

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

HSC honors 2004 graduates

Years of record-setting graduating classes and capacity crowds led to a change in venue for UNT Health Science Center's 2004 Commencement.

Instead of packing Will Rogers Auditorium as in years past, the health science center enjoyed the spacious facilities at the Fort Worth Convention Center for its May 15 graduation ceremony.

More than 250 students, the largest graduating class in the history of the health science center, were eligible to participate in the ceremony.

The graduating class included 117 from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, 26 from the Physician Assistant Studies Program, 48 from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and 65 from the School of Public Health.

"Each program graduated more students than ever before," said Betty Belton, registrar.

Sarah Hossman, who received her master of public health degree during the ceremony, spoke on behalf of the graduating students.



She said professionals in the fields of medicine, science and public health have traditionally worked separately, but current health issues have made collaboration essential to accomplishing their goals.

"The key to solving the complex issues that we face is going to be found in us working together," Hossman said. "A collaborative effort will have a more compounding effect on health than an individual effort. We each have skills the others need."

Hossman reminded her fellow graduates to stay focused on the big picture. "We are charged with protect-

ing and promoting health in our communities," she said. "I think this is the most important task of them all, and I know you will not take it lightly."

Albert Hawkins III, MPA, executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, used his keynote address to urge the graduates to face today's daunting health care challenges head-on.

"Devote yourselves to finding new ways to solve old problems and allow your medical knowledge to be tempered by a genuine care for those you serve," he said.

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Graduation

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Hawkins urged graduates not to depend on technology too much. "It is your duty to make sure that the tools used to enhance the quality of medical care not be allowed to dominate to the point of eroding personal care," he said.

Despite spending \$10 billion a year on healthcare coverage, Texas leads the nation in the rate of uninsured residents, he said.

"By far, the most critical issue for our health care system today is the need to assure access to care. We simply cannot allow inequalities of wealth to be accepted as justification for disparities in health care," Hawkins said.

As commissioner, Hawkins leads the health and human services system in Texas, which includes 11 state agencies with 50,000 employees and an annual budget of \$17 billion.

He is overseeing a comprehensive restructuring of the system, and he invited the graduates to be part of the solution to the current challenges facing health care.

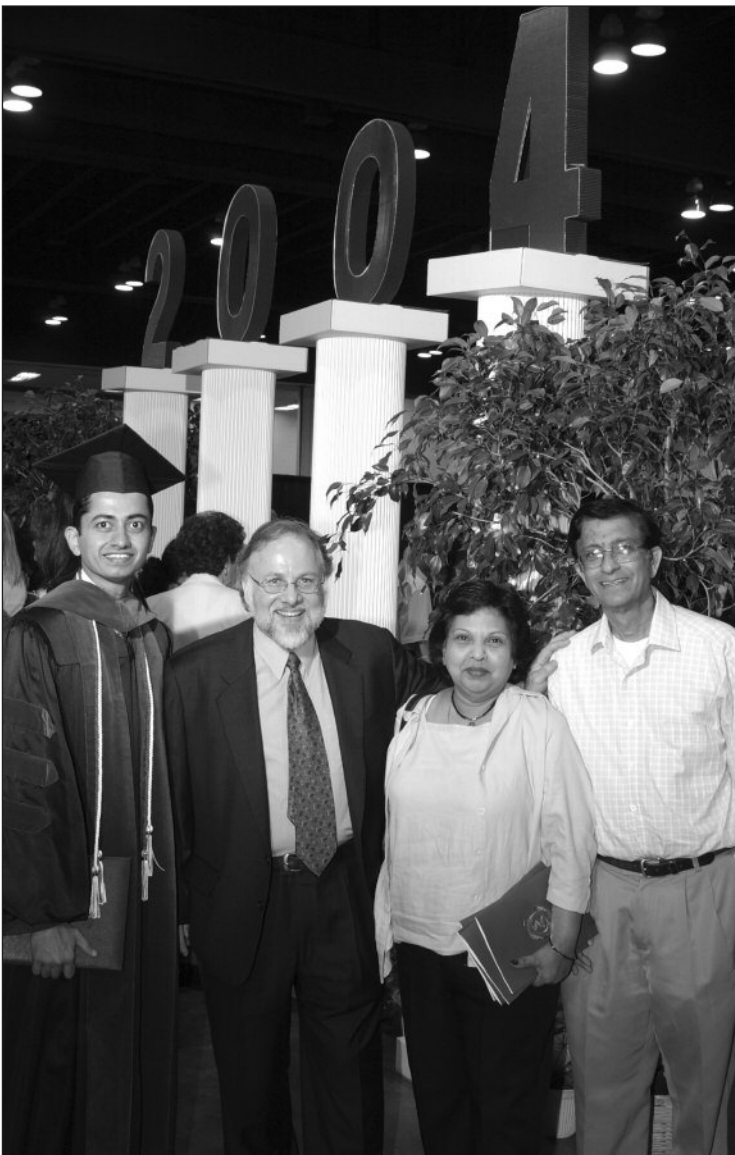
"Today's health care system strains to serve a growing and diverse population while enduring constant economic pressures," he said. "I can assure you that your knowledge, skills and talents are sorely needed." ★

