

# infoLINE

A Newsletter for Employees of University Health System

## »»... Final support beam for new high-tech clinic is in place

*The large steel beam was signed by hundreds of staff members*

“My signature is on the highest beam of that huge building!” That’s what University Health System (UHS) doctors, nurses and other staff members can say now that the final steel beam, signed by staff members last month, was lifted and placed on top of the new building under construction on the Robert B. Green Campus.

The 250,000 square-foot building, which will be home to a state-of-the-art outpatient care center, is on schedule to open in early 2013.

The beam-signing event was a great success, as staff members attending took a pledge to bring the best of themselves to our patients and to their work every day. U.S. Congressman Charles Gonzalez, Dist. 20, also signed the beam, when he happened to be on campus a few days before the October 24 ceremony.



Staff members add their signatures on the last piece of steel for the new building on Robert B. Green Campus.



(On left) U.S. Congressman Charles Gonzalez, Dist. 20, signs the final beam, as Sergio Farrell, VP, Ambulatory Services and Mark Webb, VP, Facilities Development & Project Management look on.



The final "signed" steel beam was put in place on October 27.



(From left) Rebecca Cedillo, member, Bexar County Hospital District Board of Managers; Christann Vasquez, COO; Robert Engberg, Bexar County Hospital District Board of Managers Chair, Budget & Finance Committee; Columbus Duke, a UHS employee for more than 30 years; George B. Hernández, Jr., UHS President/CEO; Sergio Farrell, VP, Ambulatory Services; and Dr. Gary McWilliams, Executive VP, Chief Ambulatory Services, at the ceremonial beam signing and pledge Monday, October 24.

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# >> ... Graduating from school at work

University Health System graduated its fourth School at Work (SAW) class on October 13 in the Texas Diabetes Institute auditorium.

The 13 students celebrated the completion of eight months of class assignments and homework with a packed auditorium of family, friends and coworkers.

The graduates were encouraged to continue their educational journey by speakers Theresa Scepanski, Sr. VP, Strategic & Organizational Development, and by Sandra Tibbits, an LVN and SAW graduate of the class of 2008.

Congratulations and best wishes to the SAW Class of 2011. Keep up the great work!



*(From left) Sofia Vargas, Andrea Wilson, Sabina Perez, Martha Torres, Chris Martinez, Eva Gallegos, Cynthia Macias, Sara Olivarri, Lori Ricks, Cheryl Brown, Henrietta Carrasco, Linda Buentello and Rita Arce - not photographed.*

## >> ... It's never too late to begin your education

Sandra Tibbits, a unit clerk on the 7th floor of University Hospital, knows what it is like to dive into school work and prepare for final exams while working full-time.

Three years ago, she decided to head back to the classroom to become a licensed LVN. Her inspiration was the School at Work (SAW) program at University Health System (UHS). "I think back to the School at Work program that started this adventure for me. I remember all the vice presidents that told their stories to us students," she described. "That was the true inspiration for me, especially Mr. Hernandez who was so down to earth and laughed with us students."

Sandra served as keynote speaker at the 2011 SAW graduation. She told graduates to never give up on their goals. "If I could do it at the age of 57, others can do it. I'm living proof," she laughed. "If we let our wishes be known, God will get us through it and we will come out winners."

Sandra also hopes to serve as an example and inspiration to her three children and five grandchildren. "Education opens doors to the unexpected and gives you the true meaning of hope." She said her next goal is to find a job as an LVN so she can put her skills to work, and to start nursing school. She plans to pursue a career as a registered nurse.



*Sandra Tibbits*

# »...Who is the little girl in that hat and coat?

*Did you guess right?*

**Leni Kirkman, vice president of strategic communications and patient relations, is the adorable little girl in this month's mystery employee photo.**

Most of us at University Health System (UHS) know Leni as the spokesperson for the organization. When she isn't helping to coordinate interviews for news reporters or strategizing important communications projects within the Health System, you can be sure she's sitting in meetings with senior staff gaining knowledge about UHS's capitol improvement program, marketing needs, internal and external communications campaigns, patient relations and satisfaction, customer service or collaborating with area agencies on healthcare communications.

Leni was born in Brooklyn, New York, and for the first 10 years of her life, she lived in Long Island and Connecticut. She moved with her family to sunny Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to start 5th grade.

In the photo, Leni was 3. It was Easter Sunday in Long Island where temperatures are pretty cold - even in the spring - which explains the heavy coat and hat.

