

CAMPUS Connection

VOL 7 • NO 2
MARCH 2004

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

Campaign giving nears 50 percent

Just like the handful of academic pioneers who began building this institution from scratch 34 years ago, the employees of today's health science center have joined together to exceed expectations and make history.

As of March 10, 493 employees, or 41 percent of all faculty and staff, have contributed to the 2004 Campus Pride Campaign. The amount donated so far by the health science center "family," including the UNTHSC Foundation board of directors, is \$305,926.

Although the deadline for making a donation by payroll deduction has passed, the employee campaign has been extended through the end of March, said Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, vice president for institutional advancement. "Interest in participating remains strong," she said. "People are also very excited to see the participation percentage climb so high. The question going around now is, 'Can we make or break 50 percent?'"

Campaign donations in the form of cash, check or credit card should be sent or taken to advancement in EAD-802. Receipts for the gifts received in February and March will be sent out in April.

Both the number of donors and the dollars raised so far are unprecedented in the annals of the institution's fundraising campaigns, Dr. Kimberling said. Such a high rate of employee participation will definitely add strength to advancement's funding proposals to foundations, corporations and individuals for a portion of the almost \$18 mil-



Drs. Blanck and Hahn pose with the winners of the Feb. 13 Chili Cook-Off. Jan Jowitt, director of quality management, made the spiciest chili. Lynn Holmes, clinic supervisor III in family medicine, and Sharon Rutledge, clinic supervisor II in obstetrics/gynecology, boasted the tastiest chili and the most interesting chili, respectively.

lion that is needed to finish out and furnish the new biotechnology/public health building, she said.

"For a young institution, especially one long reliant on state funding, this is an extraordinary achievement," Dr. Kimberling said. "But not a total surprise. Increased participation in the UNTHSC Foundation's last two annual drives for the President's Progress Fund and scholarships hinted at this positive trend."

President Ronald Blanck, DO, requested that the Foundation's 2004 fund drive be focused on the new building. "This structure is a very public symbol of our health science center's ability to keep achieving the next level of excellence in all that we do," he said. "And so far, almost 500 employees have

stepped forward to proudly, and literally, put their name on it. My deepest appreciation goes to them, to those who still plan to participate in the campaign, to the employee captains and to the staff of institutional advancement for organizing the campaign."

Dr. Kimberling said the 18 Campus Pride Campaign captains have been the "heart and soul" behind the fund drive. "Their personal relationships with their co-workers have been essential to spreading the word and generating enthusiasm for the cause. It's been an honor to work with them."

Student leaders and retirees will soon launch their own campaigns. Details about these drives, plus a list of employee donors, will be in the next issue of *Campus Connection*. ★

Campus Briefs

Come celebrate with our graduates at **Commencement 2004** May 15 at 2 p.m. at the Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston Street. Rehearsal is at 9 a.m., and students and family hooders must attend. Graduates and faculty will assemble in exhibit hall E/F prior to the ceremony. The President's Reception will also take place in this exhibit hall. It costs \$6 to park in the garage. Free parking is available on the street.

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 March 25 and April 8 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 March 18 to be considered for the class. There is no cost to participate.

Spring Fling 2004 will be held on March 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. outside of the Founders' Activity Center. This annual, campus-wide event celebrates and fosters a sense of community among all faculty, staff and students. The festivities include a basketball tournament, volleyball pick-up games, inflatable sumo wrestling and an inflatable bounce house for the kids. Come and play or just enjoy the DJ and Colter's BBQ. All activities are free and families are welcome. For more information, contact Bobbie Ann Adair, student development coordinator, at ext. 5006.

MSGA will be sponsoring a **basketball tournament** March 27 in conjunction w/ Spring Fling and Welcome Week-end. The tournament will be held on the outdoor courts at the Founders' Activity Center. Registration will begin at 8:00 am and the tournament

CAMPUS Connection

Campus Connection is produced 10 times a year by the Office of Institutional Advancement, Division of Communications & Marketing, UNT Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., EAD-332, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, (817) 735-5023.

