

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

NSF renews Project SCORE grant

When Rusty Reeves, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics, received the message from the National Science Foundation that he needed to revise the budget for Project SCORE, it was good news.

Revising the budget meant that the Project SCORE grant would likely be renewed, but it was several months before Dr. Reeves received the official news.

“GK-12” Project SCORE: Development of a Permanent Outreach Partnership Between Teaching Fellows and Science Teachers/Students of the Fort Worth Independent School District was refunded for May 1, 2005, to April 30, 2006.

The project received a total of \$471,837. The grant began in March 2002, and it will total about \$2 million over the life of the grant.

The grant provides eight stipends for health science center graduate students and two undergraduate fellows from Texas Wesleyan University to be paired with high school teachers in a fellowship program.

The fellows spend 10 hours per week in the classroom teaching high school science students, which benefits graduate students at the health science center, according to Dr. Reeves, who taught high school biology for six years in Waxahachie.

“There is very little opportunity for our graduate students to learn about teaching, so this program allows them to do that by teaching ninth and tenth grade students,” Dr. Reeves said.



Gary Scott, PhD, program manager for Project SCORE, helped teach local high school teachers about the human digestive and urinary systems May 12 as part of the Teachers as Scholars Program sponsored by Project SCORE. Twice a year, 20 high school teachers come to the campus for two days to learn about anatomy.

Robert Kaman, JD, PhD, associate dean for outreach in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, said that Project SCORE fits into the outreach goals of GSBS and the health science center as well as providing graduate students with a missed opportunity – the opportunity to teach.

“We’re a professional school, so students don’t really have the opportunity to teach,” Dr. Kaman said. “We produce scientists who, ‘oh by the way,’ will more than likely have to teach, so this gives some of our students time to learn how to teach by being paired with a professional teacher.”

Harold Sheedlo, PhD, associate professor of cell biology and genetics, a member of the Project SCORE team, agrees.

“The fellows develop teaching skills that will greatly assist them in their careers in academia,” Dr. Sheedlo said.

Amon Carter-Riverside, North Side, Dunbar, Paschal, Eastern Hills and South Hills high schools participate in Project SCORE. The high schools have high minority populations, averaging 85 percent, which is also a component of the grant – trying to improve minority student scores on the science

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Campus Briefs

The **institutional safety program** was recently recognized by the State Office of Risk Management with a **silver safety award** for its accident rate reduction in fiscal year 2004.

The institutional accident rate for 2004 was 31.3 percent below the five-year institutional average. The institutional accident rate was 1.44 injuries per hundred employees, compared to the state average of 4.03 injuries per hundred employees.

James Sims, PhD, institutional safety officer, said, "This award and the others we have received over the years are a tribute to the close cooperation of faculty and staff, supervisors, middle managers, and senior management to protect our employees." The safety program has garnered gold awards for accident rate reductions in 1993 and 1997; silver awards for 1998

and 2004; and bronze awards for 1995, 2000 and 2003.

Mark your calendars for this year's **Hispanic Wellness Fair**, which is set for Saturday, August 6. The annual event, which draws thousands of visitors every year, is free and provides a wide range of medical services and health information for the Fort Worth community and surrounding areas.

In past years, a variety of providers have offered services and information, including immunizations, mammograms, eye exams, dental check-ups and screenings for high blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

Volunteers are needed, especially those who are bilingual. Volunteering at the fair is an opportunity for medical students to get a jump start on medical service hours for next year. A sign-up

CAMPUS Connection

Campus Connection is produced 10 times a year by the Office of Marketing & Communications, UNT Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., EAD-802, 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 Tommy Hawkes, and Carla Lee. Without their involvement, this publication would not be possible.

sheet will be posted on the community service board in front of the student lounge. For more information about volunteering, contact Eva Ayala, TCOM 2008, via GroupWise. ★

Project SCORE

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component of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills examination.

Dr. Reeves said about 120 programs like Project SCORE exist throughout the United States, and in the last 10 years, science scores have been going up on standardized tests.

"That's a drastic change, because they had been going down," Dr. Reeves said. "Personally, I think it's because of these programs."

Project SCORE, Track II, which is the renewed grant, will include Dr. Reeves as principal investigator. Co-principal investigators for the grant will include Dr. Sheedlo; Dr. Kaman; Mary Anne Clark, PhD, biology department at Texas Wesleyan University; and Dorothy Thomas, MS, program director for science education for the Fort Worth Independent School District.

Gary Scott, MS, research assistant in cell biology and genetics, will serve as program manager of the grant.

The goals of Project SCORE are to prepare fellows to serve as resources for Fort Worth biology students and teachers, to enhance the appreciation and understanding of science processes throughout FWISD's science curricula, and to ensure that the NSF-supported SCORE program becomes a permanent part of the health science center culture.

"The Fort Worth ISD and the Fort Worth community benefit from Project SCORE by having graduate students serving as mentors to high school students," Dr. Sheedlo said. "In addition, the fellows provide essential tutoring for students, especially the English-as-a-second language students."

High school students participating in Project SCORE also get enhanced opportunities to learn cutting-edge science from students who are actively doing research at the health science

center, such as Josh Gatson and Erin Donovan. Gatson is completing his second and final year as a SCORE fellow while Donovan is completing her first year and reapplying for next year.

"In the beginning it was a little overwhelming to actually go into the classroom and teach," Donovan said.

Prior to beginning their fall semester of teaching, fellows must complete a summer workshop on how to teach in the Tools for Teaching Science course offered by Dr. Reeves.

