

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

Dedication guests focus on promising future

Senator Kim Brimer made a prediction about Fort Worth at the Center for BioHealth dedication ceremonies Aug. 26.

“When plans began for this center, it was estimated that research dollars to this institution would triple,” said state Sen. Brimer, R-Fort Worth. “In 10 to 15 years, we could be the research hub not only in Texas, but in the country.”

During the ceremony, Sen. Brimer was one of three political figures to speak. State Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, discussed the promise of the Center for BioHealth as indicated by the students who will be educated there.

“I am excited to be here today, not just to see what a wonderful thing we have done by erecting this building,” Sen. Nelson said, “but to see the wonderful faces of eager students who will work and learn in this building. Whether it’s in a classroom on the third floor or in a laboratory on the fifth floor, students will continue to be the focus of the health science center. The promise of the future is in good hands.”

About 400 people attended the ceremony on the first floor of the Center for BioHealth. Students led tours through the occupied areas of the building before the dedication ceremony and after the ribbon cutting.

In preparation for the ceremony, the facilities department placed temporary air conditioning units on the first floor to cool the unfinished floor. A shuttle between the Education and Administration Building and the Center for BioHealth was also provided.

Ronald Blanck, DO, health science



Students (top photo) lead tours of the new building before and after the dedication ceremony, during which (from left to right) Sen. Brimer, Mayor Moncrief, Sen. Nelson and Dr. Blanck talked about the role that the building and its occupants will play in education and research.

center president, served as master of ceremonies at the dedication, and discussed the future of the Center for BioHealth and the health science center.

“This isn’t done yet,” Dr. Blanck said. “We’ve more to do to this great building. This room will be a gallery and the noninvasive imaging center.”

Currently, 60 percent of the building has been completed. Lab equipment is currently on the third and fifth

floors, and work has begun to finish out two classrooms using funds provided by the UNT System Board of Regents at its last meeting.

The building will house research and drug development laboratories for Alzheimer’s disease and other cognitive disorders; a diabetes research center; a non-invasive diagnostic imaging center; envi-

ronmental and occupational health, epidemiology, biostatistics, and bioterrorism research and education centers; the State of Texas Missing Persons DNA database facility; a DNA paternity testing laboratory; a DNA forensic research unit; a biosafety level 3 laboratory; classrooms; and the UNT School of Visual Arts gallery and museum.

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Campus Briefs

The **State Employee Charitable Campaign** officially kicked off Friday, Sept. 10, at the Party on the Patio. Faculty, staff and a few students stepped outside for food, fun and music on the green area on the east parking garage. Participants played horseshoes, ate hot dogs and paid \$1 for three balls to knock administrators and faculty members in the water of a dunking booth. Dunks included Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; Terry Morgan, fleet and facilities services manager; Mike Brown, chief of campus police; Tom Newell, director of telecommunications; Stephen Barrett, director of facilities management; Gloria Fuller, custodial supervisor; Rand Horsman, assistant vice president for human resources; Karan Singh, PhD, chair of biostatistics and acting chair of epidemiology; and Ronald Blanck, DO, president.

The annual horseshoe competition between the team of Dr. Blanck and Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the team of Dr. Yorio and Glenn Dillon, PhD, associate vice president of research and biotechnology administration, ended with Drs. Yorio and Dillon claiming the title of Health Science Center Horseshoe Champions.

Building dedication

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The building construction was funded by the State of Texas with an investment of \$27.5 million in tuition revenue bonds. In addition, funds from the Campus Pride Campaign, which has garnered more than 52% participation from health science center faculty and staff, as well as donations from students and retirees, is being used to help in the finish out of the building.

Dr. Blanck recognized the donors at the dedication ceremony. Donors also

The SECC kickoff marked the beginning of this year's annual campaign, which raises money through employee donations for hundreds of local and state charities. Donation forms were sent out to offices in mid-September and are due by Nov. 5. Forms should be returned to EAD-807.

The **2005 Campus Directory** is currently in production. Department directory contacts will receive their department listings soon. Please return them to Marketing and Communications staff by the deadline listed on your packet. This will ensure a timely delivery of the campus directory later this year. For more information, contact Becky Purvis at ext. 5152 or via GroupWise.

Biomedical communications and campus police have created **new access/ID cards** for faculty, staff and students. The new card will allow users to obtain access to parking garages and entrance to buildings or restricted-access areas on campus, as well as provide identification for security purposes. New access cards are being created now and will be distributed by department. Each department will be notified when its employees need to have new photographs taken.

received Campus Pride ribbons from the Office of Institutional Advancement, and many donors wore their ribbons throughout the day to represent their health science center "family pride."