"My mom always wanted my sister and me to be dressed up. We wore hats and gloves to church every Sunday," she smiled. "We always had to wear dresses, even in the winter. We had leggings to put on under our dresses if we had to walk in the snow."

By 4th grade, Leni's mother finally allowed her to wear a pair of pants. It was a red pants suit!

During her junior year of high school, Leni started looking into colleges. Trinity University in San Antonio caught her attention and, as a first generation college student, offered her a full scholarship. She came to Texas and earned a bachelor's degree in Communications and Broadcast Journalism.

Prior to working at UHS, she covered the news in several Texas cities, including San Antonio. "I was a



**Leni Kirkman**

news reporter and broadcast anchor for various newspapers and radio stations in Dallas, the Hill Country, Austin and San Antonio," she said.

Leni started her career at UHS as a public relations coordinator in 2000. She's been part of the UHS family for 11 years. "The best thing about my job is the opportunity to tell stories of the amazing people who carry out our important mission and the patients whose lives are changed for the better because of their personal strength and this community's support for UHS," she said.

Leni said the people of UHS are like family. "It is truly the place where I belong and feel like I can make a difference."

One of her goals as a vice president is to support and advance the strategic initiatives of UHS through communications and marketing.

Aside from work, Leni loves riding her bike and spending time with family. Leni has been married for 23 years to Kent. She has a daughter, Kelsey, who just started her first year of college. She also has a dog Kobie and horse Hazel, who she considers part of the family.

***Pick up the next issue of infoLINE to see the November employee mystery photo! Send your childhood picture (between the ages of 6 months to 12 years) and share your story with the entire UHS family! Send electronic photos to [Julie.Wiley@uhs-sa.com](mailto:Julie.Wiley@uhs-sa.com).***

# » Our pharmacists know their medicine

In October, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) recognizes and celebrates pharmacists across the country.

APhA's goals include recognizing the healthcare contributions made by pharmacists, enhancing the image of pharmacists as medication experts - not just dispensers of medication - and educating the public about the key role pharmacists play in reducing overall healthcare costs by improved medication use and advanced patient care.

University Health System (UHS) recognizes the key role pharmacists and pharmacy technicians play in the care of our patients in all practice settings. Patients and healthcare providers have the opportunity to engage pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in a variety of settings, including:

- Inpatient Pharmacy
- Inpatient Hospital Units
- Outpatient Pharmacies
- Ambulatory Clinics
- CareLink
- Medication Assistance Program (MAP)

The core message for patients this year is "Know your MEDICINE, Know your PHARMACIST." All patients are encouraged to know their pharmacist and keep a personal medication record (PMR). The record should be carried at all times, updated when necessary, and taken to all appointments. You can see an example of a PMR online at [www.pharmacist.com/pmr](http://www.pharmacist.com/pmr).

The American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) also designates a week each October to acknowledge the contributions pharmacists and pharmacy technicians make in our nation's healthcare institutions. Be sure to thank our pharmacy team the next time you see them.



*Pharmacy technicians from the Outpatient Pharmacy at the Robert B. Green Campus.*



*Pharmacists from Outpatient Pharmacy: FFACTS Clinic and CareLink at the Robert B. Green Campus.*

## » Progress NOTES

### RETIREMENTS

**Rosemary Paxson**, sr. medical laboratory scientist, in the Microbiology Lab of Pathology Services, has retired after dedicating 36 years to UHS.

**Larry Stallings**, director of Environmental Services at University Hospital retired. Larry worked at University Health System for six years.

**Mary Williams**, a unit clerk in NurseLink, has retired. Mary invested 38 years of her career to UHS.

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Get your tickets for the 7th Annual University Health System Employee Holiday Celebration scheduled for Friday, December 9 at the Alzarfar Shrine Auditorium, 901 North Loop 1604 West. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. Dinner is set for 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for \$10 a person. Seating is limited, so get your tickets today at any UHS Cashiers' Window. Payroll deduction is available through November 18. All proceeds will benefit the UHS Foundation Nursing Scholarship Program.

## » infoLINE

Story ideas for infoLINE may be submitted to Corporate Communications & Marketing by calling Julie Wiley, infoLINE editor, at 210.358.2344 or by e-mailing [Julie.Wiley@uhs-sa.com](mailto:Julie.Wiley@uhs-sa.com).

infoLINE is a publication of University Health System and is designed to bring the latest news and information about University Health System to its employees.



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