Donovan was also aided by Gatson, who served as a mentor during her first few weeks as a fellow. Gatson will be completing his Project SCORE experience this year because students are only allowed to be fellows for two years.

"It's been a good experience for me," Gatson said. "I've really learned a lot about teaching, especially at the high school level, and I've had some fun." ★

Scientist passionate about research, teaching, writing

James Simpkins is the kind of person you feel comfortable calling Jim. He likes to paint and draw in his spare time, as well as bird watch. He still can't give up his dream of being a best-selling author, and he wears cowboy boots most days to work. He's written two novels, neither of which has been published.

"I'm probably an atrocious creative writer, but I love doing it," he said. "It's one of the most self-realizing experiences you can have, because you're really writing about yourself and your perspective on life and various issues."

Dr. Simpkins, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience, is also one of the top researchers in the world on aging and Alzheimer's disease.

At an early age, Dr. Simpkins decided that science was for him — after earlier dreams of being a cowboy, a fireman and a rock star.

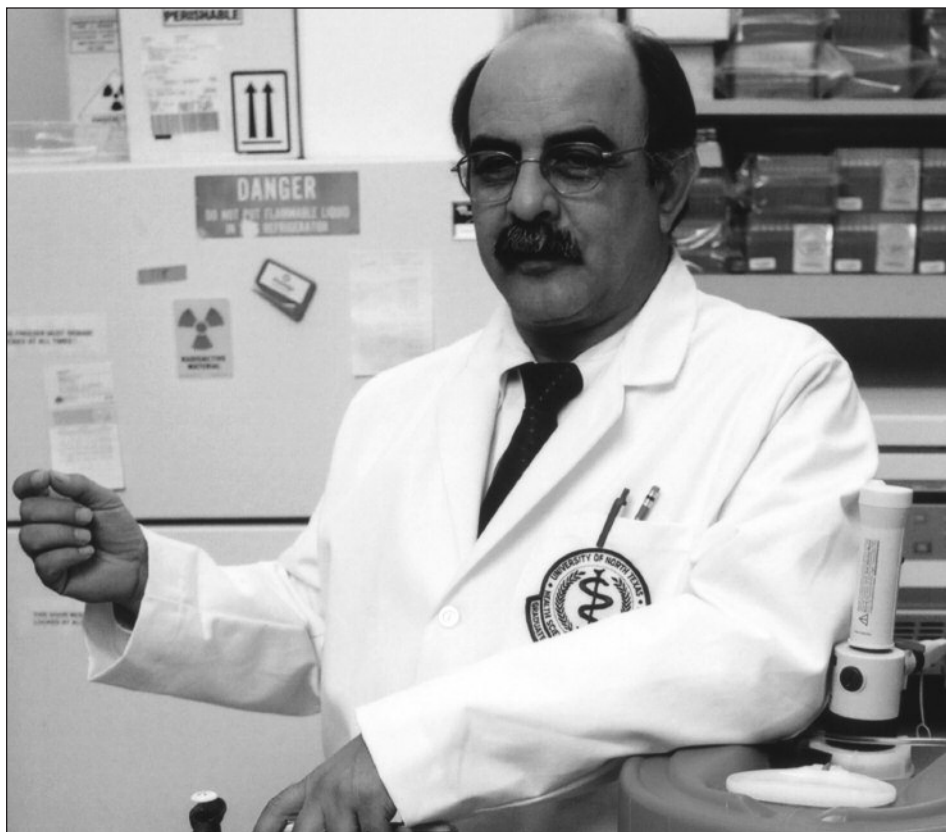
"I discovered that I probably wouldn't stay on a horse; I really don't like fires, and I have no musical ability," he said.

The real clincher for his future endeavors came at Oak Harbor High School in Ohio.

"I was interested in the sciences early, and math," Dr. Simpkins said. "In high school, I did the typical biology, chemistry, physics, math program and loved it. I had two faculty members who were just extraordinarily bright. They were people who knew how to motivate students. One was the science teacher. He covered at least all of the chemistry and physics for all four grade levels. He became a role model for me."

That early interest in science led Dr. Simpkins to the University of Toledo to pursue a bachelor of science degree in biology.

"I wanted to be a scientist, but I wanted to apply it to medicine," Dr. Simpkins said. "I became intrigued with biology more so than with chemistry or mathematics. That led to the biology department, and in that envi-



Jim Simpkins, PhD, has a passion for research, teaching and writing fiction.

ronment, I became intrigued with medicine. That happened late in my undergraduate education, early in my graduate education."

A bachelor of science degree in biology was quickly followed by a master of science degree in biology from the University of Toledo. Then Dr. Simpkins went to Michigan State University to earn his doctorate in physiology in just three years. One year later, Dr. Simpkins received his first research grant, and he has received uninterrupted research funding since then.

Today, Dr. Simpkins' research is funded by four different agencies within the National Institutes of Health, the State of Texas and several pharmaceutical companies. He holds 23 patents, and he has written more than 260 research papers for some of the best journals in science.

His day is a whirlwind of research, writing, teaching and administering,

since he is not only a professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, he is the chair of the department and executive director of the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research at the health science center.

"No two days are the same, though," Dr. Simpkins said. "And that's what's great about this job."

Prior to his arrival at the health science center five years ago this July, Dr. Simpkins had held several positions at the University of Florida in Gainesville, including chair of the Department of Pharmaceutics, associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Pharmacy, Frank Duckworth Professor of Drug Discovery in the College of Pharmacy, and professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery.

