

From: [Edward Lin](#)
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Subject: GCAA Newsletter Mar-April 2009
Date: Monday, March 09, 2009 3:23:19 PM

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue March-April 2009 - Released on February 28, 2009

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Highlights of this issue

1a. Message from the Chairman of GCAA

Dear Fellow Members and Friends of GCAA,

Please mark your calendars now to join us in the celebration of:

- 1) Mid-Autumn Festival at Twin Lakes Park on Sunday October 4 from 4PM-8PM
- 2) Chinese New Year at the Venice Community Center, Sunday, Feb 14, 2010 from 2PM to 5:30PM

Due to economic uncertainty, the church where we held our 2009 Chinese New Year (CNY) Celebration may no longer be available to us. The venue for our events must be reserved and booked a year in advance; we are no longer able to secure VCC even for Saturday 2/13.

Even though GCAA has obtained 501c(3) non-profit status from the IRS, the current economic downturn and loss of tax revenue to the county has meant a sharp escalation in facility fees that GCAA must pay, over \$1,300 for the VCC rental alone. This means, more than ever, GCAA must rely on its members to pay their membership dues. Without this revenue, we cannot continue or expand the programs and services we'd like to provide to you and the community.

In order to reinvigorate and refocus GCAA's mission and leadership, your GCAA board has drawn up an organization chart and outlined the duties and responsibilities of officers and board members. Both documents will be availed for viewing on our website no later than March 10. GCAA bylaws require Board members to be elected by the general membership. Board members as a body in turn appoint GCAA officers by vote.

Via a separate mailing which will be sent out in the near future, GCAA will be calling for nominations of new board members, which will be followed by electronic voting by dues-paid members. This is a great opportunity for GCAA members (defined as those individuals who will have acquired dues-paid status by March 31, 2009) to lend their expertise and experience to guiding the future direction of GCAA. Please be on the look out for this mailing and consider serving as a Board member. Only GCAA dues-paid members may nominate or be a candidate for a board position, so please bring your membership dues-paid status up to date, if you have not already done so. Thank you.

On behalf of the Board, it is our pleasure to announce of newest GCAA officers:

**Ms. Dongxiang Deng, Treasurer,
Mr. Jason Guan, VP of Programs,
Ms. Libin Huang, VP of Communications & PR, and
Ms. May Thomas, VP of Membership.**

We extend our sincere congratulations and warm welcome to the above new officers.

The Chinese New Year marked the end of Dr. Xueji Zhang's term as President and the start of Dr. Sean Kuang's Presidency. On behalf of the entire Association, we thank Dr. Zhang for his valued service and pledge our support and best wishes to Dr. Kuang and his team.

Dr. Edward Lin

Chairman of the Board

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Table of contents

1. [Message from the Chairman of GCAA](#)
2. [Program Committee reports](#)
Siming/Xiamen Relationship
3. [Schedule of GCAA activities](#)
4. [Kudos and spotlight on our members and families](#)
5. [Upcoming events & attractions](#)
6. [Feature Articles and Reports](#)
7. [Helpful info and articles of interest](#)
8. [Ed's Corner of Odds and Ends](#)
9. [The Funnies](#)

Pearls About life

Quotes to Ponder

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."
-Robert F. Kennedy

"You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."

-Beverly Sills

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."

-Sir Winston Churchill

(And, now let his one put it all into perspective - make sure you watch the video clip...)

"I CRIED BECAUSE I HAD NO SHOES...
AND THEN I MET A MAN WHO HAD NO FEET."

And here he is:
<http://www.maniacworld.com/are-you-going-to-finish-strong.html>

Volunteers needed

to help with various programs of GCAA. This is your chance to develop personal growth and derive satisfaction at the same time by serving your community. Please contact Dr. Xueji Zhang, or Cheyenne Wu if you are willing to do your part. "We all can make a difference, and we must!"

TRANSLATORS sought to translate

2. Program Committee Reports

Report from Sister Cities

This spring will be a busy one for Sarasota's relationship with Xiamen.

