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University of Houston System

Nobel laureate to speak at UH

Daniel Nathans, winner of the 1978 Nobel Prize in medicine, will present a lecture on "The New Genetics" Wednesday, February 29, at the University of Houston-University Park.

The event, part of the University's Nobel Prize Winners series, will be held at 8 p.m. in the Constellation Room, Hilton College Building. A public reception is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Zodiac Room.

Nathans is professor of molecular biology and genetics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and senior investigator at that university's Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His lecture will address the important contributions of genetic research to medical science in recent years.

Formerly director of the department of molecular biology and genetics at Johns Hopkins, Nathans was honored for his work using restriction enzymes to break up DNA, the genetic component present in every living cell, into manageable fragments. The techniques designed by



Daniel Nathans

Nathans are essential to unraveling the mysteries of cell development, hereditary disease, and cancer.

Nathans was also cited for his brilliant discussion of other possible applications

of enzymes to genetics, such as the production of synthetic insulin.

Born in 1928, Nathans was chairman of the American Cancer Society's committee on cell biology and virology and is a member of the National Cancer Institute's virus cancer program advisory committee.

The 1983-84 Nobel Prize Winners series began last October with a lecture by Sheldon Glashow, winner of the 1979 prize in physics. Glenn Seaborg, 1951 Nobel laureate in chemistry, will visit UH on February 23; and George J. Stigler, 1982 prize winner in economics, will conclude the series on April 3.

"In making this series an annual event, we carry out one of the University's highest responsibilities: the dissemination of knowledge, the public sharing of the pursuits of the mind," said UH President Charles E. Bishop of the 1983-84 series.

All events in the series are free and open to the public. For further details on the Nobel Prize Winners series, call 749-4147 or 749-7224.

New computer degree program approved

A new degree program leading to a Bachelor of Computer and Information Sciences degree was approved in January by the Coordinating Board of the Texas College and University System, UH-Victoria Chancellor Martha K. Piper has announced.

The program was created as a response to the increasing demands of students and industry for qualified professionals in the field of computing.

"Students coming out of the program will be equipped for advantageous career placement or advancement in a professional world that places an ever greater emphasis on the gathering, arrangement, analysis and exchange of data and information," said Piper.

The degree program will offer two concentrations: computer science and information science. The computer science option is more traditional, with an emphasis on mathematics and computer hardware and software operations. The second area of concentration, information science, places a greater emphasis on applications of computers in the workplace.

Implementation of the program will begin immediately and should be in place for the fall 1984 semester, said Dr. Ron Walker, chair of the Division of Arts and Sciences at UH-Victoria.



James D. Van Hoften

Former UH professor to man space shuttle

A former University of Houston professor will be a crew member on the 11th space shuttle flight scheduled for April 4, 1984. Dr. James Van Hoften, who taught hydraulics courses in the civil engineering department at UH-University Park in the 1970s, will be the first civil engineer in space. The 11th space shuttle mission is scheduled for seven days and will include satellite activities and a variety of experiments.

Top rating given University audit

An "unqualified opinion letter," following the completion of an audit of the University of Houston's financial activities for fiscal year 1982, has been issued by State Auditor George W. McNeil of Austin.

The highest rating that an institution can receive on an audit, "an unqualified opinion letter," was also granted the University of Houston last year for fiscal year 1981.

McNeil sent the letter to Governor Mark White and to members of the UH Board of Regents this month.

Dr. George Huxel, vice president for administration and finance and the chief financial officer of the UH System, gave credit for the achievement to members of his staff, to the implementation of a new financial system, and the reorganization of the financial service of the University.

UH President Charles E. Bishop commented, "This is welcome news for the University of Houston. I compliment Vice President Huxel and members of his staff for this excellent record for two successive years. This could not have been accomplished without the hard work and the team spirit that are so evident here."

Financial activities of the UH System for the fiscal year 1983 will be reviewed this spring by the state auditors and their report on this period is expected sometime this fall.

