

## Knebl named to geriatric distinguished chair

**J**anice Knebl, DO, MBA, professor of internal medicine and chief of geriatrics, has been selected to be the Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc. distinguished chair of clinical geriatrics.

The announcement was made at Faculty Assembly Sept. 22.

“Dr. Knebl is recognized as one of the country’s leading geriatricians,” said Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. “The program she has built here over the past 15 years now boasts an international reputation for excellence and was ranked as the number 15 fellowship program in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.”

In 2001, DSWOP pledged \$1.2 million, the largest gift in its history, to the health science center to create the endowment. The position holds special significance as the first chair in clinical geriatrics among all osteopathic medical schools.

One of the first institutions to offer this type of specialized medical training in geriatric care and conduct research into aging issues, the health science center has long been a pioneer in addressing health issues for seniors.

In 1994, it established the first geriatric fellowship program in the Dallas-Fort Worth area so physicians and dentists could receive advanced training in caring for elderly patients. Recently, the program was expanded to include psychologists.

The endowment is intended to serve as a permanent catalyst for expanding clinical geriatric services to older adults and their caregivers in north Texas. In addition, it allows the health science center to provide expert training and mentoring in geriatrics for medical students, residents and geriatric fellows, Dr. Hahn said.

Dr. Knebl said she has a vision for upgrading the school’s work in geriatrics. “DSWOP’s generosity enables us to expand our training opportunities and further develop our clinical research program,” she said.

The endowment is one of many ways DSWOP has demonstrated its support of the health science center. Over the past 20 years DSWOP has previously given the institution \$1.2 million to support loans and scholarships for medical students and to fund the Professional and Continuing Education office.

“DSWOP continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to UNT Health



*Janice Knebl, DO, MBA*

Science Center,” said Joseph LaManna, Sr., DO, DSWOP chair. “With this gift, we’ve more than doubled the amount of support we’ve provided to the health science center over the years.”

DSWOP, a non-profit organization, was established with proceeds from the 1983 sale of Stevens Park Osteopathic Hospital. It has since distributed over \$13 million in grants to more than 150 organizations. ★

# Campus Briefs

Medical student leaders from Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma are coming to Fort Worth Oct. 24-25 for a regional conference. Nearly 150 members of the American Medical Association – Medical Student Section chapters are expected to attend the **2003 AMA-MSS Region 3 Conference**. Medical students from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas have planned the conference, whose theme is “The Art of Medicine.”

The conference will open Oct. 24 with an evening session at the Milan Art Gallery in downtown Fort Worth. Other sessions will include the art of patient care, communication, leadership and the U.S. health care system. Rep. Michael Burgess, MD, will give the keynote address, “The Art of Politics in Medicine,” at a dinner Oct. 25 at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. The conference executive planning committee is composed of TCOM 2005 students Clay Cessna and Brad Lancaster and UT Southwestern students Cindy Johnson and Rachel Lusby. Con-

tact the committee at region3@hsc.unt.edu for additional information.

Medical and PA students who want to sharpen their clinical observation skills can participate in **“An Eye for Detail: the Art of Observation,”** a workshop at the Amon Carter Museum offered in partnership with the health science center. During the workshop, students will examine original works of art and discuss what they can learn about the subject based only on what they observe.

The workshop is divided into two sessions, and students must attend both sessions. It will be held Thursday evenings, Nov. 6 and 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the museum, 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd. Museum gallery teachers and faculty from the medical school will facilitate the sessions. Class size is limited to 16 first- and second-year medical students and PA students. Those interested in participating should email the News Office via GroupWise by Oct. 17 to be considered for the class. There is no cost to participate.

Science teachers from the Fort Worth Independent School District are learning about the human cardiopulmonary system during a two-day workshop in October. Eleven teachers learned the latest information about the cardiopulmonary system, including anatomy and respiratory histology and physiology, from the **Department of Cell Biology and Genetics** faculty Oct. 2. They will return to campus Oct. 16 for laboratory exercises in the gross anatomy lab. As part of the lab activities, each teacher will participate in a dissection of the thoracic cavity and work with a group of medical students to observe a dissection of the knee and leg. The health science center’s Project SCORE is co-sponsoring the program with the Teachers as Scholars program at UNT Denton. ★

## Faculty approve revised bylaws

After undergoing an in-depth review, revised faculty bylaws were approved Sept. 22 at Faculty Assembly.

The final document reflects the faculty’s wishes, said Robert Kaman, PhD, JD, chair of the bylaws committee.

The central issue in the revisions was the process involved in determining promotion and tenure. The new bylaws standardize this process and include the addition of input from the deans before nominations are submitted to the president, the UNT System chancellor and the board of regents.