Embracing Our Differences: Best of Student Entries

For the second year in a row an elementary school student from Xiamen has submitted a winning entry to the annual Embracing Our Differences exhibition. Even more heartwarming news is that this year's entry, by 6 ½ year old Shen Hongying 沉虹颖, a first grade student at the Egret River Model Elementary School (鹭江实验小学), "We Are All Good Friends" (我们都是好朋友) was awarded the Best of Student Entries, which brings a \$1000 prize to Egret River School. Embracing Our Differences will be on exhibit at Bayfront Park in April. Don't miss it!

Two Xiamen Artists to visit in April

April 17-May 1, we will be having two visiting artists from Xiamen University. Luo Ping 罗萍 (女) is a contemporary watercolorist, and Zheng Shenglong 郑盛龙 (男) a contemporary ink painter and calligrapher (国画书法家). They will be spending 5 days in activities at Art Center Sarasota, which has offered them 5 days of free workshops. Luo and Zheng will also exhibit and speak about their work at Ringling College and other venues.

When given a choice on the application form of a home stay with either an English speaking or a Chinese speaking American family – can you guess what they chose?

Therefore, we are now seeking Chinese-speaking families from GCAA who would be willing to home host Luo and Zheng for one or two weeks, separately or together. Sister Cities Hospitality committee (Chair, Duane Finger) will work out transportation arrangements. If you are interested in helping with home hosting or transportation, please contact Carolyn Bloomer, cbloomer@Ringling.edu, phone 351-0995.

Florida Studio Theatre Young Playwrights Contest

Egret River Model School also sent 10 entries for FST Young Playwright's contest. These are currently being translated into English by students at SCA, Kitty Wang and her daughters, Wei Qinghong, students of Zhang Jing at New College, Jason Liu, Luping Xie, and Carolyn Bloomer and Irene Leung. We will know in early April if we have a winner.

Respectfully submitted

Carolyn Bloomer 白伦美
Director for relations with Siming District, Xiamen
Sarasota Sister Cities Association
cbloomer@ringling.edu

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[<Back to table of contents>](#)

3. Schedule of GCAA activities:

Saturday double feature Chinese film series

*****Thanks to Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, Admission is free!!!!

March 21

1:30 Shanghai Triad 摇啊摇摇到外婆桥

(Yao a yao: yao dao waipo qiao / Rock-a-bye to Grandmother's bridge)

our GCAA newsletter into Chinese so we can reach out to the Chinese in our area who have limited proficiency in English. We are not seeking to translate the entire newsletter; we can start with a few sections that are important for helping maintain channels of contact and social activity. We also need help with translations for our website. Please volunteer to help. Thanks!

Solicitation for Articles and Reports

If you have any news or announcements of interest or pride and relevance to the GCAA, FCC and USCPFA, please send it to elin@ingenious.com or Mrs. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com or Pamela Ho Robbins ewc.sarasota@gmail.com – Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

Sponsors

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by

Feng Shui advisor-practitioner, Gigi Freeman, member of GCAA since 2005, now available for consultations for those interested. Gigi has been practicing Feng Shui for more than 20 years under the guidance of her Chinese-Filipino-Spanish father who was knowledgeable in Feng Shui principles. She has a certificate from the New York School of Feng Shui where she studied Classical Feng Shui focused on the Compass School and Form School. Feng Shui aims to balance the environment in your home or office, very much like an "acupuncture of your living or work space" to achieve harmony in your life, promote prosperity, success, good health, and good relationships. Gigi has lived most of her life in Asia and Mexico; she moved to Venice, Florida in 2004 with her Cuban-Canadian husband, Larry. You may call her at (941) 484-3917 or (941) 932-1642 for appointments.

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by

J&K Kitchen & Bath, 4141 Tamiami Trail S.