The Center for BioHealth Building is the first building on the health science center campus to be constructed with funding from a combination of state, federal and private funds.

Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief also spoke at the dedication and rib-

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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 Bobbie Ann Adair, Jenny Cureton, Tommy Hawkes, Carla Lee, Jennifer Martin, Tony Martinez, Diane Wynn and Janet Zipperlen. Without their involvement, this publication would not be possible.

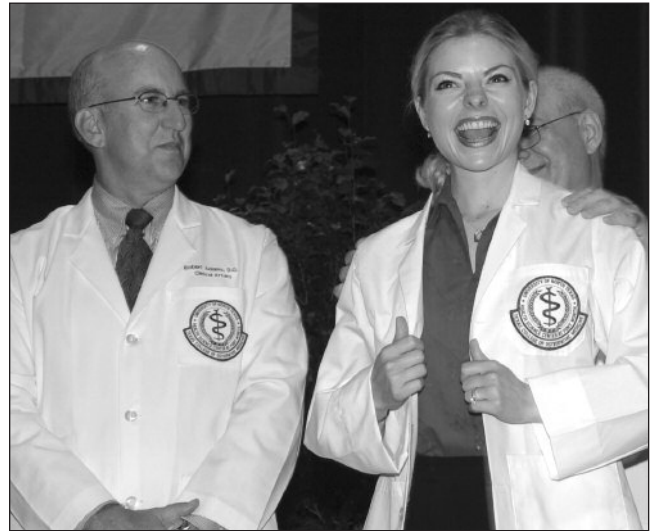
September is **National Osteopathic Medicine Month**—a month for osteopathic medical professionals to encourage all Americans to live healthier lives and to educate them about osteopathic medicine. This event, held since 1979, was previously celebrated as NOM Week. The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine has been celebrating with a variety of on- and off-campus events, including a letter-writing campaign to encourage popular TV shows, such as "ER" and "Everwood," to feature osteopathic physicians as characters. ★

bon-cutting ceremony, praising health science center employees for their vision and willingness to work to achieve a dream.

"To the health science center staff: We salute you for your tenacity and your willingness to respond to the call for leadership in the field of biotechnology," Moncrief said. "We look forward to continued growth for Fort Worth and the health science center." ★

September celebrations at HSC

Convocation and White Coat Ceremony, Sept. 17: (top right) Kathleen Voiers Scott, TCOM 2008, receives her white coat from Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean of medical education, while Robert Adams, DO, dean of clinical education, looks on. Ronald Blanck (middle left), DO, president of the Health Science Center honors Tarrant County Medical Examiner Nizam Peerwani, MD, with the Founders' Medal, the institution's highest honor, while Rice Tilley, UNT Regent, reads a citation honoring him.



Party on the Patio, Sept. 10: For only \$1, employees had three chances to dunk any one of the honored dunkees into the water (bottom left). Dunkees included Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of GSBS (middle right), and Stephen Barrett, director of facilities management (bottom right).



Regents approve finish-out of CBH classrooms

The University of North Texas System Board of Regents approved a contract for construction of classrooms in the health science center's Center for Bio-Health Aug. 26 during their quarterly meeting.

The contract has been awarded to the JRS Group, a general contractor from the Mid-Cities area that submitted a bid of \$738,961. The JRS Group has done other work on campus, including the renovation of fifth-floor lab space in the administration building.

The total cost for the finish-out of three classrooms is \$840,909, which includes funds for construction and contingency monies, as well as \$45,000 for design costs and \$20,000 for voice and data wiring. Funding for the construction will come from unused bond proceeds from the Patient Care Center and parking garage, institutional reserves, and Higher Education Assistance Fund.

All three classrooms will be data and voice wired and will have the

potential for data ports and electrical outlets to be installed at each student workstation in the future. The largest of the classrooms will seat 112 students, and the other two will seat 74 each. Construction begins this month and is scheduled for completion in January 2005.

In other business, the Board of Regents named Elizabeth Harris, PhD, as an emeritus associate professor.

Dr. Harris, who retired in 1998, was a faculty member with the health science center for 28 years. She was an associate professor and founding chairperson of microbiology and immunology and served as director of admissions and assistant dean for basic sciences. Dr. Harris received the Founders' Medal in 1995.

The board also approved the Continuing Medical Education Mission Statement. The group redefined its goals and missions based on a needs assessment and accreditation requirements. ★

Volunteers needed to participate in research study

Environmental and occupational health is looking for volunteers to participate in a study of the effects of noise and solvents on hearing. Volunteers must be between 25 and 50 years old and have worked for at least five years in a noisy workplace or with the solvents toluene or xylene. We will also need workers who are employed by these same companies but are not directly exposed to these conditions.