“Most review will occur at the school or college level, and each school will establish its own P&T committee and can choose to have department-level committees as well,” Dr. Kaman said. The criteria for promotion and tenure, which are specific to clinical and non-clinical faculty, remain the same.

An institutional committee will oversee the proceedings to ensure that due process is followed.

Dr. Kaman said the bylaws needed to be updated to reflect administrative changes in the health science center and the overall growth of the institution.

With last year’s retirement of Benjamin Cohen, DO, the position of provost was eliminated, and the position of senior vice president for academic affairs is now the senior academic officer for the institution. Greg McQueen, PhD, former vice provost, moved into this position and is now responsible for institution-wide academic functions and policies.

The deans of the three schools now report directly to the president and serve as the chief academic officers within their schools. ★

## CAMPUS Connection

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

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**Above:** Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean; Mitchell Forman, DO, associate vice president for student affairs; Annita Bens, PhD, president of the GSBS alumni association; Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean; and Ronald Blanck, DO, president, ham it up at the talent show.



**Above:** Hank Lemke, PA-C, and members of his quartet entertain the crowd with a song about blundering docs and their forgiving patient.



**Right:** Betty Young, administrative assistant in the president's office, belts out "America the Beautiful."



**Left:** Sherry Hannon, graduate teaching assistant in integrative physiology and biotechnology master's student, demonstrates her belly dancing talents.



# Department Spotlight: Founders' Activity Center

Have you ever wanted to start a fitness program but didn't know where to begin? Have you been working out but can't lose that last five pounds?

The staff at the Founders' Activity Center wants to help you design a plan to meet your fitness goals. "We're always available to help the health science center's faculty, staff and students design a fitness regimen that will work for them," said Stephen Baum, OTL, health promotion manager. "We can recommend an exercise prescription based on their goals, needs and the amount of time they want to spend working out."

In addition to managing the activity center, Baum coordinates the campus' Health Promotion programs, which include health fairs, health assessments and the health science center's Weight Watchers and smoking cessation programs. He also plans periodic "Lunch and Learn" seminars discussing topics such as weight loss and breast and cervical cancer.

The health promotion programs have successfully helped people reach their goals. In the last year, more than 20 Weight Watchers participants have lost over 2,500 pounds, and the Positive Attitudes Toward Changing Habits (PATCH) smoking cessation program has helped 15 people stop smoking, Baum said.

"Our ultimate goal is to help people improve their health and their lives," Baum said.

Lisa Feather, senior administrative clerk, runs the day-to-day operations at the activity center. She also helps patrons design basic exercise routines and learn the proper form. "I have a variety of different responsibilities, which gives me the opportunity to continually learn new skills and meet new people," she said.

"I get to know a variety of people on a different level," Feather said. "I like helping others set goals that allow them to see results and use their workout time as effectively as possible."



*Founders' Activity Center staff Lisa Feather (left) and Stephen Baum assist Brittney Pruett, senior administrative clerk in payroll, with her workout.*

The activity center staff plans to conduct a campus needs assessment soon to determine what services and topics the campus community is interested in, Baum said. The redesigned FAC website ([www.hsc.unt.edu/fac](http://www.hsc.unt.edu/fac)) was launched at the beginning of October.

"On the new site, users can calculate their body mass index online, track their progress since their last health assessment, view suggested exercise regimens for several different fitness levels and much more," he said. "It will also allow me to look at campuswide statistics from health assessments so I can determine what issues to address."

"The activity center and health promotion programming cost approximately \$1.60 a month per employee. This investment not only provides for an award-winning health promotion program and a fitness facility that is open 80 hours a week, but it also allows us to address health issues facing the nation, such as obesity, right here in our own backyard," Baum said.

The health science center was named a 2002 Champion in Health by the Health Industry Council of the Dallas/Fort Worth region and the Tar-

rant County Health Department in recognition of its successful health promotion programs. The health science center was the only educational institution to win the award.

"Osteopathic medicine and public health both stress prevention, eating properly and keeping fit," Baum said. "Health promotion and physical fitness are integral to the mission of the institution." ★

## Kudos to...

**Emily Rogers**, facilities management, on her marriage to Chad Mooney Sept. 27 in Huntsville.

**Robert Bollinger**, TCOM 2007, and his wife Sara on the birth of their son, Jon Albin, May 30. Jon weighed 6 lbs., 9 oz. and was 19.25 inches long.

**Shea Patterson**, president's office, on her marriage to Patrick Young Sept. 27 at Chandor Gardens in Weatherford. ★

## Former regent joins UNTHSC Foundation board

George W. Pepper, a former UNT regent, has joined the UNT Health Science Center Foundation Board of Directors. Pepper, a Fort Worth resident and private investor in a number of small businesses, served as a regent from 1997 until May of this year.

