You and I make choices every day. Many of them are made quickly without a great deal of thought. Some choices take a long time and some reflect our commitment to the community we live in. I am going to talk about a choice that affects our community’s quality of life.

Founded in 1949, the Houston Academy of Medicine – Texas Medical Center (HAM-TMC) Library is the anchor spot for health and medical sciences information in the Texas Medical Center (TMC). This Library serves over 40 institutions, including two medical schools, three nursing schools, 13 renowned hospitals, 18 counties and five states through its designation as Regional Medical Library for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine South Central Region.

When most of us picture a Library, we see in our mind’s eye, stacks and stacks of shelving filled with bound books and journals but this vision does not reflect today’s library. Think rather in terms of sending questions flying from a computer screen into a world of answers. How did we get to this format? We made the choice to embrace technology, to become a virtual library engaged in collecting and organizing electronic resources and making them accessible to you. The library retains its value as a “place”, but as a place it is evolving from traditional book and journal stacks into an interactive, computer-centered venue for group study. Services are flowing out from the Library to you via the Web. Librarians are also going out into the community, delivering consumer and professional health information directly to people. This information is increasingly being made available in the first languages of our diverse populace and it is being located in places people frequent. These are choices aimed at improving the life of our community.

Our clients’ current information delivery needs, and our mission to meet and anticipate those needs, have directly impacted the budget. As a result, HAM-TMC Library can readily provide its existing and potential supporters with a variety of ideas on ways to support the Library financially. Raising funds to sustain the Library is a serious matter. It is very important to us to match the desires and requirements of the founders and donors. Currently there are many choices available to support the Library’s infrastructure, its continuity and its growth.

To meet the changing needs of our users, we will soon embark on some relatively small changes aimed at refurbishing the current library facility. Focus groups of library users and non-users are scheduled for Spring 2007 in order to gather valuable community input. Some of the small changes to the facility being considered now are necessary in order to kick off needed major changes later. Upcoming purchases will include the acquisition of compact shelving for journal storage ($350,000), the addition of a mezzanine at the Historical Research Center ($100,000 – naming opportunity available), items of furniture, carpeting and other shelving. Once the assessment of our needs is complete and a comprehensive proposal is finalized, there will be additional opportunities for funding various components of the Library’s transformation.

Continuity of funding is vital to the Library’s role as a reliable and up-to-date provider

(continued on page 3)
From the Executive Director

We wish everyone Happy Holidays and the Best for 2007! As the New Year begins we have new staff to welcome: Martha Grady, Director of Development, and Karen Bulow, Health Professionals Outreach Coordinator at the NN/LM SCR. We belatedly welcome Dean James and Michael Garrett, both in Collections Management. We bid farewell to Dell Davis, Assistant Director of Information Services, who is relocating to San Antonio, and to Delores Scott, Executive Administrative Assistant, who is retiring. The Library's special Nursing Exhibit celebrates our three Texas Medical Center Schools of Nursing, Prairie View A&M, UT School of Nursing and Texas Woman's University (TWU). The exhibit coincides with the opening of a new TWU building in the TMC. Especially charming is the display of the nursing caps worn throughout the 20th century, ranging from lacy to military-looking.

In the New Year, we continue to offer courses and provide extensive electronic resources and other services. Our staff is here to serve you. We continually update our technology, skills and products. Our revised web pages unveiled in early October, are a living work of art. Michael Garrett, Database and Web Services Developer, has received his Coldfusion Certification and is perfecting the web pages daily. We track the Library's Home Page hits. Our new website was accessed an average of 300 times per hour. Come visit us! Our Library's Home Page is at http://resource.library.tmc.edu/

Elizabeth K. Eaton, PhD
Executive Director, HAM-TMC Library

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Guide to the Ruth Hartgraves, MD Papers is now available on-line http://mcgovern.library.tmc.edu/data/www/html/collect/manuscript/Hartgraves/MS032.html

Ruth Hartgraves (1901-1995) was an Obstetrician-Gynecologist in Houston, Texas from 1935-1985. During Ruth’s 50 years in private practice she delivered more than 3000 babies, held appointments at the major hospitals in Houston and was a faculty member at the Baylor College of Medicine. She was active in medical organizations, such as the American Women’s Medical Association, of which she served as President and received the Elizabeth Blackwell Award.

