

NORTH TEXAS HEALTH & SCIENCE

Summer 2008

The Quarterly Magazine of UNT Health Science Center



Never Forgotten

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



I'm often asked about the word "more" in our advertising tag line, "Fort Worth's Medical School ... and More!" Friends and associates wonder if we're referring to our expanding educational curriculum, our wide-ranging research work, our powerful clinical outreach or something else entirely.

The simple answer is yes, yes, yes and yes! For proof, this summer edition of North Texas Health & Science beautifully showcases what we mean by "more."

"Never Forgotten," for example, tells the poignant tale of how we're helping families find closure for loved ones who fell victim to historical tragedy in Chile. "A Picture Says a Thousand Words" describes how an innovative teaching program brings medical students face-to-face with fine art ... and why. Partnering with a local technology incubator to speed cutting-edge research into the marketplace is the subject of "Tech Fort Worth Acceleration Lab." And "STEER-ing to a Brighter Future" focuses on an experiential learning program that probes health challenges in the little-known but rapidly growing "colonias" settlements along the Texas/Mexico border.

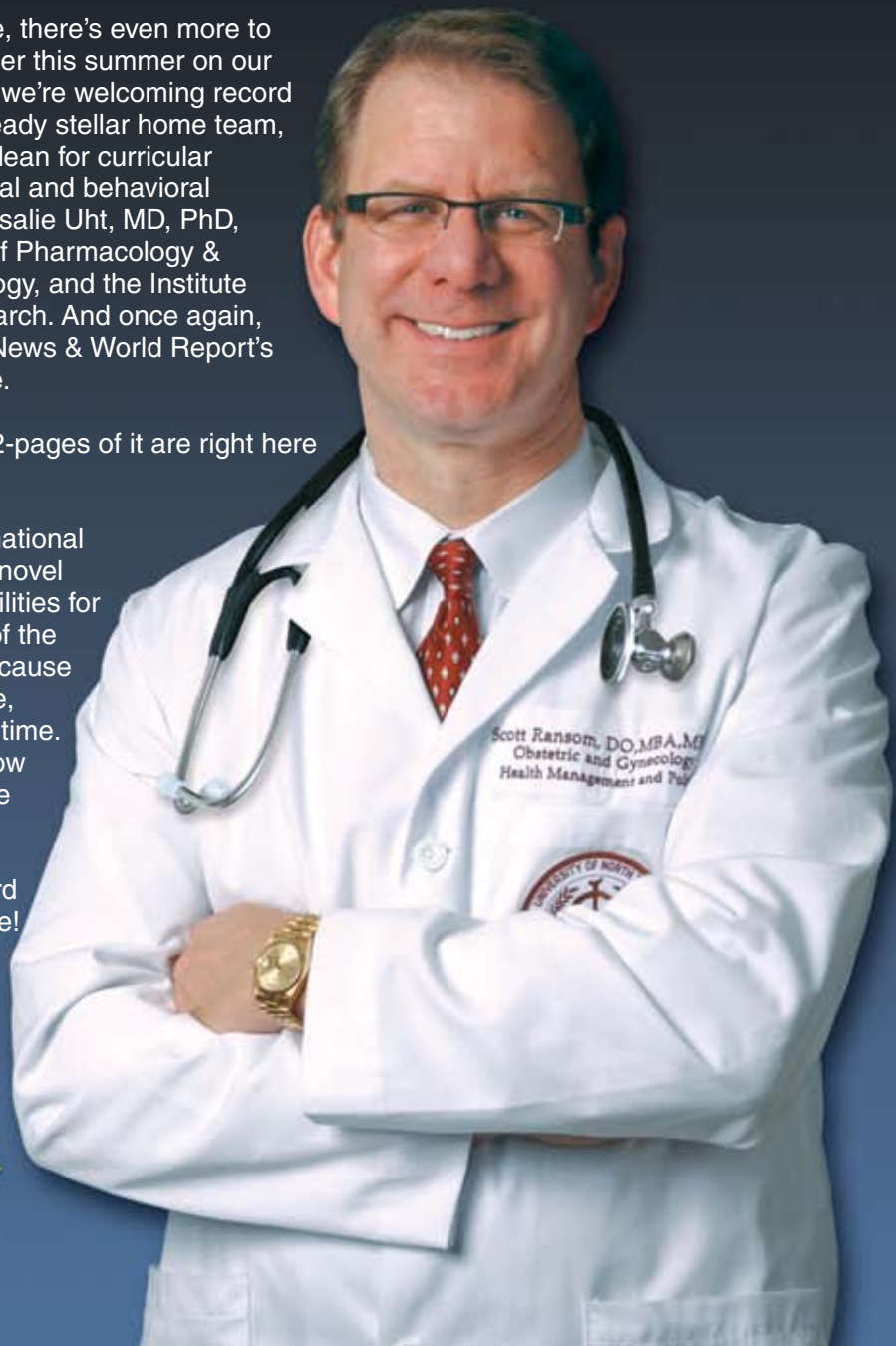
Thought-provoking as all these topics are, there's even more to "more." Construction is slated to begin later this summer on our new Public Health Education facility, and we're welcoming record numbers of terrific new people to our already stellar home team, like Christine Moranetz, PhD, associate dean for curricular development, associate professor of social and behavioral science, School of Public Health, and Rosalie Uht, MD, PhD, associate professor in the departments of Pharmacology & Neuroscience and Obstetrics & Gynecology, and the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research. And once again, we've been named to the top 50 in U.S. News & World Report's "Best Graduate Schools" for primary care.

There's even "more," of course, and all 32-pages of it are right here in your hands.

So whether we're talking about our international outreach or keeping closer to home with novel educational offerings and world-class facilities for outstanding people, I hope that our use of the word "more" will become a bit clearer. Because when you're growing as quickly as we are, there's a lot of ground to cover in a short time. But once in a while, it's a good idea to slow down just long enough to explain what we mean.

In fact, next time I'm asked about the word "more," I think I'll just hand them this issue!

As always, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions at ransom@hsc.unt.edu





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On the Cover
 Patio 29 at the Cementerio General in Santiago, Chile, which holds graves of many of the victims of Augusto Pinochet's 1973 coup. Photo by Rhonda Roby.

Never Forgotten

DNA Lab to identify Pinochet coup victims

Today, the country of Chile is mostly associated with flavorful wines and sea bass. But 35 years ago, the country was divided by a political coup that led to the detainment and death of thousands of its citizens. Marxist President Salvador Allende was bringing Chile out of economic distress, but was overthrown by Augusto Pinochet, the head of Chile's army, on September 11, 1973. A systematic state-led policy of violent oppression followed, and many of Allende's outspoken followers were murdered in cold blood.

In the capitol city of Santiago, many victims were buried in "patios," or numbered gardens at various cemeteries. Patio 29 is typical, in the sense that many of the graves contain two bodies. The rationale -- save time and space in burying the multitude of victims. Identities of many victims were unknown, so their remains were buried under the notation "N.N." for No Name on the headstone. In some cases, the unknown's body was buried in a grave with a body that had been identified, but incorrectly.

"It's tragic to see one person's name on a cross next to 'N.N.' – or No Name."

When Pinochet's rule finally ended, Chile's new government listened to anguished families and recognized the need to positively identify all the unknown victims. After evaluating remains using cranial super-imposition and structure evaluations, representatives of the Servicio Medical Legal managed to identify most of the bodies and families were told which plot or crypt held their loved ones. But while the workers were diligent in conducting exhumations, most were not trained forensic anthropologists or forensic experts, and an untold number of identifications have proven to be inaccurate over the years. Frustrated families again pleaded with



PALACIO DE LA MONEDA - CHILE 11-SEPT. 1973
Sr. Sergio Gantegón

their government to properly identify victims.

Sixteen years to the day after Pinochet stepped down from power, Michelle Bachelet was elected president of Chile. Her father was killed under Pinochet's rule, and she had been a torture victim. So she made sure that the pleas of grieving families became a top priority. Just five months later, she ordered that an expert multi-national task force audit the identification process.