CAMPUS Connection

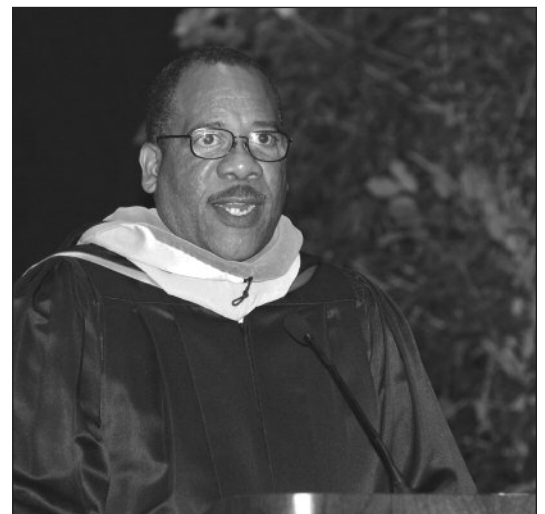
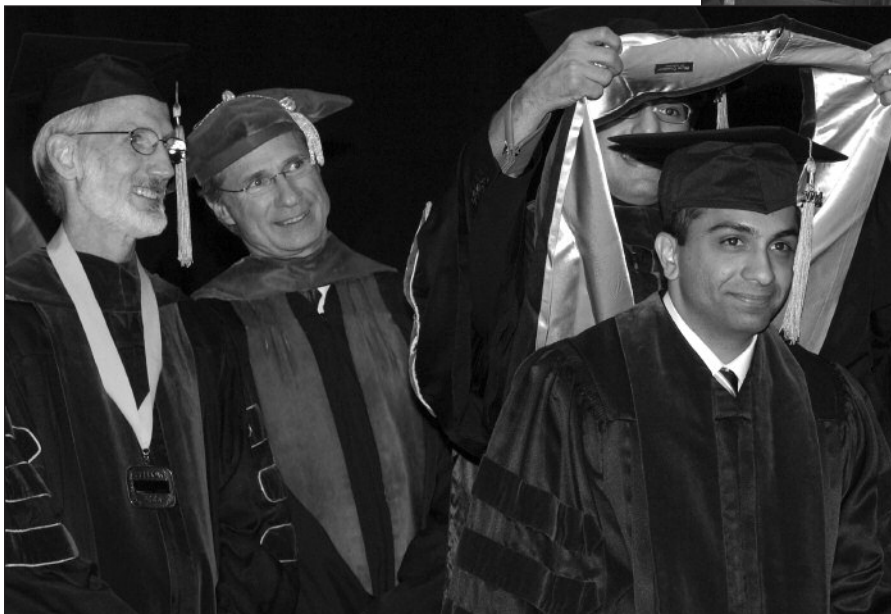
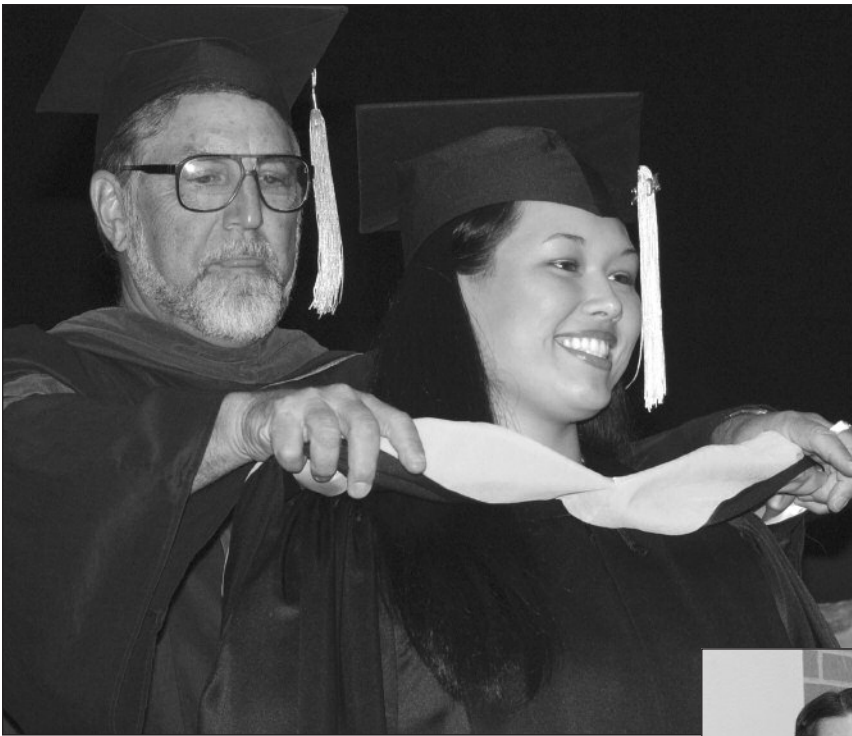
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Please address all inquiries or complaints to April Eubanks, editor.

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Commencement 2004



Cunningham receives Benavides award

Kevin Cunningham, DO, a 2004 graduate of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, was recently honored with the Leo Benavides Memorial Award in recognition of his service to the community and his work while a medical student.

The award is given annually to a TCOM graduating senior. It was established in 1997 in memory of the Tarrant County Medical Society's late executive director, Leo Benavides. The Osteopathic Health System of Texas and Tarrant County Medical Society sponsor the award, which includes a cash award of \$1,000.

"Each year the quality of the applicants from the senior graduating class just gets better. It is always a difficult choice for the members of the selection committee," said Gene Deutscher, committee chair. "Kevin received the award this year because he best represented the spirit Leo left with us."

On his application for the award, Dr. Cunningham wrote that he chose a career in medicine because it allows him to serve others while continuing to challenge himself.