Pepper is currently chair of the Family Service Inc. board and has previously served on the boards of The Gladney Center, the Alzheimer's Association of Tarrant County, the James L. West Presbyterian Special Care Center and the Hill School of Fort Worth. ★



George Pepper

## ACS honors Hispanic Wellness Fair

The 2003 Hispanic Wellness Fair received the Harold P. Freeman Service Award from the Texas Division of the American Cancer Society.

A coalition of community agencies, including the health science center, organizes the annual fair as an opportunity for community organizations to provide access to free health services and make information and resources available to the growing Hispanic population of Tarrant County, said Adela Gonzalez, PhD, vice president for institutional affairs and acting chair of health management and policy.

Dr. Gonzalez and Susie Reyes, director of strategic planning, accepted the award on behalf of the coalition Sept. 24 during the American Cancer Society's Texas Division annual meeting in Austin.

"Medically underserved individuals are at higher risk for not being diagnosed with a disease until it is advanced because of difficulties in accessing appropriate care," said Jaime Gonzalez, a member of the American

Cancer Society Tarrant County Board of Directors and co-chair of its Latino Advisory Council. "This award was created to recognize those who are working with underserved communities to reduce the disproportionate burden of cancer."

The award was created to honor outstanding efforts in using cancer control activities to reach underserved populations nationwide. Cancer control encompasses prevention, detection, treatment and support to cancer patients, their families and their caregivers, and survivorship issues through the end of life, according to ACS. Cancer control activities include a broad array of organized activities at the local, state, regional or national level that have a positive impact on reducing the human burden of cancer.

The award is named after Harold P. Freeman, MD, a former national ACS president who placed a high priority on issues related to underserved populations. Dr. Freeman is the director of North General Hospital in Harlem. ★

## In the News

**Francis Blais, DO**, professor of internal medicine, commented on the importance of teaching clinical skills to medical students for an Aug. 4 story in the *Star-Telegram*. Several health-related Web sites and newspapers also published the article.

*U.S. News and World Report* featured **Victor Burgos**, TCOM Class of 2004, in its "America's Best Colleges" 2004 issue in August. The article was an update of a previous profile published in a 1994 issue when Burgos was preparing to go to college.

An Associated Press article on **forensic science courses** mentioned the graduate degree program in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The article has appeared in more than 75 newspapers and on their Web sites.

**Adela Gonzalez, PhD**, vice president of institutional affairs and acting chair of health management and policy, commented on the Hispanic Wellness Fair in *The Dallas Morning News* Aug. 2.

**Marc Hahn, DO**, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, commented about preparing medical students for shifts in health care needs in the *Fort Worth Business Press* Aug. 22.

TCOM's partnership with JPS Health Network on graduate medical education was mentioned in the August issue of *Tarrant County Physician* and the Aug. 1 *Business Press*.

The *Star-Telegram*, *Business Press* and *Dallas Business Journal* published the news about **Thomas Moorman, EdD**, being promoted to executive director of student affairs.

**James Simpkins, PhD**, chair of pharmacology/neuroscience and director of the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research, commented about a memory exercise conducted with residents at a local care center. The article appeared on the front page of the local news section of the *Star-Telegram* Aug. 24. ★



### Honoring Their Memories

*The health science center observed the second anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by joining together in the Atrium to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" and sing "America the Beautiful." EBAC provided American flag bracelets for participants.*

## HSC honors outstanding faculty

The health science center recognized its top faculty during Faculty Assembly Sept. 22.

"These faculty members excel in their work and serve as wonderful role models for our students," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president.

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine honored three faculty members for their excellence in teaching. The medical students from the class of 2003 selected Sam Buchanan, DO, chair of surgery, as the Clinical Professor of the Year, and the class of 2005 students selected Frederick Schaller, DO, associate professor of medicine, as the Pre-clinical Professor of the Year.

Craig Spellman, PhD, DO, associate professor of internal medicine, received the Clyde Galleugh Memorial Award for his work as a clinical science faculty member teaching basic science to

medical students. This is the third time Dr. Spellman has received this award.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences presented four of its faculty with awards recognizing their exemplary research. Ben Harris, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, received the Benjamin L. Cohen, DO, Award for Outstanding Research Achievement. Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, and Rustin Reeves, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics, were recognized with Research Rising Stars awards. These awards are presented to junior faculty members who exhibit outstanding efforts in research.

Robert Wordinger, PhD, associate professor and chair of cell biology and genetics, was named the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member by the grad-

uating GSBS students, and he will present an overview of his research at a seminar Nov. 6.