Meanwhile, on a sunny August morning in Texas, UNTHSC's Rhonda Roby, project coordinator for the UNT Center for Human Identification, was zooming to work when her cell phone rang. The Chilean government was on the line, asking her to be the lead geneticist for a process audit team of the coup victims' identification program. Roby, a veteran of political and high-profile DNA identifications, was instrumental in identifying Czar Nicholas II, Vietnam War soldiers, and 9-11 World Trade Center victims. She quickly agreed to join the team of Maria Cristina de Mendonça, Francisco (Paco) Etxeberría and Dina Alejandra Jiménez and one month later, was hard at work in Santiago.

"One of the first things I wanted to do was see Patio 29," Roby said, her earnestness and



sensitivity palpable. “I wanted to understand everything. But no one else was really interested. They thought they might see it sometime, but I insisted that I wanted to see the cemetery, even if it was a bit controversial. Although we had a driver, I got directions for the Metro from the hotel concierge, and a small group of us went down to Patio 29.

“I didn’t even recognize that it was September 10, the day before the 33rd anniversary of Pinochet’s coup,” Roby related. “They were lighting small explosions in trash cans to protest the coup. Our eyes were tearing up from the tear gas. Even in 2006, it was a country divided.

“Their cemeteries aren’t like ours. They are sparse, and it’s tragic to see one person’s name on a cross next to ‘N.N.’ – or No Name,” she continued. “But the families still care about them, who they are and where their remains are located.”

With a new perspective, the team got to work auditing previous identifications of 96 sets of remains. After a wearying 149 days of intense work reviewing more than 120,000 pages of data (in Spanish) and establishing a system that ensured consistent results and report comparisons, the

team determined that some identifications were probably correct. But many more cases remained inconclusive. The team then began assembling their report and creating a database and audit forms with assistance from the Human Rights office.

“In some cases, we all agreed that the identification was most likely accurate,” Roby said. “But many times the anthropologist’s findings would indicate one thing, and the odontologist would say that it couldn’t be. Mitochondrial DNA can determine quite a lot, but on its own, it wasn’t the conclusive proof of a need for further identification. So we had to be very confident in all areas that the identification was accurate. It was exhausting.”

At this same time, in a strange yet somehow fitting coincidence, Augusto Pinochet died.

“It was December 10, 2006, and I remember that we were eating lunch when they told us of his death. There was dancing and cheering in the streets, as well as silent mourning,” Roby said. “But after he died, some of the controversy surrounding the exhumations and his rule seemed to calm down.”

A week later, the team signed its voluminous report in the presence of a Chilean judge (as required by law). The judge asked questions about the technology used, the processes and database quality. The team determined that a previous process used in 1991 to identify remains was flawed and inaccurate. President Bachelet made the multi-national audit team’s findings public a few months later. Her next step – select a well-respected lab to perform new, more accurate identification testing.

That’s one of the reasons Roby found herself back in Chile last summer, overseeing the exhumation of 30 bodies marked N.N. She followed a strict protocol for cutting the bones, saving a 10-centimeter portion for future use and sending a 5-centimeter portion for lab testing. The chosen lab would test the bone samples using a new process developed after the 9-11 attacks.

Photos from top left to bottom right:
Chile military coup, Sept. 11, 1973; Patio 29 burial garden in Santiago; Pinochet’s death on Dec. 10, 2006, sparked street celebrations as well as mourning; Rhonda Roby and Paco Etxeberria work at cemetery and in the laboratory.

Continued on page 6

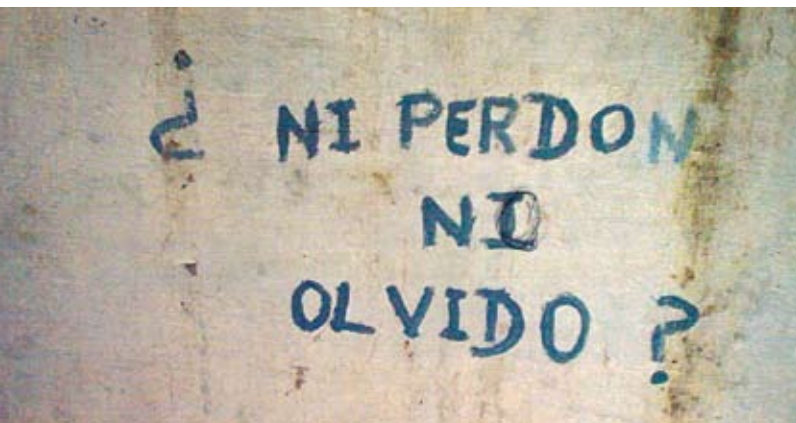




Rhonda Roby (right) signs and verifies her findings before Chilean Judge Carlos Gajardo, as required by Chilean law.

Roby, who also collaborates with multiple laboratories across the country, recommended two U.S. labs (including UNTHSC) and one European laboratory perform the DNA testing. After intense and lengthy consideration, the Chilean government recently chose UNTHSC to handle this all-important genetic analysis and identification.

“These identifications may be difficult due to the need to build a proper family reference database of relatives” Roby said. “But the Health Science Center really is the best lab that I know to do the DNA analysis and help these families find their loved ones. The UNT Center for Human Identification has been quite successful in its Missing Persons Program. We will be modeling our work after this already successful program.”



“Never forgiven, never forgotten”

Changing Chile: a time line

Sept. 4, 1970 – Salvador Allende elected president of Chile.

Sept. 11, 1973 – Chile’s military overthrows Allende, who dies in a palace attack; Augusto Pinochet becomes Chile’s leader; arrests of Chileans in the streets begin.

Sept. 30-Oct. 22, 1973 – Between 75-97 political opposition individuals are detained; 2,279 people would disappear and 30,000 were tortured during the regime.

March 11, 1990 – Pinochet relinquishes rule to a democratically elected president and a constitution is established.

March 11, 2006 – Michelle Bachelet inaugurated as president of Chile.

Dec. 10, 2006 – General Augusto Pinochet dies at a military hospital in Santiago.

Rhonda Roby’s Long and Winding Road

“It’s strange, the path you take,” mused Rhonda Roby, reflecting on the path that brought her to forensics cases that have literally made history.

“I’ve wanted to be a forensic scientist since I was 13 years old,” said Roby, who serves as project coordinator for the UNT Center for Human Identification on the Health Science Center campus. “I read about a scientist named Ann Reed, who testified about forensic evidence in a case involving three murdered Girl Scouts in my home state of Oklahoma, and I knew at that moment what I wanted to do with my life.”

That fascination for science and helping families led Roby to begin making a difference when she was tapped by the U.S. Department of Defense Armed Forces DNA Registry (Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory). Her job was twofold: to identify missing service men and women from current and past conflicts in Southeast Asia,

Korea and World War II, and to ensure that not one more soldier would be enshrined in the country's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She met that challenge: every soldier in Desert Storm was identified, in part because of Roby's work. In trying to identify remains of Vietnam War soldiers, Roby was touched by the families who waited in limbo to resolve the fate of their soldier fathers, husbands and sons.

"I've been very lucky," Roby said. "Every family has its challenges, but I can't imagine what it would be like to lose a member of my family. I think about those things when I'm working on these projects."

Along her journeys, Roby was part of the team that would help Russian forensic scientist Pavel Ivanov confirm that remains of Czar Nicholas II and Czarina Alexandra were legitimate by comparing DNA samples with Nicholas' brother Georgji and maternal relatives to the Czarina, respectively. Roby also helped disprove claims by Anna Anderson that she was Grand Duchess Anastasia. Roby has also been involved in identifying Branch Davidians in Waco, and victims of air disasters – including U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

She has also written several technical manuals, and established her own company, called Identity Quest, or IQ for short. And as the forensic manager of human identification at Applied Biosystems (AB), her reputation made her the obvious choice to direct the mitochondrial DNA work identifying victims of the World Trade Center attack. Most recently, she has been asked to serve as lead forensic geneticist on a team representing several countries in auditing the identification of victims of Chile's political coup. The group concluded that more analysis should be conducted to ensure correct identification of the remains. The UNT Center for Human Identification was granted the contract to perform DNA analysis for the Chilean government.