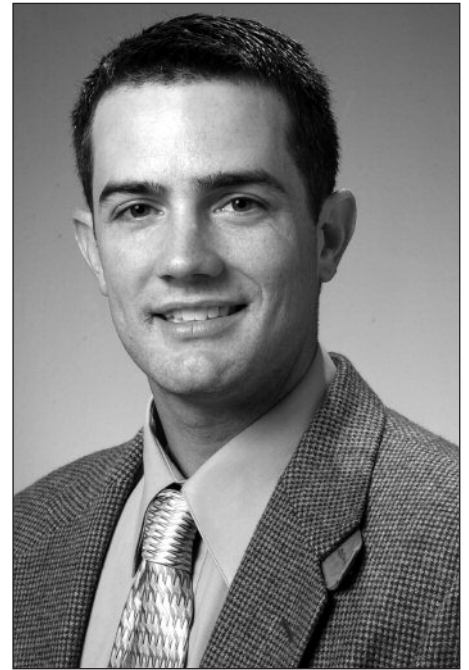
His service to others is evident in his activities while a TCOM student. As

a TCOM Ambassador, Dr. Cunningham led tours on campus and gave talks around the state for future medical students. He participated on a mission trip to Piedras Negras, Mexico, in 2001 with the Christian Medical Association, and he volunteered with Mission Fort Worth for two years, helping to provide medical care to the indigent.

Dr. Cunningham said he felt honored to be selected as a finalist for the award and humbled by being chosen as the recipient. "Though I did not know Leo Benavides personally, his biography impressed me with an image of a person who not only devoted his talents to his community through service, but also was involved socially and athletically," he said.

Dr. Cunningham earned his undergraduate degree from Tarleton State University in Stephenville and received a master's degree in sports health at Texas Tech University, focusing his studies on cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation. He has worked in cardiac and pulmonary rehab clinics at the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas and Baylor All Saints Hospital.

Dr. Cunningham will soon begin his family practice residency at John



Kevin Cunningham, DO, TCOM 2004

Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

After completing his residency, he plans to become a small town family physician. "I want to serve the more rural areas of Texas and offer those people quality medical care and community service," he said. "I plan to make an impact on the community and the patients I serve." ★

Hispanic Wellness Fair set for Aug. 7

Mark your calendars now for the sixth annual Hispanic Wellness Fair, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 7.

The one-day health fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Will Rogers Memorial Complex. It is free and open to the public.

Attended by thousands of people each year, the event has proven a popular way for local Spanish-speaking residents to receive free screenings and health education.

Participants can receive free

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Women's health fair launches initiative

Initial steps toward establishing a women's health initiative took place in May when the Physicians & Surgeons Medical Group hosted a community health fair focusing on women's health issues.

Nearly 70 women attended the health fair, held at the Patient Care Center as part of National Women's Health Week May 9-15.

Jennifer Alexander, DO, assistant professor of internal medicine, is leading the new initiative. A graduate of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Alexander joined the faculty in February after completing her residency in internal

medicine at the health science center.

"This health fair offered women an opportunity to learn more about some of the most common health issues they face, all in one place," Dr. Alexander said.

A variety of free screenings and educational materials were available at the event. Women who attended were tested for diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, glaucoma, hearing loss, depression and other conditions.

"The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and most comments pointed to the variety of screenings and information available, as well as

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Podgore participates in Iraq medical forum

The stories of how years of neglect under an oppressive government and economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations resulted in a humanitarian crisis in Iraq may seem all too familiar these days.

But seeing news reports and reading newspaper articles about life in Iraq cannot compare with walking through the streets of Baghdad and touring the local hospitals, and that is exactly what John Podgore, DO, MPH, professor of pediatrics, did earlier this year.

Dr. Podgore was among 30 U.S. physicians representing 19 medical specialties who visited Iraq Feb. 14-17 to participate in the Iraqi Medical Specialty Forum. He went as one of two representatives of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The U.S. Agency for International Development, the Iraqi Society of Physicians and the Coalition Provisional Authority sponsored the forum.

Nearly 500 Iraqi physicians participated in the forum. The gathering gave them an opportunity to discuss urgent health care issues in Iraq and learn about advances in medical practice, Dr. Podgore said. They also got to know their American colleagues and discussed ways for physicians from the two countries to collaborate.

During the forum, the Iraqi physicians officially formed two national independent professional medical societies, the Iraqi Medical Society and the Iraqi Coalition of Medical Specialty Societies.

"Specialty societies have declined over the years, due in part to government control over the health care system," Dr. Podgore said. Officials with the Ministry of Health viewed any suggestions for change as an affront, and physicians and their families were often punished for trying to improve the situation, he said.

Establishing the medical societies as independent, non-governmental organizations is critical to the rebuild-

ing of the Iraqi health care system, Dr. Podgore said.

"The physicians really know how the system works. If they don't become major players in developing their own system, then the system is going to be set up by the bureaucrats who don't have enough hands-on experience to know what the patients really need," he said.

The medical societies offer the physicians a way to impact government policies on health care. "The practicing physicians now have strength in numbers and will be able to lobby more effectively for an effective medical system," Dr. Podgore said.

As part of the trip, Dr. Podgore visited three children's hospitals in Baghdad. He said the facilities were dirty and poorly equipped and had limited water and electricity. "Infectious diseases were prevalent, as well as traumas and burns," he said.

Dr. Podgore said that during the Hussein regime, medical care suffered in every specialty, but pediatrics was especially affected. "There were children who needed chemotherapy for leukemia and many others who needed specialty care that was simply not available to them," he said.

"Iraq used to have one of the best medical systems in the Middle East. Now, it's one of the worst I've seen anywhere," Dr. Podgore said. His experience as a pediatric infectious disease consultant in Haiti, Guatemala, Somalia, Egypt, the Sudan and other under-developed countries was one of the reasons he was selected to participate in the forum.