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

Thanks to departments and student groups around campus for their continued commitment to contributing to Campus Connection. Special thanks to Jenny Cureton, Hayley Jackson, Carla Lee, Jennifer Martin, and Janet Zipperlen. Without their involvement this publication would not be possible.

should finish around noon. Employees, students, and faculty and their family members are all welcome to participate. Sign-up sheets are posted on the MSGA, TCOM 2006, and TCOM 2007 bulletin boards. There is no entry fee and snacks will be provided. For more information about the tournament, contact Kyle Hendrix at chendrix@hsc.unt.edu. ★



DO Dash Donation

Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean; Michelle Schiller, TCOM 2006 and DO Dash chair; Dustin Taufferner, TCOM 2006 class president; and Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean for medical education, present a \$1,200 check to Julie Bordelon, a representative of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. The funds were raised during the 2003 DO Dash Sept. 27.

HSC awarded \$47 million federal contract

The Federal Bureau of Prisons awarded a five-year contract to the health science center's medical group, who will provide comprehensive medical services to the 1,500 inmates housed at the Federal Medical Center-Fort Worth.

This is the third time the health science center has been awarded the competitive contract. Since 1993, it has provided medical, dental and mental health care services to FMC-FW.

"Our partnership with the federal government has been a good one, and we look forward to continuing to provide excellent service to the inmates at the Fort Worth facility," said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean.

The prison employs a variety of health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, dentists and pharmacists, to provide medical, dental and mental health care to its inmates. FMC-Fort Worth provides chronic care and skilled nursing services for male federal inmates designated to the facility.

Specialty services, both inpatient and outpatient, are provided by the health science center through its contract with FMC-Fort Worth. The health science center also provides on-site specialty clinics at FMC-Fort Worth, including a variety of surgical and internal medicine specialties.

Rep. Kay Granger, who represents Fort Worth, lauded the contract being awarded again to the health science center. "Keeping contracts within our community is so important for our local economy," she said. "The contract between FMC and UNT Health Science Center saves taxpayer dollars and keeps skilled professionals in our area."

FMC-Fort Worth is one of seven medical referral center facilities in the United States operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. FMC-Fort Worth currently houses 1,500 male inmates. More than half of the prison's population was sent to FMC-Fort Worth for chronic or specialty health care. ★

Pharmacology receives funding to study brain damage from alcohol withdrawal

The Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience received a five-year, \$1.1 million grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to study how to prevent brain damage from alcohol withdrawal.

Nearly 14 million people in the United States — one in every 13 adults — abuse alcohol or are alcoholics, according to the NIAAA. Symptoms of withdrawal begin only hours after stopping or reducing alcohol intake and include tremors, cravings for alcohol, insomnia, vivid dreams, anxiety, hypervigilance, agitation, irritability, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, headache and sweating. Severe symptoms such as hallucinations, seizures and delirium tremens may also occur.

Marianna Jung, PhD, research assistant professor, and principal investigator James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair, both of pharmacology and neuroscience, are investigating

how to prevent the brain damage caused by alcohol withdrawal. Post-doctoral fellow Mridula Rewal, MD, and laboratory technician Stephanie Jacobs are also involved in the study.

This type of brain damage is caused by the death of nerve cells in certain parts of the brain, and it leads to alcohol-related dementia and problems with gait, walking and balance, Dr. Simpkins explained.

Research indicates that the central nervous system tries to compensate for alcohol's depressive effects on the brain. To speed the brain back up from its alcohol-induced slowness, the nervous system goes into overdrive, and it requires extra energy to remain in this hyperactive state, Dr. Simpkins said. As a result, the cells' energy producing mechanisms, the mitochondria, have to work overtime to produce enough energy for the brain to keep up.

The byproducts of the mitochondria's efforts are called free radicals —

unbalanced molecules that lack an electron and try to steal one from nearby molecules, creating a jumble of high-energy particles that ricochet wildly and damage cells. This destruction is called oxidative damage.

"We are studying why cells die when a person stops using alcohol and how to prevent it," Dr. Jung said. "We are also investigating how estrogens can be used to prevent the damage caused by free radicals during withdrawal."

"Our research into the effects of estrogen on stroke and Alzheimer's disease has shown that estrogen prevents oxidative damage," Dr. Simpkins said.

"We are extending this work by using estrogen to determine how alcohol withdrawal kills the cell. We hope to discover effective non-feminizing estrogen compounds that can be used to help both men and women through withdrawal by protecting them from brain damage." ★

Chili cook-off raises funds, temperatures

Employees from the Patient Care Center organized a chili cook-off Feb. 13 to raise money for the Campus Pride Campaign. Drs. Blanck and Hahn served as judges, sampling almost 20 bowls of chili each.



Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the ones in past issues about campus personalities John Podgore, Lee Tayon, Bradley Youngblood and Steven McGaw.

Let us know about other interesting campus personalities so we can share their stories with the campus community. Send an e-mail to the News Office via GroupWise.

Kudos to...

Stacy Carr, PA 2005, and his wife, Tracey, on the birth of their baby girl, Makenna Reece, Feb. 23.

KiKi Carthel, PA 2003, on her marriage to David Brabham, TCOM 2004, Jan. 3 in Gruver, Texas.

Kim Hoang, PA admissions counselor, and her husband, Son, on the arrival of their baby girl, Madeline, in December.

Wade Smith, PA 2004, and his wife, Christine, who are the proud parents of a baby boy, Cade, born Feb. 12.

James Trietsch, TCOM 1995, who married Christine Gray Nov. 22 in Las Vegas. ★

RAD keynote address to highlight clinical research

David Kaufman, DO, professor and chair of the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University, will give the Research Appreciation Day keynote address April 2 at noon in Luibel Hall. He will discuss "Clinical Research: A View From the Trenches."

In addition to his work at MSU, Dr. Kaufman also directs the Neurology Osteopathic Residency Organization and the Consortium of Osteopathic Residencies in Ophthalmology. Dr. Kaufman is also the medical director of neurology for Sparrow Health Systems in Lansing, Mich.

Dr. Kaufman is frequently recognized for both teaching and patient care. His students have chosen him numerous times to receive the Distinguished Lecturer Award, the Hooding Award and the Golden Apple Teaching Award. He received the American Academy of Ophthalmology Achievement Award in 2002 and was the Louisa Burns Memorial Lecturer for 2003. Dr. Kaufman is also listed in 2004's *Best Doctors in America*, a distinction he has held since 1996.

His research interests include using the visual system to assess prognosis and treatment strategies for brain diseases such as multiple sclerosis and stroke; investigating clinical neuro-visual disorders and their prognoses and treatment strategies; applying pattern-electroretinogram, visual evoked potentials and contrast sensitivity in neuro-ophthalmology disease; analyzing neurotransmitter and neurological disease using retinal-cortical time; and researching magnetic resonance imaging and neuro-ophthalmology.



David Kaufman, DO

He received his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin, where he also completed a residency in neurology. Dr. Kaufman also performed a fellowship in neurophysiology at UW and was a Harvard Research Fellow in clinical neuro-ophthalmology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Research Appreciation Day is an annual opportunity for health science center faculty, staff and students to share research results, explore potential joint research projects and enhance the community's awareness of the research conducted at the health science center. Cash awards will be presented to the top student entries in both the poster and oral competitions. Clinical, basic science and public health entries will be judged separately. Visit www.hsc.unt.edu/rad to review the abstracts and agenda. ★

In the News

Ronald Blanck, DO, president, and **Dennis Shingleton, MS, MBA**, TCOM chief of staff, organized two days of R&R for 25 soldiers from Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston. The soldiers, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, were featured in two articles and a photo in the *Star-Telegram*, photos in the *Fort Worth Business Press* and several TV newscasts.

State representatives Charlie Geren and Chris Harris authored an op-ed in the Jan. 27 *Star-Telegram* lauding the importance of the **Texas Missing Persons' Database** and discussing the role it played in helping unravel the identity of Opal Jennings.

News about the **UNTHSC Foundation** board's six new members appeared in the *Star-Telegram*, *Fort Worth Business Press* and *Tarrant County Physician*.

WFAA channel 8 interviewed **Monte Troutman, DO**, chair of internal medicine, Feb. 11 about questions surrounding Dr. Adkin's rapid weight gain as a result of his injuries.

Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, chief of geriatrics and associate professor of internal medicine, discussed Alzheimer's disease on the Glenn Mitchell Show on 90.1 KERA Feb. 18.

Peter Koulen, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, is a founding member of the newly established Center for Plant Lipid Research, which was featured on WFAA channel 8 Dec. 19 in a story about the potential for developing new medicines from plant lipids. ★

Clinic promises early help for RA patients

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic disease affecting 2.1 million Americans and contributing to \$125 billion a year in medical costs and lost wages, according to the Arthritis Foundation.

Thanks to the health science center's innovative early intervention RA clinic, patients who suspect they have rheumatoid arthritis can now receive the early treatment that is essential to reducing the joint damage and pain caused by RA, said rheumatologist Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH, professor of internal medicine.