Sarasota, FL 34231 Phone : (941) 922-6981 Mobile : 646-831-8181 email : jks58inc@hotmail.com

The new owners, Mr. KongBiao Ni and Ms. JinXing Yang, started their business in January 2007 They warmly welcomes GCAA members and friends with a 20% discount. If you are planning a remodeling or building a custom home, put J&K to work for you. They are also hiring sales staff. If you are a good salesperson and have computer skills, please call Ms. Yang as soon as possible.

GCAA acknowledges with sincere thanks the generous support and sponsorship of the **Marco Polo Restaurant** in our past annual CNY and MAF festivities.

The Marco Polo International Buffet & Grill is located at 549 US Highway 41 Bypass North, Venice, FL 34292 in Bird Bay Plaza (near Big Lots), just south of the bifurcation of Business 41. Tel: 941-412-3988. When you visit the restaurant for their wide

Zhang Yimou, 1995. Stars Gong Li. 109 min.

Shanghai in the 1930s: psychosocial issues of true and false values and their consequences are tragically played out through the Tang Family boss' mistress, and observed largely through the innocent eyes of her young serving boy. Symbolic tale of incursions of Euro-Western values vs. traditional Chinese roots.

3:45 Classic Chinese Animations

-3 Monks 三个和尚 (1980. 20 min) Three monks learn to live with one another.
-Scarecrow 草人(1985, 10 min) A fisherman finally outwits pesky pelicans who are stealing his fish.

-Essence of Mountains and Water 山水情 (1988. 18 min)
An aging musician passes his skill to his young apprentice.

-Broken Bridge 推木桥 (n.d. 5 min)
Travelers meeting each other on a single lane bridge must negotiate how to pass.

April 11

1:30 Chan is Missing

Director, Wayne Wang, 1982, 104 min.

An amazing black-and-white film set in San Francisco's Chinatown in the late 1970s. Two cabbies, who had given their friend Chan Hung \$4,000 to invest in a business deal, discover he is nowhere to be found. For the next few days they search for him through the various humble, everyday layers of people and places in a Chinatown tourists never see. The film is not really a mystery, but rather a richly textured portrait of the Chinese immigrant experience of assimilation and identity. Director Wang drew on actors from a local Asian theatrical pool who were largely unemployed and unknown, and gave them lots of lee-way in interpreting their roles

3:45 pm Please Vote for Me

Director, Chen Weijun, 2007. 50 min.

A revealing experiment in democracy when a third grade class in the city of Wuhan in central China is given the opportunity to campaign and vote for three candidates (chosen by the teachers) for the office of class monitor. One reviewer (Sheri Linden) describes it as "a witty, engaging macro-lens view of human nature, China's one-child policy and the democratic electoral process as the ultimate exercise in marketing." Please Vote For Me is on the shortlist of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences documentary features.

May 2

(Two recent Chinese films, each commenting in quite a different way on the fabric of Chinese life as lived and experienced by today's young working generation.)

1:30 pm Up the Yangzi

Director, Chang Yung, 2007, 93 min.

This documentary film by a Chinese-Canadian director was shot over several years, and relates the experiences of a young woman from a dirt-poor family displaced by the building of the Three Gorges Dam as she enters training to join the staff of a Yangzi River tour boat for foreign tourists, who are portrayed from the staff's perspective. The film is slow-paced and meditative, letting the characters and situations speak for themselves. The sound-track is mournful and

selection of seafood (including crawdad, oyster and crab) and Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese and Italian food, please say hello to the owners: Mr. & Mrs. Lau and let them know GCAA appreciates their support.

Classified Ads

Computer for Sale

HP Pavilion 750n Desktop PC

Pentium 4 1.6GHz CPU
80GB ATA Hard Drive
16x CD Burner
16x DVD ROM
512 MB DDR RAM
32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 Graphics Card
HP Multimedia Keyboard
Logitech Optical USB Mouse
Polk Audio Speakers
17" Dell CRT Monitor
Bundled software:
Windows XP Professional SP3
Microsoft Office 2003 Professional
Avast! Antivirus Home Edition
Zone Alarm fire wall

Price: \$110.