"I had achieved professionally everything there that I think one can

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Student lounge closes for renovations

The student lounge, located on the first floor of the Education and Administration building, will close May 23 for renovations.

"This is something that is long overdue and needed by the students," said Rynn Sloan, director of student development.

Heavily utilized by first year and international students, the student lounge has not been renovated since the early 1970s. The split-level, 2,400-

square-foot lounge currently houses pingpong, foosball and pool tables, a small kitchenette, and several vending machines.

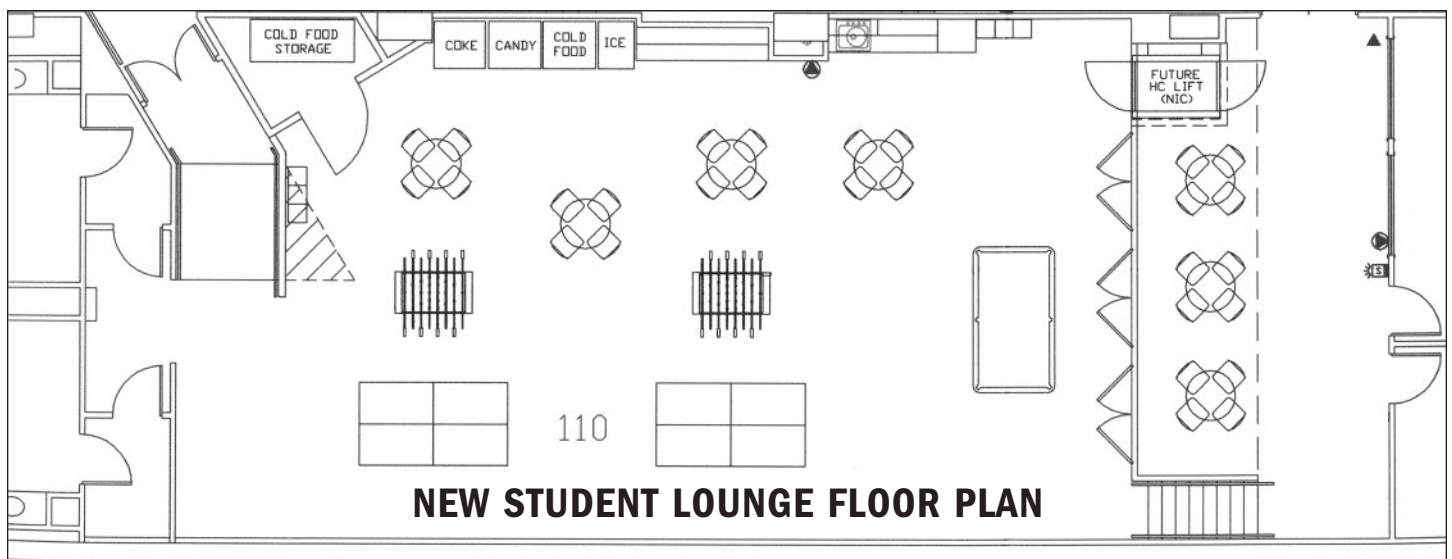
Renovations will cost about \$60,000 and will begin with asbestos abatement. The changes will also include more cabinet space, a bigger sink in the kitchen, built-in units for microwaves, and the lounge will be housed on one level instead of two.

Stephen Barrett director of facili-

ties management, said part of the reason for the renovations is to make the lounge compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

The appearance of the new lounge will follow a western motif "to keep in line with our Fort Worth heritage," Sloan said. A new floor, tables and chairs will also be included.

The student lounge will re-open for use July 31. "It's going to be really nice," Sloan said. ★



Kudos to...

Robert Galvan, DrPH, on being elected to the Board of Directors of the Texas Health Foundation at their annual meeting April 18 in Austin, Texas. Dr. Galvan was also elected vice chair of the Board of Directors for the United Community Centers of Fort Worth.

John Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, on being named director of clinical research for the national Osteopathic Research Center at the health science center.

Jerry Simecka, PhD, on being promoted from associate professor to full professor in molecular biology and immunology. ★

Golf club donates scramble proceeds to local Alzheimer's association

The UNT Health Science Center Golf Club donated almost \$2,500 to the North Central Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

The club sponsored a Golf Scramble on April 23 that brought in \$7,825. After expenses were deducted, the club donated two-thirds of the proceeds, \$2,402.12, to the North Central Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The remainder of the proceeds went to the UNTHSC Golf Club.

"We were very pleased with this event," said Jason Fisher, UNTHSC Golf Club president. "We had hoped to have about 75 golfers, and we had

80, so we were able to raise more money than we had anticipated."

The winning team members for the event were Tommy Land, Tony Treviño, Matt Newton and Kevin McCarthy.

The event was sponsored by American Express Financial Advisors, Family Center Medical Group (Todd Richwine, DO), JS&H Orthopedic Supply, Oak Hollow Alzheimer Special Care Center, Amica Insurance, EzBayer, Wells Fargo Bank, Barton House, Dallas Family Medicine (Paul S. Worrell, DO), Cousin's BBQ, Golf Etc., the health science center's Medical Student

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Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc. presented the health science center with \$200,000 at a reception May 9. The group funds an endowed chair in the Division of Geriatrics.

Reception honors Older Americans Month, DSWOP

The Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc., a local physicians group, was honored by the health science center's Division of Geriatrics at a reception May 9.

Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, professor of internal medicine and chief of geriatrics, described geriatrics as the "field of the future" at the reception.

"If I don't affect the care, it won't be there for me later," said Dr. Knebl, who is the Distinguished Chair of Clinical Geriatrics, an endowed chair at the health science center funded by Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc.

The reception, sponsored by the division of geriatrics, was given in honor of Older American's Month and of the contributions DSWOP has made toward improving the health of older Americans in the Metroplex.

Senior citizens from the community and representatives from senior citizen care homes attended the reception, which kicked off with a welcome from master of ceremonies Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center.

Afterward, Thomas Fairchild, PhD, gave a brief history of the study of aging at the health science center and talked about the Older Americans Act.

Dr. Fairchild said this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Older Americans Act.

The act was established by the U.S. Administration on Aging in the Department of Health and Human Services. It authorizes states grants for research and projects in the field of aging and preserves programs that allow the elderly to live independently.

Older Americans Month, begun in 1963 by President John Kennedy, was originally known as Senior Citizens Month. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter renamed it Older Americans Month. This year's theme is "Celebrate Long-Term Living."

"The real reason that we are here is for the older Americans," Dr. Fairchild said. "We are really here to thank those who are over the age of 65."

James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience and director of the Institute for

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In the News

The *Star-Telegram* reported that **Bernard Rubin, DO**, was included in the "Best Doctors in America" list for 2005 in the Work Faces section April 18. The section also reported that **Harlan Jones, PhD**, joined the health science center faculty as an assistant professor in molecular biology and immunology. **Dr. Rubin** and **Dr. Jones** also appeared in the April 18-24 edition of the *Fort Worth Business Press*, as did **Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD**, who was selected for an Indo-US Professorship by the American Society for Microbiology.

The *Fort Worth Business Press* reported in its April 18-24 issue that the **Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine** was ranked among the top 50 medical schools in primary care, according to rankings from *U.S. News and World Report*. Another report about the ranking appeared in *Arkansas Business* April 19.

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that the **Texas DNA Identity Lab** might help identify Latin American immigrants who are missing based on the technology available at the health science center facility in an article in the April 18 edition. **Arthur Eisenberg, PhD**, is quoted in the article, and **George Adams**, program coordinator, was photographed. The **DNA Identity Lab** was also part of a news segment on KHOU-TV in Houston that ran May 5 and a news segment on WFAA-TV May 10 at 10 p.m., which also ran the next day on TXCN-TV.

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that a new home-monitoring system using motion sensors might be useful in monitoring frail parents. **Thomas Fairchild, PhD**, is quoted in the article, which ran in the April 23 issue.

The **Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's** pairing with the Amon Carter Museum to offer the "An Eye for Detail" class received coverage from NBC 5 April 20 and 21 and the *Dallas Morning News* May 11.

Remedy magazine quoted **Bernard Rubin, DO**, in its Summer 2005 issue in a story about building better bones. **Dr. Rubin** discussed osteopenia and osteoporosis. ★

HSC researcher receives Young Investigator Award

Rong Ma, PhD, assistant professor of integrative physiology, received the 2005 Young Investigators Award from the American Physiological Society.

APS selected Dr. Ma for the Lazaro J. Mandel Young Investigator Award, which includes a \$7,500 cash prize.

According to APS, the award recognizes an individual with outstanding promise in the field of epithelial and renal physiology.

Dr. Ma's research focuses on the physiological function and regulating mechanisms of ion channels in kidney cells. He also studies the pathological

relevance of the ion channels in certain kidney diseases, such as diabetes and polycystic kidney disease.

"We are very proud of Dr. Ma for receiving this award," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. "We look forward to many years of outstanding research from him."

Dr. Ma earned bachelor and master of science degrees in physiology and a medical degree from Anhui Medical University in China and a doctorate in physiology and biophysics sciences from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. ★



Rong Ma, PhD

Jim Simpkins

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achieve," Dr. Simpkins said. "We had program project grants. We had training grants. We had RO1 grants. I wanted to get into translational and clinical research — that is, taking bench top stuff and doing the thing you need to do to get it ready for the clinic.

"That's part of being successful here at the health science center. The other part was to build the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research into a nationally recognized center of excellence. For money reasons, that's occurred much more slowly than I would have hoped, but I still envision that happening. It still gets me up every day."

Glenn Dillon, PhD, associate vice president of research and biotechnology and a professor in Dr. Simpkins' department, nominated him for the Healthcare Heroes Award given by the *Fort Worth Business Press* this year. Dr. Simpkins was one of six health science center employees to receive the award, and the only person from the health science center who is not a clinical practitioner to receive the award this year.

Dr. Dillon's two-page letter detailed Dr. Simpkins' accomplish-

ments throughout his career and since arriving at the health science center.

"Since joining the University of North Texas Health Science Center in July 2000, he built the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience into one of the best academic departments in the nation," Dr. Dillon wrote. "His approach to academic team building has resulted in his department increasing its extramural funding from \$1.3 million to \$7.3 million, a more than fivefold increase, in just four years."

But his departmental leadership and research ability aren't the only areas where Dr. Simpkins shines. His passion for teaching graduate students is evident when he describes his philosophy of graduate education.

"The real goal of graduate education in my view is to maintain and enhance their enthusiasm and make them wiser," Dr. Simpkins said.

"Graduate students come in usually very enthusiastic, extraordinarily bright and untrained. We won't make them any brighter; we'll make them wiser and get them to focus on and attend to issues that are currently important in biomedical sciences.

