

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

# HSC celebrates White Coat, Convocation

**M**ore than 300 new health science center students received their white coats at the annual White Coat and Convocation ceremony Aug. 22 at Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium.

Keynote speaker Roy Schwarz, MD, president of the China Medical Board of New York, discussed the impact of globalization on the health professions. "SARS reminds us that, because we live in a more global world, any disease that exists anywhere in the world exists everywhere," he said. "We can't ignore diseases because they originate somewhere else. Instead, the core curriculum and values of the health professions must be the same around the world."

Dr. Schwarz said globalization is driven by many factors, including a world economy that is increasingly interconnected; the selection of English as the global language of economics, science and education; new technologies that make it easier to communicate with people around the world; and the ease of travel.

"This new global reality demands a new paradigm," Dr. Schwarz said. "SARS screams at us that we must change how we think, live and behave. Medicine and public health must be fused. For them to be separate is intolerable and immoral."

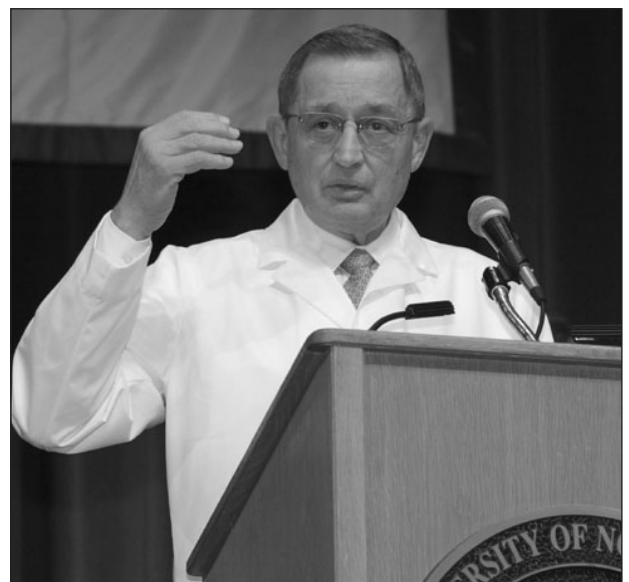
Dr. Schwarz reminded students that by taking the professional oath of commitment, they could never again

escape the responsibility that comes with it.

"Your white coat is a physical reminder of the oath and the demands that accompany it," he said. "You are about to start an endless journey and begin a life-long, magnificent obsession with the arts of medicine and science."

The White Coat and Convocation ceremony officially begins the new school year and welcomes new students to the health

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**Top:** Keynote speaker Roy Schwarz, MD, discussed the effects of globalization on health care.  
**Bottom:** New School of Public Health students are coated by Sharon Clark, DO, MPH, and Hector Balcazar, PhD.

# Campus Briefs

Mark your calendars for **National Osteopathic Medicine Week** Sept. 20-27. Interns and residents from the American Osteopathic Association will give a presentation Sept. 22 at noon in Luibel Hall, the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association will host a lunch and speaker on Sept. 24, and the second annual **DO Dash**, benefiting the Medical Student Graduate Association and the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, is set for Sept. 27. Registration for the race will be set up on Clifton Street in front of Campus Police, and the race will begin at the intersection of 7th Street and Clifton. To register early for the 5K race or kids 1K, visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or [www.lukeslocker.com](http://www.lukeslocker.com). A health fair will be held in the Atrium during the DO Dash beginning at 6:30 a.m. and concluding at the end of race activities, around 11 a.m. Local band Supercell will also play during the festivities. Check the weekly email calendar for further updates.

**Parking citation fees** will increase to \$25 for each violation except handi-

cap/disabled violations, which will be \$100 each, effective Sept. 1. A copy of the parking regulations is attached to all parking permits. Copies can also be found on the campus police intranet site. Citations can be paid with cash or check at the police department between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Friday.

The **EBAC Talent Show** will be held Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scott Theater. Singers, dancers, comics, musicians and more will be performing. Tickets are on sale for \$6 in the mailroom for cash or check; the gift shop for cash, check or credit card; and at the door for cash or check. Only health science center employees and students with IDs will be allowed to pay by check. Come support health science center faculty, staff and students as they showcase their talents. For more information, e-mail the Talent Show via GroupWise or visit <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/talent/>. ★

## White Coat

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science center. Students are presented with their white coats, which symbolize their entrance into the health professions. This year, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine welcomed 127 incoming medical students, 79 students joined the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 28 new students entered the Physician Assistant Studies Program and 126 began their studies in the School of Public Health.

During the ceremony, the health science center also awarded the prestigious Founders' Medal to L.L. LaRue, who served as its first fiscal officer in the late '70s and early '80s. The Founders' Medal is the institution's highest honor. ★

*Michael Clearfield, DO, and Don Peska, DO, help a new medical student don her white coat.*