The School of Public Health recognized three faculty members for their work in education, research and service. Daisha Cipher, PhD, assistant professor of biostatistics, was honored for her work in teaching biostatistics to a growing number of students. Kristine Lykens, PhD, assistant professor of health management and policy, was recognized for her work with the Texas Department of Health in conducting bioterrorism assessments in north Texas communities. Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, was recognized for coordinating the public health practice experience required of all students earning a master's degree in public health. ★



# Faculty workshops focus on writing exams

The health science center's Department of Education recently organized two faculty development workshops on campus to help clinical and basic science faculty develop exam items that better test students' mastery of the subject.

National Board of Medical Examiners staff members Aggie Butler, PhD, associate vice president, and Kathy Holtzman, director of testing, presented the first workshop May 19-20. Fred Meoli, DO, president and chief executive officer of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, and Sheryl Del Principe Bushman, DO, TCOM 1984, NBOME secretary/treasurer, led a second workshop Aug. 26-27.

About 70 TCOM faculty members attended each workshop, said Jerry Alexander, PhD, director of academic information services.

"Medical licensing examinations are changing, and it is imperative that

our faculty become familiar with the new formats and use them on classroom exams," Dr. Alexander said. "These Board officers have in-depth knowledge of licensing trends, and we are fortunate to have been able to bring them to our campus for these presentations."

During the first workshop, faculty members were able to review all NBME subject exams. They received sample item-writing templates for the basic and clinical sciences and guidance on what to include and what to avoid in creating effective exam items. Participants practiced writing test items, which were critiqued by the NBME staff.

"I found that access to the exams was most helpful in emphasizing what the students are facing and when they are facing it," said Steve Buchanan, DO, associate professor of obstetrics/gynecology, in his evaluation of the session.

Each faculty member who attended received a copy of the guidebook, "Constructing Written Test Questions for the Basic and Clinical Sciences." Additional copies are available from Academic Information Services, ext. 2129. The guidebook is also available online at <http://www.nbme.org/about/itemwriting.asp>.

During the NBOME workshop in August, about 70 faculty members participated in a review of COMLEX I and II exams and practiced writing exam items. They also learned details about the new performance-based examination, plans to implement computer-based testing and the expansion of the electronic residency application service.

The NBOME workshop also featured a lunch presentation to about 150 TCOM students on what they need to know about COMLEX, plans for new exams and the electronic residency application service. ★

## TCOM hires new associate dean

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine has a new associate dean of medical education and has named two faculty members to serve as assistant deans.

The new associate dean, Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, joined TCOM in late August to oversee the doctor of osteopathic medicine and physician assistant curricula and is responsible for student performance and faculty development on an academic level.

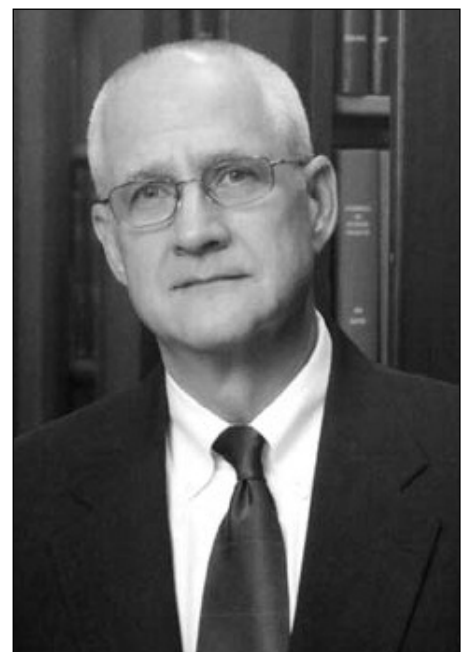
"I chose Dr. Dubin because of his excellent organizational skills, record of curricular development and very strong academic and clinical credentials," said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean.

Prior to joining the health science center, Dr. Dubin served as the associate dean for academic affairs and professor of internal medicine at Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr.

Dubin was also a research professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and an associate professor of medical jurisprudence and social medicine at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Dubin received his medical degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1973. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Martin Place Hospital in Madison Heights, Mich. Dr. Dubin's first fellowship was in allergy and clinical immunology at the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center at the University of Colorado Medical Center. He completed a second fellowship in health policy at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He earned a law degree at the University of

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*Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, has joined TCOM as an associate dean.*

# Missing Persons DNA Database makes first ID

A 35-year-old man is the first missing person whose remains have been identified through the Missing Persons DNA database housed at the health science center.

