understand the unique needs of the older person. The UTHealth Houston Consortium on Aging was established in 2010 by the late Carmel B. Dyer, MD, encompassing medicine, nursing, dentistry, public health, biomedical informatics, and biomedical sciences.

*Jeannette Sanchez, UTHealth Office of Public Relations*

## Carmel B. Dyer Second Family...



In 2022, honoring her legacy and commitment to support equity in aging, the UTHealth Consortium in Partnership with CarePartners of Houston, established the Carmel B. Dyer Second Family Program. This program is designed specifically to carry out the very important mission of reducing social isolation experienced by older adults in our Houston communities.

The Carmel B. Dyer Second Family Program pairs health professional students and peers with older adults in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward of Houston to build meaningful social connections through phone calls and home-visits. The goal is to reach as many older adults who are living socially isolated in this area where Dr. Dyer spent her years providing clinic and home-based geriatric care. The program has been successful and is now growing and hearing from the older adults, they would like more peer-to-peer interaction. So we need your help! If you would be willing to become a social connection for an older adult in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward we would love to get you connected. We have older adults waiting to be connected so please see the attached flier for more information or you can reach out with interest at:

[SecondFamily@Carepartnerstexas.org](mailto:SecondFamily@Carepartnerstexas.org) or call

Alandria Franklin at 713-682-5995 ext: 2061

We thank you so much for considering this opportunity and look forward to working with you.

*Jason Burnett*



### Carmel B. Dyer Second Family Program

*The Carmel B. Dyer Second Family Program pairs volunteers to provide ongoing support and companionship to older adults. The engagement opportunity includes weekly phone calls and in person visits.*

**Cost: FREE**

#### **Client Eligibility:**

- Older Adult (60+) living at home alone or with limited support systems
- Individual with dementia living alone or with limited support systems
- Interested in receiving friendly visits or phone calls

A registration intake is conducted by a CarePartners Coordinator to determine eligibility and welcome new participants to the program.

#### **For More Information or to Register:**

Email [SecondFamily@Carepartnerstexas.org](mailto:SecondFamily@Carepartnerstexas.org) or call Alandria Franklin at 713-682-5995 ext 2061

# UTHRO

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization  
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To update your address or phone number  
please contact us at 281-655-1983

## And Now For Something Completely Different... The Best Attended Cinco de Mayo Yet !



images  
by  
Janice  
Thomas  
and  
Henny  
van Dijk

### UTHRO OFFICERS 2023

**President** Barbara Kelly  
**Vice-Pres** Efren Pena  
**Secretary** Daun Gray  
**Treasurer** Margaret Zambrano  
**Web Administrators** Henny van Dijk, Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu). This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efren Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.

**Newsletter Editor** Henny van Dijk