"I do my work for the families," Roby said, tears briefly welling in her eyes as she thinks of the people who have pleaded with her to tell them the fate of their loved one. "I always keep them at the front of my mind."

In April, Roby became the first woman inducted into Oklahoma's Wall of Fame for the Putnam City Foundation, whose mission is to enhance and enrich educational opportunities in Putnam City Schools.

"This is my exciting year," Roby continued. "It's also a year of transition. I received this wonderful award and was the keynote speaker for the Association for Women in Science, which is dedicated to achieving equity and full participation for women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. And later this Fall I'll receive my doctorate from Spain's University of Granada. Now, it's time to settle into a home."

It may be an unconventional path that Rhonda Roby treads, but the road that has brought her through extraordinary points in history continues to lead her to touch people's lives as she brings them resolution. 📖



Rhonda Roby, project coordinator for the UNT Center for Human Identification.



A Picture

Silently the woman stands, eyes glazed, skin pale. The doctor examining her notices a bluish mark on her left cheek. Her thin lips are parted slightly, as if it is difficult to breathe.

Nearby, another doctor examines a man whose green-hued face frames deeply red-rimmed eyes. His head is turned, and the physician notices the man's slightly misshapen jaw. His pained expression seems to highlight the greenish color where his eyes should be white, and his full lips are growing pale.

It might sound like these patients are suffering from horrible diseases. But the pale-skinned woman and the green-faced man are actually subjects of portraits on display at Fort Worth's Amon Carter Museum.

Their doctors: first-year Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students enrolled in the Eye for Detail Program.

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, then so might be a medical diagnosis – and this program teaches TCOM students how to use their powers of visual perception to help render more accurate patient assessments.

Students spend three hours at the Amon Carter Museum visually examining portraits and then discussing what possible symptoms, diseases or disorders they can observe in the human subjects.

“The program is designed to enhance observational skills among first-year TCOM students,” said Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean of academic affairs and medical education. “But it also teaches them to be able to put into words what they observe, which can sometimes be difficult to do. They learn how to describe different shades of color, location, size, shape and symmetry, which is an immensely valuable observational tool.”

While students entering medical school do not usually imagine art appreciation as part of their medical training – and some of the TCOM

Two first-year TCOM students examine Stuart Davis' self portrait as part of the Eye for Detail Program.



Says a Thousand Words

students will admit their surprise at being asked to make a class visit to look at portraits – they leave the program feeling like their powers of observation have been strengthened.

“I thought it was a very good lesson for us on noticing subtleties and connecting them all together to make a story,” said David Ho, TCOM Class of 2011. “I think something like this should be integrated into every medical school curriculum.”

Ho added that using visual-only perception and observations when dealing with the “patients” in the works of art helped him realize what skills he can use in his future medical practice.

“While most doctors jump straight into asking questions with patients, I learned that a lot of information can be gleaned just by looking at the patient,” Ho said. “Doing this helps me figure out quality questions to ask instead of just asking anything and everything and hoping I get the answer. I think this is an important aspect of becoming an efficient doctor.”

Ho admitted that although physicians have no room to “play favorites” with their patients, there was one painted “patient” that caught his eye more than others.

“I think the patient that was most interesting was the female patient in black standing on the street (from ‘Chinatown’ by Stuart Davis),” Ho said. “It was a difficult painting to assess, and everyone seemed to have differing opinions. “It took a lot of inference and looking at the details in both the patient and the background to come to the right conclusion.”

But Ho added that only one part of the trip surprised him. “I was actually most surprised by the vastness of the Amon Carter Museum, despite the fact that it sits on the corner of Camp Bowie and Lancaster,” he said. “The museum is beautiful inside, and the variety of artwork that I saw on our brief tour was intriguing and piqued my interest enough for me to go back (when I have free time) to explore the rest.”



Ho’s experience in the program doesn’t at all surprise Dr. Dubin.

“The students like the program a lot,” Dr. Dubin said. “At first they sometimes find it a little difficult – it requires them to draw deep into their interaction with art to a level they may not have before this. But they progress very quickly as they observe art in a medical sense.”

Did You Know...

TCOM is one of less than a handful of medical schools in the nation that requires all of their first-year students to go through a similar program.



Bringing the benefits of cutting edge research to the marketplace faster than ever before is the goal of the TECH Fort Worth Acceleration Lab, which opened last April on the second floor of the Center for BioHealth.

Combine the City of Fort Worth, the Health Science Center and a technology incubator called TECH Fort Worth, and what do you get? The Acceleration Lab, a unique resource with the potential to grow Fort Worth's economy in a big way. Nonprofit TECH Fort Worth, partners with startup companies that possess proprietary technologies and helps them build business plans, effective marketing strategies and strong management teams. The goal: bring the right people together in the right place to bring the emerging technologies to life.

"The ability to put client companies in close proximity to the researchers at the university greatly increases the opportunities for interactions between the faculty and the businesses," said Robert McClain, PhD,

associate vice president of the Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization. "With TECH Fort Worth and the Acceleration Lab on campus, we can move discoveries from the lab to the marketplace more easily, so they will boost the local economy and benefit the health and well-being of all society."

Until the Acceleration Lab opened, medical science and technology discoveries made in Health Science Center labs were moved into the workspace of partnering companies wanting to commercialize these innovations – sometimes many miles away from the Health Science Center. But now, clients of TECH Fort Worth can leverage university resources for the benefit of clients who are developing new medical devices, novel discovery tools for health, pharmaceutical research and other life science innovations.

The Acceleration Lab consists of six labs, conference rooms, TECH Fort Worth staff offices, common areas and a break room.

Three companies are now resident at the Acceleration Lab: Corlnnova, Resonant Sensors

Incorporated and Sendera Discovery. CorInnova is an early-stage medical device company developing a cardiac implant to prevent further heart damage and stimulate heart recovery in patients with late-stage heart failure. Resonant Sensors Incorporated has developed a new class of high-throughput biosensor systems for pharmaceutical and biotech research. Sendera Discovery is developing an in vitro diagnostic test kit from research at the Health Science Center to assess a patient's potential response to androgen replacement therapy.

TECH Fort Worth clients have access to the Health Science Center Office of Grants and Contracts Management for assistance in identifying funding opportunities, preparing and submitting grant and contract proposals, and attaining support for post-award account set-up and monitoring. The Office of Human Subjects Protection, in conjunction with the Office of Clinical Trials, is also available to TECH Fort Worth clients for identification of subject populations and implementation of clinical trials required for development of products and devices.

"We want people to know that Fort Worth is THE place to start and grow technology-based businesses," said Darlene Ryan,



Members of TECH Fort Worth client UHV Technologies pose with Dr. Robert McClain and UNTHSC's Dr. Wolfram Siede in the UHV labs. TECH Fort Worth brought together Dr. Siede's cancer-marker discovery and UHV's ability to take his work into the marketplace. However, thanks to the Acceleration Lab, partnerships like this can now be completely housed on the Health Science Center campus.

executive director of TECH Fort Worth. "This new Acceleration Lab, built by the UNT Health Science Center, is an important new resource for our community." 



TECH Fort Worth and UNT Health Science Center recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Acceleration Lab opening. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Robert McClain of UNTHSC, Stan Hall of Sendera Discovery, Dr. Scott Ransom of UNTHSC, Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, Mark Ellison of ETF-Austin, Dennis Robbins of CorInnova, Darlene Ryan of TECH Fort Worth, Debra Wawro of Resonant Sensors, Vernon Rew of the TECH Fort Worth Board, and Lewis Harrison of CorInnova.

STEER-ing to a Brighter Future

Just north of the Rio Grande, the slithery ribbon of water that defines the border between Texas and Mexico, a third-world civilization is taking root. Stretching nearly 1,300 miles but barely 20 miles wide in most places, this is the land of the “colonias”: rural, unincorporated settlements predominately occupied by low-income Hispanics, perched on agriculturally worthless land or in floodplains.

Tiny homes built piecemeal with scavenged materials rise up from the barren soil. There is virtually no infrastructure: electric, water and sewage services, along with paved roads, are just dreams for most of the 2,300 colonias and their 400,000 residents.