## CAMPUS Connection

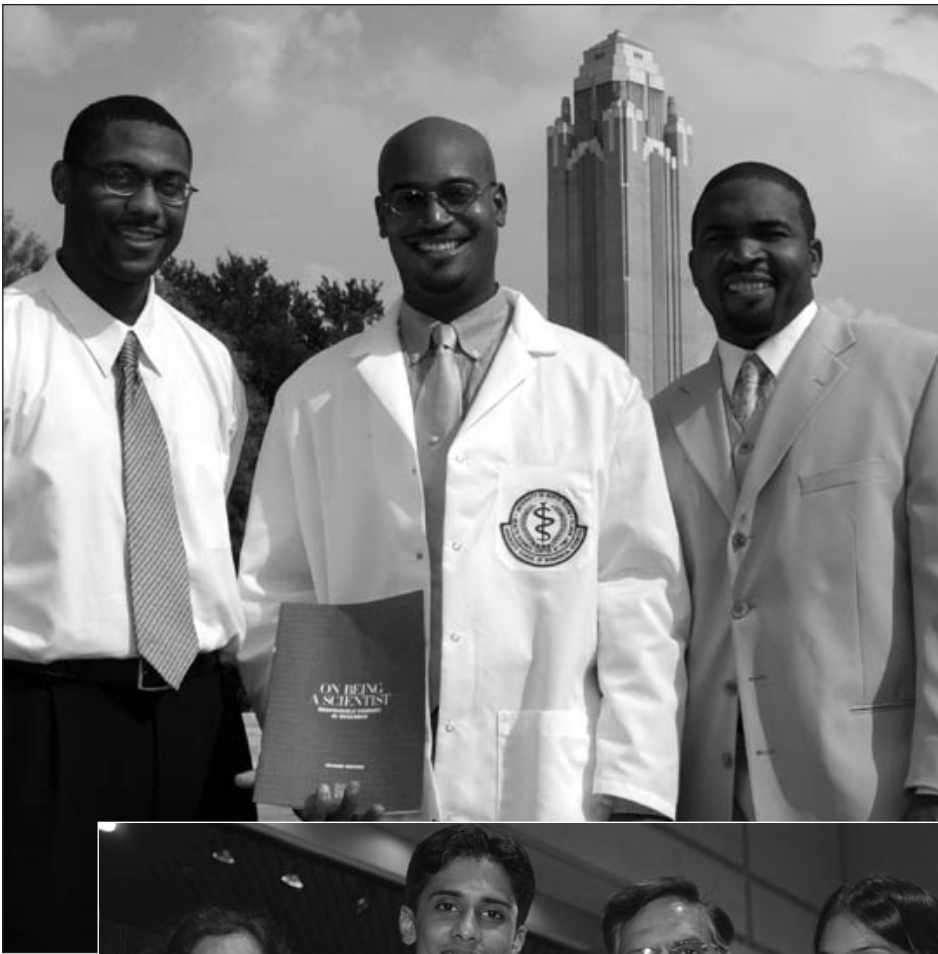
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*Please address all inquiries or complaints to April Eubanks, editor.*

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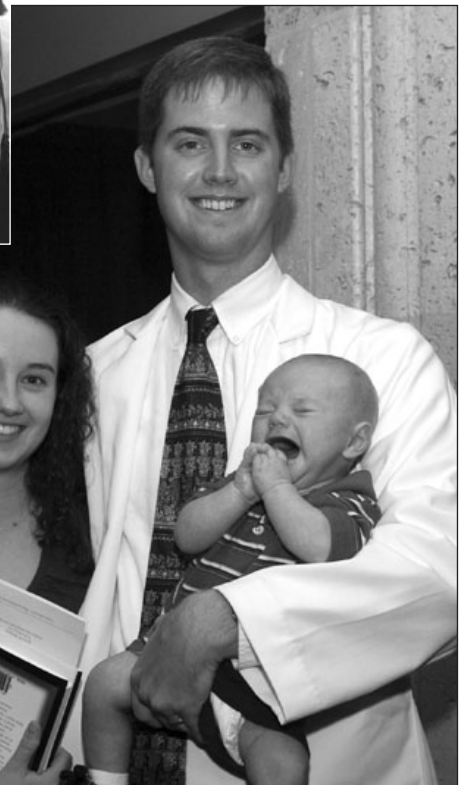
## Promotions and Tenure

**Albert Yurvati, DO, surgery, was promoted from associate professor to professor, effective Sept. 1.**



## Celebrating with friends and family

*Proud students from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and School of Public Health show off their new white coats, which represent their entrance into the health professions.*





# HSC celebrates 10 years as a health science center

This fall, UNT Health Science Center celebrates its 10th anniversary as a health science center committed to excellence in all aspects of medical science.

During its 1993 session, the Texas Legislature redesignated the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine as the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

Changing the legislation was one of several steps necessary to make the new name and expanded mission a reality.

With TCOM as the cornerstone for the new center, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the creation of a second component later that summer, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, with its new master's degree programs, was born. Permission for it to grant doctoral degrees soon followed.

Some of GSBS' initial faculty and programs originated from the University of North Texas. "When the graduate school was being created, we had to convince UNT to transfer some of its science programs to our institution and allow us to incorporate them into our biomedical sciences programs," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, an employee for 26 years who has served as GSBS dean since 1993.

The vision to grow into a health science center was shared by early leaders at the medical school. Long before 1993, they took steps to move toward that goal.

"We believed that to continue to grow as an institution, it was important to become a health science center and to add new programs that the community and state needed," Dr. Yorio said.

Bobby Carter, MLS, assistant vice president for information resources



*After redesignation as a health science center in 1993, workers installed the institution's new name on the front of the Education and Administration Building. Today, the names of the three schools appear below that of the institution.*

and an employee for 25 years, remembers how former president Ralph Willard, DO, encouraged him to expand the library from one with only a clinical collection to one with a research mission.