She and her sister, Hallie Hartgraves, attended the University of Texas – Austin in the 1920s and were among the first women graduates of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Hallie was an ophthalmologist in Chicago from the mid 1930s to the late 1940s when she became an Episcopalian nun.

The collection includes information about Ruth’s Texas heritage, family history and life as a professional woman in the mid-20th century. Resources document her cultural interests, especially in opera, her religious affiliations at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, and her extensive world travel. Dr. Hartgraves’ collection is available for research at the Historical Research Center (HRC), 8272 El Rio, Suite 190, Houston, TX 77054. Contact the HRC at hrs@exch.library.tmc.edu or telephone, 713.799.7145. The Center’s hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
of information to its users. The HAM-TMC Library is fortunate to have been provided an endowment for the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center. This endowment is enlarged yearly through different opportunities for giving. In 2006-2007, the John P. McGovern Foundation issued a $20,000 challenge grant called the MatchMaker Fund. The money raised will be matched dollar for dollar up to the $20,000 total. Currently letters are arriving in the homes of potential donors. Please take the time to consider making the choice to participate in this vital program of support for the future of the Library. The end date for MatchMaker donations is May 31, 2007.

Library Fund Raising (Continued)

Growth and vitality come to a library through the acquisition of documents and electronic media for the collections. By the new millennium, 75 percent of academic journals were offering online editions, and more than 1,000 peer-reviewed journals existed only in digital form(1). This past year the Library has focused on shifting from print to electronic: collections of books and journals. Individuals, groups and other funding entities can financially adopt any of our journals, books and databases; this is one very concrete means of supporting the Library and thereby supporting research and patient care in the TMC. The Library now offers about 8,000 electronic journals and will retain fewer than 300 print subscriptions for 2007. HAM-TMC Library's electronic collection has increased dramatically during 2005-2006. The move to offering online-only publications requires a greater outlay of funds for infrastructure, and prices for library resources in all formats are increasing rapidly.

Electronic current resources and print historical materials will continue to exist side by side for the foreseeable future. They all need your support and I will be happy to discuss how you may choose to be involved in the library's growth for the future.

Martha Grady, Development Director, 713.799.7153 or martha.grady@exch.library.tmc.edu


Nursing Education @ TMC Exhibit September through December, 2006

The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library wishes to congratulate the faculty, students and staff at Texas Woman’s University College of Nursing-Houston Center as they start the fall semester in their new building. We are delighted to recognize TWU’s College of Nursing as well as Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing-Houston Center and The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston with an exhibit entitled Nursing Education @ TMC currently on display at the HAM-TMC Library. The exhibit highlights the history and development of these three institutions’ nursing programs at the Texas Medical Center. On display are artifacts and information about nursing education in the early 20th century. The exhibit also features nursing textbooks used in the late 19th and early 20th century that are part of the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center.

The exhibit presents current resources the Library provides for nursing students: databases, journal lists, e-journals and e-books, and websites. Nursing Education @ TMC is on display through December, 2006 during the Library’s regular hours. The Library is proud to have been part of the education of past nursing students and looks forward to servicing the future of nursing education at the Texas Medical Center.

The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library

WWW.LIBRARY.TMC.EDU/LIBLINES
NOTEWORTHY

Elizabeth Eaton and Dean James facilitated a group discussion, Renee Bougard was a Keynote Speaker and Deborah Halsted served on the planning committee of a Disaster Preparedness Symposium sponsored by the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, in College Station, Texas Oct. 20-24, 2006.

The IADR, Evidence-Based Dentistry Network Systematic Review Prize 2006 was awarded to Huan Lu, Holly Koh, M. Graciela Rasines Alcaraz, Patrick Schmidlin, and Dell Davis for their published Cochrane protocol entitled Direct composite resin fillings versus amalgam fillings for posterior teeth.

Librarians from the Texas Health Sciences Library Consortium Julie M. Trumble, Margaret J. Anderson, Marlene Caldwell, Felicia Chuang, Stephanie Fulton, Ann Howard and Beatriz Varman, were recognized with the Research Award 2006 at the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, in College Station, Texas Oct 20-24, 2006 for the contributed paper: A Systematic Evaluation of Evidence Based Medicine Tools for Point of Care.