Into this frontier comes STEER (South Texas Environmental Education and Research), an award-winning environmental and community health education program. Sponsored by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, STEER focuses on providing experiential education and research opportunities to public health students in this poor, yet quickly growing, border region.

In partnership with STEER, two Health Science

Center assistant professors take a select number of students once a year to Laredo, Texas, to immerse themselves for a week in the daily activities of public health practitioners who serve the border region. And as both Drs. Claudia Coggin and Terry Gratton point out, public health students receive an up-close-and-personal learning experience far from the sterility of a laboratory.

“To say that the standard of living in a colonia isn’t consistent with student expectations is an understatement,” said Coggin, PHD, CHES, and UNTHSC assistant professor and director, Center for Public Health Practice. “Nevertheless, students see proud, hardworking people forging their version of the American dream in settings that might discourage weaker people.”

Water, water, everywhere ...

Safe drinking water, for example, is a given in America, especially near a major river. But in the many colonias near Laredo, most wells have a high mineral content requiring expensive treatment, which is not cost-effective in undeveloped rural regions. And there simply is no infrastructure for fresh water from Laredo, which surprises nearly all students, since it’s a major city just 155 miles south of San Antonio and the largest inland port in the



Mohammad Rahman '08 strikes a pose at the Rio Grande river while obtaining water samples.



United States. As a result, most fresh water must be trucked in daily by residents, at significant cost and inconvenience.

“The Rio Grande is just a few miles away,” said Gratton, DrPH, UNTHSC assistant professor, Department of Environmental Health and Occupational Health. “So students naturally want to know why this source of water isn’t used. That’s why we spend an entire day testing river water at locations both above and below Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. Students are surprised at the difference in the number of macro-invertebrates, or larval stage insects, that live on the bottom of the river. The numbers are far fewer downriver from the cities than above. But when we sample indicator bacteria called coliform, or fecal bacteria, we find that there are far larger numbers downriver. In effect, this intensity of contamination renders the whole of the Rio Grande useless as a fresh water resource for the colonias near Laredo. That’s an eye-opening realization.”

Health care access and alternatives

A shortage of primary care providers and the lack of reliable transportation pose additional challenges to residents. Private vehicles are rare and in great use, while public transportation is nonexistent. As a result, health care problems tend to go unreported and untreated, as it’s too much trouble and expense to go

“These barriers to adequate health care can be devastating, especially for children, in terms of slow growth and lower educational development rates.”

to a clinic. “These barriers to adequate health care can be devastating, especially for children, in terms of slow growth and lower educational development rates,” says Dr. Gratton said.

Understandably, residents tend to resort to traditional, indigenous forms of medicine instead, like herbal remedies derived from local plant life. And while these remedies don’t help in more serious cases of illness, they are quite helpful, convenient and effective in many day-to-day situations, and offer unusual learning experiences for STEER students.

“We spend time with herbalists and botanical experts,” Dr. Coggin said, “and students get a look at unusual plants commonly used in local health care, like “Sangre de Drago” or “Blood of the Dragon.” Also known as the toothbrush plant, that’s exactly how residents use the red roots. And the “nopalitos,” or prickly pear cactus, provides leaves, or pads, that can be eaten raw or cooked and may also have some value in the treatment of diabetes. Students really relate to the herbalists, especially given the rise of more natural medicines in our cultures, as well as the memories of their grandmothers making teas for various ailments.”

Along with indigenous plant-medicines, students also learn about traditional delicacies.



Claudia Coggin and Jeanolivia Grant regard a handful of local medicinal herbs.

March 2008 STEER program participants from UNTHSC gather around a sentry plant at the Texas/Mexico border for a class shot.

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“I never get tired of serving up heaping helpings of smoked grasshoppers and dried minnows,” Dr. Gratton chuckled.

Brighter future

At the end of their journey to Laredo’s colonias, students are required to write a paper on their experiences, aptly titled “Reflections.” Dr. Coggin never tires of noting that, almost to a person, students demonstrate a renewed sense of wonder about their chosen field and the optimistic hope reflected in the thoughts and dreams of the residents they encountered.

“For people in the colonias, the good news is that this level of living may be better than they ever had before, and they see their sacrifices as stepping-stones to a better future for their children,” said Dr. Coggin said. “The even better news is that this course is helping teach students that well-trained health workers can make a difference in whatever community they choose to serve, be it in their own practice or in public health at a border town. No matter how it happens, this expression of indomitable human spirit in the face of adversity is the true takeaway lesson for most students.” 📖

Reflections...

“It was a privilege to get a sense of the sacredness and respect that are tied in with traditional medicine.”

– Meagan Merrill
(environmental and occupational health student)

“The concept of health as a human right was at the forefront of my mind throughout this whole experience.”

– Gabriela Cantu
(epidemiology student)

“This course has definitely made an impact in determining which direction I will take in my public health career.”

– Jeanolivia Grant
(epidemiology student)

“Experiences and encounters like this are what continue to inspire me to help people and have hope that individuals can be selfless in helping those less fortunate than themselves.”

– Maritza Lopez
(social and behavioral sciences student)



Dr. Terry Gratton visits with new friends and residents of Nuevo Laredo.



Botanical researcher and herbalist Tony Ramirez discusses traditional medicine plants with UNTHSC students Mohammad Rahman and Jeanolivia Grant.



Crystal Flores points to a water sampling flask from the Rio Grande River.



Jim Eichman, a trapper for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, takes questions from UNTHSC participants in STEER about rabies control and livestock predation on ranchland near the Texas/Mexico border.

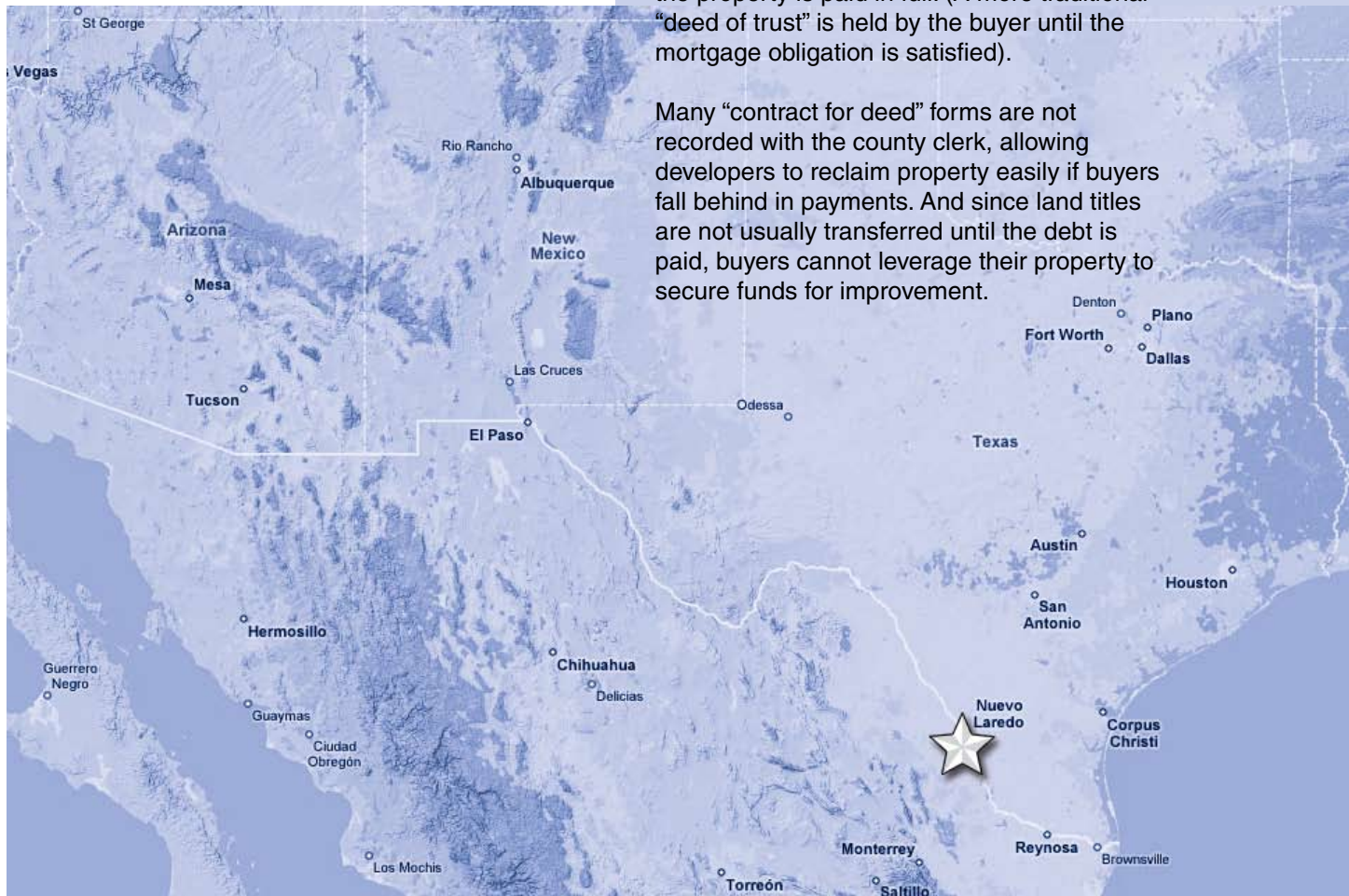
Did You Know...