"The library had to expand its services and develop a collection to meet the growing needs of a new type of institution," Carter said.

Being redesignated as a health science center was more than a simple name change; it expanded the mission of the institution and laid the groundwork for today's accomplishments, said Ronald Blanck, DO, president.

"Being a health science center promotes growth among all programs," Dr. Blanck said. "It creates a synergy that uses what each program offers and leverages it to become a greater whole."

Becoming a full health science center began a period of unprecedented growth. During that period,

the School of Public Health and the Physician Assistant Studies Program were added. Enrollment has doubled, and research funding now totals more than \$15 million.

As the health science center enters its second decade, it is poised to continue this upward trend, with record enrollment, ever-increasing research funding and nationally recognized programs, Dr. Blanck said.

"Our programs are set to grow in different ways," he said. "Existing programs will expand and new programs will be developed. And the success of one area fosters new achievements in another.

"Being a health science center allows us to tap into the full spectrum of health-related activities," Dr. Blanck said. "Everything we do fits together and is linked to our core competencies. Our challenge is to focus on our strengths and maintain a tight focus on our mission." ★

# Research Update:

## Local hospital donates bypass machine for physiology research

Plaza Medical Center of Fort Worth has donated a cardiopulmonary bypass machine to the health science center for use in its cardiovascular research.

The machine, valued at approximately \$75,000, is now in use in the Department of Integrative Physiology.

“This equipment substantially upgrades our research capabilities,” said Robert Mallet, PhD, associate professor. “It enables us to conduct new studies related to bypass surgery.”

Researchers hope to use the machine to develop new treatments and test their effectiveness and safety, he said.

“Good things will come from our researchers having access to this type of equipment,” Dr. Mallet said. ★

## In the News

**Stephen Baum**, health promotion manager, wrote a guest column on employee health promotion programs for the *Fort Worth Business Press*. The column appeared July 18.

**Ronald Blanck, DO**, president, commented on the growing business of full-body wellness scans in a *Star-Telegram* article published on the front page of the Sunday business section July 13.

**Terry Hashey, DO**, TCOM Class of 2003, received the Leo Benevides Award in May. The news was published in the *Star-Telegram* and the *Business Press*.

**Terri Moore**, program administrator for Professional and Continuing Education, co-authored an article about a survey of female physicians and their continuing medical education needs for *Medical Meetings* magazine. The survey was conducted by PACE and the magazine.

New limits on the amount of hours interns and residents can work was the subject of a front-page article in the July 16 *Star-Telegram* Life & Arts section. **Don Peska, DO**, associate dean for academic affairs, was quoted about the benefits of the new rules.

**John Planz, PhD**, associate director of the DNA Identity Lab and assistant professor of pathology and anatomy, commented in the July 29 issue of the *San Antonio Express-News* on a new Baylor University research project that will use DNA to identify skeletal remains of unknown immigrants.

**Jennifer Weatherly, DO**, TCOM Class of 1998, has opened her own practice in Grandview, Texas, which has been without a doctor for the past six years. An article about Dr. Weatherly appeared on the front page of the July 28 *Star-Telegram* Metro section.

**Martin Weiss, DO**, assistant professor of internal medicine, commented on patients turning to the Internet for medical information for an article published on the front page of the July 17 *Star-Telegram* business section. ★



### LaRue receives Founders' Medal

*UNT System Chancellor Lee Jackson, MPA, (left) and Ronald Blanck, DO, president, congratulate L.L. “Lash” LaRue as he receives the Founders’ Medal from the health science center during the convocation ceremony Aug. 22. Dr. Blanck, described LaRue as “an agent of change who put the interests of the school first and helped secure the future of the institution.” LaRue joined the staff of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1976 as associate dean for administration soon after it made the transition from a private medical school to a state institution. As TCOM’s first fiscal officer, he helped secure additional state funding for the medical school and later negotiated the purchase of more land for the growing campus. He served as president of the Retirees’ Association for two terms and continues to be involved in institutional activities.*

# Dept. of Education renews McNair funding

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a grant for \$220,000 a year for five years to the Office of Outreach in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to continue the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

The McNair program helps college sophomores and juniors who are first-generation college students, economically disadvantaged or from an underrepresented cultural group explore graduate school opportunities in public health and biomedical sciences. The program was named in honor of Ronald McNair, PhD, a laser physicist and Challenger space shuttle astronaut.

As part of the funding renewal process, three anonymous faculty reviewers from universities around the country reviewed the health science center's proposal. The institution received a perfect score from each reviewer, who can award up to 100 points each, said Robert Kaman, PhD, JD, assistant dean and director of outreach for the graduate school.

"This demonstrates that the reviewers felt that there were no programs better than ours, although others may be equally good," he said. "Clearly, they recognize our excellent track record.

"The success of our program is due in part to the willingness of our

graduate and public health faculty to take these students into their laboratories and programs, and give the students the research experience that whets their appetite for graduate study," Dr. Kaman said.

Sixty-four students have participated in the health science center's program during its four-year history, said Liz Davis, associate director of the program. More than half of the participants have gone on to graduate school, and 20 of them chose to pursue their studies at the health science center, she said. This semester, one of the McNair students entered the TCOM Class of 2007, another joined the School of Public Health and two began their studies in the graduate school.