Participants will have their hearing tested and may be asked to wear an exposure badge and/or a noise dosimeter a few times at work during the study.

Hearing tests will be conducted in the speech and hearing department at UNT Denton, and participants will be compensated for time and travel to Denton for the tests.

If you are interested in participating in this important study, please contact Kamakshi Gopal at 940-369-7432 or Terry Gratton at 817-735-5140.

Kudos to...

Steve Woodall, director of records management, on his election as vice president for membership for the Fort Worth Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators. Woodall has served as vice president for finance for the organization for this past year.

Kimi Lasswell, PA Class of 2003, and her husband, Marshall, on the birth of their son, Levi, May 31.

Don't forget to send us your information for the kudos column. Submit births, marriages, accomplishments and other big events to the News Office via GroupWise. ★

Focus groups give students a chance to speak up

Fourteen students met with staff members from the Office of Student Affairs Sept. 8 in the first of what administrators intend to be a forum for student concerns.

The focus groups are an opportunity for the students to discuss the issues they are facing in their schoolwork or personal lives and to brainstorm possible solutions to answer their needs, said Thomas Moorman, MS, EdD, associate vice president for student affairs.

"Our purpose is to get a feel for the campus culture," Dr. Moorman said. "We want to know what's going on and what the students' concerns are." ★

Dr. Moorman said one issue discussed was that students taking classes in Everett Hall were so cold they were bringing blankets to class to stay warm. Other issues included pre-orientation communications, letters of recommendation for preceptorships, board exams and Ranchland.

Students can discuss these and other issues at the next focus group session Oct. 6 from noon to 1 p.m. Lunch will be served, and reservations are required. Additional sessions will take place Oct. 20 and Nov. 3 and 17. Call Cathy at ext. 2505 for more information or to reserve a place. ★



Employees in custodial services accept the President's Award for Best Practices from Ronald Blanck, DO, health science center president.

Custodial named Best Practice

The Custodial Services Department received the President's Award for Best Practices at a ceremony Sept. 2 in the Atrium.

Custodial services received the award for its use of planning and evaluation to enhance quality, operate more cost effectively and increase personnel productivity, said Ronald Blanck, DO, president.

"Actually, we're recognizing the research-based process that you have developed to save money, minimize the time spent on repetitive tasks, eliminate waste, and improve the tidiness and sanitation of our campus," Dr. Blanck said.

The process that custodial services underwent included an analysis of costs, quality, availability and industry expert advice followed by a trial run that was evaluated on six different factors. The process resulted in a 90 percent reduction in the amount of time spent refilling paper products, saving \$130,000 a year in labor costs, and a 50 percent reduction in the time spent spot cleaning, saving \$11,000 a year.

The Exemplary Award went to family medicine's Central Clinic for its

use of planning and evaluation to enhance quality through its clinical medication management program. The clinic's program saved time, improved documentation and helped prevent lapses in medication.

"Through your systematic approach to solving this problem, you identified other issues that needed scrutiny, and you have created an excellent role model for using the experience, knowledge and ideas of front-office staff, nursing staff, providers and administrators to improve patient care and increase efficiency in our clinics," Dr. Blanck said.

Three Best Practices Honorable Mention Awards were also presented during the ceremony. Quality management received an honorable mention for its clinic report card and Blue Star of Excellence programs, utilities and energy management received an honorable mention for its energy management program, and facilities management received an honorable mention for its department safety program.

The President's Search for Best Practices in Planning, Evaluation and

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In the News

The **Center for BioHealth** was the focus of a news story on the Aug. 24 6 p.m. news on CBS Channel 11. Reporter Mark Johnson profiled the building and interviewed **Greg Upp**, vice president for institutional coordination; **Victoria Rudick, PhD**, retired associate dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; and **Antonio René, PhD**, assistant professor of epidemiology, about its benefits for the community. The **Center for BioHealth** was also featured in a number of print publications, including the Aug. 27 and Sept. 3 *Fort Worth Business Press*, the Aug. 27 *Star-Telegram* and the Aug. 2 *Texas Contractor* magazine.

The *Star-Telegram* ran a feature article on alumnus **Jennifer Weatherly, DO**, TCOM 1998, in its Aug. 9 edition. **Dr. Weatherly** is the first full-time doctor in Grandview, Texas, in more than six years.

Thomas Fairchild, PhD, associate professor of health management and policy and director of Special Projects on Aging, and **Janice Knebl, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine and chief of geriatrics, spoke on the variety of long-term care options at a workshop sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Tarrant County Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County Family Caregiver Program. The workshop took place at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens in June and was the subject of an article in the *Senior News Source* Aug. 15.