Call Bryan 941-544-8058

Chinese Classes

Conversational Mandarin taught by native speaker Pamela Ho Robbins. New classes begin in January at East-West College. For more information contact Pam at: ewc.sarasota@gmail.com

Business Opportunity

Billion dollar multi-national company is looking for entrepreneurial minded individuals who are "looking." For details contact Pam or Dale Robbins at teambuilders.srq@gmail.com (or) (941) 822-6828

Recommended Services

Certified Inspection for Hurricane-Resistant Home Discount

If you have purchased a hurricane resistant home or made structural improvements to your home (hurricane shutters and straps, reinforced trusses, etc.) to render it hurricane resistant, you may be entitled to substantial discounts from your homeowner's insurance carrier. However, a written inspection report by a My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspector, architect, engineer or general building contractor is required. Our GCAA member and FCC parent, Jamie Milholland is one of a few My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspector in our area. Dr. Lin saved a significant amount on his homeowner's insurance and recommends you look into whether or not you may qualify for similar savings. Give Jamie a call at 941-362-4862.

Stitches

Looking a good local seamstress for all

haunting, combining 琵琶 pipa and 古筝 ; 56; guzhang with western string instruments. Website <http://www.uptheyangtze.com/index.php>.

3:30 pm Young and Restless in China

Director, Sue Williams, PBS Frontline, 2008. 106 minutes

Coming-of-age vignettes of nine ambitious professionals in their twenties and thirties striving to invent their futures in today's tumultuous and rapidly changing China.

* * * * *

Location: All films will be screened on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design in Goldstein 5, located on the south side of Martin Luther King Boulevard southwest of the Selby Gallery, in area #26 on (Goldstein Village) the new campus map available on line at: <http://www.ringling.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf>. Security officers (who roam the campus in golf-carts) are alerted to the possibility of film attendees looking for Goldstein 5 -- so do not hesitate to flag them down or use one of the numerous security call-boxes on campus.

Series is designed by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer to support her Cultural Beliefs course Modern China, and is co-sponsored by the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and the Sarasota Chapter of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. For more information contact: cbloomer@Ringling.edu

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Monthly Social

For odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2009, it will be at: Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868) 3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233 At the southwest corner of I-75 (Exit 207) and Bee Ridge, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot.

For even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2009, it will be at: Oriental Buffet (Tel: 377-6699) 4458 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota (Take Exit 207 and head west for 2 mi; turn left before MacIntosh into the plaza at the southeast intersection with McIntosh).

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

4. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families

Kudos (Any volunteers???)

Don't be shy. Please let us know what's happening in your family that our community should know about. We'll all crow along.

In the interest of helping members to be better acquainted with each other, we will randomly feature profiles on several members. Please contact us if you wish to be introduced. Volunteers welcome! Be sure to check each issue to see if you or someone you know has been selected for the "Spotlight." Please submit capsules of about 250 words to elin@ingenious.com, Pamela Ho, ewc.sarasota@gmail.com, or Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

5. Upcoming events & attractions

your alteration needs, or looking for some embroidery work to be done? Well, look no further! Sara Malave, a FCC parent and magna cum laude graduate of Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising can help. Stitches is a home owned business that has been in operation since 1998. She also offers sewing kamps for children at various times throughout the year. Call 366-4406 with any questions or for an appointment.

First National Travel

I have a top notch travel agent I'd like to recommend:
Toni Liang of
FNTC (FIRST NATIONAL TRAVEL)
3166 CHESTNUT DR
CONNECTOR
SUITE 101
ATLANTA GA 30340
TELEPHONE: 678 530 0840 or 800-888-0208
FAX : 678 530 0768
Email: toni.liang@att.net

For sale

Who to contact about what

General info and past issues of Newsletters:
www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org for updates

Info and articles to be included in upcoming issues of Newsletter:
Editor, Mrs. Libin Huang
libinh@linkingbt.com (248) 701-0878

Co-editor, Pamela Ho-Robbins
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xkuang1@lsu.edu, 941-538-8525
Co-Director, June Shi,
floridajune@gmail.com