The health science center hosts 20 of the program participants every year and is one of only two graduate schools without an undergraduate program to have a McNair program, Dr. Kaman said. The graduate school and Southwestern Bell provide additional funding for the program.

Former McNair student Eric Gonzales, GSA president and pharmacology and neuroscience doctoral student, said the program helped define his career goals.

"The program provided an excellent opportunity to learn about graduate school. My previous laboratory

experience was mainly in classes I took at UT Austin. Those, at best, had limitations into what was learned and taught. At the end of my junior year in college, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as a career. I had first thought about medicine, however, I soon realized that wasn't for me," he said.

Instead, Gonzales decided to pursue a career in science and applied for the McNair program. "Participating in the program allowed me to make a decision that I have not regretted," he said.

"The most helpful part of the program was the research experience. I was placed in the laboratory of Dr. Glenn Dillon. During the summer, I finished a study on a novel compound that enhances the GABA-A receptor actions. To learn that much in such a small amount of time was incredible," Gonzales said.

"I believe the mentorship side of the program is probably one of the most important aspects of it. A student can learn so much from their mentor during the summer, whether it is discussing your career goals or why the mentor chose a research path. Either way, the information that a scholar gets in the program is incredibly valuable.

"I continued working in Dr. Dillon's lab after finishing my summer as a McNair Scholar and am beginning my fourth year of graduate school." ★

# TCOM, JPS collaborate on graduate medical education

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine has entered into a graduate medical education relationship with JPS Health Network.

Tim Coleridge, DO, professor of family medicine, has been named director of medical education for JPS, and Gary Smith, EdD, has joined the JPS staff as administrative director of medical education.

Dr. Smith has led GME programs at Texas Tech University Health Sci-

ences Center, Scott & White Memorial Hospital and Texas A&M University College of Medicine.

Dr. Coleridge will oversee the quality of all JPS medical education programs, which include residency programs in family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedic surgery, psychiatry and podiatry, as well as the transitional-year internship. JPS' residency rotations in oral-maxillofacial surgery, otolaryngology and ophthal-

mology through the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and a surgery residency rotation through Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas will also be under Dr. Coleridge's direction.

Dr. Coleridge said his immediate goals are to assure that JPS' graduate medical education programs are complying with the new duty-hour requirements of the Accreditation

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## TCOM, JPS

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Council for Graduate Medical Education and responsive to other requirements.

“The requirements for resident training continue to change, and it’s challenging to provide quality patient care and ensure that residency training is not compromised,” he said.

“Additionally, I look forward to serving as a bridge between JPS and the health science center and facilitating additional collaboration,” he said.

Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean, said, “Collaborating with JPS in the area of graduate medical education will lead to stronger and perhaps more diverse opportunities for residency programs in Tarrant County.”

The affiliation is part of JPS’ move toward a more academic orien-

tation in its medical education program, officials said.

“UNTHSC has a strong history of leadership in graduate medical education, and JPS has been providing post-doctoral training for physicians for almost 100 years,” said David Cecero, JPS president and CEO. “This new relationship will enhance both organizations as well as provide the highest quality of medical education in this community.” ★

# Department Spotlight: International Travel Medicine Clinic

Are you planning a business trip or personal vacation to an exotic locale like Asia, Africa or South America? If international travel is in your future, you may want to make an appointment at the health science center’s International Travel Medicine Clinic to decrease your odds of becoming ill while traveling.

John Licciardone, DO, professor of family medicine, is medical director of the travel medicine clinic. With the help of a rotating clinical staff, he meets with patients two days a week to provide education and preventive care to help them stay healthy during their travels. The clinic, part of family medicine, is located on the second floor of the Patient Care Center.

Before prescribing medications and vaccinating patients, Dr. Licciardone discusses precautions concerning food and beverage consumption, diseases, insects, altitude sickness and jet lag.

“The most important thing we provide is education about the health risks that travelers might encounter,” Dr. Licciardone said.

When visiting the clinic, a patient may receive as many as five vaccinations, depending on the destination. Patients may be vaccinated against yellow fever, hepatitis, meningococcal disease, or polio, to name a few.

Dr. Licciardone cautioned that even though some countries, like

China, do not require Americans to have vaccinations for entry, it does not mean that the vaccinations are not needed. Officials in other countries may be more concerned about what illnesses travelers bring with them than they are about what they may encounter after they arrive.

“Travelers still need to safeguard their own health despite a lack of vaccination requirements,” Dr. Licciardone said.

Dr. Licciardone said he may also prescribe an antibiotic for people to use to self-treat themselves for traveler’s diarrhea or other infectious diseases if they are going to areas where doctors or clinics may not be available.

In addition to his work at the clinic, Dr. Licciardone researches travel medicine to provide patients with the latest information. He has researched travel patterns of clinic patients and the factors that indicate whether people will come to the clinic before their trips,



*As medical director of the travel medicine clinic, John Licciardone, DO, educates international travelers about the health risks they may encounter abroad.*

and he studies the characteristics of international travelers. He also monitors the hits on the clinic’s website to see what information visitors read most.

The clinic maintains a website at [www.hsc.unt.edu/itmc](http://www.hsc.unt.edu/itmc) to help travelers prepare for their trips and learn how to minimize risks to their health. To make an appointment, call the clinic at ext. 2608. ★

# Campus Personality: Steven McGaw

Since Steven McGaw, duplicating equipment operator in biomedical communications, began acting as a child, it has been a central part of his life.