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New program director joins KUHT

"To a great extent, my job is my life," says Steven Gray, who took over as program director at Channel 8 in January.

Public television is not new to Gray, 30, who began his career at KCET-TV in Los Angeles at the age of 17. At KCET, he was coordinator of the PBS West Coast Delay Center for two-and-a-half years. Gray later took a position as programming operations manager at KOCE-TV in Huntington Beach, California while earning a B.A. in telecommunications from California State University. He was later promoted to assistant director of programming, the position he held until coming to Channel 8.

Gray is positive about his future at Channel 8. "My goal is to acquire the best programming available," Gray says. He describes "best" as the type of programming that has always made PBS and Channel 8 top-notch viewing.

Gray stresses that one of his priorities will be special emphasis on local programming. "Serving Houston and the Gulf Coast region with the 'high quality' documentaries and series currently being produced at this station is a primary goal," he says.

Gray, a California native, was hired after a thorough, nationwide talent search.

"It is with great pleasure that we welcome Steven Gray to our staff," says KUHT General Manager James Bauer. "He brings to Channel 8 a solid background of television programming and management experience. We look forward to a long association that will result in consistent and meaningful public television programming for our viewers."

Johnson named vice chancellor

Dr. Michael T. Johnson, formerly associate chancellor at the University of Houston-University Park, is the new vice chancellor for university relations at the campus. His appointment was approved February 6 by the UH System Board of Regents.

Johnson, who has served the university as associate chancellor since 1981, supervises the campus' athletic department, police department, affirmative action program and community development activities. His new duties also include supervising the media relations and publications programs of the campus and serving as campus liaison to the UH System Administration for fund-raising and development activities.

Johnson will continue to serve as the faculty representative to the Southwest Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, a position he has held since 1977. He is currently vice president of the Southwest Conference and will assume the presidency next year.

A law professor at the UH Law Center since 1970, Johnson was interim dean of the school from 1980 to 1981 and associate dean from 1970 to 1972 and again from 1974 to 1980. His primary teaching areas in the college are legislation, products liability, torts and litigation.

Prior to joining the UH faculty, Johnson practiced law for five years and served as an assistant professor and associate dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. In 1967 he served on the Texas Legislative Council, working on the Penal Code Revision Project.

A Houston native, Johnson holds a B.A. in history and government (Southwestern University, Georgetown, 1960) and a J.D. with honors (University of Texas Law School, 1963).

International education conference planned

The 28th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society will be held March 21-24, 1984, at the Continuing Education Center at UH-University Park.

The conference will feature scholars discussing formal and nonformal education in the context of various countries. Professor Barbara Yates, the keynote speaker, will address "Comparative Education and the Third World: The Nineteenth Century Revisited." The Consular Corps of Houston will host an evening reception following the opening session Wednesday, March 21, at the College of Education.

Faculty and graduate students interested in international issues on education are invited to attend. Conference registration begins in the afternoon Wednesday, March 21. Costs are \$30.00 for faculty and regular members, and \$20.00 for students.

For more information contact Dr. Mark B. Ginsburg, local coordinator, Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Studies, at 749-7281, or Beatriz Arias-Godinez, assistant to the local coordinator, at 749-4973.

Excelsus award presented by UH Foundation

Two longtime supporters of the University of Houston—a husband and wife team—were honored by the UH Foundation at a black-tie appreciation dinner in the Hilton College Building on January 24, 1984.

Max and Marty Levine were announced as the first recipients of the new "Excelsus award," which is given for volunteer work of extraordinary measure, and for lasting devotion to UH.

Dr. Charles E. Bishop, president of the UH System, introduced the Levines, and Kenneth Reese, vice president of the UH Foundation, presented the award.

In his introduction of the Levines, Dr. Bishop cited their long record of effective support on behalf of the University of Houston.

Levine has served as a trustee of the UH Foundation for almost 20 years. He was chairman for five years, from 1975 to 1980. An active and successful fundraiser for UH, he served as chairman of three Excellence Campaigns—in 1966, 1967, and 1968.