The American physicians also experienced the dangers faced by the people in Iraq during their visit. They wore flak jackets and Kevlar helmets for the bus trip from the airport to the "Green Zone," where coalition headquarters and administrative offices are located.

The conference was moved to a new location after receiving a bomb threat that led to the discovery of a

cluster bomb under the podium. Snipers routinely targeted the physicians with laser sights as they entered and exited buildings, he said.

"I purposely chose to ride with the medical residents in their beat-up old car to one of the hospitals, even though the medical director invited me to ride in his BMW," Dr. Podgore said. "I think keeping a low profile was the smart thing to do, and it allowed me to see more of the real Baghdad."

Dr. Podgore said he was impressed with the Iraqi physicians he met during the forum. "It's amazing to see their commitment. They are completely dedicated to staying in their homeland and helping their people," he said.

He and his American colleagues left Iraq optimistic about the future of its health care system. "The Iraqis are going to take control of their own future and restore health care in their country," he said.

Dr. Podgore presented the findings from his trip at the 38th Annual Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar, sponsored by the AAP, and to the medical staff at Cook Children's Medical Center.

He said he continues to correspond with his new colleagues in Iraq via e-mail. "The specific solutions still remain to be developed, but they now have a safety net of contacts and resources that they didn't have access to before the forum." ★

Tell us about yourselves!

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

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.

School of Public Health

Graduating Students' Reception: A Culminating Experience

The spring 2004 School of Public Health graduates capped off this chapter of their careers with a combined reception and research presentation May 13.

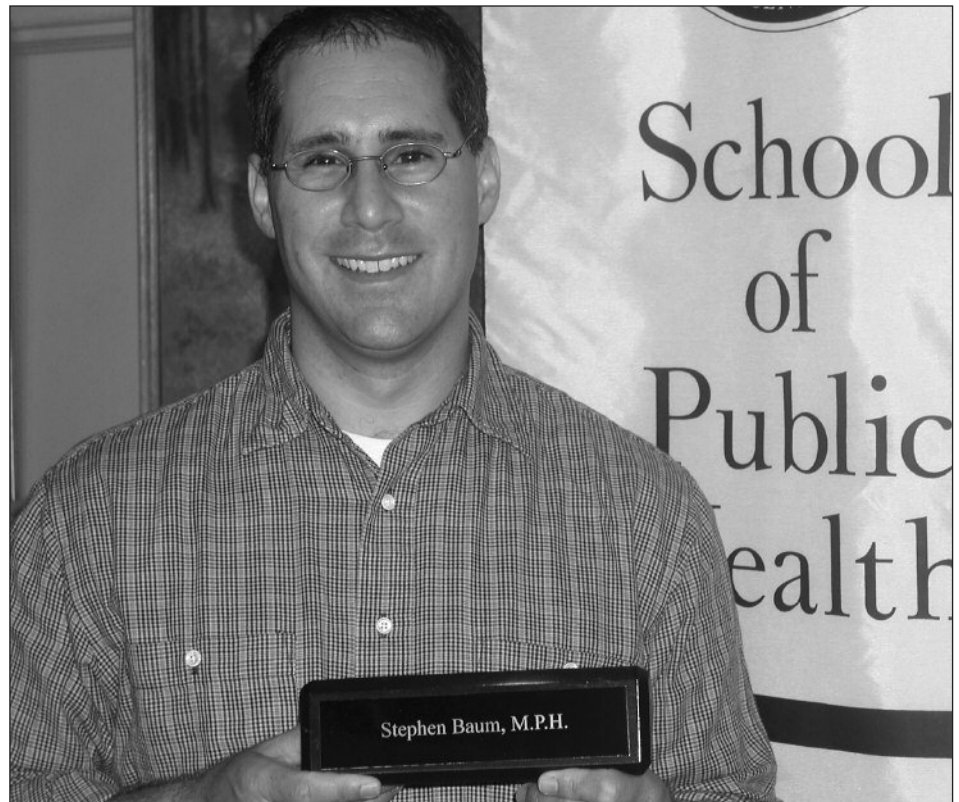
The students in the master's of public health capstone course presented their culminating experience research on West Nile Virus and its impact on the equine population in Texas.

Several community members from local public health departments and veterinary experts were in attendance, as well as family members and health science center faculty, staff and administrators, to congratulate graduates on the successful completion of their degrees.

Approximately half of this semester's capstone course participants were graduating students, and the large class size made it possible take on the significant research project, in collaboration with the Texas Department of Health and the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

A total of 4,177 surveys were distributed to veterinarians across the state of Texas. Student presenters reported results indicating an equine West Nile Virus case fatality rate of 21.8 percent and a stronger need for education targeted specifically to veterinarians.

Investigators anticipate future research into the knowledge and beliefs of equine owners, and while the graduating students from the spring capstone class may no longer be on campus to participate in the next step of this much-needed project, they can rest assured that their contributions in this final course requirement set the stage well for expanded research in this area.



Stephen Baum, OTR, health promotion manager, celebrated earning his master's degree at the SPH reception May 13.

Bob Galvan, MPH, MS, associate dean of the School of Public Health, spoke on behalf of the school to praise the graduating students for their hard work and dedication throughout the program.

Nora Santana, MPH, SPH Alumni Society board member, shared words of empathy and good wishes and invited the new graduates to support the newly created society in its efforts to become a strong organization for career development and scholarship.