McGaw penned his first one-act play, a saga about werewolves called *The Rising Moon*, as a fifth-grader. By seventh grade, he was selected to perform in the drama group at his middle school. He continued to act during high school, where he also participated in competitive dramatic and speech events, competing once at the state level in Duet Acting. He studied theater at Texas Christian University and at the University of Texas at Arlington.

McGaw's goal is to write plays that are original and thought provoking. "My inspiration comes from a variety of places, from ideas for a scene that pop in my head to current events," McGaw said. "Sometimes I write the end first and then fill in the events that need to occur to bring the characters to that conclusion."

His favorite of his own works, *Like Hell*, began as a mental image that came to him one night, while another piece called *Stung* was inspired by *Spellbound*, a movie about a spelling bee, and his own childhood memories of the event. McGaw received critical accolades when he wrote *landscape with stick figures*, which examines the fallout from a fictional high school shooting. It began in 2000 as a one-act play and was expanded to a full-length production in 2001. It has been performed by the Fort Worth Theater and at Mountain View College in Dallas.

"The best part about the Mountain View run was that for one show, the college brought in 300 high school students to see it," McGaw said. "I did a talk-back session with them afterwards and was able to get their take on the play. Their response was different from adults because the students liked the fact that the play raised more ques-

tions than it answered."

Students in advanced acting at Country Day School in Fort Worth, where McGaw has coached the upper-level comedy improvisational group for the past six years, also chose to perform the one-act version of the play. Next spring, *landscape* will appear at Stark Raving Theatre in Oregon, which is also applying for grants to support additional performances of the play for high school students.

In addition to writing, McGaw produces and acts in local theatrical productions. In the summer of 1996, he and friends Les Cargot and Elizabeth Morrison founded SceneShop, a theater troupe that performs in local theaters, restaurants, bookstores and other venues. To date, SceneShop has performed 70 new pieces written by local and regional writers.

SceneShop performs short pieces and monologues so the actors can spend time rehearsing only their parts, freeing them from the more rigorous time commitments common in traditional plays, McGaw said.



(clockwise from top) HSC's Steven McGaw and friends Elizabeth Sexton-Morrison and Charles Baker perform in productions for SceneShop, a local theater troupe that McGaw, Morrison and Les Cargot (not pictured) founded in 1996.

"We focus on the script and the acting, using minimal props so we can keep the programs simple, which our audiences seem to enjoy," he said. "SceneShop also provides an opportunity for my short scenes and monologues to be produced."

McGaw also organized and leads the Bullnettle Boys and the Calamine Sisters, a seven-piece band. He sings and plays the harmonica, both self-taught skills. "I've been singing and playing the harmonica for about 20 years," McGaw said.

His first public performance was at a party. "I sang a song I'd written that was a parody of a country song called *Truck Driver's Daughter*. That was fun, so I kept doing it." ★



# Record crowds attend Hispanic Wellness Fair

The fifth annual Hispanic Wellness Fair drew record crowds to Will Rogers Memorial Center Aug. 2.

Organizers estimate that nearly 12,000 people attended the one-day event. "The event was set to open at 10 a.m., and people were already lining up at 7," said Susie Reyes, director of strategic planning and event coordinator. "It exceeded all of our expectations."

Several programs from the health science center were among the 90 providers who participated in the fair.

Ruth Harris, LMSW, of internal medicine, represented the Gerontology Assessment and Planning Program.

"We wanted to identify undiagnosed people who likely have dementia and/or depression, to recommend they discuss the screening with their physician, and to make people age 60 and up and/or their family members aware of the services offered by the GAP Clinic," Harris said.

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Public Health had several programs exhibit at the event.

Hector Balcazar, PhD, chair and professor, and Mary Luna Hollen, PhD, project coordinator, organized three booths as part of their North Texas *Salud Para Su Corazon* (Health for your Heart) program. The program

is funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

In one booth, Spanish-speaking lay educators called *promotores* provided information about cardiovascular disease and health lifestyles. They distributed 444 recipe books and 419 *An Ounce of Prevention* booklets and raffled prizes, including spices, cookbooks, tote bags and children's gifts.

In a second booth, *promotores* measured individuals' body mass index to determine their healthy weight. More than 100 people had their BMIs measured at the booth.

*Promotores* at the third *Salud* booth recruited 66 families to attend six weeks of classes and participate in a three-month follow-up program.

The three booths were staffed by 15 volunteers from the School of Public Health and the *Salud* program. Isabel Vecino, a physician from Columbia working in the School of Public Health as a visiting scholar, coordinated the *Salud para su Corazon* booths.

Francisco Soto Mas, PhD, MD, MPH, assistant professor, and Holly Jacobson, PhD, project coordinator, both from Social and Behavioral Sciences, informed attendees about *Hablemos de Salud*, a project designed to address language barriers in health

care. The program is funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH, assistant professor, screened 95 children ages 4 to 17 for obesity and assessed their risk of developing type 2 diabetes as part of her ongoing research.

"My preliminary analysis indicates that 38 percent were overweight or obese, and that overall 26 percent were at risk to develop diabetes, type 2, using the ADA guidelines," she said.

These preliminary findings are higher than those Dr. Rojas found when she screened 1,066 fifth-graders in 2000, but she noted that this sample size was much smaller.