Matters relating to membership and how to join Co-Director of Membership, Jian Wang jian@doctorhan.com 941-924-2278
Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung
elfunkkee@verizon.net; 941 918-8505

Matters relating to monthly socials
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GCAA website
www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org
Barry Zhang,
WebMaster: bzhang@comcast.net
Asst. WebMaster John Zhu
juntaozhu15@yahoo.com

Community Relations
Director of: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer,

SAVE THE DATE(S)

Mid-Autumn Festival at Twin Lakes Park - Sunday October 4 (from 4PM-8PM)

Chinese New Year at the Venice Community Center - Sunday, February 14, 2010
(from 2PM to 5:30PM)

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

LECTURE ON BUDDHISM AT RINGLING MUSEUM

Dr. Chang Qing, Curator of Asian Art at the Ringling Museum, will give a lecture on Buddhism on Friday the 13th at 2 pm at the Museum. For more info, please contact the Museum.

6. Feature Articles and Reports

Catastrophe Fund facing critical shortfall

INSURANCE: If state can't fill gap, policy cuts and higher rates could follow

Months before hurricane season, Florida faces an unprecedented threat to its fragile home insurance market, again risking price spikes and policy shortages. The threat comes from the state's primary tool to prevent such mishap: the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund. In an effort to stop rate increases, Gov. Charlie Crist and lawmakers two years ago doubled the size of the fund to sell \$29 billion in storm protection to Florida insurers, at prices far below the private market.

Insurers, in turn, were to pass the savings on to homeowners.

But since last fall, Cat Fund advisers have warned that Florida cannot borrow enough money to make good on its promise to pay hurricane claims. The shortfall is an estimated \$18 billion. Now, two key financial rating agencies, A.M. Best and Demotech, say the state must shore up the fund or they will be forced to downgrade the financial ratings of dozens of insurance companies that rely on state coverage. If that happens, millions of policies could immediately be deemed worthless, triggering banks to invalidate mortgages that require qualified insurance coverage.

Scott Jenkins, senior vice president for the Florida Bankers Association, calls the resulting scenario "a nightmare." State leaders are scrambling to find a solution...

<EDITED FOR BREVITY – full article may be read at:

http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20090208/ARTICLE/902080360/2055/NEWS?Title=Catastrophe_Fund_facing_critical_shortfall >

By Paige St. John

NEWS UPDATE: 2/27/09

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson said Thursday that he is filing legislation to provide a federal backstop for Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.

The bill would let the federal government step in with low-interest federal loans if the CAT fund cannot meet its financial obligations after a major storm.

Recent reports have suggested that Florida's fund, which guarantees up to \$28 billion in insurance payments, will not be able to quickly pay its claims because of the difficulty of floating a major bond issue in the troubled financial markets.

U.S. Rep. Ron Klein, D-Boca Raton, is sponsoring a House version of the bill, which would also let multiple states pool their risks for natural disasters, such as hurricanes or earthquakes. Klein managed to get a similar bill passed by the House in 2007 but it died in the Senate, in part, because of opposition from

cmbloomer@comcast.net (941) 351-0995

Other issues:
Dr. Xueji Zhang, President
zxj001us@yahoo.com 941- 926-3273

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Write "Unsubscribe to GCAA Newsletter" in subject box.
Your email address will be promptly removed from the list of ALL GCAA newsletters and other electronic notifications.

Featured Links

Chinese American Heroes:
<http://www.chineseamericanheroes.org/>

Here visitors can read about great scientists and seemingly "ordinary" Chinese Americans who are anything but.

I am particularly touched to read about Betty Ann Ong who made such crucial contribution to the 911 Commission through her immense courage. What an incredible lady! She makes all of us proud.

--- Edward Lin

President George W. Bush.

Nelson said the legislation may be more viable this time because it has President Barack Obama's backing.