All SPH graduates were presented with a gift for use in their future careers, courtesy of the Public Health Student Association. ★

Kudos to epidemiology student Charles Curran for being awarded a managerial training summer internship in the Human Resources/Medical Department at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company in Fort Worth. Sharon Clark, DO, MPH, and Thomas Pace, MD, MPH, both adjunct faculty in environmental and occupational health, are Curran's sponsors.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Page named distinguished alumnus

Ray Page, DO, PhD, GSBS/TCOM 1991, was chosen as the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He delivered a seminar, "The Nexus of Academic and Community-Based Cancer Research: Doing the Tango," May 25 to an audience of patients, physicians and researchers from the health science center community, and from the local community as well.

Dr. Page, an associate director in the Institute for Cancer Research, grew up in Grand Prairie, Texas, and received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Southwestern University. He earned a master's degree in physiology at Baylor University Graduate School-Baylor College of Dentistry, and in 1991 he received his doctorate degrees in pharmacology and osteopathic medicine from the health science center.

Dr. Page performed his internal medicine residency at the health science center and the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas and completed a combined oncology/hematology fellowship at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. While at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, he was appointed junior faculty associate and also served as chief fellow.

He has published many research papers in basic science, physiology and pharmacology, in addition to publications and presentations on cancer-related subjects. As health science center faculty, he actively participates in teaching both the basic sciences and clinical medicine and has received a number of academic honors and



Ray Page, DO, PhD, GSBS/TCOM 1991, was chosen as the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus.

awards. Dr. Page is the founding president of The Cancer Education and Research Foundation of Texas.

"We are very proud of Ray and his accomplishments," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Dr. Page's mentor while he pursued his pharmacology degree.

"Aside from his busy practice, he has remained involved with UNT Health Science Center by lecturing in the medical school curriculum and providing mentorship to the graduate students in our clinical research management program who perform internship practica with Texas Cancer Care under his guidance," Dr. Yorio said.

Dr. Page and his wife, Sheila Page, DO, TCOM 1992, live in Aledo with their children. ★

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences would like to thank the following members of the graduate faculty for their support of the Graduate Faculty Award for the Outstanding Graduate of 2003-04:

Neeraj Agarwal
Jerry Alexander
Annita Bens
Julian Borejdo
des Anges Cruser
Hriday Das
Christopher de Fiebre
Jerry Dickey
Glenn Dillon
Ladislav Dory
Fred Downey
Richard Easom
Edward Elko
Thomas Fairchild
Michael Forster
Margaret Garner
Robert Gracy
Patricia Gwartz
Ben Harris
Ren-Qi Huang
Robert Kaman
Bhalchandra Kudchodkar
Andras Lacko
Hank Lemke
Tina Machu
Robert Mallet
Michael Martin
Walter McConathy
Ganesh Prasanna
Peter Raven
Rusty Reeves
Rouel Roque
Victoria Rudick
Harold Sheedlo
Xiangrong Shi
James Simpkins
Craig Spellman
Scott Stoll
Joseph Warren
Robert Wordinger
Ming-Chi Wu
Thomas Yorio

GSA Elects New Leadership

2004-05 Officers: Nowland Bambard, president; Rachel Dauphin, vice president; Akiko Dohi, treasurer; and John Fuller, secretary.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Downey receives Cohen award

Fred Downey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, was named the 2003-04 recipient of the Benjamin L. Cohen, DO, Award for Achievement in Faculty Research. The award was presented to a surprised Dr. Downey at the Graduate Student Association annual awards dinner May 7.

Dr. Downey joined the faculty in 1985 and has maintained an active research program throughout his career.

“Fred was selected for this award because of his longstanding history of grant funding and contributions to research,” said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. “He’s held NIH funding continuously since 1976, which is remarkable.”

In addition to his research efforts, Dr. Downey has contributed significantly to graduate education. He has trained seven master’s students, six doctoral students, and 15 postdoctoral research fellows, and he has served as the graduate advisor for



Fred Downey, PhD, recipient of the Benjamin L. Cohen, DO, Award for Achievement in Research, with his wife, Mindy Downey, and Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean.

integrative physiology for ten years, longer than any other graduate advisor in the school.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences established the Benjamin

L. Cohen, DO, Award for Outstanding Research Achievement in honor of the retired provost for his focus on increasing the research efforts of faculty at the health science center. ★

Congratulations, spring 2004 graduates!

Paul Aoun, DO, PhD

Aaron Bradbury, DO, MS

Sabitha Buttreddy, MS

Michael Cutler, DO, PhD

Rebecca Deaton, PhD

Janelle Moseley Hardisty, MPAS, PhD

Sherry Hannon, MS

Shemedia Johnson, MS

Michal Kajtoch, MS

Shelley McDonald, DO, PhD

Elizabeth McCurdy-Warwick, DO, MS

Dawn Rich, MS

Jwalitha Shankardas, MS

Renee Silvis, MS

Turner Slich, MS

Kissaou Tchedre, MS

Alexandra von Lindeman, DO, MS

Matthew Woolard, PhD

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Deaton named Outstanding Graduate



Outstanding Graduate Rebecca Deaton, PhD, with her major professor, Stephen Grant, PhD.

Each year, the Graduate Council selects the recipient of the Graduate Faculty Award for the Outstanding Graduate. This award is intended to recognize a student who completed his/her graduate work during the past year, who excelled in all aspects of graduate education and who shows great promise as a research scientist.

It is the highest award given to a student in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sci-

ences. This year's recipient is Rebecca Deaton, PhD.

Dr. Deaton performed her doctoral research in biomedical sciences under the direction of Stephen Grant, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology.

She was selected twice as the discipline's outstanding graduate student and received Research Appreciation Day honors in 2000, 2003 and 2004.