The word “colonia” means “community” or “neighborhood” in Spanish and in the 1990s, entered common American usage to denote an area of poverty and substandard housing near the U.S./Mexico border.

Colonias began in the 1950s when developers began creating unincorporated subdivisions with little or no infrastructure and sold tiny land parcels as lots to low-income individuals seeking affordable housing. But when NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) was signed in 1994, population density climbed dramatically.

Colonia residents generally have very low incomes and often buy land with a “contract for deed,” which is a developer-financed method that allows buyers without credit histories or financial resources to finance their homes with low down payments and low monthly rates (but usually high interest rates). However, the property title usually remains with the developer instead of the buyer until the property is paid in full. (A more traditional “deed of trust” is held by the buyer until the mortgage obligation is satisfied).

Many “contract for deed” forms are not recorded with the county clerk, allowing developers to reclaim property easily if buyers fall behind in payments. And since land titles are not usually transferred until the debt is paid, buyers cannot leverage their property to secure funds for improvement.



CAMPUS FACILITY UPDATE

Public Health Education building plans set



With demolition and salvage of the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas

building near completion, Health Science Center students, faculty and staff are anxious to watch the new Public Health Education (PHE) building's construction begin soon.




The 116,000-square-foot structure's plan has been finalized, and a conceptual drawing of the building's exterior is complete. The first two floors will be fully completed by fall 2009, just in time for TCOM's incoming Class of 2012.

"This new building will allow us to continue to expand the number of new medical students in our TCOM classes over the next five years," said Greg Upp, senior vice president of Community Engagement. "It will allow us to go to 230 per class."

The ground floor will feature two 250-seat auditorium-style classrooms that can be joined into one 500-seat space, with state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment and size-flexible conference facilities. A small café-style eating area will offer an expanded choice of dining options.

"This will allow us to have groups as small as 25 participants, but also large enough to house Research Appreciation Day," Upp said. The second floor will house the upper half of the auditorium as well as additional classroom and meeting space, providing both the opportunity for small study groups and classroom activities. A 35-foot atrium will divide this space from the upper part of the auditorium.

A large osteopathic manipulative medicine training room will be part of the third floor, with the remainder housing a new state-of-the-art patient simulator training facility. Finally, the fourth and fifth floors will provide office space for the Health Science Center's growing faculty. 



Crews demolish the center tower of the OMCT building, which included part of the emergency room, surgical and medical suites, and the helicopter landing pad on the roof.



A birds-eye view of the site of the former OMCT site in mid-June.



An artist's rendition of the Public Health Education building, which is scheduled for completion in early fall 2009.

Forbes Takes Helm



It takes bold initiative to open a private practice in family medicine directly from a residency. That same boldness still drives Kathleen Forbes, MD, the Health Science Center's new executive vice president for clinical affairs and business development, as well as UNT Health's incoming president.

When she arrived in Fort Worth last March from Cincinnati, she asked herself, "How can we make already outstanding patient care at UNT Health even better?"

Forbes is working to continue developing leading-edge clinical programs with high-quality patient outcomes. She points to the implementation of the physician group's electronic medical records system, a clinical quality process and evidence-based medicine offering, as a step in this direction.

"Directly impacting disease states can have dramatic effects," Dr. Forbes said. She cited as an example statistics that show half of the Medicare dollars spent for diabetic care are for patients who have five or more additional chronic problems. "Diabetic education can help build a platform for better caring for the patient."

A well-respected expert in administrative medicine, Dr. Forbes finds numerous appealing scenarios at the Health Science Center.

"With a physician shortage expected in the near future, we're poised to provide more high-quality primary care physicians," Dr. Forbes said. "I feel we can have an impact on quality as well as education and service expansion."

On the physician-practice front, Dr. Forbes anticipates additions in services, physicians, clinic expansions and continued growth. "We will be a critical player in Tarrant County," she said. Her role as a physician leader is to help bring a business focus to patient care while representing a physician's viewpoint. In her previous roles as a



Kathleen Forbes, MD, executive vice president of clinical affairs and business development and incoming UNT Health president.

senior vice president of medical staff affairs, chief medical officer and chief quality officer, Dr. Forbes has worked with the constantly changing issues involved in the business of health care, including drastically-changing technology and access to care.

When reflecting on Tarrant County's current situation, Dr. Forbes asked, "Are we on par with needed access to care? No. Can we get there? Yes, absolutely."

As a key conduit for coordination and collaboration with other health care providers in the market, Dr. Forbes likens the adage of "it takes a village to raise a child" to the health care realm. "We really do need to align forces for quality patient care." ■

NEWS

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Commencement 2008



The University of North Texas Health Science Center awarded degrees to 315 graduates – including 119 new physicians – at its 35th annual Commencement on May 17 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

In his commencement speech, Kenneth Moritsugu, MD, vice president of Global Strategic Affairs for LifeScan and former acting U.S. attorney general, thanked the new graduates for their dedication to the health sciences and emphasized their role in meeting the world's health care challenges.

Andrew Frost, DO '08, graduate and student speaker, told of the camaraderie he experienced with his fellow students, and the many good memories he made during his time at the Health Science Center. "I can't communicate to you all exactly how much this school, and this town and all these people mean to me," said Dr. Frost.

The Health Science Center awarded an honorary Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree to Dr. Moritsugu – a first for the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM). The degree honors his contributions to the nation's health through education, disease prevention, his work with under-served populations and his outreach to the community. The honorary DO bestows on Dr. Moritsugu all rights and privileges that accompany the degree, including the hood DO graduates receive.

"This is a distinguished honor that you bestow upon me – something that, frankly, I covet," Dr. Moritsugu said. "Having been so closely aligned with the osteopathic profession for my entire career, I have seen the role and impact that osteopathic medicine has on achieving health for the people of our nation."



Katy Hogan, 2008 School of Public Health graduate.

Degrees awarded at Spring Commencement:

Master of Public Health (MPH): 55

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH): 8

Master of Science (MS): 71

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): 23

Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS): 29

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO): 119

Dual degrees (DO/MS): 10





Dr. Thomas Yorio (left) and Dr. Art Eisenberg (right) congratulate Dr. Bruce Budowle of the FBI.

FBI scientist enhances Research Appreciation Day

On March 28, the Health Science Center held its 16th annual Research Appreciation Day. More than 190 research project posters were judged during morning and afternoon sessions, with award presentations at days end. Bruce Budowle, PhD, senior scientist for the FBI, discussed bioterrorism and forensic challenges with a lunch crowd of about 160. Attendees also attempted the robotic version of ring toss with the daVinci surgical robot, courtesy of Intuitive Surgical ®.