This year, local health care providers provided a host of free services, including mammograms, eye exams and dental check-ups. Other services included free screenings for high blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels. School supplies, bicycle helmets, child safety seats and health education materials were also distributed free during the event.

Next year, organizers are looking into ways to expand the event. "We need to have more space so that we can add exhibitors," Reyes said.

The health science center is a founding sponsor of the fair. ★

## Lunch for a Bunch

*Lisa Ruiz, certified procedure coder, won a free lunch for herself and seven of her surgery clinic coworkers Aug. 4 after entering the KLTU radio station's "Lunch for a Bunch" contest. The group was treated to a limo ride, followed by lunch at El Fenix Mexican Restaurant with disc jockey Tony Lopez. From left: Ruiz, Michelle Trinidad, Elizabeth Palafox, Ruby Gentry, Julie Locke, Christy Grooms, Judy Steudman and Dave Crane.*



## Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

# GSBS welcomes new students

New Student Orientation for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences was held Aug. 4–7. Seventy-eight new students joined the GSBS for fall 2003. Of those new students, 18 percent are underrepresented minorities, 62 percent are women and 71 percent are Texas residents.

Carla Lee, director of biomedical sciences admissions and services, said the graduate school had a 70 percent increase in applications. “Our biggest increases are in applications to the forensic genetics program and the post-baccalaureate certificate program in pre-medical science,” she said. “We’re also seeing growth in dual-degree students because of our

clinical research and education programs in manipulative medicine and family medicine.”

Lee, who is responsible for orientation planning, said the graduate school’s orientation is more extensive

*Continued on page 11*



**Top left:** *New graduate students (left to right) Paul Critelli, April Enard and Buddy Tierce register for classes during new student orientation.*

**Top right:** *Gulab Zode shows off the T-shirt he won as a door prize during new student orientation activities.*

**Bottom:** *Thomas Yorio, GSBS dean, answers new student Nicole Dobbs’ questions about selecting a mentor.*

## Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

# GSBS 10th anniversary celebration planned

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a fundraising gala.

“Through the Looking Glass: Celebrating Ten Years of Imagination, Creativity and Achievement” will be held at the City Club Oct. 18. The gala will benefit the Graduate School Scholarship and Dean’s Progress funds.

“We need scholarship dollars to attract and keep bright, hardworking students,” said Thomas Yorio, professor and dean of the graduate school. “We are competitive in every way with the top universities and health science centers. Our faculty is top notch, our curriculum is strong, and our research is outstanding. The only benefits we haven’t been able to offer are tuition scholarships.”

Thus far, sponsors include Travel Service Everywhere, the Graduate Student Association, *Fort Worth Business*

*Press*, Alcon Research Ltd., the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease Research, the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, the Department of Integrative Physiology and Texas Cancer Care.

Honorary chairs for the event are distinguished alumni James Pawelczyk, PhD, an associate professor at Pennsylvania State University and a payload specialist on the space shuttle Columbia; Gerald Cagle, PhD, vice president of research and development at Alcon Research Ltd; and Ray Page, DO, PhD, research director for Texas Cancer Care.

Elena Yorio, CTC, CEO of Travel Service Everywhere, and Annita Verstappen Bens, PhD, graduate school alumni association president, are co-chairs.

For more information, to purchase tickets or sponsor tables, please contact Carla Lee, EAD-816, ext. 2560. ★

## New students

*continued from page 10*

than most. “Our orientation program has several goals. Students prepare to begin our integrated core curriculum, gain understanding of the research programs on our campus, learn what we expect of our students, and maybe even make some friends among their new classmates,” she said. “It’s my favorite time of year because all of the new students are so excited and happy to be here.”

Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean, hosted a luncheon during orientation to advise students on selecting a fac-

ulty mentor. “There is probably no other decision that a student makes that is more important to his or her graduate education,” he said. Dr. Yorio’s advice included reviewing research papers previously published by a potential faculty mentor and interviewing current lab members as well as the faculty member.

Orientation activities culminated with the Convocation and White Coat Ceremony at Will Rogers Auditorium Aug. 22 and Ranchland at Circle R Ranch Sept. 5. ★

## Congratulations Summer 2003 Graduates!

**Selena Godoy, MS**

**Jordan Senne, MS**

**Maria Chahrour, MS**

**Joseph Cooksley, MS**

**Romy Cruz, MS**

**Jody Hynds, MS**

**Michael Moeller, PhD**

**Jennifer Otto, MS**

**Katie Overheim, PhD**

**Bhooma Srinivasan, PhD**

**Ahmad Tawil, MS**

**Shannon Tinsley, MS**

**Maurice Williams, PhD**

**Xinyu Zhang, PhD**

## Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the profile about HSC’s own playwright, Steven McGaw, on page 8.

Let us know about other interesting campus personalities by sending an e-mail to the News Office via GroupWise.



## Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

# Medical group honors employees

The Physicians & Surgeons Medical Group chose Mary Alston, internal medicine, and Kathy Peace, LVN, surgery, as Employees of the Month for July.

Alston, the business support Employee of the Month, worked as a temporary employee in the internal medicine clinic until she was hired in January 2002 as a clinical services representative in the medical records area, and she was soon promoted to CSR II. Alston has helped in several internal medicine clinical areas and is currently assigned to the gastroenterology division front desk area.