She was a member of Sigma Xi, The International Research Society in 2003.

In addition, Dr. Deaton served the Graduate Student Association as an officer for three consecutive years as secretary, vice president and president. GSA also honored her as the outstanding member for 2000-01 and 2001-02.

Dr. Deaton will begin a prestigious NIH postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Gary Owen, PhD, at the University of Virginia's Cardiovascular Research Center this summer. ★

Graduate Student Association Annual Awards Banquet

The Graduate Student Association held its annual awards banquet at The Cultural District Banquet Center May 7. The following honors were awarded:

Departmental/Discipline Awards for Outstanding Students

- Shelley Crispin, Forensic Genetics
- Turner Slich, DO, MS, Clinical Research and Education – OMM
- Angela Brimhall, Clinical Research and Education – Family Medicine
- Maneesh Kumar, Cell Biology and Genetics
- Athena Shepard and Dongmei Lu, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Matthew Woolard, PhD, Microbiology and Immunology
- Chang Su, Biomedical Sciences

- Michael Cutler, DO, PhD, Integrative Physiology
- Yi Wen, Pharmacology and Neuroscience
- Kathryn Kaiser, Health Psychology

Student Association Awards

- Rachel Dauphin, GSA Outstanding Member
- Glenda Voorhees and Crystal Dozier, GSA Outstanding Staff Members

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Glenda Voorhees (left) and Crystal Dozier were named Outstanding Staff Members by the Graduate Student Association.

Institutional Advancement

TCOM alumni come home for reunions

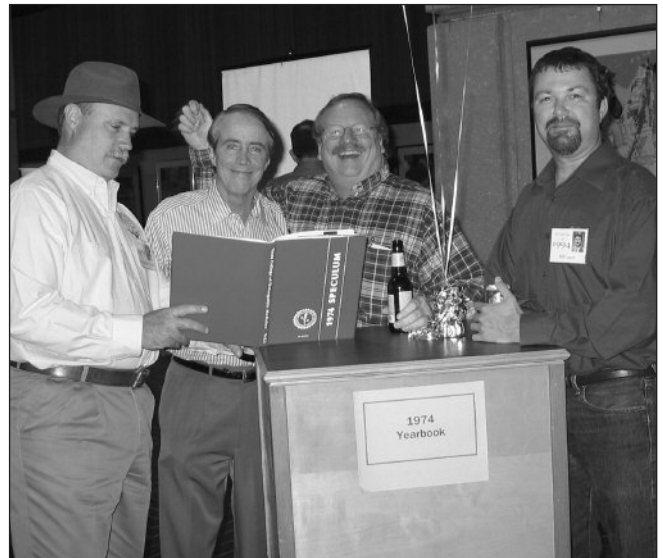
Members of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Classes of 1974, 1979, 1984 and 1994 returned to their alma mater June 4 and 5 to renew old friendships, see a much-changed campus and hear the latest good news about their medical school and the health science center.

More than 75 alumni and family members, including 13 of the 17 living graduates who were the first

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Dr. Hahn narrates a slide presentation of TCOM's achievements and plans for the future for alumni, some of whom had not been back to campus since graduating 10, 20, 25 or more years ago.



A popular reunion activity: looking at old Speculum yearbooks.



Above: Class of 1974 alumni Below: Class of 1979 alumni with Dr. Blanck (far left)



Institutional Advancement

TCOM alumni

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to graduate from TCOM 30 years ago, attended three scheduled events: a Friday night party in the atrium that featured tours led by the TCOM Student Ambassadors and a presentation by Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean; a Saturday morning continuing medical education program presented entirely by Class of 1979 experts on allergies, orthopedics, vascular disease, holistic care, cardiovascular surgery, the peer review process and ethics; and Saturday night class dinners at nearby restaurants.

Dr. Hahn and Ronald Blanck, DO, president, visited each of the dinner sites to meet alumni and present brief “state of your alma mater” messages. Dr. Hahn also announced that he was looking into the development and sales of TCOM license plates, a fundraising and public relations program that is marketed to alumni and other supporters by many schools, including the University of North Texas. The first step: raising the \$15,000 required by the State of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for manufacturing set up and administration.

The president of the TCOM Alumni Association, Dan Saylak, DO, TCOM 1986, and his wife, Amy, also attended the reunion celebration.

Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, vice president of institutional advancement, and Karen Wegienek, donor relations associate, coordinated the weekend and are sending out surveys to all who attended to gather feedback and ideas for future reunions. ★

Class of 1984 alumni



TCOM's first employee and executive director emeritus of the TCOM Alumni Association, Ray Stokes, talks to TCOM Student Ambassador Neal Morgan, Class of 2007.



Class of 1994 alumni



Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

Congratulations, PA class of 2004!

Twenty-six Physician Assistant Studies students participated in the health science center's graduation ceremonies May 15. Commencement was the culmination of 34 months of intensive didactic and clinical study.

For the first time, the health science center awarded a dual PA/PhD; Janelle Hardisty earned both a master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies and a doctorate degree from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

PA graduation activities included an awards dinner at the Western Place Garden Café May 13. Health science center faculty, staff and guests gathered to honor the graduating PA students.

The President's Scholar award was presented to Hardisty; Jennifer Boedeker, PA, was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in PA Didactic Studies Award; and Wade Smith, PA, was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in PA Clinical Studies award.

Karen Kindler, PA, president-elect of the PA Alumni Society, presented the PA Alumni Scholarship to graduating PA Tonya Khan.

In addition, Sam Buchanan, associate professor and chair of surgery, presented a new award this year; Stephanie Curtis, PA, received the award for Outstanding PA Student in Surgery.