Thank you, RAD Sponsors:

Alcon
Applied BioSystems
HealthPoint
Texas Oncology/US Oncology

New STAR fellows named, grant winners announced

In late May, more than 260 people attended the third annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities, hosted by the Health Science Center. Keynote speaker Freeman Hrabowski III, PhD, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), told students, “We in math, science and engineering are more focused on the work than the people. We have to focus on the people.” Following the address, Robert Kaman, PhD, director of the office of outreach, introduced the 2008 STAR (Steps Toward Academic Research) Fellows, taking time to remember Martin Farias, PhD, a 2008 STAR Fellow and Health Science Center alumni who passed away this spring. Dr. Kaman also announced winners of the \$2,500 STAR Fellows grants this year: Gregory Buck, PhD, assistant professor at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, and Elissa Purnell, assistant professor at

Savannah State University.

New STAR Fellows announced for 2008-2009:

L. Kevin Chapman, assistant professor at the University of Louisville
Noushin Firouzbakht, assistant professor at UNTHSC
Fesseha Gebremikael, assistant professor at the Alabama Agricultural/Mechanical University
Raquel Qualls-Hampton, assistant professor at UNTHSC
Wanda Lawrence, assistant professor at Winston-Salem University
Diana Beckmann-Mendez, assistant professor at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
Richard Palmer, assistant professor at Florida International University
Sabita Persaud, assistant professor at Bowie State University
Edilberto Raynes, assistant professor at Tennessee State University
Grant Wangila, assistant professor at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff



Dr. Thomas C. Dolan, president and chief executive officer of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Forum addresses U.S. health system

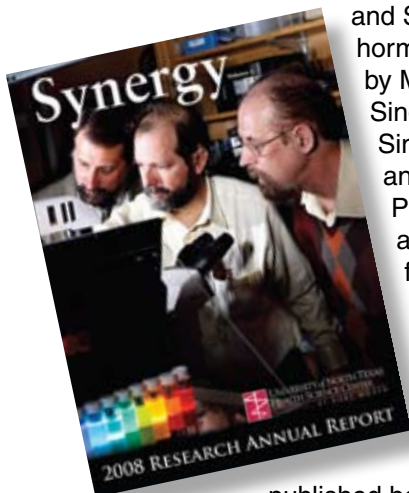
On April 15, the School of Public Health hosted its first North Texas Health Forum featuring Thomas C. Dolan, PhD, president, and chief executive officer of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Dr. Dolan discussed “A Better U.S. Health System: Is There an Answer?” According to Dr. Dolan, the biggest health care issue today is obesity, which leads to diabetes, heart disease and other serious ailments.

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19

“Synergy” vol. 2 now available

“Synergy,” the Health Science Center’s annual report on our cutting-edge research, features cancer breakthroughs by Yogesh Awasthi, PhD, and Sanjay Awasthi, MD; hormone discoveries by Meharvan “Sonny” Singh, PhD, James Simpkins, PhD, and Peter Koulen, PhD; and business applications in fluorescence technology by Karol and Ignacy Gryczynski, both PhDs. Additional articles cover our alumni, recently published books, and other research projects that highlight the synergies and relationships that help us lead the most exciting research in the area. News media, key educational contacts and state leaders received copies, in addition to our own faculty, staff and students.



ORC hosts international research symposium

Osteopathic researchers from around the world met in Fort Worth for the symposium, “Delineating the Evidence-base for Somato-Visceral Interactions and Autonomic Mechanisms of Manual Therapy.” The conference was hosted by the national Osteopathic Research Center (ORC) March 31 – April 1 at the Hilton Fort Worth. Leading researchers from the U.S., Japan, Germany and Canada explored the latest research in how osteopathic manipulative treatment affects heart rate, breathing, and the immune system. The symposium’s proceedings will be published as a book on manual therapy available from Elsevier, a science and health information publisher, in February 2009.

As part of the conference, Christine Goertz Choate, PhD, DC, discussed translational research and manual therapies at the fourth UNT Health Science Center Distinguished Speaker Series event. Dr. Choate is executive director of the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research at the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

The symposium was part of the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiatives Conference

series, held in conjunction with the American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation, in Dallas March 26-30.

Dr. Ransom takes to the skies

Health Science Center President Scott Ransom, DO, MPH, MBA, was featured in an interview on SkyRadio, American Airlines’ in-flight audio news program, in June. Dr. Ransom’s segment focused on our new Institute for Cancer and Blood Disorders and how the Health Science Center is positioned to create health solutions for the community. The segment ran for the entire month of June on all American Airlines domestic and international flights.



A new, improved HSC Web site

In April, the Health Science Center launched its redesigned Web site with improved navigation and streamlined design. The colorful new design makes it easier for external audiences – such as potential students, potential donors, patients and the media – to find the specific information they are seeking. The Office of Marketing and Communications teamed up with Information Technology Services (ITS) for the project. Visit the redesigned web site at www.hsc.unt.edu.



New board brings outside expertise to HSC mission

The UNT Health Science Center has established a Board of Visitors to help reach its goal of becoming a top 10 health science center. The board is a new advisory group of 14-16 members with diverse expertise from around the country. They will advise and consult with the president, the administration, and the deans of the schools and colleges on specific projects; participate as members of school- and college-based advisory boards; assist in community relations; and generally promote the interests of the Health Science Center. The Board's first meeting is July 18-19 on the Health Science Center campus.

Board members serve rotating terms of three years and are appointed by a selection committee through the president. Members are selected based on their individual interests, special expertise, vision, dedication to the Health Science Center's advancement, fundraising capability, and willingness to participate in the dynamic life of the Health Science Center.

Ron J. Anderson, MD
President & CEO
Parkland Health & Hospital System
Dallas, Texas

Mark Baker, DO '76
Member of the Board of Trustees
American Osteopathic Association
President
North Texas Radiology
Fort Worth, Texas

John Fernandes, DO, MBA
President & Dean
Oklahoma State University Center for Health
Sciences
Tulsa, Okla.

Lee F. Jackson
Chancellor
University of North Texas System
Denton, Texas

Timothy R. B. Johnson, MD
Chair & Professor
Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology
University of Michigan Health System
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Leonard E. Laurence, MD
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, Texas

Joan F. Lorden, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Charlotte, N.C.

Camille D. Miller
President & CEO
Texas Health Institute
Austin, Texas

Robert J. Mitchell, CLU, ChFC
Principal
Mitchell & Moroneso Insurance Services
& Investments, Inc.
Fort Worth, Texas

William W. Pinsky, MD
Executive Vice President for System Medical
Affairs & Chief Academic Officer
Ochsner Health System
New Orleans, La.

Emad Rizk, MD
President
McKesson Health Solutions
Broomfield, Colo.

John H. Robinson
Executive Vice President
Amon G. Carter Foundation
Fort Worth, Texas

Tim Shea
VISN 17 Director
Department of Veteran Affairs
Arlington, Texas

Al Silva
General Manager & Chief Operating Officer
Labatt Food Service
San Antonio, Texas
Regent
University of North Texas System

Dean G. Smith, PhD
Senior Associate Dean for Administration &
Professor
University of Michigan, School of Public Health
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Robert E. Stephens, PhD
Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences
Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences
Kansas City, Mo.

Applause!

Art Eisenberg, PhD ...

... was named a 2008 HealthCare Hero by the Fort Worth Business Press. Director of the UNT Center for Identification and professor of pathology and human identification, Dr. Eisenberg was one of 19 local physicians, nurses, researchers, administrators and coordinators recognized for their outstanding work. Dr. Eisenberg was noted for analyzing DNA samples from unidentified remains and family members of missing persons in the hopes that matches will identify the individuals. The lab's work has led to the identification of more than 130 people and has led to many criminal convictions.

Dr. Eisenberg is a member of the FBI's Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methodologies, the American Academy of Forensic Science, the American Association of Blood Banks and the College of American Pathologists. The DNA Identity Lab contributes samples to the FBI's national missing person database and is the only academic center in the nation to do so.

Carter Blood Care ...