As the primary front desk staff in the GI clinic, Alston checks patients in and out, manages physician schedules, verifies referrals and third-party coverage, makes follow-up appointments and appointment reminder calls, and acts as liaison with the GI nursing staff.

"Mary performs these duties and anything else asked of her accurately, quickly, pleasantly and with expertise,"

said Michael Linkins, MA, MBA, clinic services manager for internal medicine.

Cathy Lee, RN, nurse manager of specialty medicine, said, "Mary exhibits exemplary customer service not only to patients but also to her internal customers, including physicians, nurses and co-workers."

Peace, the clinical support Employee of the Month, has been the Department of Surgery's support nurse in the vascular specialty area for eight years. She currently works with Burke DeLange, DO, and Don Peska, DO. She also performs non-invasive arterial studies using the clinic's Doppler equipment.

"Kathy excels in her performance in many ways. She continues to provide stable and consistent support in a spe-



Mary Alston



Kathy Peace

cialty that has tended to be high-volume for us," said Dave Crane, clinical services manager for surgery.

"Kathy always takes on more responsibilities than she is given, always pitches in when we are short-staffed and always remembers everyone's birthday," Dr. DeLange said. "The patients love her, and I really appreciate the way she cares for my patients and their families. She is loyal and hard-working and definitely deserving of this award." ★



### TCOM Student Ambassadors

This year's TCOM Ambassadors are, from left to right: (front row) Samera Kasim, Kara Starnes, An Bui, Leslie Reddell, Shelly Hamrick; (second row) Rayan Kagan, James Feng, Matthew Siine; (third row) Prateek Chaudhary, Jennifer Thompson, Troy Phillips, David Jenkins and Michael Carletti. Deana Lanham is not pictured. All of the ambassadors are members of TCOM's class of 2006.

## School of Public Health

# SPH launches first alumni society

The School of Public Health is happy to announce the formation of its first alumni society. Kathryn Cardarelli, who graduated with an MPH degree in epidemiology in 1999, has been appointed president. Cardarelli, currently a doctoral student at the University of Texas School of Public Health and a research associate in its Center for Society and Population Health, anticipates completing her dissertation next year.

Nora Santana, MPH, a 2000 community health graduate, and Sherwin Daryani, MPH, a 2001 community health graduate, will also serve on the board. Santana is currently a quality management coordinator for Amerigroup Corporation, and Daryani is program director for community solutions for the Fort Worth Public Health Department.

Cardarelli presented the newest group of SPH students with welcome gifts at the White Coat Ceremony Aug. 22. "The education and experiences I

accumulated at UNTHSC prepared me for the challenges I have faced, and it is exciting to be in a position to give back to the school," Cardarelli said.

Initial plans for the society include career development, networking activities and fundraisers for scholarships. An annual service project with an emphasis on public health issues was also discussed. "It's all about enhancing others in our profession and forming alliances," Santana said.

Cardarelli said she hopes to work closely with the student association and student services. "The new alumni society will serve to promote a spirit of camaraderie and loyalty to the School of Public Health and offer opportunities to keep up with the achievements of faculty, students and fellow alumni," she said.

"My goal is to develop a framework to support these endeavors and to generate excitement among both current and future alumni about the



*Kathryn Cardarelli, MPH*

potential for a society that will serve them into their careers," she said.

The first SPH alumni society will be officially inaugurated at an alumni reception in conjunction with the American Public Health Association's 131st annual meeting and exposition in San Francisco this November. ★

# New students learn about HSC community

The School of Public Health welcomed its newest group of students Aug. 14 at its New Student Orientation for fall 2003. Fifty-two students were greeted that morning with a passionate speech from Ronald Blanck, DO, president, on the growing interest in public health.

Mitchell Forman, DO, invited students to take advantage of the services offered by student affairs and introduced Thomas Moorman, EdD, executive director of student affairs, who as former director of SPH admissions and student services, has a particular interest and concern for the school and its students.

Bob Galvan, MPH, associate dean for the School of Public Health, extended a warm welcome and con-

gratulated the newcomers on their decision to join our community.

After Diane Wynn, director of SPH admissions and student services, talked about her office and its services, the students learned about the library, computer services, Banner Web and registration and had their photos taken for ID cards. Most students said they found the financial aid and international student sessions to be of particular interest.

Urmila Kamat, a new international student, said, "I really appreciated the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Doug Shriner in the international student session, and I think our inquiries will help him as he continues to develop the first International Student Office for the health science center."

Fourteen of the new students enrolled in the School of Public Health are international students, and the number of international applications has remained steady at more than 100 every fall. Gautam Chhajed, a new student from Bombay, said he is looking forward to the possibility of forming the first international student organization.

Overall, new student orientation proved to be a successful introduction to the school, thanks in large part to the help of current SPH students Eve Lane, Kim McGee, Chris Manuel, Jerry Roberson, Mary-Katherine Sanchez, Susie Quintana, Jorge Sanchez and Daniel Grajeda, who greeted the new group and helped coordinate the day's events. ★

# Faculty Advances

**Alakananda Basu, PhD**, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, was invited to review grants for the Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics-1 Study Section for the U. S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command/Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (2003 Breast Cancer Research Program), held July 30-Aug. 1 in Reston, Va. She also presented "Deregulation of PKC $\delta$  in Cisplatin-resistant HeLa cells" at the 94th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research held in Washington, D.C., July 11-14. **Jie Huang**, senior research assistant in molecular biology/immunology, was first author, and **Ahmad Tawil**, graduate student, was co-author of the abstract.