In honor of their excellence in scholarly activities, graduating PAs Cheryl Houston, Mauri Maurizio and Miny Sunny were presented recognition plaques for their master's projects. The Outstanding Master's Project award went to Boedeker.

Continuing on with a year of firsts, for the first time a health science center PA graduate has been accepted to a post-graduate PA residency program. Houston has been accepted to the Norwalk-Yale PA Surgical Residency Program in Connecticut.

Post-graduate residency programs are highly competitive programs that offer additional experience and study in a chosen field. "We are extremely proud of Cheryl for being one of 10 PAs in the country to attend the Norwalk-Yale program this year," said Laurie Hill, MHS, PA-C, assistant

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Medical group honors Crable

For nearly 10 years, Kathy Crable has been a mainstay at health science center clinics.

Crable, who currently works as a medical assistant in the Saginaw Family Medicine Clinic, has been selected as the April Employee of the Month.

"Kathy has been a great asset to our staff," said Janice Misner LVN, nursing services supervisor at Saginaw.



Kathy Crable

"She is very sweet and is willing to help in any area where she is needed."

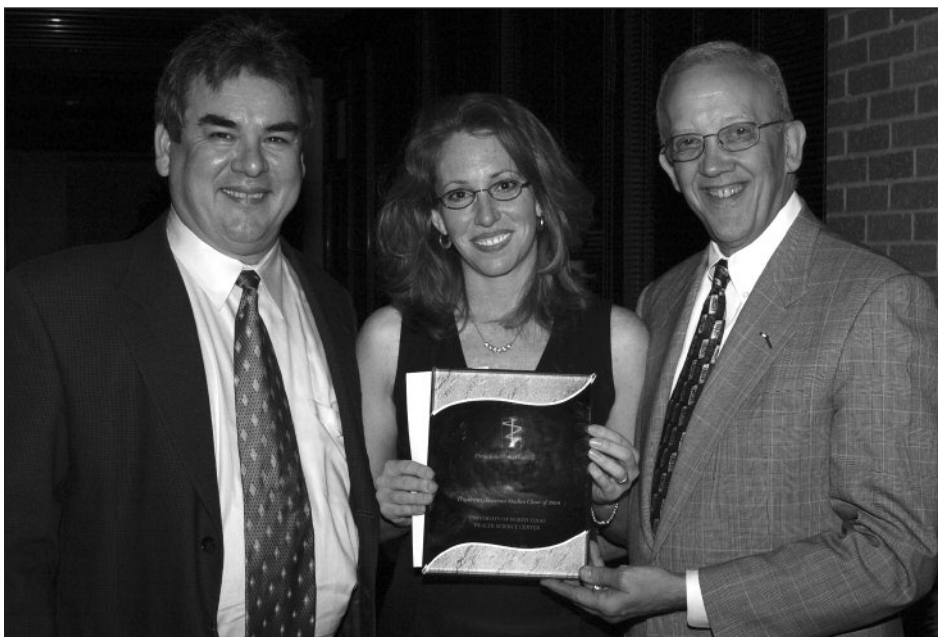
For example, Crable occasionally staffs the front desk when the clinic is short-handed. "She does this without complaint, and at the same time, she will try to continue her other responsibilities," Misner said.

Crable worked at the Seminary and Southside family practice clinics before joining the Saginaw staff last year.

Crable was instrumental in helping patients during last year's closing of the Southside clinic, said Judy Cambron, MBA, administrative director of the family practice clinics. For the final six weeks, she worked the front desk alone, answering patients' questions about the situation.

"Kathy was instrumental in making sure that all the patients were kept informed about the changes and directing them to the appropriate provider," Cambron said. "She anticipates issues that may arise and takes the initiative in resolving any conflicts with patients or her fellow employees."

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Janelle Hardisty, PA, PhD, recipient of the President's Scholar Award with Henry Lemke (left), MMS, PA-C, PA program director and Ronald Blanck, DO, president.

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

TCOM medical education keeps its eye on the future

During August and September of each year, medical schools around the nation welcome a new freshman class — students who have chosen a path dedicated to acquiring the skills and knowledge required to become a physician.

Here at TCOM, our entering first year class will begin four years of undergraduate study, followed by anywhere from three to seven years of residency training. Upon completion of their training they will begin thirty to forty years of medical practice.

Will they be ready to handle the demands of “future healthcare?” What skills will our prospective medical students need? What areas of bioscience will they have to master as they become physicians in the 21st century? What will the practice of medicine look like in the future? These are questions that we must answer now as we prepare a medical school curriculum that trains our students for their future careers.

The TCOM Curriculum Committee, the Medical Education Phase Directors and the basic science and clinical departments have been asking the same questions. While the ongoing task of curriculum development continues to be refined, TCOM medical educators are certain that a medical school curriculum must include the following:

1. We live in a world of information technology. Future physicians must be trained in methods that will allow them to rapidly access medical information over the Internet, judge the quality of the information they receive and implement the data in a meaningful way that will improve patient and community health care.
2. Technology will continue to affect the quality of healthcare. We must train our future physicians to become comfortable with the use of technology in health promotion, disease prevention and medical treatment.
3. The physician of tomorrow must be high touch as well as high tech. The important emotional and personal aspects of the physician-patient relationship must continue to be emphasized as an essential part of our medical school curriculum.
4. Genetics, proteomics and immunology will lead to new, important therapies in healthcare. Solid foundations in the basic sciences must emphasize emerging areas of bioscience that will direct future healthcare therapeutics.
5. Community medicine and population-based medicine are becoming an important part of healthcare. Physicians will continue to interface with the communities they serve in and live among. They will need these skills.
6. The interface of Bioterrorism and medical practice must become part of the physician’s knowledge base in a post September 11 world. Special skills in dealing with these problems must be acquired.
7. Physicians *must* develop the skills required to become lifelong learners. The rapid growth of medical knowledge continues to develop at logarithmic rates. To keep current and administer the best of care, our graduates must have the skills to train themselves. This will allow them to take advantage of 21st century therapeutics as they emerge.