"My strategy is to make them tell me what they're passionate about, because they come into my lab usually with a reason. They either have Alzheimer's or stroke in the family. I want to know that because then we can together identify the area they really should be working in, because if you're not passionate about research, it will either completely fail you or you'll fail it," he said.

That passion for research is still part of Dr. Simpkins' life, and one of the reasons he continues to study Alzheimer's disease and stroke.

"The research that we do will impact the future of treatment and the prevention of both Alzheimer's disease and stroke — period," Dr. Simpkins said. "The students, particularly the graduate students, who we train, will carry out, carry on that vision if it doesn't get completed by the time I hang my hat up."

That vision — curing or preventing Alzheimer's disease and stroke — may be realized sooner than anyone thinks. Then Dr. Simpkins will be able to pursue the dream that he just can't give up — being a best selling author. ★

Institute for Cancer Research participates in Relay for Life

Health science center faculty, staff and students participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life May 6 and 7.

The Institute for Cancer Research team had cancer research faculty members at the event on Friday, May 6, to speak to survivors of cancer and their family members.

ICR's team included Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD; Jerry Simecka, PhD; Walter McConathy, PhD; Maya Nair, PhD; Harlan Jones, PhD; Susobhan Das, PhD; Ben Harris, PhD, and his wife, Norella Harris; Andras Lacko, PhD, and his wife, Terri Lacko; Suzanne Dombrowski; Soñia Campbell; Jacklyn Crisp; Linda Mooberry; Myoung Kim, PhD, and his wife, Jie (Helen) Liu; Stephen Mathew, PhD; Swapnil Vaidya, PhD; Sheetal Bodhankar; Arati Patankar; T.J. Belavadi; Angela Pirooz; and Sulabha Paranjape.

The Fort Worth Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, began at 6 p.m. on Friday



Andras Lacko, PhD, and his wife, Terri Lacko, and Ben Harris, PhD, and his wife, Norella Harris, participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life May 6 and 7.

and ended at 6 a.m. on Saturday. It was held at the Fort Worth Country Day School.

Participants camped out for the duration of the event, with at least one team member walking or running on the track for the entire 12 hours.

The event began with the survivors lap, which included Dr. Harris, a survivor of skin cancer, and his wife, Norella Harris, a survivor of ovarian cancer, and Terri Lacko, a survivor of breast cancer and wife of Dr. Lacko, who researches breast and prostate cancer. ★

American Cancer Society Relay for Life and the Institute for Cancer Research

Our leg of the relay began at 6 p.m. on May 6, 2005. The Cancer survivors and supporters gathered on the track field at Fort Worth's Country Day School on Bryant Irving Road to walk the night away in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The opening ceremony began at 7:30 p.m. and was followed with the survivors' lap. It was very awe inspiring to see the sea of purple shirts making their way around the quarter mile track.

The survivors' lap was followed by the inspirational Luminaria Ceremony at 9 p.m. The stadium lights were turned off, and the night was lit with the luminous sticks given to each participant and the light from the luminarias, lit in remembrance of loved ones who had lost their battle and in honor of those still fighting the battle and those who have fought the battle and won.

The DJ's played music and games to keep us awake, and the movie "Grease" was shown at midnight. Throughout the night, teams walked the track.

The Institute for Cancer Research team from the health science center had a team member on the track in support of the fight against cancer during every hour of the night.

We concluded our leg of the relay at 5:30 a.m. with a lap manned by all of the remaining members of each team.

Our team consisted of Jamboor Vishwanatha; Jerry Simecka; Ben Harris and his wife, Norella Harris; Andras Lacko and his wife, Terri Lacko; Suzanne Dombrowski; Soñia Campbell and her family; Susobhan Das; Jacklyn Crisp; Linda Mooberry and her family; Maya Nair and her family; Myoung Kim and his wife, Jie (Helen) Liu; Stephen Mathew; Swapnil Vaidya; Sheetal Bodhankar; Arati Patankar; T.J. Belavadi; Harlan Jones; Angela Pirooz; Walter McConathy; and Sulabha Paranjape.

The team would like to thank Lester Moreland and Perry Gonzalez from facilities management for the delivery, set up, and pick up of the tent, tables and chairs that we used during the night. We also wish to thank everyone who made a contribution, allowing us to meet our goal of \$1,000, and who participated in the walk.

Next year, we would like to increase our goal and have additional teams represent the health science center. If you would like more information about donating or participating on a relay team, please contact Jacklyn Crisp at ext. 2131. ★

— Jacklyn Crisp

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

COMLEX goes high tech

NBOME adds new section, computerizes exam

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners has been revising its COMLEX-USA exam process. Last year, a new section, the COMLEX II-Patient Exam (PE), was added to the Level II exam, and beginning in July, the COMLEX-USA exam will be given only by computer.

The COMLEX-USA exam is used to assess whether students' osteopathic medical knowledge is at the level necessary for osteopathic generalist physicians to practice medicine without supervision. The test contains three levels.

All Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students are required to pass Level I by the end of their second year before they can begin their clerkships. Level II is taken at the end of the fourth year and must be passed before graduation, and Level III is usually taken at the end of the first year of post-graduation training, said Jerry Alexander, PhD, associate professor and director of academic information services.

Dr. Alexander said the Level II section of the test is now given in two parts.

The first part is the COMLEX II-Cognitive Exam. The second part

is the COMLEX II-Patient Exam, during which "patients," usually actors, simulate illnesses, and the students diagnose them. The students are videotaped while they work with the patients.