The **health science center** was listed as one of the winners of the 2003-2004 Golden Achievement Award for Partnership Excellence, an award given by the Fort Worth ISD, in the Aug. 30 edition of the *Star-Telegram*.

Thomas Moorman, EdD, associate vice president for student affairs, was mentioned in the Aug. 30 *Star-Telegram*. He was recognized for his recent promotion. ★

Researchers, reporters learn better communication

Researchers and reporters don't speak the same language, but the School of Public Health has scheduled a program to get the two groups talking.

Researchers and reporters will have an opportunity to find a common language at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens Tuesday, Oct. 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The program, "Promoting Dialogue Between Prevention Researchers and Media," will begin a daylong event sponsored by Research!America, a not-for-profit organization whose main goal is to make medical and health research a much higher national priority.

The keynote speaker for the event will be former U.S. Representative Paul Rogers, chairman of Research!America. Rogers served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1955 to 1979 and chaired the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

During his 24 years in the House, he spearheaded dozens of reform acts related to public health, biomedical research and health professions education. He sponsored the National Cancer Act of 1971, and he authored the Safe Drinking Water Act. In recognition of his lifelong contributions to health and the environment, the main plaza of the National Institutes of Health was designated Paul G. Rogers Plaza in 2001 by an act of Congress.

The goal of the daylong event is to build connections between those who do the researching and those who report on the research so that they begin to speak the same language, according to Liz Treviño, Research!America liaison for SPH.

The day will conclude with an advocacy training workshop, "Teaching Prevention Researchers and Public Health Professionals the Art of Advocacy."

The afternoon advocacy training will be facilitated by Research!America representatives. Advocacy training is designed to teach researchers and public health professionals how to engage, develop and sustain relationships with local media experts and policy makers that promote health.

A group of media representatives, including Satcha Pretto of Univision, Javier Aldape of the *Star-Telegram*, and Ellie Hogue of WBAP-AM, will discuss how prevention research can be more widely disseminated with a panel of researchers and audience members. Deborah Ferguson of NBC 5 will serve as moderator for the panel discussion. Research panelists will include Antonio René, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology; Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; and Raul Caetano, MD, PhD, of the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston.

Panelists will be asked to respond to actual case studies of when scientists interacted with the media so that researchers and reporters will be able to hear each other's perspective. The idea is to move both groups to a position where they do speak the same language and they understand each other's needs and concerns, Liz Treviño said.

The program, sponsored by Research!America, has brought together the health science center's School of Public Health, the University of Texas School of Public Health and the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health. Similar programs have taken place at locations around the state.

"This partnership is a unique opportunity to bring all key players together to find better ways to protect and promote health for all citizens, said Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health.

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Faculty Promotions

The UNT System Board of Regents approved the following faculty for promotion effective September 1.

Errol Bryce, MD, internal medicine, from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor

des Anges Cruser, PhD, MPA, manipulative medicine, from assistant professor to associate professor

Arthur Eisenberg, PhD, pathology and anatomy, from associate professor to professor

Susan Franks, PhD, family medicine, from assistant professor to associate professor

Peter Koulen, PhD, pharmacology and neuroscience, from assistant professor to associate professor

John Planz, PhD, pathology and anatomy, from assistant professor to associate professor

Armando Rosales, MD, cell biology and genetics, from instructor to assistant professor

Jerry Simecka, PhD, molecular biology and immunology, from associate professor to professor

Joseph Warren, PhD, pathology and anatomy, from instructor to assistant professor

Stuart Williams, DO, manipulative medicine, from assistant professor to associate professor

Robert Wordinger, PhD, cell biology and genetics, from associate professor to professor

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

GSBS gains new professor, associate dean

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, has joined the health science center as associate dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, replacing Victoria Rudick, PhD, who retired in August. Dr. Vishwanatha is also a professor of molecular biology and immunology.

“Dr. Vishwanatha has all of the qualities we were looking for,” said Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean. “He has experience coordinating an integrated core curriculum as well as a strong research program.”

Dr. Vishwanatha, formerly assistant dean of graduate studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, has extensive experience with outreach programs and postdoctoral education.

Jerry Simecka, PhD, professor and chair of molecular biology and immunology, echoed Dr. Yorio’s enthusiasm. “Dr. Vishwanatha will continue



Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD

his nationally recognized and funded research efforts in prostate cancer, adding depth to our cancer research,” he said.

Unpacking both an office and a research lab has kept Dr. Vishwanatha and his doctoral student Jie Liu and postdoctoral fellow Susobhan Das, PhD, busy during their first weeks on campus, but Dr. Vishwanatha has already begun counseling students and meeting with core curriculum faculty members.