... has recognized the Health Science Center for having the highest number of blood donors of any college or university in our territory for the second consecutive year. In 2007, UNTHSC made 222 blood donations during drives held on campus ... that's 666 lives touched by our donors. UNTHSC holds six blood drives a year, and Carter Blood Care offers benefits to employees, students and their family members in need of blood services. Sallie Spotanski, administrative associate in Facilities Management and blood coordinator for UNTHSC, presented the award to Chris Kalish, vice president and chief of staff, and Scott Ransom, DO, MPH, MBA, Health Science Center president.

Rand Horsman ...

... was honored in April by the Southwest Region of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) at their 2008 conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. The Health Science Center's associate vice president for Human Resource Services was awarded CUPA-HR's 2008 Southwest Academy Award for his contributions to higher education and the human resource profession.

James Simpkins, PhD, chair of pharmacology and neuroscience,

Sanjay Awasthi, MD, associate vice president of molecular biology and immunology,

Yogesh Awasthi, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, and

Darlene Ryan, executive director of TECH Fort Worth ...

... were named four of Fort Worth's most brilliant minds by Fort Worth, Texas magazine in its April edition. The Awasthis were recognized for their work to cure cancer; Dr. Simpkins for his investigation into the role of hormones in Alzheimer's disease; and Ryan for her extensive experience as an entrepreneur.



2008 Distinguished Fellows of the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE).

President Scott Ransom ...

... was conferred as a Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) at their Spring Institute and Annual Meeting in New York City in April. The honor of distinguished fellow – the highest given by the ACPE – is awarded to physician executives who make “exemplary and enduring contributions to the knowledge and advancement of medical management.” Dr. Ransom was named Fellow of the ACPE in 1991 and served on the group's board of directors from 1999 to 2004, including a term as president from 2003 to 2004.

Fort Worth Top Docs

UNT Health physicians from a number of specialties were named Top Docs by Fort Worth, Texas magazine in its April 2008 edition. To compile the list, approximately 3,000 area physicians identified professionals whom they regard as leaders in their industry.

Allergy/Immunology

John A. Fling, MD

General Family Practice

Brent Sanderlin, DO '96

Thomas Dayberry, DO '97, PhD

Phillip Saperstein, DO

Gynecology/Obstetrics

Lynn Speaks, DO '98

Palliative Care

Mark Sanders,

DO '98, JD, MPH '05

Alvin Mathe, DO '89

Cardiology

Martin Weiss, DO

Gastroenterology

Long Hoang, DO '96

Geriatrics

Janice Knebl, DO, MBA

Infectious Diseases

Barbara Atkinson, DO '96

Internal Medicine

Giti Azmabalani, DO

Neurology

William McIntosh, DO

Rheumatology

R. Larry Marshall, MD

Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH '01

Gynecological Oncology

Ralph Anderson, MD

Salvatore LoCoco, MD

Podiatry

Brian Carpenter, DPM

Alan Garrett, DPM

Orthopedics

David Lichtman, MD

Arvind Nana, MD

Brian Tobias, MD



Pediatrics

Marianne Levine, DO '89

Sarah Matches, DO '89

John Podgore, DO, MPH '01

Psychiatry

Carol Nati, MD

Alan Podawiltz, DO

Gary Etter, MD

General Surgery

Arnold Fikkert, DO '97

Sam Buchanan, DO '75

Vascular Surgery

Al Yurvati, DO '86

Physicians from the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, collaborators in our new Institute for Cancer and Blood Disorders, also made the list:

Hematology

Lance Mandell, MD

Mary Ann Skiba, DO

Oncology

Greg Friess, DO '79

William Jordan, DO

Ann-Margaret Ochs, DO

Ray Page, DO '91, PhD

Robin Young, MD

Vinaya Potluri, MD

Radiology Oncology

Peter LaNasa, MD

Other HSC Alumni on the Top Docs list:

Cardiac/Thoracic Surgery

William E. Wallace, DO '80

Gynecology/Obstetrics

Mickey Hooper, DO '97

John E. Miers, DO '77

Pediatrics

Kevin Wylie, DO '90

Dermatology

William Cothorn, DO '81

Internal Medicine

Michael P. Adamo, DO '80

Niraj Mehta, DO '01

Sleep Medicine

Terry Peery, DO '98

Endocrinology

Chris P. Bajaj, DO '00

Neurology

Charlece Scoma Hughes,

DO '00

Cosmetic Surgery

Michael Thornton, DO '97

General Family Practice

Michael Ampelas, DO '02

Norma Escamilla, DO '00

General Surgery

Adriane K. Martin, DO '99

German L. Berbel, DO '93

IN *the* COMMUNITY

Advanced study to assess North Texas clinical care

A new project led by the Health Science Center's Primary Care Research Institute/North Texas Primary Care Research Network (NorTex) and the Office of Professional and Continuing Education will assess quality of patient care in pediatrics, cardiovascular disease, cancer screening and immunizations in North Texas clinics. Called the NorTex Needs Assessment, the study will help researchers identify strengths and weaknesses among NorTex's 315 member clinics, develop patient-level and clinic-level interventions, and improve patient care by NorTex physicians.

Pfizer Medical Education Group granted \$71,000 for the project. Participants include UNT Health Science Center/Primary Care Research Institute, Cook Children's Health System, John Peter Smith Community Health Centers, and Parkland Health and Hospital System Community-Oriented Primary Care Centers. The assessment involved 250 physicians and 1,200 chart reviews, specifically measuring beliefs, attitudes and knowledge of physicians in key patient-care areas.

The assessment runs through March 2009.

Promoting health, having fun

The Health Science Center provided free health screenings at the annual African American Health Expo on April 19. The event, held at O.D. Wyatt High School, featured free glucose, dental, bone marrow and vision screenings, blood pressure checks, body mass index, cholesterol level and kidney function tests, and immunizations for children.

The expo also included fitness and healthy cooking classes to teach attendees how to get or stay healthy. Entertainment was provided with arts and crafts, face painting, and games for the kids, while adults could take time to enjoy some spoken word and step team performances.



UNTHSC physicians and students provided free osteopathic manipulation treatment (OMT) at the African American Health Expo.



The Health Science Center also provided free health checks and tips.



Kendi Hensel, PhD (standing, left) and Marc B. Hahn, DO, TCOM dean, pose as others give OMT to Health Expo attendees.

Health Science Center continues art show tradition

From watercolors to sculpture, art work from high schoolers in the North Texas area could be seen this Spring in the Health Science Center Atrium during the annual Health Science Center High School Art Show. The judged competition and show was founded in 1985. This year invitations for entries were sent to 70 high school art teachers in Tarrant and surrounding counties. About 200 pieces were ultimately accepted for the show. The competition draws entries from school districts in several small outlying Texas counties and receives entries from students who would not otherwise be able to compete with their peers.

This year's winners included:

Best in Show

Jessica Thomas of Keller

Painting

First Jarrod Boyd of Burleson

Second Meagan Bell of Keller

Third Lindsey Burchfield of Burleson

Printmaking

First Aubrey Lucero of Keller

Second Jacob Bryant of Lake Dallas

Third Sarah Waller of Oakridge

Mixed Media

First Jessica Thomas of Keller

Second Terre Henderson of Lake Dallas

Third Anastasia Romanyuk of Keller

3D/Ceramics

First Jessica Hudson of Lake Dallas

Second Alix Wolfe of Keller

Third Molly Gagnon of Keller

Color Graphics

First Aim Chiraporn Chirachinda of Oak Ridge

Second Krista Murphey of Keller

Third Chelsea Dobson of Burleson

Black and White Drawing

First Krista Murphey of Keller

Second Leslie Paetschow of Keller

Third Blake Cluck of Oakridge

Photography

First Marie Maloney of Trinity Valley

Second Margalit Slovin of Trinity Valley

Third Jayme Shivers of Lake Dallas

Computer Art/ Electronics

First Jessica Thomas of Keller

Second Andrea Drusch of Lake Dallas

Third Alex Dukov of Keller



Best in Show
Jessica Thomas



3D/Ceramics entry
Monica McGraw

In the NEWS

TCOM ranks in U.S. News & World Report's top 50 once more

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) was ranked 43rd in primary care for 2009 by U.S. News & World Report, marking the college's seventh consecutive appearance in the top 50. Approximately 76 percent of TCOM's graduates entered primary care programs from 2005 to 2007 - the third highest percentage among the top 50 schools.