"We need a more disciplined, structured plan for providing federal assistance following any major disaster," Nelson said in a statement.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Amyloid Theory Sputters for AD

The amyloid hypothesis isn't dead, but it seems to be limping a bit in the race for an Alzheimer's cure. Some researchers who predicted 5 years ago that an anti-amyloid disease-modifying therapy was imminent are now reevaluating that optimism—including the geneticist who first suggested the pathologic link between amyloid plaque deposition and Alzheimer's disease.

"Everything is taking a lot longer than I thought it would; there's no question about that," John Hardy, Ph.D., said in an interview.

In 1991, Dr. Hardy, a professor of neuroscience at University College London, postulated that β -amyloid deposition was the root of a pathologic cascade that resulted in Alzheimer's disease. The concurrent discovery that a mutation in the amyloid precursor protein (APP) gene caused early-onset Alzheimer's, coupled with the association of plaque deposition and early Alzheimer's in Down syndrome patients, added weight to the theory (Trends Pharmacol. Sci. 1991;12:383–8). A new research boom was born.

But the first phase III trials of anti-amyloid agents have brought no good news. Tramiprosate, a β -amyloid antagonist, was the disappointment of 2007; tarenflurbil, a gamma-secretase modulator, this year's downer. And positive findings in bapineuzumab's phase II trial were slim. A post hoc analysis showed that some patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's, with no genetic risk factors, had cognitive improvement after getting the vaccine. Apparently, the finding was enough for Elan Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, but maybe not for Dr. Hardy.

"The data right now are neither positive nor negative. At this point, the only thing we can say about bapineuzumab is that it's not going to be a miracle therapy," he said. To read more, follow link:

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

7. Helpful info and articles of interest

Studies find mercury in much U.S. corn syrup

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Many common foods made using commercial high fructose corn syrup contain mercury as well, researchers reported on Tuesday, while another study suggested the corn syrup itself is contaminated.

Food processors and the corn syrup industry group attacked the findings as flawed and outdated, but the researchers said it was important for people to know about any potential sources of the toxic metal in their food.

In one study, published in the journal Environmental Health, former Food and Drug Administration scientist Renee Dufault and colleagues tested 20 samples of high fructose corn syrup and found detectable mercury in nine of the 20 samples.

Dufault said in a statement that she told the FDA about her findings but the agency did not follow up.

Dr. David Wallinga, a food safety researcher and activist at the nonprofit Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, said he followed up on the report to find mercury in actual food. "When I learned of that work, I said that is interesting but we don't just go out and eat a spoonful of high fructose corn syrup," Wallinga said in a telephone interview.

"We went and looked at supermarket samples where high fructose corn syrup was the first or second ingredient on the label," he said. These 55 different foods included barbecue sauce, jam, yogurt and chocolate syrup.

"We found about one out of three had mercury above the detection limit," Wallinga said. The Corn Refiners Association challenged the findings.

"This study appears to be based on outdated information of dubious significance," the group said in a statement. Wallinga and colleagues said they believed the mercury got into the food during manufacture, at plants that use mercury-grade caustic soda produced in industrial chlorine plants, although his team was unable to show this.

"Our industry has used mercury-free versions of the two reagents mentioned in the study, hydrochloric acid and caustic soda, for several years," Audrae Erickson, president of the Corn Refiners Association, said in a statement. Wallinga said the studies were based on samples taken in 2005, the most recent available.

Many studies have shown that fish can be high in mercury. Wallinga said consumers should know about other potential sources so they can limit how much they eat. "The best mercury exposure is no exposure at all," he said.

"Even at low levels methylmercury can harm the developing brain. The last thing we should intentionally do is add to it," Wallinga added. He said his team did not test foods that did not contain corn syrup to see if they were also high in mercury.

(Reporting by Maggie Fox; editing by David Wiessler)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKTRE50Q5IA20090127>

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Media Affairs

For Immediate Release February 26, 2009

President Obama Launches White House Internship Program

President Obama today launched the White House Internship Program for his administration and announced that applications are currently being accepted for the summer of 2009. Those selected to participate in the program will gain valuable job experience and an inside look at the life of White House staff while building leadership skills.