Dr. Alexander said the students take "SOAP notes," which include both their subjective and objective observations. The videotape, soap notes and checklists from both patient and student are turned in for evaluation by a physician.

This portion of the test is graded on a pass/fail basis. During this initial year of the PE portion, students must take both parts of the Level II test, but they are only required to pass the cognitive exam, Dr. Alexander said. The results for this year's Level II exams are still coming in.

Beginning this July, the Level II patient exam will be the only part of the COMLEX-USA exam that will not be computerized.

To better prepare the students for the computerized tests, Dr. Alexander said TCOM is starting to implement more computer-based tests in the classrooms.

"I think that going to computer-

Continued on page 12

Hooten selected as employee of month

Sue Hooten, clinic services representative II, has been selected as the Business Services Employee of the Month for March.

Hooten, who has worked for the family medicine department for 17 years, currently works in the Westside Clinic.



Sue Hooten

"Sue is dependable and strives to work effectively as part of the health care team at the Westside Family Medicine Clinic and is a valued employee," said June Jeong, clinic supervisor II at the Westside Clinic.

Hooten answers phones, schedules appointments, posts payments, solves patient problems, handles referrals and helps facilitate patients' laboratory testing. Hooten also has supervisory responsibilities in the absence of her supervisor.

"Sue interacts with patients and staff in all capacities of working toward a smooth running clinic," Jeong said. "She is an outstanding employee." ★

Class of 2005 matched with internship programs

The numbers are in for this year's match for the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2005, and all 115 students have been matched to an internship program.

In keeping with TCOM's tradition of promoting primary care education and producing doctors to serve Texans, 59 of the graduates will be entering primary care residencies in this area — 24 in family practice, 16 in pediatrics, 15 in

internal medicine and four in obstetrics and gynecology. Other areas of interest include emergency medicine (six graduates) and psychiatry (five graduates).

The match allows students the opportunity to fulfill their residency requirements by "matching" them with the institutions that offer the best residency or internship fit. The match process begins with the application process, during which students make

their selections of programs they are interested in attending.

Lee Tayon, coordinator for student affairs, works closely with the students during this process by helping to coordinate the dean's letters and letters of recommendation required for each application.

When students' applications are complete, they are sent to the intern-

Continued on page 12

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Forster, Weis receive Cohen awards

Michael Forster, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, and Stephen Weis, DO, professor of internal medicine, were named the 2004-2005 recipients of the Benjamin L. Cohen, DO, Award for Achievement in Faculty Research. The awards were announced at the Graduate Student Association annual awards dinner April 29.

Dr. Forster has been with the health Science Center for more than 20 years, beginning his career as a postdoctoral fellow. He is now a full professor and associate director for the Institute of Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research. His major research interest is in the area of aging and cognitive decline. Dr. Forster has been

awarded more than \$10 million in extramural funding.

Dr. Weis is a clinician, researcher and educator. His work in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis has received national attention, and he has obtained more than \$7 million in extramural research support for his work.

Dr. Weis was unable to attend the awards dinner and will be presented with his award at the September faculty assembly.

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 faculty research efforts at the health science center. ★

Yang Named Outstanding Graduate

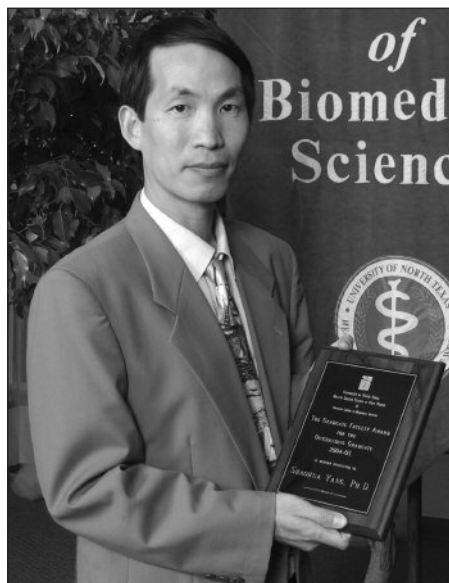
This year's recipient of the Graduate Faculty Award for the Outstanding Graduate is Shaohua Yang, MD, PhD.

Each year, the Graduate Council selects a recipient 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 Sciences.

Dr. Yang performed his doctoral research in the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience under the direction of James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience.

Prior to pursuing his graduate degree, he earned an MD from Beijing Medical University and served as an attending neurosurgeon at Beijing Neurosurgical Institute. He has 27 publications in peer-reviewed journals, 20 published abstracts and five book chapters and reviews.

While a student at the health science center, he was selected as an asso-



Shaohua Yang, MD, PhD

ciate fellow of the neurobiology of aging training program and given the Harbans Lal Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in pharmacology and neuroscience.

Dr. Yang is currently a research assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience. ★

Congratulations

Spring 2005 Graduates!

Matthew Barlow, MS
Özlem Bozo, PhD
Shekhar Deo, MS
Shavsha (Johnson) Davis, MS
April Enard, MS
Stephanie Hiraki, MS
Patricia Meyer, DO, MS
Rusha Thomas, MS
Swapnil Vaidya, PhD
Heath White, DO, MS

Thank You!