Each year, U.S. News & World Report ranks professional school programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine. The rankings are based on expert opinion about program performance and statistical indicators that measure the quality of the school's faculty, research and students. To gather the opinion data, U.S. News & World Report surveyed deans, program directors, senior faculty and professionals who hire new graduates.

Your cheating heart

Headlines about former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's fall from grace last spring had everyone talking. Newsweek magazine approached this hot topic by examining insights into the psychology behind powerful men displaying risky behavior, and turned to the Health Science Center's own Brian Gladue, PhD, for guidance. Dr. Gladue, director of the Office for the Protection of Human Subjects, is also chair of the Institutional Review Board and a psychologist. "It does have an element of Greek tragedy to it. There's a certain amount of hubris that goes with getting to the top," said Dr. Gladue of powerful men who take risks in their personal lives. "You think you're invincible. You just don't think it could happen to you."

New Jersey law establishes partnership with DNA Lab

A new law in New Jersey aims to identify missing persons through a partnership between New Jersey law enforcement agencies and the UNT Center for Human Identification on the Health Science Center campus. Patricia's Law, which passed in January, requires New Jersey law enforcement agencies to submit reference



DNA samples from family members of people missing more than 30 days to the UNT Center for Human Identification's DNA lab for analysis and uploading into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Patricia's Law is the first of its kind in the country to offer a comprehensive plan for collecting DNA evidence. The law was signed by New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine in March at a press conference attended by New Jersey lawmakers, law enforcement representatives and the family of Patricia Viola, New Jersey wife and mother, missing since 2001, for whom the law is named.

ADVANCEMENT *update*



Third Annual President's Invitational Golf Tournament earns \$70,000

Bright, sunny skies greeted the 100 golfers who played in the Third Annual President's Invitational Golf Tournament at Ridglea Country Club in April.

Taking first place was the Merrill Lynch team of Bill Dafcik, Allan Fonner, Dave Gibbs and Gary Sanders.

Second place was won by the JP Morgan Chase Bank team of Bob Lansford, Stan Stanridge, Mike Wilson and David Roscoe.



Event co-chairs Bob Lansford (right) and Allen Howeth (second from right) present trophies to first-place Merrill Lynch team.



A golfer lines up for a drive at the Third Annual President's Invitational Golf Tournament.

The McMillan James Equipment Company team won third place. Team members included Randall Christopher, Glen Hambold, Mark James and Mark McMillan.

Bob Lansford won closest to the line; Fred Reynolds won longest drive; and Reagan Browning won longest putt.

Michelle West, assistant director for development and golf tournament organizer, said this year's event grossed more than \$70,000 – money which will be used to expand the educational support for tomorrow's healthcare professionals and scientists serving our community and Texas.

Nineteen Health Science Center family members volunteered to staff the event. This year's volunteers, in alphabetical order, were Denise Armstrong, Andy Axsom, Amy Baker, Sonja Carter, Blair Chappell, Krista Gordon, Louise Hall, Mike Haynes, Lauren LaFleur, Meagan Lindsay, Debbie Murray, Angie Owen, DeVetra Patrick, Shea Patterson-Young, Damon Schranz, DO, Lisa Smith, Jennifer Trevino, Michelle West and Diana Winton.

Members of this year's President's Invitational Committee included Sonja Carter, Blair Chappell, Randall Christopher, Thomas Fairchild, Rand Horsman, Pam McFadden, Jan Jowitt, Damon Schranz, DO, Dennis Shingleton, Lisa Smith and Greg Upp.

Alumni *update*

Alumni on the move!



Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences' alumni Pat Cappelletti, PhD '98, Julie Crider, PhD '94, Debra Fleenor, PhD '00, Nasreen Jacobson, PhD '03, Jami Kern, PhD '03, Michael Lawrence, PhD '02, Leslie Napier, PhD '97, Kerry Markwardt, PhD '96, Eve Shulman, PhD '04, and Terry Wiernas, PhD '97, supported the 16th annual Research Appreciation Day (RAD) as judges for the poster competition at UNTHSC in March. Their participation in RAD not only supported the current GSBS students, but also displayed the quality of our graduates to the faculty from other institutions and other biomedical science professionals who participated in RAD.



Judge Eve Shulman, PhD '04 and presenter Sherry Sours-Brothers at RAD 2008.



TCOM student volunteers hard at work. *Top row:* Daniel Wimmer, John Mullins, Drew Posey
Bottom row: Tho Luong, Christina Doan, Janice Nhan, Jenny Ozan.

If you received a phone call from one of our students in February, then chances are you're one of the many alums who pledged support for our medical students in this year's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Phone Campaign. Special thanks to those alumni who supported the Physical Medicine Institute and TCOM student scholarships with their donations, as well as to alumni Damon Schranz, DO '98, Steve Bander, DO '82, and Hollis King, DO, PhD '83, who personally attended and encouraged students during the campaign.



Volunteers with the Public Health Student Association's new Alumni Committee from left to right Denise Armstrong (Alumni Office), Kirtigandha Salwe, Madhu Pendurthi, Raish Polara, Arin Stephen and Nirupama Sabnis.

Kudos to the Public Health Student Association's new Alumni Committee, chaired by Kirtigandha Salwe, and all the SPH student volunteers for their successful alumni phone campaign as well. In March, these students called SPH alumni to help raise funds for student scholarships and to invite alumni to participate in a special on-campus lecture on April 15.

Representatives from the Physician Assistant Alumni Society, including PA Heidi Medcalf '04, PA David Gonzales '00, PA Adrian Garcia '06 and PA Kelly Gonzales '00, participated in the second annual PA Job Fair on March 22. Open to both students and alumni, the event featured more than 40 vendors seeking to hire graduates of our PA program. The event provided confirmation that our graduates continue to be held in high esteem and are sought after in the job market.

Congratulations to 33 Health Science Center alumni who were recognized as Top Docs in the April 2008 Fort Worth, Texas magazine.

(Please see the complete list on page 23)

Moved recently?

Send your updated contact information to us at alumni@hsc.unt.edu

Update your classmates

E-mail your news and photos to us at alumni@hsc.unt.edu, and we'll post it on the alumni Web site for all of your classmates to see.

Keep in touch

alumni@hsc.unt.edu
817-735-2278 or 800-687-7580
www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni

Stay up to date

with campus news at:
www.hsc.unt.edu/news/connections/campusconnection/

View and share Class Notes

www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni

TCOM
TEXAS COLLEGE of
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

CLASSES OF
1978 • 1983 • 1988 • 1993 • 1998 • 2003

Save the Date!

September 26–27, 2008

Stay informed at www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni

To Your Health



Unmasking Discoveries

UNT Health Science Center invites you to a Masquerade Ball celebrating 15 years of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Saturday, October 25, 2008
Call for more information.
817.735.2445

SAVE *the* DATE



July 18 & 19

Board of Visitors Meeting
UNT Health Science Center

August 21 & 22

Board of Regents Meeting
UNT Health Science Center

August 27

2nd Annual Employee Appreciation Day
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Alumni Plaza

September 1

Labor Day – UNTHSC offices closed

September 12

White Coat Ceremony
2 p.m.
Will Rogers Auditorium

September 26 & 27

Alumni Reunion 2008
6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Atrium and Fort Worth Hilton

October 25

“To Your Health” Gala
Celebrating the 15 Year Anniversary of the GSBS
The Worthington Grand Ballroom



For more information about any news item or event, please e-mail news@hsc.unt.edu.

FROM *the* ARCHIVES



Health Science Center President Dr. David Richards (left) and Dr. Art Eisenberg demonstrate the swabbing technique used to gather DNA at a kick-off event celebrating the collaboration of the DNA Identity Laboratory and GeneLink. The lab was created in 1990 with a special state appropriation to reduce a backlog of paternity cases pending in state courts. A few years later in Dec. 2001, the Texas Missing Persons DNA Database was established at UNTHSC with funding provided by the Texas State Attorney General's Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

Today, the Health Science Center houses one of the only labs in the U.S. dedicated to working with the FBI on missing persons cases.