Alejandro Gomez, a Mexican migrant worker living in Dawson County near Lubbock, was reported missing in January. Three months later, cowboys on a nearby ranch in Lynn County found a skeleton with Gomez' identification cards, but his identity could not be confirmed through fingerprints or dental records.

"DNA was our only hope to conclusively identify him so we could give his family closure," said Johnny Ortegon, a deputy with the Dawson County Sheriff's Department who investigated Gomez's disappearance.

Small agencies like Dawson County may not have the resources to perform DNA analyses themselves, and large cities may face backlogs, which delays the analysis of unidentified remains, said Art Eisenberg, PhD, director of the DNA Identity Lab. Through the Missing Persons Database, the health science center lab is able to perform the DNA analysis for these departments free of charge and without long delays.

Soon after the body was found, the Lynn County Sheriff's Office submitted skeletal remains to the DNA Identity Lab. Analysts processed the skeletal samples for the standard panel of nuclear DNA markers used by the forensic community and for mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited from the mother. The results were then uploaded as unidenti-

fied remains into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database.

Meanwhile, the Dawson County Sheriff's Office submitted family reference samples from Gomez' mother to the lab for inclusion in the Texas Missing Persons DNA Database. After the samples were processed, a database search in July gave the first scientific clue that these cases were linked. Additional DNA testing confirmed that the skeleton matched family reference samples from Gomez' mother, and he was officially declared dead Aug. 22.

"Every sample submitted to the database undergoes the same process," said John Planz, PhD, associate director of the lab. "The investigators may have suspicions or clues to the identity

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# Schunder Award honors anatomy studies

Each year, first-year medical students are introduced to the study of anatomy and use the experience as the foundation for other basic and clinical sciences.

The Mary L. Schunder Award recognizes the importance of anatomy to medical education and honors a student from each class who excels in anatomy and cell biology, said Robert Wordinger, PhD, chair of cell biology and genetics.

The awards were presented Sept. 22 as current first-year medical students in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine were introduced to the anatomy module. Jared Heimbigner, class of 2004; Krystal Castle, class of 2005; and Michelle Shiller, class of 2006, received the award for their work as first-year students.

"These three students each did outstanding work while they studied in the anatomy lab," Dr. Wordinger said.

Ronald Blanck, DO, president, said, "Anatomy is part of the foundation to medical education, especially in osteopathic medicine with its muscu-

loskeletal emphasis. These students set the standard for its study."

Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean, said, "Recognizing the importance of structure to function is critical before one can truly understand other basic and clinical sciences."

The honorees were presented with a certificate and a textbook, "Principles of Surgery." Their names will be displayed permanently on a plaque in the gross anatomy lab.

Mary Schunder, PhD, was an original member of the TCOM faculty. She joined the institution in 1970 and served as the founding chair of the Department of Anatomy. She also served as the associate dean for student affairs in the late 1980s. She received the institution's Founders' Medal in 1995.

Dr. Schunder established the tradi-



*Honorees (from left) Shiller, Castle, and Heimbigner join Dr. Schunder at the Sept. 22 awards ceremony.*

tion of honoring students for their anatomy work with the Leonardo DaVinci Award, which was renamed in her honor when she retired in 1997.

"During her 27 years with the medical school, her name became inseparable from the gross anatomy lab, where she taught more than 2,300 medical students," Dr. Wordinger said. "Her dedication lives on with this award and the lab itself." ★



# Campus Personality: Leilia Tayon

When Leilia Tayon, administrative associate in student affairs, is not helping third- and fourth-year medical students, she is probably singing.

Tayon has been singing most of her life. Tayon first realized she had a gift for singing in middle school. She became active in her high school's choirs and Universal Interscholastic League competitions, earning two trips to Austin to compete in state finals for solo and trio singing.

For the past five years, X'Claim, an *a cappella* quartet, has been the primary outlet for Tayon's singing. Tayon, the tenor in the quartet, sings barber-shop-style tunes with the three other female vocalists. The quartet performs at weddings, birthday parties and corporate events, to name a few.

Mitchell Foreman, DO, associate vice president for student affairs, works closely with Tayon and has heard her sing on several occasions. "Lee's personality and God-given talent for singing and harmonizing make her a wonderful singer and performer," he said.

"Using your voice to create music is something you can do no matter what your age, and it hurts a lot less than sports," Tayon said.

Tayon may not play sports, but she does enjoy singing at athletic events; X'Claim sang the national



*Tayon and her quartet, X'Claim, perform at a variety of events and compete. The quartet placed third in a regional competition this year and will compete in an international competition next year.*

anthem at the Texas Rangers' game in front of a crowd of more than 40,000 Aug. 16. "It was definitely the largest audience we have ever sung for," Tayon said.