The TCOM syllabus will incorporate these characteristics. Our TCOM core curriculum continues to grow to meet future demands. Our curriculum will be exciting, challenging and rigorous. It will meet the healthcare needs of the future. We should expect nothing less of ourselves. After all, we are training the next generation of osteopathic physicians.

Bruce Dubin, DO, JD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

PA students participate in AAPA conference

Several PA students attended the 32nd Annual American Academy of Physician Assistants Conference in Las Vegas June 1-6, and Jennifer Boedeker, Miny Sunny and Amy Henson presented posters at the conference.

The annual conference offered an Exhibit Hall with hundreds of exhibitors from the health care industry, an AAPA job fair for job-hunting PAs and employers, a chance to meet leaders and practicing PAs from all over the nation, and an opportunity to learn about current issues in the health care field.

A number of PA students participated in the Student Academy of the AAPA and the National Medical Challenge Bowl. ★

PA graduation

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professor, who works in both PA studies and surgery.

The graduating class recognized the entire PA faculty and staff for helping them achieve their dreams with a plaque that will be displayed in the PA studies offices.

The graduating class chose Michael Clark, PhD, PA-C, and Jim Roch, MPAS, PA-C, for the Outstanding Faculty Award. ★

Medical group

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Known as an enthusiastic team player who is able to work independently, Crable has developed a reputation for being a good problem-solver.

“Kathy maintains her composure when she’s faced with difficult situations,” Cambron said. “I’ve always been able to rely on her, and she’s been a real asset wherever she’s worked.” ★

Hispanic health fair

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health screenings for high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. Eye exams, dental checks and free immunizations for children will be available.

Mammograms and screenings for prostate and colon cancer are also planned.

In addition, information will be provided on a variety of subjects, such as nutrition, obesity and heart disease prevention.

Nearly 100 representatives from health care, education and service provider organizations attended a kickoff luncheon May 5 to learn about plans for this year's event.

Rep. Kay Granger is serving as this year's honorary chair. Health science center leaders Adela Gonzalez, PhD, MPA, vice president for community

affairs and institutional diversity, and Bob Galvan, MPH, MS, associate dean of the School of Public Health, are again serving as event chairs.

"Health fairs are a practical, immediate and affordable way to reach thousands of people before they develop serious medical problems," Rep. Granger wrote in a prepared statement read at the luncheon. "If we detect a problem in just one health fair participant, we will be successful."

Last year's event drew an estimated 12,000 people, and hopes are high that a new attendance record will be set this year. "We anticipate 15,000 people passing through the doors this year," Dr. Gonzalez said.

To apply for a booth or to volunteer, call Sherry King, senior executive

assistant in the community affairs and institutional diversity office, at ext. 5087. Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially needed.

Sponsors include the School of Public Health, Telemundo, ACCU-CHECK®, Diario La Estrella, Harris Methodist Fort Worth, JPS Health Network, Baylor All Saints Hospital, Cook Children's Health Plan, Harris Methodist Southwest, Cuidado Casero Home Health and Hospice, Rey Olivas and Capri Advertising, Pfizer, City of Fort Worth Public Health Department, City of Fort Worth Community Relations, Coca-Cola Bottlers of North Texas, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company, Spring Creek Barbeque and Pancho's Mexican Restaurant. ★

Women's health initiative

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the friendliness of the staff," Dr. Alexander said.

Participating organizations included Texas Cancer Care, Prevent Blindness of Texas, Bowie Speech and Hearing, and the Tarrant County Public Health Department. The Founders' Activity Center and SMART Clinic were also involved.

The initiative is already planning activities for next year's National Women's Health Week. It is also planning to participate in Lee National Denim Day Oct. 8, the world's largest one-day fundraiser for breast cancer. Each year, companies and organizations nationwide participate in the fundraiser by allowing employees and members to wear denim in exchange for a \$5 donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Still in its infancy, the initiative seeks to address concerns women have about accessing the health care system.

"Women tend to seek preventive care more regularly than men, but they often have to go out of their way to

access that care," she said. "It's not unusual for a single health problem to require several visits, just to see different providers or have tests run. What if that process could be simplified?"

Many women cite limited time and lack of convenience as primary reasons they delay going to a health care provider, Dr. Alexander said. "There's a definite need for women to have a place devoted to their health that makes it easy for them to get the care they need."

Dr. Alexander sees the potential for the women's health initiative to develop into a stand-alone clinic as it progresses. "We could offer services specifically for women's health that would offer access to subspecialists, social workers and community services in an environment designed just for them," she said.

"I've seen my mother struggle to find routine preventive care, and those with chronic health problems often find it prohibitive," she said. "Women should not have to feel like they have to overcome the health care system; we should make them feel welcome." ★

GSA awards

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Robert Mallet, PhD, GSA Outstanding Faculty Member
Rachel Dauphin, Edward E. Elko Award for Distinguished Service to the GSA

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Awards

Fred Downey, PhD, Benjamin L. Cohen, DO, Award for Outstanding Research Achievement
Rebecca Deaton, PhD, Graduate Faculty Award for Outstanding Graduate ★

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