“UNT Health Science Center is well-suited for my interest in graduate and postdoctoral education. It has a long-standing history of outreach and inclusion of minorities in graduate research,” Dr. Vishwanatha said. “There is tremendous potential here. I am excited to become a part of it.”

Dr. Vishwanatha earned his doctorate degree in biology at the University of South Carolina and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Massachusetts. ★

HSC names Downey, Harris first Regents Professors

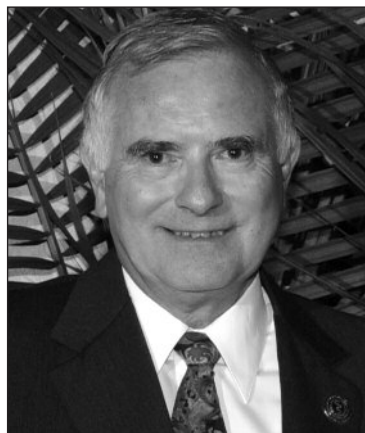
The UNT System Board of Regents has created the Regents Professor Award to provide recognition for individuals currently at the rank of professor who have performed outstanding teaching, research or patient care.

It is also intended to improve teaching and learning throughout the health science center by identifying outstanding senior faculty who contribute to significant accomplishments in education. The first two faculty members to receive the award are Ben Harris, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, and Fred Downey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology.

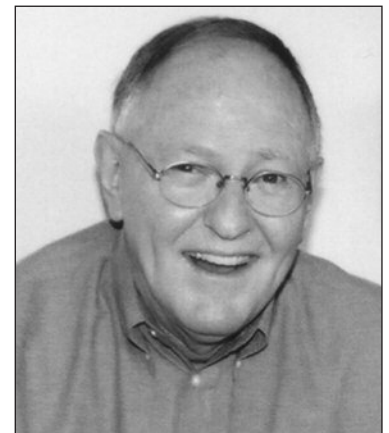
Dr. Harris joined the faculty at North Texas State University in 1968 and has been employed by the UNT system longer than any other faculty or

staff member currently at the health science center. “I’m honored by this recognition,” he said. “You come to work day after day for more than 35 years because you love it. You love the lab, the school, the students. To have your life’s work recognized in this way is humbling.”

Dr. Downey, who joined the faculty in 1985, concurs. “I am pleased at the emphasis this award places on both



Fred Downey, PhD



Ben Harris, PhD

research and teaching,” he said. “My career at the health science center has been very fulfilling. There are always new challenges, the opportunity to contribute to the education of future

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Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

TCOM launches pilot curriculum program

Early clinical exposure is not a new concept for medical schools. At the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, students have “shadowed” primary care physicians in their offices for sometime on an episodic basis during their “ice weeks.” This activity has been a regular part of TCOM’s curriculum.

This year, however, the dimension of early clinical experience has taken on a new direction. Six second-year medical students are now piloting a new continuity of care clinical program.

On Tuesday afternoons three times per month, these students travel to the office of a family practitioner where

they observe and participate in office-based family practice. On the fourth Tuesday of the month, students come together and discuss the cases they have seen, the procedures they have participated in and what they have learned.

The students will participate in this program throughout the entire academic year.

“We are very excited to pilot this project,” said Michael Martin, PhD, assistant dean for academic affairs. “Anytime we can correlate the classroom didactics with clinical experiences, it creates a better learning atmosphere.”

All six students said they are enjoying the program. “This is a great experience so far,” said Linda Sullivan, TCOM 2007. “I was in a room doing the initial history and physical exams on patients by myself. Dr. [Samuel] Lee came in after I had presented the patient, and I watched him finish the exams.”

Sullivan also noted a number of Spanish speakers in the office and that all charts and records were electronic.

“Medical Education is excited about this program, and we will continue to evaluate it over the year,” said Bruce Dubin, DO, associate dean for medical education. ★

TCOM 2008 students elect class officers

The TCOM Class of 2008 used the health science center’s first-ever online elections to select its officers for the fall semester. More than 110 students cast their ballots Aug. 12 using a Web site created by Dustin Tauferner, TCOM 2006, Medical Student Government Association first vice president.

Officers will serve through the first Monday of the spring 2005 semester.

Class of 2008 officers

Melissa McFadden, president, spent two years in the Peace Corps after earning a bachelor’s degree in physics from Texas State University. She is from Fort Worth.

Shawn Ellis, vice president, is a Bedford, Texas, native and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University. His bachelor’s degree is in biology.