Mrs. Levine has been active in fund-raising activities on behalf of KUHT-TV, Channel 8. She is a charter member and chairman of the board of the Association for Community Television which was founded in 1969. Under her leadership,

support for Channel 8 reached a level of \$2.6 million in 1983.

The principal address at the dinner was

given by Robert L. Payton, president of the EXXON Education Foundation, headquartered in New York City.



Max and Marty Levine, center, are recipients of the UH Foundation's first annual Excelsus award. They are shown here with UH President and Mrs. Charles E. Bishop.

German sculpture to be exhibited at Blaffer Gallery

The Sarah Campbell Blaffer Gallery of the University of Houston-University Park will present an exhibition of ten contemporary German sculptors beginning Sunday, March 4, 1984. The exhibition, organized by the Independent Curators Incorporated, New York, is on a six city, two year North American tour. It comes to Houston from its premiere showing at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

"Sculpture from Germany" is the first major exhibition of its kind in North America, focusing as it does on a group of artists who have helped to shape the direction of contemporary German art. The exhibition identifies many of the distinguishing characteristics of German contemporary sculpture—all of which are primarily abstract.

Michael R. Klein is guest curator of the exhibition, which includes two to three major sculptural works by West German artists: Joseph Beuys, Michael Buthe, Rebecca Horn, Wolfgang Luy, Wolfgang Nestler, Ulrich Rückriem, Reiner Ruthenbeck, Barbara Schmidt-Heins, Thomas Schütte, and Franz Erhard Walther. Many of these artists have not exhibited their work outside of Europe prior to this exhibition. Mr. Klein, a freelance curator, selected the works after extensive travel in Germany.

Susan Sollins, Executive Director of Independent Curators Incorporated, states: "Unlike the many recent exhibitions focusing on a small group of highly publicized contemporary German painters who work primarily in an expressionist vein, ICI's



This photograph of a farm house in Grapetown, Texas was taken by Fred Baldwin, UH-University Park professor of communication, in 1972. It is one of several photographs taken by Baldwin and his wife, Wendy Watriss, that were used to illustrate a book titled, "This Favored Place—The Texas Hill Country," by Elroy Bode.

show, 'Sculpture from Germany,' presents work whose sources are diverse, including references to adaptations of constructivist tendencies, analytical processes, and a sophisticated primitivism."

Highlights of "Sculpture from Germany" include a 12-foot hanging fabric sculpture by Reiner Ruthenbeck, an aluminum and steel conceptual measuring box by Rebecca Horn, and a sled with autobiographical references by Joseph Beuys. Also featured is a group of large stone sculptures by Ulrich Rückriem, and a variably-positioned iron and steel sculp-

ture by Wolfgang Nestler. A total of 30 sculpture works are included in the exhibition, as well as drawings and documentary photographs. Several of the works in "Sculpture from Germany" were presented in 1982 at "documenta 7," West Germany's internationally acclaimed art fair.

The exhibition will continue at the Blaffer Gallery through April 8, 1984. The Blaffer Gallery is located on Entrance 16, off Cullen Blvd. Visitor parking is provided. All events are free. For information call 749-1329.

IRS restricts tax deductions

Those "Sacred Cow" tax deductions that middle-income Americans have claimed for a number of years had best not be taken for granted this year, warns a University Park tax expert. In an effort to save money, the U.S. Congress has started cutting into age-old deductions, including the two most widely claimed, medical and casualty expenses.

According to Dr. Jerome Horvitz, associate professor of taxation, some significant tax deduction changes have been implemented for 1983 returns, and more are planned for '84.

Historically, a casualty of any amount could be claimed as a deduction, Horvitz explains, but beginning with 1983 returns only those totaling more than 10 percent of the adjusted gross income can be claimed. Someone with a \$30,000 income, for instance, must experience a minimum \$3,000 loss before his tax return is affected.