Tayon also enjoys singing for very small audiences. For example, she takes off work every Valentine's Day to sing with the quartet. "I love doing singing valentines," Tayon said. "It's so much fun seeing big, burly men get that lump in their throats."

Tayon also sings with the Lone Star Chorus, which has about 90

members and meets every Monday night in the Scott Theatre. During the summer of 2000, she traveled to Austria to perform with the chorus at the Austrian Alps Performing Arts Festival. She competed with both X'Claim and the chorus in March at the Sweet Adelines Gulf Coast Regional Competition in Houston. The chorus won its category, and X'Claim placed third out of 27 quartets.

The chorus will perform at the Sweet Adelines International Competition in Indianapolis next October. ★

## New assoc. dean

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Detroit Mercy School of Law in 1993.

Michael Martin, PhD, who has been serving as acting associate dean for medical education, is now assistant dean for preclinical education.

Frank Papa, DO, has rejoined TCOM as assistant dean for curricular design and educational technologies. He is responsible for research initiatives in medical education and curricular design and instituting cutting-edge educational advances. ★

## Missing Persons Database

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of the remains, but we rely only on the results of our analysis."

Texas is the only state to operate its own Missing Persons DNA Database as an additional tool for investigators trying to locate missing persons or identify remains. The database compares DNA samples from family members of missing persons with samples from unidentified bodies, at no charge to law enforcement agencies or the families.

The state legislature established

the Texas Missing Persons DNA Database in 2001 with funding from the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. The database began accepting samples from Texas law enforcement agencies earlier this year.

"Gomez may be the first missing person we've identified, but he won't be the last," Dr. Eisenberg said. "As more samples are submitted, our ability to identify missing family members will grow as well." ★

## Institutional Advancement

# Regents approve new fundraising policies

Several new policies regarding fundraising at the health science center were approved at the August meeting of the Board of Regents

“For several months, we’ve been reviewing the policy and procedure infrastructure of the advancement office and the UNTHSC Foundation, where most private gifts are housed, and looking at consistency, appropriateness, compliance issues, state and federal reporting requirements, legal and audit issues, and donor stewardship needs,” said Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the Foundation.

“We’ve informally followed UNT policies for years, but now that there are system-wide policies in place and private gifts are increasingly critical to institutional growth, it’s time to formalize important procedures and guidelines,” she said. “This is just one aspect of a long-range plan to evaluate and improve all of our fundraising efforts.”

### Endowments

Because of the high cost involved in maintaining and servicing individual fund accounts, the Board of Regents requires that a minimum amount be allowed for the establishment of a permanent endowment fund. The new health science center policy requires that gifts to initiate new endowment funds must be at least \$10,000. Minimum amounts required to endow academic positions, which are established by the regents, are: chair, \$1 million; professorship, \$350,000; lectureship, \$150,000; and fellowship, \$75,000.

These minimum levels are in line with current UNT Denton policies, and changes or exceptions require the Board of Regents’ approval. The new policies also include details about the

length of time donors can take to fully fund an endowment and information about investment procedures.

### Naming Opportunities

According to new health science center policy, if the construction or renovation costs of a building, room, lecture hall, laboratory or conference room is at least 50 percent funded by private funds, it may be named according to the wishes of the donor. The president or chancellor must approve all naming opportunities, and institutional advancement will coordinate all donor solicitations.

In addition, the Board of Regents reserves the right to name facilities and programs to honor certain individuals at its discretion. This policy was also patterned after an existing regent-approved policy for UNT Denton.

### Donor Solicitation

A new policy on the solicitation, coordination and acceptance of gifts reiterates an advisory issued campuswide last spring by Ronald Blanck, DO, president, last spring. Dr. Blanck asked Dr. Kimberling to craft a centralized process and a formal policy that would ensure that all donor solicitations on behalf of any health science center program are coordinated and timed according to institutional fundraising priorities. The new policy states that all solicitations for gifts should be routed through and coordinated with the Office of Institutional Advancement.

“Our goal is to help us all work together to solicit the best prospect at the best time for the best reason, to avoid duplicating efforts and to honor institutional funding priorities,” Dr. Kimberling said.

“Today more than ever, foundations and private donors want to know

that their money will go toward projects that meet the greatest needs and that are fully supported by institutional leadership. Something as simple as a cover letter assuring presidential and Foundation support can do this, and that’s what we will provide,” Dr. Kimberling said.

“We’ve also had cases where potential funders have been asked for varying levels of support by different departments or individuals,” she said. “All were good causes, certainly, but it is a situation that works against us in the long run because our institutional fundraising strategy appears haphazard and uncoordinated.”