Kimberly Martin, secretary, earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Baylor University. She is from Whitehouse, Texas.

Melissa Anders, treasurer, is a Houston native and a graduate of



McFadden



Ellis



Martin



Anders



Wiens



Tierce

Texas A&M University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in biomedical science.

Andie Wiens, curriculum representative, is one of a handful of students in

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TCOM 2008 class officers

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the TCOM class of 2008 with a master's degree. She earned her master's in zoology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Buddy Tierce, curriculum representative, has two degrees from Texas A&M University—a bachelor's degree in biomedical science and an MBA—and is from Fort Worth.

Amber deJongh, MSGA representative, is an Alvin, Texas, native and Texas A&M University graduate with a degree in biomedical science.

Raghu "Rags" Varier, MSGA representative, is a graduate of the University of Texas, where he earned bachelor's degrees in speech pathology and biology. He is from Longview, Texas.

Kalan Bobbitt, MSGA representative, is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences, and is from West Columbia, Texas.

Jeri Rose, honor code, is a graduate of Texas Tech University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in zoology with a minor in chemistry. She is from Amarillo, Texas.

Richard Fries, honor code alternate 1, is from Eden, Idaho, and earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Texas at Dallas.

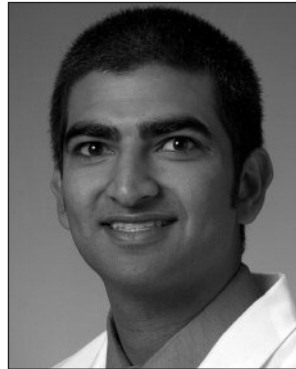
Monica Ghosh, honor code alternate 2, is a Bellaire, Texas, native who was inspired to pursue a career in medicine during a summer trip to rural Mexico. She is a graduate of the University of Texas, where she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics.

Jenna O'Brien, historian, earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Texas and is from Mesquite, Texas.

Lupe Reyne, historian, was inspired to become an osteopath while watching doctors treat her brother when they were children. She is from Hous-



deJongh



Varier



Bobbitt



Rose



Fries



Ghosh



O'Brien



Reyne



Gray

ton, Texas, and has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Courtney Gray, TOMA representative, is a member of the Disaster Action Team for the Greater Dallas Chapter of the American Red Cross. She is from Plano, Texas, and earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin.

Carey Penniston, TOMA representative, is from Dallas and has a bache-

lor's degree in dental hygiene from Baylor University's College of Dentistry. She also attended the University of North Texas. ★



Penniston

Growth trend continues in total enrollment

The health science center's total enrollment continued to grow this year despite increases in tuition costs due to state budget cuts.

Total enrollment grew to 1,021 students this fall from 1,014 students in fall 2003, according to the registrar's office.

"This shows sustained commitment to growth in our student numbers, which has been slowed somewhat by our reduction in state funding, but the increase still indicates more education for more students," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center.

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine showed the greatest increase in students, topping the 500 mark at 501. This is the first time in the history of the institution that TCOM enrollment has surpassed 500.

"With the shortage of physicians in Texas and the nation, the Texas Col-

lege of Osteopathic Medicine has tried to keep pace by expanding the number of seats in our medical school," said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean. "In addition, TCOM has continued to serve a unique role in Texas with our curricular focus on primary care and rural medicine."

The Physician Assistant Studies program enrollment increased from 81 last year to 82 this year. "We are excited about the popularity of the PA career," said Hank Lemke, MMS, PA-C, director of the PA program. "Last year, we received over 450 applications, far exceeding the number of spaces we could offer. A limited number of available clinical training sites prevents us from increasing the class size even more."

The School of Public Health's enrollment was down from last year's high of 244 to 233. Fernando Treviño, MPH, PhD, SPH dean, said

that he expects that trend to change with the addition of new faculty and the opening of the Center for Bio-Health. However, Dr. Treviño emphasized the need for slow, measured growth for the school, which will celebrate its five-year anniversary this year.

Enrollment numbers for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences increased by eight students to 205 from last year's high of 197.

"The figure is not as high as I wanted," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean, "but we have more students than Texas A&M University or Texas Tech, which is pretty good." The programs at Texas A&M and Texas Tech are older than the health science center's program.

All enrollment statistics are unofficial until they are verified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board later in the fall. ★

Research!America

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Research!America's media/scientist roundtable program began after the release of two influential reports: "World's Apart: How the Distance Between Science and Journalism Threatens America's Future," commissioned by the First Amendment Center, and "Unlocking Our Future: Toward a New National Science Policy," released by Rep. Vernon Ehlers.