"This program will mentor and cultivate young leaders of today and tomorrow and I'm proud that they will have this opportunity to serve," said President Obama. "I look forward to working with those that are selected to participate and I want to commend all who apply for their desire to help through public service to forge a brighter future for our country."

Those interested in applying to the White House Internship Program must be:

US Citizens

Eighteen years of age on or before the first day of the internship.

Enrolled in a college or university (2-4 year institution) or must have graduated from college in the past two years.

More information on the White House Internship Program, including application instructions, can be found at: www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships

8. Ed's Corner of Odds and Ends (Mostly Odd)

(Culled from the world of Medicine)

Birth of a Lawsuit

Rodney Dangerfield used to say that when he was born, he was so ugly the doctor slapped his mother. Here's another twist on the slapping-the-baby tradition. In Manapparai, India, Dr. K. Murugesan videotaped his 15-year-old son performing a cesarean section in the hope of getting the boy in the Guinness Book of World Records as the youngest surgeon. The teenager is not a physician, and the father is well on his way to losing his license and facing criminal charges. He showed the video at a medical meeting, and when the other physicians expressed shock, he said they were "jealous" of his son's achievement. That twist we mentioned? When the mother woke up, she slapped the doctor.

Most Important Trans Fats of the Day

Breakfast may be getting a little healthier. Under pressure from advocacy groups, the Kellogg Company has agreed that any product with more than 200 calories, 2 g of saturated fat, 230 mg of sodium, 12 g of sugar, or any trans fat per serving will not be marketed to kids younger than 12 after 2008. Unfortunately for Kellogg's, about half of the products it markets to children fail to meet these criteria. "We have a lot of work to do," conceded Super Sugar-Frosted CEO David Mackay. Indications has secretly learned that the company already has a scrumptious new lineup ready in case its current products resist reformulation. Hey, kids! Ready for Tofu Tarts, Salmon Jacks, and Sprout Loops?

Cravat Emptor

Men, loosen the noose. Tight neckties may predispose you to glaucomatous optic neuropathy. Researchers in New York found that wearing a tight necktie can increase intraocular pressure by up to 20%, possibly due to constriction of the jugular vein. The team studied 40 men: 20 with normal eyesight and 20 with glaucoma, measuring intraocular pressure with the men's shirt collars open, after wearing a tight necktie for 3 minutes, and 3 minutes after loosening it (Br. J. Ophthalmol. 87[8]:946-48, 2003). Overall, 70% of the normal subjects and 60% of the glaucoma patients experienced an increase in intraocular pressure. "Men who prefer to wear tight neckties, men with thick necks, and white collar professionals" may be most at risk, the researchers said. Now, if only there were an evidence-based reason for women to stop wearing control-top panty hose.

Small-Scale Harmony

John Donne said that "no man is an island," but it appears that bacteria, and those who study bacteria, have a different opinion. "I view humans as 'continents' of microscopic ecological zones with the kind of diversity comparable to deep

oceans or tropical jungles," said Noah Fierer of the University of Colorado at Boulder. He and his associates used a new DNA sampling technique known as "metagenomics" to show that standard culturing of human skin bacteria dramatically underestimates the full extent of microbial diversity. The researchers found that a typical hand in the study had about 150 different species of bacteria living on it, and they identified more than 4,700 species among the total of 102 hands. It's good to know that bacteria, at least, don't let things get out of hand and have figured out how to get along with each other.

9. The Funnies - Marriage

At a cocktail party, one woman said to another,
"Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?"
"Yes, I am. I married the wrong man."

When a woman steals your husband,
there is no better revenge than to let her keep him.

A woman is incomplete until she is married. Then she is finished.

A little boy asked his father,
"Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?"
Father replied, "I don't know son, I'm still paying."

A young son asked,
"Is it true Dad, that in some parts of Africa
a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?"
Dad replied, "That happens in every country, son."

Then there was a woman who said, "I never knew what real happiness was until
I got married, and by then, it was too late."

[-<Back to table of contents>](#)

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[-<Back to table of contents>](#)