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 2004-05:

Neeraj Agarwal, PhD
Jerry Alexander, PhD
Annita Bens, PhD
James Caffrey, PhD
des Anges Crusier, PhD
Hriday Das, PhD
Christopher de Fiebre, PhD
Fred Downey, PhD
Edward Elko, PhD
Michael Forster, PhD
Robert Gracy, PhD
Patricia Gwirtz, PhD
Ben Harris, PhD
Marianna Jung, PhD
Robert Kaman, PhD
Raghu Krishnamoorthy, PhD
Andras Lacko, PhD
Michael Martin, PhD
Peter Raven, PhD
Rusty Reeves, PhD
Harold Sheedlo, PhD
Michael Smith, PhD
Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD
Thomas Yorio, PhD

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

GSBS celebrates success at awards banquet

The Graduate Student Association held its annual awards banquet at the Cultural District Banquet Center April 29. The following honors were awarded:

Departmental/Discipline Awards for Outstanding Students

Kaajal Patel

Forensic Genetics

Richard Virgilio

Clinical Research and Education,
Family Medicine

Patricia Meyer

Clinical Research and Education,
OMM

John Fuller

Cell Biology and Genetics

Dongmei Lu

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Özlem Bozo

Health Psychology

Swapnil Vaidya

Microbiology and Immunology

Jae Kyung Lee

Biomedical Sciences

Marty Knott

Integrative Physiology

Eric Gonzales

Pharmacology and Neuroscience

Student Association Awards

Erin Donovan

GSA Outstanding Member

Deanna Ranker

GSA Outstanding Staff
Member

Rustin Reeves, PhD

GSA Outstanding Faculty
Member

Eric Gonzales

Edward E. Elko Award for
Distinguished Service to
the GSA

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Awards

Michael Forster, PhD

Benjamin L. Cohen, DO,
Award for Outstanding
Research Achievement

Stephen Weis, DO

Benjamin L.
Cohen, DO,
Award for
Outstanding
Research
Achievement

Shaohua Yang,
PhD

Graduate
Faculty
Award for
Outstanding
Graduate ★



John Fuller, GSA vice president, presents Erin Donovan with the Outstanding GSA Member award.



Robert Wordinger (far right), PhD, professor and chair of cell biology and genetics, with Rusty Reeves, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics and this year's Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member, and Deanna Ranker, assistant to the chair of cell biology and genetics and this year's Outstanding Staff Member, at the Graduate Student Association's awards banquet.



New GSA Officers (left to right): Erin Donovan, vice president; John Fuller, president; Glynis Price, representative at-large; Shaun Logan, representative at-large; and James Flynn, secretary.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

New Sigma Xi members inducted at banquet

New associate members were inducted into Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, at the Graduate Student Association awards banquet. The new members are Dongmei Lu, Sung-Yong Hwang, Maneesh Kumar, Marty Knott, and Athena Shepard, PhD, GSBS 2004.

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, is a non-profit membership society of more than 70,000 scientists and engineers who were elected to the society because of their research achievements or potential. Sigma Xi has more than 500 chapters at universities and colleges, government laboratories, and industry research centers.

Nearly 200 Sigma Xi members have won the Nobel Prize, and many more have earned election to the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering.

In addition to publishing *American Scientist*, Sigma Xi awards grants



Left to right: Dongmei Lu, Maneesh Kumar and Sung-Yong Hwang, flanked by Ronald Blanck, DO, and Thomas Yorio, PhD. Not pictured are new Sigma Xi members Athena Shepard, PhD, and Marty Knott.

annually to promising young researchers, holds forums on critical issues at the intersection of science and society and sponsors a variety of pro-

grams supporting honor in science and engineering, science education, science policy, and the public understanding of science. ★



Eric Gonzales was selected as the 2004-05 recipient of the Edward E. Elko Award for Distinguished Service to the Graduate Student Association.

From the first summer he came to the health science center as a McNair Scholar, Gonzales dedicated himself to being a role model for his fellow students, and he has distinguished himself in the classroom and the laboratory.

This past summer he was selected as a fellow by the Grass Foundation to conduct independent neuroscience research at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

He supports the causes of the GSA by actively participating in leadership roles for the Black Graduate Student

Association and the Society for the Advancement of Latino Scholars in Academia, as well as by assuming active roles in Adopt-A-School programs. In addition, during his tenure as GSA president, he developed the GSA Invitational Science Fair.

His career goals include pursuing research in an academic setting, providing strong mentorship to students interested in science and continuing outreach efforts to bring more minorities into science.

Photo: Eric Gonzales (center) and his wife, Elaine Gonzales, with (left to right) Edward Elko, PhD, professor emeritus; Robert Kaman, JD, PhD, associate dean and director of outreach; and Glenn Dillon, PhD, Gonzales' major professor. ★

Kalish selected for leadership program

Christine Kalish, MBA, administrative director of internal medicine, has been selected for Leadership Texas.

Leadership Texas is a women's leadership program begun in 1983 to expand the knowledge and leadership skills of women statewide. The Leadership Texas program is sponsored by the Foundation for Women's Resources.



Christine Kalish, MBA

Kalish earned a bachelor of science degree in health services administration from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She earned a master of business administration degree from Texas Christian University.

Kalish has received scholarship awards from the Medical Group Management Association, and she is a member of Alpha Eta, a national honor society for healthcare professionals. She currently serves on the Texas Christian University's MBA Alumni Executive Board.

Golf club

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Government Association and the UNTHSC Golf Club, which donated an additional \$500 to help cover expenses so more funds could go to the Alzheimer's Association, Fisher said.

Fisher, a second year medical student, wanted to host the event this year to raise awareness for Alzheimer's disease.