The roundtable allows more concrete examples of barriers to coverage of science as well as examples of best practices in coverage that are shared in a non-interview, non-pressure setting, Liz Treviño said.

"We are excited to be involved in this national initiative," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center. "Research!America polls show that Americans want more information about research and ways to prevent disease and illness. This forum gives researchers and media representatives the opportunity to find ways to get more information to the public and to speak the same language while they're doing that."

For more information on how to get involved with Research!America and conference registration, contact Liz Treviño at ext. 0311. ★

Best Practices

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Quality Enhancement is presented annually to the organizational group or unit within the health science center that best demonstrates that its use of planning and evaluation results in more effective operations.

Best Practices are judged on the basis of meeting or exceeding five factors: a clearly stated mission or purpose that supports the institutional mission, stated goals for the Best Practice, an implementation plan to reach the goals, evaluation of the outcomes and use of the results to improve operations within the unit. The Institutional Effectiveness Committee reviews the nominations on behalf of the president.

Past winners of the President's Award for Best Practices have included medical student admissions and family medicine's student health section. ★

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.

Faculty Advances

Alakananda Basu, PhD, professor of molecular biology/immunology, is the senior author of a paper, "Deregulation of PKB influences antiapoptotic signaling by PKC in breast cancer cells," published in the September issue of the *International Journal of Oncology*. Dongmei Lu, graduate student in molecular biology/immunology, is first author, and Jie Huang, senior research assistant in molecular biology/immunology, is co-author.

Joan Carroll, PhD, assistant professor of integrative physiology, presented the paper "Effect of obesity and hydralazine treatment on diurnal rhythms of blood pressure and heart rate" at the 18th World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research in Brisbane, Australia, Aug. 6-11. Jeffrey King, MS, formerly of integrative physiology, and Allison Wright and Jeremy Thaden, both research assistants in integrative physiology, are co-authors.

Daisha Cipher, PhD, assistant professor of biostatistics, is first author of a paper, "Dementia, pain, depression, behavioral disturbances, and ADLs: toward a comprehensive conceptualization of quality of life in long-term care," published in the July issue of the *International Journal of Geriatric Psychology*.

Samuel "Tim" Coleridge, DO, professor of family medicine, was named 2005 president-elect of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians at the organizations 55th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly. In this role, he will meet with state legislators and testify before legislative hearings as an advocate of family doctors and the patients they serve.

Christopher de Fiebre, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, reviewed grant proposals for a joint venture between the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as a member of the Special Emphasis Panel on Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Centers, which met in Washington, D.C., June 8-10.

Fred Downey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, presented "Intermittent hypoxic training protects canine myocardium from infarction" at the 18th World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research in Brisbane, Australia, Aug. 6-11. **Pu Zong, MD, PhD**, postdoctoral research assistant; **Srinath Setty, PhD**, postdoctoral research assistant; **Randy Martinez, MS**, graduate teaching assistant; **Wei Sun, MD**, senior research assistant; and **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor, all of integrative physiology, are co-

authors. Johnathan Tune, PhD, (formerly of integrative physiology) of Louisiana State University Health Science Center, New Orleans, La., and Igor Ehrenberg, PhD, and Elena Tkatchouk, PhD, of Hypoxia Medical Academy, Moscow, Russia, are also co-authors.

Terrance Gratton, DrPH, has been appointed technical chair for the Institutional Environmental Health section for the next conference of the National Environmental Health Association. The conference will be held this spring in Providence, R.I.

Robert Mallet, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, presented "Pyruvate augments phosphorylation potential and glutathione redox state of arrested myocardium" at the 18th World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research in Brisbane, Australia, Aug. 6-11. **Arti Sharma, MBBS**, graduate teaching assistant; **Marty Knott**, graduate teaching assistant; **Randy Martinez, MS**, graduate teaching assistant; and **Jie Sun**, research associate, all of integrative physiology are co-authors. Jian Bi, MD, of the Department of Surgery, Dalian Medical University, Dalian, China, is also a co-author.