### Gift or Grant?

The fourth new policy addresses the recurring issue of whether support from a private source, such as a foundation or an organization, qualifies as a “gift” or as a “sponsored project grant,” and whether it should be channeled through the Office of Institutional Advancement or the Office of Grant and Contract Management. Both offices collaborated on this policy, which includes a gift certification process and a check-off guide to help the person seeking the funds make the right decision.

“The classification of funding as a gift or sponsored project grant will affect, among other things, the way the health science center must account for the funds, calculate and apply indirect costs, and report on the use of the funds to the sponsor or donor,” Dr. Kimberling said. “The wrong decision can endanger future funding consideration. The right decision will ensure that we enjoy only the most positive of donor relations.”

For more information about these new policies, contact Dr. Kimberling at ext. 5111. ★

## Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

# TCOM tests virtual textbook on pain medicine

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine will be one of three test sites for a new Web-based curriculum on pain medicine, a national advisory board announced in September.

The curriculum, called TOP MED (Topics on Pain Medicine), is a “virtual textbook” about treating patients of all ages suffering from different types of pain.

During the next several months, the first two modules of the curriculum will be tested at TCOM, the Morehouse School of Medicine and the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. The complete curriculum will be available at no cost to medical students across the country next fall.

“Because TOP MED is web-based and self-directed, students will be able to learn when and where it is convenient for them,” said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean. “Students can repeat modules until they have mastered the material and whenever they want to refresh their knowledge.”

“An estimated 50 million Americans suffer from persistent pain, yet most medical students don’t take a single course focused on treating pain,” said Dr. Hahn, who is a member of the Advisory Committee for Pain Education organized by the American Academy of Pain Medicine. “That is about to change.”

For the past two years, Dr. Hahn has been serving on the advisory committee as AAPM past president. The effort is chaired by Louis Sullivan, MD, former Secretary of Health and Human Services. Other members include former Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, and representatives from



Advisory committee member Dr. Hahn, committee chair Dr. Sullivan and project director Daniel Carr, MD, announced the TOP MED project at a press conference in September.

leading medical schools and medical education organizations.

The team drew on thousands of hours of instructional and clinical experience to develop the textbook’s nine modules and self-test section.

The committee announced the initiative at a news conference Sept. 8 in Washington, D.C. ★

# PA student completes rotation in India

When it came time to choose an elective rotation, Hetal Patel, PA Class of 2004, opted to return to her roots and experience medical care in her native country of India.

During the month of July, she worked in a cardiology clinic in Ahmedabad, a city of about 500,000 people in northwest India.

“I wanted to see what medicine was like in India and how it compared with the way we care for patients here,” Patel said.

Patel grew up in India but moved to the United States with her family about 10 years ago. She graduated from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center with a degree

in medical technology before enrolling in the physician assistant program at the health science center.

She said she chose a cardiology rotation so she could see firsthand the difference that diet and lifestyle make in an individual’s cardiovascular health.

She also witnessed a dramatically different way of running a clinic in India. “The doctor I worked with runs his own out-patient cardiology clinic with a small in-patient facility where he can admit patients. He also has privileges to the local city hospital for patients who need more intensive care,” she said.

Patients were seen on a walk-in basis, and the cardiologist performed

most of the hands-on patient care himself. “There wasn’t a team of other clinical staff helping him with patients,” she said. “He took care of patients at every stage of their exam.”

About 30 to 40 patients came to the clinic every day, with the physician seeing patients from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., then doing rounds at the local hospital in the afternoon. He returned to the clinic to see more patients from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., Patel said.

“It was totally different than here,” she said. “I don’t know if I want to go into cardiology, but I do know that I want to practice here in the United States.” ★



## Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

# GSBS honors 'Rising Stars of Research'

Each year, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences honors extraordinary achievement by junior faculty members with the Rising Stars of Research award. This year's recipients are Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, and Rustin Reeves, PhD, GSBS '97, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics.

Dr. Singh's studies focus on progesterin interaction through a novel signaling pathway to inhibit the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor. This new mechanism of progesterin action led to the proposal of new models for the effects of this hormone on a variety of conditions, including normal aging, Alzheimer's disease, depression and dysphoria.

"Sonny is truly a rising star who is developing an outstanding research program," said James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience. "His graduate training program is in full gear. In a short period of time, three doctoral students have joined his laboratory. He has also mentored a Texas Academy of Math and Science student from University of North Texas who is now studying at Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a prestigious Goldwater Fellowship, as well as a Summer Multicultural Advanced Research Training student."

Dr. Singh received both his bachelor's and doctoral degrees from the University of Florida. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University before joining the health science center faculty as an assistant professor in October 2001. Since then, he has been awarded a faculty research grant and a grant from the National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia and Depression, and he will soon be awarded two National Institutes of Health grants.