"Typically, it takes an average of three to six months to see one of the less than 3,500 rheumatologists in the

United States," Dr. Rubin said. "At the health science center, patients will be seen within a few weeks of contacting the clinic. We are making it a priority to see patients quickly."

Patients will first meet with physician assistant Linda Davis, who will perform a screening physical and laboratory exam and then discusses her findings with Dr. Rubin and Raymond Pertusi, DO, rheumatologist and associate professor of internal medicine. "If PA Davis suspects the patient has RA, Dr. Pertusi or I will see them within four weeks of their initial consultation," Dr. Rubin said. "Patients will

Continued on page 9

HSC offers latest ADHD assessment technology

Health care providers at the health science center now have a new tool to help them evaluate Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children.

James Hall, associate professor and chair of health psychology, said 4 to 12 percent of school-age children may have some form of ADHD. Symptoms include inattention, impulsivity and hyperactivity. ADHD is notoriously difficult to diagnose because other conditions, such as childhood depression or anxiety disorders, may cause symptoms similar to ADHD, he said.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, there appears to be a link between a person's ability to pay continued attention and measures that reflect brain activity. In people with ADHD, the brain areas that control attention appear to be less active, suggesting that a lower level of activity in

some parts of the brain may be related to difficulties in paying attention.

"Thanks to a new tool, we are able to measure the electrical patterns of a child's brain and have it compared to data from children who have been identified with ADHD and those who have not," Dr. Hall explained.

"This technique, called quantitative electroencephalography (QEEG), measures the brain's electrical activities. Studies have shown that 90 percent of those diagnosed with ADHD have a slower pattern of electrical activity in certain areas of the brain than those without ADHD," he said.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics QEEG "will help experts more clearly document the neurological and behavioral nature of ADHD, paving the way for better understanding and treatment." ★

Peds launches 'First Reader' program

The health science center's pediatrics clinic will debut a special program this month that encourages a love of reading in its littlest patients.

Called First Reader, the program is designed to make visits to the doctor more pleasant for children ages two to 12 and their parents, while also rewarding children for good behavior in a way that involves the entire family.

Children will receive a free book with a personalized nameplate when checking in for their appointments, said Al Neyland, assistant to the chair of pediatrics. Parents and children are encouraged read the book together, easing both the frustration of waiting for their appointment and any anxiety children may have about going to the doctor.

The books will be offered in English and Spanish and will be available in exam and waiting rooms. Families will receive one book per child. Parents will then be asked to bring books back at subsequent clinic visits to continue the goals of the First Reader program. About 1,000 children will receive First Reader books. For many, this book may be the first one they own, Neyland said.

Neyland said he hopes the First Reader program will also encourage families to regularly schedule immunizations and health checks. Over half of the children who visit the clinic each year live at or below the poverty level, so they may not receive regular or preventative health care clinic visits, he said.

The program is made possible through a gift from the Virginia and Robert Hobbs Charitable Trust of Fort Worth. ★

Department Spotlight: Campus Police

Have you ever locked yourself out of your office or car? Or been thankful to see an officer making his rounds when you leave campus late at night? Do you remember when you were new to the campus, got lost and a member of Campus Police was there to assist you?

The health science center's 20-member department not only helps with public service needs, it also keeps the health science center safe and secure, much like a city police department.

The department's mission is to maintain a safe learning and working environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors, said Mike Brown, chief of Campus Police.

How does Campus Police aid in maintaining the health science center's low crime rate? The key is awareness and prevention, Chief Brown said. For example, campus police provides a new student, faculty and staff orientation that teaches those new to the campus about preventive measures that reduce the occurrence of crime.

"Most crimes on campus are crimes of opportunity like theft, so we teach that if you take away that opportunity, the likelihood of the crime occurring is less," Brown said.

In addition to keeping the crime rate low, the police department provides the campus with security. It is the department's responsibility to make certain all buildings are always secure, and two department members monitor the campus around the clock in the dispatch office, Brown said. The department also acts as a liaison with the Fort Worth police and fire departments and Med Star.

"The most rewarding part of my job is helping our employees, students



Chief Mike Brown; Elizabeth Simensen, communication officer/dispatcher; Donna Davis, administrative services officer; April Kellum, communications officer; and Captain C.B. Mays maintain law and order on the health science center campus.

and faculty in many different ways and helping to maintain a safe and pleasant place to work," said Elizabeth Simensen, one of two communications officers/dispatchers.