**Sharon Clark, DO, MPH**, assistant professor of environmental/occupational health, presented "U.S. Railroads: Occupational Health and Safety Programs" to the Association of Railroad Industrial Physicians at the U.K. Society of Occupational Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting in Southampton, England, July 7.

**Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES**, assistant professor of social/behavioral sciences, and **Carol Stehly, MS, MEd**, instructor of family medicine, presented "SL Grant + Students + Community = Unique Learning Opportunity for All" at the Oklahoma, Texas and National Campus Compacts and Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators Conference in Dallas in July. **Dr. Coggin** also presented "An Innovative Method: Using Delphi Technique to Conduct a Needs Assessment of African American Breast Cancer Survivors" at the Society for Public Health Education Mid-year Scientific Conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in June. **Mary Shaw Perry, PhD, CHES, SPH** adjunct faculty, of Indiana University Bloomington, was co-author.

**Michael Gatch, PhD**, research assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, is author of an invited review paper, "Discriminative stimulus effects of m-chlorophenylpiperazine as a model of the role of serotonin receptors in anxiety," published in the August issue of *Life Sciences*.

**Peter Hilsenrath, PhD**, professor of health management/policy and director of the Center of Health Management and Policy Studies, has been re-appointed to a two-year term on the editorial board of *Safundi, The Journal of South African & American Comparative Studies*.

**Myoung Kim, PhD**, research assistant professor of molecular biology/immunology, received a grant for \$426,000 over a two-year period from NIH-National Cancer Institute to support her research on prostate cancer and angiogenesis. **Dr. Kim** will serve as a principal investigator on the grant project "Epigallocatechin gallate, Prostate Cancer, and Angiogenesis." **Per Albertsson, MD, PhD**, of the University of Gothenberg, Sweden, will serve as co-investigator, and **Egeene Daniels, DVM**, director of lab animal medicine, **Richard Easom, PhD**, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, and **Sejong Bae, PhD**, assistant professor of biostatistics, will be consultants on the grant.

**Peter Koulen, PhD**, assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, is senior author of a paper, "Ves1 / Homer proteins regulate ryanodine receptor type 2 function and intracellular calcium signaling," published in the September issue of *Cell Calcium*. **Jens West-**

**hoff, MD**, postdoctoral research associate, and **Sung-Yong Hwang**, graduate teaching assistant, both of pharmacology/neuroscience, are primary authors. **Scott Duncan**, senior research assistant in pharmacology/neuroscience; **Fumiko Ozawa, PhD**, and **Kaoru Inokuchi, PhD**, both of Mitsubishi Kagaku Institute of Life Sciences, Tokyo, Japan; and **Pompeo Volpe, PhD**, of the University of Padua, Italy, are co-authors. **Dr. Koulen** has also been awarded a grant from the NIH-National Eye Institute for his project "Calcium signaling in retinal neurons" and a grant from the NIH-National Institute on Aging for his project "Modulation of calcium signaling by presenilin-1."

**Porunelloor Mathew, PhD**, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, presented the paper "2B4(CD244)-mediated activation of NK cells reduce metastases of B16F10 melanoma in mice" at the 94th annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, July 11-14 in Washington, D.C. **Lori Johnson, PhD, GSBS 2001**, of Baylor University; **Swapnil Vaidya**, graduate student in microbiology/immunology; and **Ronald Goldfarb, PhD**, of Sopherion Inc., are co-authors.

**Xiangrong Shi, PhD**, associate professor of integrative physiology, is first author and senior author of a paper, "Aging and arterial blood pressure variability during orthostatic challenge," published in the August issue of *Gerontology*. **Guoyuan Huang, PhD**, of Southern Indiana University; **Scott Smith, PhD**, and **Rong Zhang, PhD**, both affiliated with UT Southwestern Medical Center; and **Kevin Formes, DO, MS, TCOM 2003/GSBS 2002**, are co-authors.

**Johnathan Tune, PhD**, assistant professor of integrative physiology, has been awarded a grant for \$1 million over a four-year period from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute for his project "Coronary dysfunction in obesity and insulin resistance."

**Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH**, assistant professor of social/behavioral sciences, is first author of a poster, "Gender-related Risk Factors for Obesity in School Children," presented at the Society for Public Health Education Mid-year Scientific Conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in June. **Manuel Bayona, MD, PhD**, and **Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES**, both assistant professors of social/behavioral sciences, were co-authors.

**Heath White**, TCOM/graduate student, and **Patsy Meyer**, TCOM/graduate student, both predoctoral teaching and research fellows in osteopathic manipulative medicine, were selected for the American Osteopathic Association's Osteopathic Research Fellowship for separate but related pilot studies that investigate the effects of osteopathic manipulative treatment on carpal tunnel syndrome. **Scott Stoll, DO, PhD**, associate professor and chair of manipulative medicine and executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center, is principal investigator.

**Robert Wordinger, PhD**, chair of cell biology/genetics, is first author of a paper, "Cells of the human optic nerve head express glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) and the GDNF receptor complex," published in the February issue of *Molecular Vision*. Co-authors are **Wendi Lambert** and **Xiaochun Liu**, graduate students; **Rajnee Agarwal**, research associate; and **Abbot Clark**, adjunct faculty, all of cell biology/genetics. ★