Medical expense deductions, he continues, are facing even greater changes. Before 1983 up to one-half the cost of medical insurance premiums were deductible. Starting in '83 premium expenses are limited, and in 1984 none of the costs incurred for medical insurance coverage will be deductible. Also, in '84, overall medical expenses, including doctor bills,

hospital costs, and drugs, must total more than five percent of adjusted gross income.

For 1983 returns, drug expenses alone, which include both prescription and over-the-counter medicine, must exceed one percent of the gross income to count as a deduction. This stipulation will be eliminated for 1984, but at that time only prescription drugs can be claimed. No longer will over-the-counter items be deductible, Horvitz says.

"This really means that someone has to be very ill before they can get any medical income tax breaks," Horvitz notes. "Congress apparently is hoping that people will purchase more of their own medical insurance."

The number of Americans not complying with tax laws is at an all-time high, Horvitz notes. In an effort to promote compliance, such old penalties as interest and a five percent penalty for underpayment caused by negligence, have been joined by a number of other new fines.

Beginning in 1983 a \$100 penalty is incurred for not filing, even if a refund is expected; there is a 10 percent fine for substantial understatement of tax liability (figure must exceed \$5,000); and it is a civil and a criminal violation for claiming extra dependents on a W4 form.

The IRS is concentrating on "abusive"

tax shelters, and on those who barter services, Horvitz notes.

Abusive tax shelters, he explains, occur when an investor's purchase is valued at an excessively high rate, then written off over a short period of time, thus generating large depreciation deductions. A number of specialized agencies, targeted toward upper-income taxpayers, have opened in the last three years.

The IRS is also cracking down on the growing number of professionals who have started trading services. With no money changing hands, bartering has developed into a successful way of avoiding taxes. The IRS, however, is not accepting the explanation that such services are gifts, Horvitz says. Services are taxable, and a number of new penalties are targeted at decreasing the skyrocketing incidences of bartering.

To learn more about the current changes in income tax laws and deductions, Horvitz suggests taxpayers read "Federal Income Tax, Publication 17," available at local IRS offices; consult VITA, a free tax-consulting service available at many public libraries; or seek other professional help.

It is also important, he notes, to keep very good records and receipts of all transactions that will be deducted on an income tax form. In case of an audit, those who can substantiate expenses will most often be dismissed. Otherwise, tax court could be mandated.

Around the campuses

Scott Chafin, UH System Assistant University Counsel, was elected treasurer of the Texas Association of State University Attorneys.

Dr. Sharon L. O'Neil, UH-University Park associate professor of technical education, has been named Collegiate Business Teacher of the Year by the Texas Business Education Association.

Dr. Jack Burke, UH-University Park director of international student services, has been named an honorary member of the Pakistan Association of Greater Houston in tribute to his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Pakistan living in Houston.

Dr. David Ashley White, UH-University Park associate professor of music, recently had his work, "Songs from Queen's Road" for soprano, flute, and piano, performed by UT-San Antonio faculty members on an exchange concert series at the University of Tamaulipas in Tampico, Mexico. White's "Dreams Within Dreams" for flute and percussion was performed at a faculty recital at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, New York.

Dr. Richard Abrahamson, UH-University Park associate professor of education, was elected president of the Adolescent Literature Division of both the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association.

Dr. Arthur Jago, UH-University Park professor of management, will lecture as a Fulbright Scholar this spring at the University of Linz, Austria.

Dr. Robert Fleck, Jr., UH-Victoria vice chancellor, is co-author of a new book, *Management Information Systems*, published by Reston Publishing Company.

Dr. Elbert A. King, UH-University Park professor of geology, served as editor of a book, *Chondrules and their Origins*, recently published by the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston. King's paper, "Reduction, Partial Evaporation, and Spattering: Possible Chemical and Physical Processes in Fluid Drop Chondrule Formation," was included as one of 25 contributed papers.