The dispatchers answer the phone for the department, monitor the security cameras, the card key access system, the Campus Police and Facilities Management radios, and dispatch someone to assist, if necessary.

Campus police employs both police officers and public service officers.

Police officers attend a police academy, such as those offered at Tarrant County College or the North Texas Council of Governments, and are sworn in by the state as licensed peace officers. They have the training and authority to make arrests, stop suspicious persons and conduct investigations, Brown explained. The health science center has eight officers and an additional officer in the academy.

The health science center's five public service officers serve as an

extension of the police force, allowing the department to have more people on duty during the times when they have the most service calls, Brown said.

The PSOs are trained by the police officers and dispatchers to patrol the buildings, direct traffic, monitor the parking lots and dispatch. They also help change flat tires, start car batteries, and open locked office and car doors.

"The PSOs free up the police officers so they can spend more of their time focusing on law enforcement issues," Brown said.

While keeping the campus safe and secure is a serious job, the members of the department have fun working together and helping those who need it.

"Our department has the greatest group of people," said Donna Davis, administrative services officer. "I've never seen a group of people who are as close, caring and dear as these people. I feel very fortunate to work with each and everyone of them."

Continued on page 10

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Gonzales receives prestigious fellowship

Eric Gonzales, doctoral candidate in pharmacology and neuroscience, has been named a Grass Fellow by the Grass Foundation. This program provides the opportunity for neuroscientists in the late stages of predoctoral training or conducting their postdoctoral work to conduct independent research at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, each summer.

The number of fellowships awarded varies annually. In 2003, eleven fellowships were awarded to students from some of the best schools in the nation.

"I am honored to be in the company of students from places like Yale, Columbia and Dartmouth," Gonzales said. "I hope to prove that a student from UNT Health Science Center can stand side by side with anyone else and be just as successful. I know that I have been given a golden opportunity, and I intend to make the most of it."

Peter Koulen, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuro-

science and an alumnus of the Grass Fellowship, encouraged Gonzales to apply for the fellowship. "I recommended that Eric apply for this fellowship because of his performance on both his oral qualifying exam and his grant defense. His research has been published in outstanding journals, and I thought he would be competitive," Dr. Koulen said.

Glenn Dillon, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is Gonzales' major professor and mentor. "Eric is just an outstanding student, a remarkable individual," Dr. Dillon said. "He has demonstrated that he is a top-notch student, a leader among his peers and a role model for future scientists. We could not have a stronger representative of our campus."

Gonzales is currently president of the Graduate Student Association and in the past has served as president of the Society for the Advancement of Latino Scholars in Academia and as an

officer for the Black Graduate Student Association.

Gonzales said he has a strong commitment to advancing science among minority youth in public schools, and his career goal is to become a professor to perform research and mentor students.

"This is one of the most prestigious awards you can get in the neurosciences," Dr. Koulen said. "The impact this fellowship has on your career equals that of one or more publications in the top journals, and it shows future employers that you can do research independently, apply for grants independently and compete with top-notch scientists in the field."

Gonzales will be studying the molecular mechanisms that control gating of the glycine receptor. The glycine receptor is a major inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system, and defects in its gating are responsible for a number of movement disorders. ★

GSA hosts science fair

The Graduate Student Association hosted its first invitational science fair Feb. 21. Students from Paschal High School, St. Rita's Catholic School and J.P. Elder Middle School presented posters on a variety of topics including static electricity, reaction time and athletic ability, and markers for glaucoma.

Judging was performed by members of the health science center's Clinical and Scientific Research Club and GSA. "I was impressed not only by the quality of the projects but also by the enthusiasm of the students," said Marty Knott, DO/PhD student and science fair judge. "Several of them were already thinking about what they will present next year."

Rusty Reeves, PhD, GSBS '97,

assistant professor of cell biology and genetics and a former high school science teacher, said he was impressed with the undertaking.

"It means a lot for middle and high school students to come here and see these young role models that are not that much older than they are themselves," he said. "It makes the career field seem much more attainable for them. Every event like this reaffirms for me the critical role of UNTHSC in primary and secondary education, especially the contributions made by our students."

GSA organized this event to foster awareness and excitement for science among middle and high school stu-

Continued on page 10

Bens named director of Clinical Research Management

Annita Verstappen Bens, PhD, GSBS 1993, adjunct assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, has been named director of the Clinical Research Management program.