Dr. Reeves completed his doctorate here at the health science center

under the mentorship of Patrick Cammarata, PhD. Before beginning his graduate education, he taught science at Waxahachie High School in Waxahachie, Texas.

Since completing his graduate degree, Dr. Reeves has remained active at the institution, first as an instructor and currently as an assistant professor. He is the senior investigator for the National Science Foundation grant for Project SCORE, a partnership with the Fort Worth Independent School District that pairs graduate students and science teachers to improve the communication of scientific knowledge and the process of inquiry to high school students.

The NSF was so impressed with the results from the first year of the program that it has increased the initial award and invited Dr. Reeves to become a study section reviewer for math and science partnership grants for 2002-2003.

In addition, Dr. Reeves is a co-investigator on an NIH-sponsored Minority K-12 Initiative for Teachers



*This year's "Rising Stars," Dr. Singh (top photo) and Dr. Reeves (bottom photo).*

and Students grant. He serves as the graduate advisor for science education students, a degree program aimed at

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## Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

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### *Through the Looking Glass*



*Celebrating a Decade of Imagination, Creativity and Achievement*  
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## Rising Stars

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providing advanced skills for middle school and high school science teachers.

He is also active in planning the TCOM curriculum and is one of the primary authors for the Computer Based Dissector for Gross Anatomy, a product that has received national and international attention and will soon be ready to be marketed.

“Dr. Reeves is a prime example of how the educator track for promotion and tenure can be successful,” said Robert Wordinger, PhD, associate professor and chair of cell biology and genetics. “He combines scholarly activity and teaching in a complete package. He is truly an outstanding educator and a role model for other faculty who wish to combine teaching and research.”

Nominations for the Rising Star Award are submitted by department chairs and selected by Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean. Previous Rising Star Award winners are Joan Carroll, PhD, assistant professor of integrative physiology, and Peter Koulen, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience. ★

### **Tell us about yourselves!**

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the profile about HSC’s own Leilia Tayon, a professional singer, on page 8.

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

# Faculty Advances

**Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, PhD**, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, has been appointed to the editorial review board of *Archaea*, an international journal of microbiology, for the 2003-2004 biennium. **Dr. Alvarez-Gonzalez** also recently chaired an NIH site visit team that evaluated undergraduate research training programs at The University of California at Los Angeles, The University of California at Riverside, California State University at Fullerton and San Jose State University. The students trained in these research programs are preparing for PhD, MD/PhD or DO/PhD graduate programs.

**Mitchell Forman, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine/rheumatology and associate vice president for student affairs, was the Rheumatology Subsection Education Chair for the American Osteopathic College of Internists National Scientific Meeting in Montreal, Canada, Sept. 17-21. **Dr. Forman** was also the luncheon speaker at the convention. His presentation addressed "New Paradigms in Treating R.A. — The Use of Biologic Agents." In addition, **Dr. Forman** was elected ACOI Rheumatology Subsection Chair for 2003-2004.

**Russell Gamber, DO**, professor of manipulative medicine; **Jay Shores, PhD**, director of faculty/curriculum development; **David Russo, DO, MPH**, teaching fellow, manipulative medicine; **Cynthia Jimenez-Williams, RN**, clinical research coordinator, internal medicine; and **Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH**, professor of internal medicine, will be presented with the George W. Northup, DO, Medical Writing Award by the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* on the opening day of the American Osteopathic Association's Annual Research Conference

in New Orleans, La., Oct. 13. The award is for their article, "Osteopathic Treatment in Conjunction with Medication Relieves Pain Associated with Fibromyalgia Syndrome: Results of a Randomized Clinical Pilot Project," published in the June 2002 issue of *JAOA*.

**Michael Gatch, PhD**, research assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, is first author of a paper, "Effects of ethanol on cocaine discrimination in rats," published in the July issue of *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*.

**Bradley Youngblood**, senior research assistant, and **Michael Forster, PhD**, professor, both of pharmacology/neuroscience, are co-authors.

**Terrance Gratton, DrPH**, assistant professor of environmental/occupational health, presented a poster, "Health Effects in Adults from Childhood Exposure to Smelter Emissions in the Dallas Area," at the Environmental and Occupational Health Council of the Association of School of Public Health in Research Triangle Park, N.C., August 11-12.

**Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH**, professor and dean of the School of Public Health, has been invited to serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He will serve a four-year term.

**Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor of surgery, was elected chair-elect of the Thoracic and Cardiovascular Discipline of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons at its annual meeting in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 19. **Dr. Olivencia-Yurvati** has also been selected as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. ★