Robert W. Kendrick, J.D., UH-Downtown coordinator of Loss Prevention Program, Criminal Justice Center, will serve as the 1984 chairman of the Houston Chamber of Commerce Crime Control Committee's Academic Group, which will develop a list of academic resources available to area businesses and institutions for public and private sector criminal justice projects.

Dr. Alex Ignatiev, UH-University Park professor of physics and chemistry, will be the keynote speaker at the Second Israel Materials Engineering Conference to be held in Beer Sheva, Israel.

James C. Tinkler, UH-Downtown associate professor of business management and administrative services, recently presented a workshop on "Well Trades and Farmouts" to the American Association of Petroleum Landmen in Houston.

Dr. Michel Oren, UH-Downtown assistant professor of arts and humanities, organized a special session, "Is there a contemporary arts-politics avant garde? Theoretical and Practical Perspectives," as part of the Modern Language Association convention in New York. Oren also delivered a paper at that session.

Dr. Ching-San C. Lee, UH-University Park professor of pharmaceuticals, recently accepted an invitation from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to serve as a staff scientist/administrator during his 10-month sabbatical leave, from February through November, 1984.

Dr. Kathleen Lentz, UH-Victoria assistant professor of education, and **Dr. Nancy Burris**, associate professor of education, represented the UH-Victoria faculty at the January Council of Faculty Governance Organizations meeting in Austin.

Dr. Lynn Rehm, UH-University Park professor of psychology, presented his psycho-educational study, "Self-Management Therapy for Depression," at the co-sponsored conference of the Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy and the World Congress on Behavior Therapy in December in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Gail Siegerdt, UH-University Park assistant professor of communication, received the Organization for Research on Women and Communication Award for the best article to appear in the *Women's Studies in Communication Journal* for 1983. Her article is titled "Communication Profiles for Organizational Communication Behavior: Are Men and Women Different?"

Dr. Stanley E. Siegel, UH-University Park professor of history, is the author of *Houston: A Chronicle of the Supercity on Buffalo Bayou*, a 292-page illustrated history covering the entire span of the city's development to the present day. His book is published by Windsor Publications of California and was produced in cooperation with the Harris County Historical Society.

Dr. Louis Williams, UH-University Park associate professor of medicinal chemistry, is lecturing in medicinal pharmacy at the University of Lagos in Nigeria as a 1983-84 American Fulbright scholar.

Dr. Joseph Eichberg, UH-University Park professor and chairman of biochemical and biophysical sciences, was a co-organizer of The Chilton Conference on Inositol and Phosphoinositides at the recent international meeting of more than 200 life scientists in Dallas.

Dr. Claus Reschke, UH-University Park associate professor of German, presented a paper titled "Proficiency-Based Foreign Language Teacher Certification: The Texas Project" at the Centennial Meeting of the Modern Language Association of America held recently in New York.

Ellen Hastings, UH System printing department senior proofreader, retired from the University on January 27, 1984, after more than 16 years of service to UH.

Marion Nelson, UH System accounts payable manager, retired from UH on February 3, 1984, ending a career with the University that began in 1947 and spanned numerous UH departments and responsibilities.

Dr. Richard A. Aló, UH-Downtown chairman of applied mathematical sciences, was an invited participant at the National Science Foundation-sponsored Mathematical Sciences' conference on mini-max methods and optimization techniques, organized by the University of Miami.

UH-Clear Lake Futures program hosts conference

A special conference, "The Future: Focus on the Gifted," was hosted in January by the UH-Clear Lake Studies of the Future program in cooperation with the National Association of Gifted Children and the Education Section of the World Society.

The conference was organized to acquaint futurists with the opportunities and problems inherent in gifted education, and to introduce the content and methods of the futures field to teachers and administrators working with gifted children.

Keynote speakers were Dorothy Sisk, professor of special education at the University of South Florida and editor of *Gifted International*; Kay Bruch, professor of educational psychology at the University of Georgia and president of the National Association for Gifted Children; and Christopher Dede, professor of future studies at UH-Clear Lake and founding president of the Education Section of the World Future Society.

Perspectives

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