Dr. Bens, currently at MedTrials Inc., will be responsible for the oversight of this master of science program that trains clinical research coordinators and managers of clinical trials.

Dr. Bens has been involved with this program since its inception and will now have a more formal relationship with the graduate school. Dr. Bens is also president of the Graduate Student Alumni Association. ★

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

PSMG honors outstanding employees

The Business Services Employee of the Month for January is Gloria Minyard, clinical services representative II.

"She is one of the outstanding clinical service representatives in the pediatric and allergy clinics," said Al Neyland, assistant to the chair of pediatrics. "Gloria had perfect attendance during the months of December and January and checked-in more than 1,700 patients for the pediatric and allergy clinics."

Minyard has worked in the pediatric and allergy clinics since August 1999. "She consistently demonstrates the patient care service values the department relies on to meet its mission objectives," Neyland said.

"Gloria's hard work, attendance and experience has helped the department increase patient visits by 12 percent from last year, a 30 percent increase in patient visits from two years ago; add physician assistants to the provider staff; and establish an

additional pediatrics clinic location off-campus."

January's Clinical Services Employee of the Month is Kay Collom, LVN, of family medicine. She has been a senior LVN in family medicine since 1982. She worked in the Godley Family Practice Clinic and is now the lead nurse at the Westside Family Practice Clinic.

"Kay exhibits exemplary nursing knowledge and skills," said Judy Cambron, MBA, assistant to the chair and administrative director for family medicine.

"She is one of our team players, ensuring necessary nursing coverage for our other family medicine clinics," Cambron said. "Ms. Collom is an extremely loyal, capable employee who deserves this recognition." ★



Gloria Minyard

PA Studies hosts seminar

Physician Assistant Studies had two noteworthy visitors Feb. 27 as part of a seminar for senior PA students.

David Fahringer, MSPH, PA-C, nationally known for his expertise on PA contracting and negotiation skills for both new graduates and established PAs, presented a workshop for the PA Class of 2004. This workshop provided information about writing resumes and negotiating first contracts.

Aggie Warren, a representative from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, presented information about registering for and completing the PA National Certifying Examination after graduation. ★

RA clinic

continued from page 6

only have to wait six weeks at the most before beginning therapy."

Patients without an arthritic inflammatory disease will be referred back to their family practitioners with a report from the screening visit, and those with a type of connective disease other than RA will be referred to the rheumatology clinic in a timely fashion, he said.

RA causes inflammation of the lining of the joint, which can invade and damage bone and cartilage, causing pain, swelling, loss of appetite and energy, anemia, and loss of movement. Over time, RA begins to affect the entire body, eventually leading to severe functional disability and reduced quality of life, Dr. Rubin said. ★



Cultural Awareness Week celebrates diversity

This Africa-themed quilt, named "Women with Rhythm and Movement," was handmade by Dorothy Moore, clinic services representative II in family medicine, with African fabric collected from friends who traveled to Africa. The quilt was inspired by her friend's travels. "I 'travel' by reading books and hearing tales from other people's travels, then I do research on on the artifacts and countries to learn more about them," she said. "Hopefully, someday I will get to visit these places myself."

The quilt was one of many cultural artifacts on display in the Kiva during Cultural Awareness Week Mar. 1-6. The Medical Student Graduate Association organized a week of activities, including lectures on topics like the culture of the deaf and Jewish and Christian communities, a "Bollywood" movie night, thought-provoking "cultural awareness challenges" e-mails, and a "culture show" featuring fashions and performances from around the world. ★



Campus Police

continued from page 7

Communications supervisor Ray Escamilla said his job is not only rewarding, but also is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.

"I have always wanted to be a police officer, so when the chance came up, I jumped on it," Escamilla said. "I could write a book on all the fun I have had working here and some of the great people who are a part of this institution."

"Although there is a difference between municipal law enforcement and campus law enforcement in the way they set their priorities, both are still the exact same at their core: they both provide a service to their community," Brown said. "Every police department in the country focuses on how to best serve its community, and we are no different here." ★

GSA science fair

continued from page 8

dents. Schools participating in the Adopt-A-School and SCORE programs were invited to participate. "This event was very much in keeping with the goals of GSA," said Eric Gonzales, graduate student in pharmacology and neuroscience and GSA president. "We hope that this will become an annual event that grows beyond our partner schools into a city-wide event." ★

Faculty Advances

Neeraj Agarwal, PhD, associate professor of cell biology/genetics, presented invited seminars at the University of Zurich and Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Basel, Switzerland, in November. He also co-authored a paper, "Interleukin-10 Receptor Signaling through STAT-3 Regulates the Apoptosis of Retinal Ganglion Cells in Response to Stress," published the December issue of *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences*.

Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, is senior author of the paper "The 40 kDa carboxy-terminal domain of poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 forms catalytically competent homo- and heterodimers in the absence of DNA," published in February in the *Journal of Molecular Biology*. *JMB*, the premier journal of this discipline, is located at the Cavendish Lab in Cambridge, England, home to more than 10 Nobel Prize winners and the geographical site where the helical structure of DNA was discovered 50 years ago. Hilda Mendoza-Alvarez, MPH, SPH 2003, former senior research assistant in molecular biology/immunology, is first author of the paper, which was edited and endorsed by Sir Aaron Klug, PhD, 1982 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry. In addition, **Dr. Alvarez-Gonzalez** presented a poster, "Changes in mammalian chromatin structure as a function of protein-poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation. Susceptibility of interphase chromatin to enzymatic digestion with Deoxyribonuclease In (DNase I) and Micrococcal nuclease (MNase)," at the International Congress of Chromatin Structure and Gene Expression Mechanisms as Therapeutic Targets in Luxembourg Jan. 28-31. **Maria Perez-Lamigueiro**, graduate student in biochemistry/ molecular biology, is first author. At the same symposium, **Dr. Alvarez-Gonzalez** also presented the poster "The 40 kDa carboxy-terminal domain of poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 forms catalytically competent dimers in the absence of DNA." Mendoza-Alvarez is first author of the presentation. **Dr. Alvarez-Gonzalez** also delivered invited seminars at three European universities in February: "Molecular partners of poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 (PARP-1): A pivotal role for poly(ADP-ribose) metabolism in chromosomal function" at the School of Biotechnology, University of Strasbourg, France; "The molecular partners of PARP-1 and the multiple regulatory roles of protein-poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation in the maintenance of genomic integrity" at the Department of Molecular Toxicology, Konstanz University, Germany; and "Protein partners of poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1: friends or foes in modulating chromatin structure and genomic integrity" at the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Alakananda Basu, PhD, professor of molecular biology/immunology wrote a review article, "Involvement of protein

kinase C-d in DNA damage-induced apoptosis," for the Apoptosis Review Series published in February in the *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine*, Vol. 7, No. 4.

Daisha Cipher, PhD, assistant professor of biostatistics, is first author of the paper "Establishing a Research Agenda in Master's-level Physician Assistant Studies Program," recently published in *Perspective on Physician Assistant Education* (14 [2]). **Hank Lemke, MMS, PA-C**, director of physician assistant studies, and **Samuel "Tim" Coleridge, DO**, professor of family medicine and director of medical education for JPS Health Network, are co-authors.

Michael Cutler, DO/PhD student and graduate teaching assistant in integrative physiology, is first author of "Hypoxia-mediated prolonged elevation of sympathetic nerve activity after periods of intermittent hypoxic apnea," published in the February issue of the *Journal of Applied Physiology*. **Michael Smith, PhD**, professor and acting chair of integrative physiology, is senior author. **Cutler** and **Dr. Smith** are also co-authors of the paper "Active recovery attenuates the fall in sweat rate but not cutaneous vascular conductance after supine exercise," published in the February issue of the *Journal of Applied Physiology*.

Suzanne Davis, administrative specialist for family medicine's residency program, is first author of the paper "AFPA board member nominees," published in the winter 2003 issue of the *Association of Family Practice Administrators* (18 [4]).

Thomas Fairchild, PhD, director of Special Projects on Aging and associate professor of health management/policy, was recently selected as a fellow in gerontology and geriatrics education by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. This fellowship recognizes outstanding leadership in gerontology/geriatrics education by established scholars and educators.

Terrance Gratton, DrPH, assistant professor of environmental/occupational health; **Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES**, assistant professor of social/behavioral sciences; and **Antonio René, PhD**, assistant professor of epidemiology, are co-authors of a paper, "A Study of Pesticide Safety and Health Perceptions Among Pesticide Applicators in Tarrant County, Texas," published in the January/February issue of the *Journal of Environmental Health*. Bob Martinez, MPH, SPH 2001, is first author.