Porunelloor Mathew, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, attended the Eighth Annual meeting of the Society for Natural Immunity and 20th International Natural Killer Cell Workshop April 24-28 at Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Dr. Mathew's research group made several presentations: (1) "The amino acid residues Lys68 and Glu70 in the variable domain of human 2B4 (CD244) are critical for interaction with CD48," by **Dr. Mathew**; Pappanaicken Kumaresan, PhD, University of California, Davis; and **Stephen Mathew, PhD**, research assistant professor of molecular biology/immunology. (2) "2B4 acts as a non-MHC binding inhibitory receptor on mouse NK cells," by Kyung-Mi Lee, PhD, Korea University College of Medicine; Megan McNerney, MD/PhD student, University of Chicago; Susan Stepp, PhD, postdoctoral research fellow, University of Massachusetts Medical School; **Dr. Mathew**; Michael Bennett, MD, UT Southwestern Medical Center; and Vinay Kumar MD, University of Chicago. (3) "Homotypic NK cell interactions through 2B4 (CD244)/CD48 pair regulate the expansion and activation of NK cells," by Dr. Lee, John Forman, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston; McNerney; Dr. Stepp; Christopher Wulfig, PhD, and John Schatzle, PhD, UT Southwestern Medical Center; **Dr. Mathew**; Allen Sharpe, MD, Brigham and Women's

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Faculty Advances

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Hospital and Harvard Medical School; and Dr. Kumar. (4) "Gender specific *in vivo* role of 2B4 (CD244) in tumor rejection as revealed by differential metastasis of B16 melanoma cells in 2B4 *-/-* mice," by Swapnil Vaiday, PhD student in microbiology/immunology; Dr. Stepp; McNerne; **Jae-Kyung Lee**, PhD student in biomedical sciences; Dr. Bennett; Dr. Kumar; and **Dr. Mathew**.

Xiangrong Shi, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, presented "Would aging impair cerebral oxygenation during orthostatic stress?" at the 18th World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research in Brisbane, Australia, Aug. 6-11. **Hong Guo**, postdoctoral research associate in integrative physiology, and **Frederick Schaller, DO**, associate professor, and **Nancy Tierney, RN, MSN, PhD**, assistant professor, both of internal medicine, are co-authors.

Wolfram Siede, PhD, associate professor of cell biology/genetics, co-authored the paper "Spontaneous DNA Damage in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* elicits phenotypic properties similar to cancer cells," published in the May 21 issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. **Jingjing Liu, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate in cell biology/genetics, is co-author.

Downey, Harris

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scientists and physicians is very important to me, and finally, there is the excitement of making new discoveries in the laboratory."

"Both Ben and Fred were selected for this award because of their long-standing histories of grant funding, contributions to research, and, most importantly, dedication to teaching and mentoring students," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, who nominated both professors for the award.

Ronald Blanck, DO, president, echoed Dr. Yorio's sentiment. "I can't think of more deserving faculty members. I'm proud that Dr. Harris and Dr. Downey were our first honorees. Our challenge will be to find future Regents Professors who can live up to their examples." ★

Norman Trieff, PhD, professor, and **Terrance Gratton, DrPH**, assistant professor, both of environmental/occupational health, attended a workshop, "Environmental Health Risk: Assessment, Management and Communications," in Minneapolis, Minn., July 11-13. The workshop was sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, and the Environmental and Occupational Health Council of the Association of Schools of Public Health. Participants in the workshop plan to collaborate on writing an environmental health risk analysis textbook.

Stephen Weis, DO, professor, and **Patrick Moonan, MPH**, instructor, both of internal medicine, are co-authors of a paper "Characterization of a Mycobacterium tuberculosis peptide that is recognized by human CD4+ and CD8+ T cells in the context of multiple HLA alleles," published in the Aug. 1 issue of the *Journal of Immunology*. Homayoun Shams, PhD, of the Center for Pulmonary and Infectious Disease Control, University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, is first author. Peter Klucar; Hassan Safi, PhD; Benjamin Wizel, PhD; and Peter Barnes, MD, all of UTHSC-Tyler, and Katie Ewer, PhD, of Oxford University, are co-authors. ★

Technology provides new opportunities

Health science center students have the opportunity to be educated by doctors from across the nation and perhaps even around the world thanks to teleconferencing technology.

Teleconferences allow students in one location to interact with a doctor or lecturer at another location using computer networks that transmit audio and video. Participants have video cameras, microphones and speakers connected to their computers.

"Video teleconferences afford the opportunity to bring nationally respected speakers from all over the country and beyond right onto the health science center campus with minimal cost and great interactivity," said Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean for medical education. "Students and faculty members will be able to interact with colleagues and associates

in all types of forums." Dr. Dubin said he hopes to set up teleconferences throughout the school year—perhaps every six to eight weeks—covering such topics as geriatrics, international medicine, ethics and internal medicine. The teleconferences will range in size from small groups to entire classrooms. A teleconference held on campus in July gave TCOM 2008 students the opportunity to speak with Norman Gevitz, PhD, a renowned historian in the field of medical history and the osteopathic profession and chair of social medicine at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Gevitz spoke on the history and future of osteopathic medicine.

"Today is the time for you to thrive and flourish, to move beyond the stage of proving that DOs are just as good as MDs," he said. ★