"I've had a few family members who have succumbed to the disease already," Fisher said. "It's very sad. So we wanted to raise awareness and donate some money to a very good cause."

For more information about the golf scramble or the UNTHSC Golf Club, visit the UNTHSC Golf Club's website at www.hsc.unt.edu/golfclub. ★

Older Americans

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Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research, gave an overview of the ongoing research into aging at the health science center, including the study "The Process of Normal Aging in the Brain."

The study is funded by the National Institute on Aging and is driven by concepts from Michael Forster, PhD, Dr. Simpkins said.

Dr. Knebl and Dr. Blanck presented the DSWOP board members with a plaque for their continued commitment to geriatric care. In 2001, DSWOP pledged \$1.2 million for the endowed chair in geriatrics at the health science center, and in 2003, Dr. Knebl was selected as the first Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc. Distinguished Chair of Clinical Geriatrics. ★

COMLEX

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based examinations will have a positive effect on students taking the test, as long as the students are prepared with the psychomotor skills necessary to perform well," said Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean for academic affairs for medical education.

The computer-based COMLEX will be non-adaptive, meaning the questions selected for each exam will be pre-determined before the test is administered. There will be 400 questions, instead of 750, and the total testing time will be reduced from 16 hours to eight hours.

In addition, testing costs have increased. Level I and Level II-CE cost \$445, Level II-PE costs \$995, and Level III costs \$595.00. ★

TCOM 2005

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ship or residency programs, and the students contact the institutions and arrange interviews.

Once the interviews are done, the students prioritize the programs they have applied to by completing Rank Order Lists, and, in turn, each program completes Rank Order Lists to rank the students they are willing to accept.

The preferences on the Rank Order Lists from both parties then go through a computer program that uses algorithms to match the applicants to positions based on mutual preferences. This process is administered by National Matching Services Inc.

Students who are not initially matched with an institution have to "scramble" to find a position.

The unmatched students are given information about programs that still have openings, and programs with available positions are given information about unmatched students they can contact.

"It's a stressful situation when students have to scramble," Tayon said.

Don Peska, DO, associate dean for educational programs for TCOM, said there have been more students this year seeking dual-accredited programs, those approved by both the American Osteopathic Association and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

"The appeal of dual-accreditation is that it alleviates the confusion of not knowing what standard by which you may be measured down the line," he said. "While some believe that ACGME accredited programs will be better received by credentialing bodies, most are satisfied that osteopathic programs will cover their needs." ★

Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the ones about cardiothoracic surgeon Albert Yurvati (March 2005) and dietitian and Army reservist Joice Carter (November 2004). 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

Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, received a Project SEED (Summer Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged) grant from the American Chemical Society to sponsor the research training of two high school students in his laboratory for the summer of 2005.

Alakananda Basu, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, reviewed grants for the University of California tobacco-related disease research program April 29-30 in San Francisco, Calif. In addition, **Dr. Basu** presented the seminar "The involvement of protein kinase C in DNA damage-induced apoptosis" at Loma Linda University in California April 21. She is also senior author of two posters presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research held April 16-20 in Anaheim, Calif. **Dongmei Lu**, graduate student, is first author of the poster "PKC-epsilon acts upstream of PKB to influence TNF-induced cell death in breast cancer cells." **Jie Huang, MS**, senior research assistant, is co-author. **Huang** is first author of the poster "Enhancement of DNA damage-induced apoptosis by PKC-delta regulatory domain."

James Caffrey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, presented the seminar "Cardiac Opioid Content and Ischemic Preconditioning" as part of the "Pain Management and Cardioprotection" symposium at the International Society for Heart Research meeting May 15 in New Orleans, La.

Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, and **Terry Gratton, DrPH**, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health, presented a concurrent session, "Let the Community Teach: A Successful Collaboration" at the Globalization: Unexpected Health Consequences Conference sponsored by the University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing in Fort Worth April 8. **Dr. Coggin** also judged the student poster contest.

Robert Galvan, DrPH, assistant professor of health management and policy, was recognized for 10 years of dedicated public service to the Underwriters Laboratories and the Environmental and Public Health Council at UL's annual meeting May 2 in Chicago, Ill. **Dr. Galvan** serves as one of 102 UL's corporate members worldwide and represents one of nine academic members on this global body.

Peter Koulen, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is first author of the paper "Polycystin-2 accelerates Ca²⁺ release from intracellular stores in *Caenorhabditis elegans*" published in the June issue of *Cell Calcium*. **Scott Duncan**, graduate student; **Jiyuan Liu, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate; **Jo-Ann Yannazzo**, researcher; **Nathalie McClung**, graduate student; and **Courtney Lockhart**, former SMART student, all of pharmacology and neuroscience, are co-authors. Nancy Cohen, PhD, postdoctoral research associate; Michael Branden, graduate student; and Matthew Buechner, associate professor, all of the molecular biosciences department at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., are also co-authors.

Sue Lurie, PhD, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, presented a project report on "Culturally-Appropriate TB Educational Materials for Leaders and Staff of Hispanic Service Organizations" at the Tuberculosis Epidemiological Studies Consortium at the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control May 5 in Atlanta, Ga.

Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, professor of surgery; **Adriane Martin, DO**, resident in surgery; and **Don Peska, DO**, associate professor of surgery and associate dean for educational programs, published the paper "Minimally Invasive Saphenous Vein Harvest with the SaphLite System in International Surgery" in the May issue of *International Surgery*. Dr. Yurvati has also been elected secretary-treasurer of the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery. ★