Chiehwen "Ed" Hsu, PhD, assistant professor of health management/policy, is first author of the paper "Evaluating

Continued on page 12

Faculty Advances

continued from page 11

the disparity of female breast cancer mortality among racial groups – a spatiotemporal analysis,” published in the February issue of the *International Journal of Health Geographics*.

Holly Jacobson, PhD, and **Francisco Soto Mas, MD, PhD**, both assistant professors of social and behavioral sciences, are co-authors.

Peter Koulen, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, has been approved for a second cycle of funding for his research grant, “Functional Interaction of Polycystin-2 with IP3 Receptors – A Novel Mechanism Underlying ADPKD,” after competitive renewal and peer review by the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation. **Dr. Koulen** has also been appointed as a peer review member for the Western Review Consortium, a peer review collaboration between the Western States (CA, NV and UT) and Texas affiliates of the American Heart Association, and as a reviewer for the Alzheimer’s Association’s national research program.

John Licciardone, DO, professor of family medicine, is first author of the paper “Outcomes of a federally funded program for alcohol and other drug prevention in higher education,” published in the November issue of the *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse* (29 [4]).

Sue Gena Lurie, PhD, assistant professor of social/behavioral sciences and director of medical humanities, participated in the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners’ Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Health Care Delivery meeting in Chicago, Ill., Jan. 9-10. **Dr. Lurie** also served as a judge and mentor for “Creating Options for our Future: Debates in International Ethics” at the McGuire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility at Southern Methodist University Feb. 7.

Porunelloor Mathew, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, is senior author of the paper “2B4(CD244)-mediated activation of NK cells reduces metastases of B16F10 melanoma in mice,” published in the October issue of *Anticancer Research*. Lori Johnson, PhD, GSBS 2001, a former student in microbiology/immunology; **Swapnil Vaidya**, graduate student in microbiology/immunology; and Ronald Goldfarb, PhD, president and CEO, Sopherion Therapeutics Inc., New Haven, Conn., are co-authors.

Ganesh Prasanna, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, has been awarded a grant from The Glaucoma Foundation, New York, for the proposal “Endothelinopathy, Gliosis, and Glaucoma.”

Arti Sharma, MBBS, graduate teaching assistant in integrative physiology, has been selected to receive a Young Investigator Award from the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine and to present her research at the Experimental Biology 2004 meeting in Washington, D.C. Sharma is a doctoral student in the laboratory of **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor of integrative physiology.

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of biostatistics, is senior author of the paper “Random Regression Models Based on the Elliptically Contoured Distribution Assumptions with Applications to Longitudinal Data,” published in the December issue of the *Journal of Modern Applied Statistical Methods*. **Sejong Bae, PhD**, assistant professor of biostatistics, is co-author.

Michael Smith, PhD, professor and acting chair of integrative physiology, is senior author of the paper “Poor baroreflex gain is a marker of heightened sympathetic activity post-tachycardia termination in humans,” published in the December issue of *Clinical Autonomic Research*. Steve Wasmund, PhD, GSBS 2001, a former student in integrative physiology, is co-author.

Craig Spellman, PhD, DO, associate professor of internal medicine and chief of endocrinology, has been appointed chair of the Healthcare Professionals Advisory Committee of the Texas Diabetes Council, which writes the standards of care for diabetes management in Texas. The council oversees research grants on diabetes; sponsors CME activities; collects epidemiological data on all facets of diabetes care; and works with HMOs, insurance companies, and other payors to facilitate adoption of the standards of care. The work of the council is nationally recognized, and several other states and the Department of Defense have adopted the Texas standards.

Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, professor of surgery, is first author of the paper “Pyruvate-enhanced cardioprotection during surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass,” published in the December issue of the *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia*. James Blair, DO, Department of Anesthesiology, Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas; Mirza Baig, PharmD, Department of Pharmacy, OMCT; and **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor of integrative physiology, are co-authors. The paper was selected by Perfusion.com as one of the top ten papers for December 2003 (<http://www.perflin.com/topten/tt1203.html>). In addition, **Dr. Yurvati** and **Dr. Mallet** have been invited to participate on the editorial board of a new international journal called *Filtration*. This journal will cover advances in cardiopulmonary bypass and will be published in London, England. ★