

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

HSC reaches out to Katrina evacuees

Health science center doctors, physician assistants, medical students and support staff spent the Labor Day weekend attending to victims of Hurricane Katrina at the Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth.

Faculty, staff and students continue to man a station at Will Rogers providing medical care for evacuees.

“We’ll be available as long as we’re needed,” said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean, who has been one of the attending physicians at the Will Rogers evacuee site.

The School of Public Health and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences opened admissions for displaced students, and SPH has accepted five Tulane students.

The health science center has also provided lab space for former students who were working at institutions that were affected by the hurricane.

On the health science center campus, several organizations have held benefits to raise money or get donations to help aid Hurricane Katrina victims.

The Forensic Investigative Research & Education Group (FIRE) collected clothing donations that they delivered to the Fairfield Inn, which is serving as a temporary shelter.

According to Sarah Rothwell, FIRE president, “The response has been overwhelming. We took three truckloads of clothing on a Monday, and we already had enough for three more truckloads two days later.”

In total, more than 15 truckloads of supplies and clothing were donated to local charities.

The Employee Benefits Action Committee has placed buckets in the atrium of the Education and Administration Building and the Stairwell Café to collect monetary donations for Hurricane Katrina victims. Money will be picked up on a daily basis. So far EBAC has collected \$230.21 from the buckets and \$370 in checks that will be sent to relief organizations.

The Office of Student Affairs and the Public Student Health Association held a

pizza fundraiser Sept. 16 in the Atrium to benefit the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Effort. They also sold Hurricane Katrina relief effort T-shirts.

Pizza and T-shirt sales have raised about \$1,400, and there are still more T-shirts available for \$15 in EAD 714.

The health science center’s regularly scheduled blood drive was moved to Sept. 6 to address the immediate need for blood in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

According to the Carter BloodCare team, 94 units were drawn, 30 potential donors were deferred, and 12 people were still in line when Carter BloodCare ran out of supplies.



Matt Messa, MS, TCOM 2006, is one of many TCOM students who have helped treat Hurricane Katrina evacuees at the Will Rogers Coliseum medical station.



Children play games to pass the time at the Will Rogers evacuee site.

Continued on page 2

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

continued from page 1

"We average between 20 and 30 units at each campus blood drive," said Carla Lee, GSA advisor and campus coordinator for the drives. "The only time we've had a better turnout was Sept. 12, 2001. We happened to have a drive already scheduled, and everyone was in shock from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

"Giving blood was a positive reaction to a horrible situation, just as it is in the case of the hurricane," she said. "Our goal now is to turn today's donors into regular donors."

In addition, health science center employees and students have given \$2,835 in cash gifts made directly to relief organizations, and students have given more than 260 hours of community service at local evacuee shelters.

"This is truly a difficult time for the people who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina," said Ronald R. Blanck, DO, health science center president. "We would just like to help out all of those we can in any way that we can. It's very rewarding to see how what we teach and do on a daily basis can really make a difference in someone's life during this time of great need."



Check the institutional Web sites periodically for up-to-date information to find out how you can help aid Hurricane Katrina victims. ★

Displaced Tulane student joins incoming SPH class

Mohamed Lafi had been in New Orleans for four days when he was awakened in the middle of the night



Mohamed Lafi

to evacuate the city.

A nurse from the Gaza Strip, Lafi had been named a Fulbright Scholar and was to begin studying public health at Tulane University this

fall. Instead, Lafi began classes at the health science center's School of Public Health.

"I'm starting to settle," Lafi said. "I will study here until the end of the

semester, and then we'll see what happens."

While Lafi was accustomed to the crisis and chaos associated with war, he was totally unfamiliar with hurricanes, so he took the advice of friends when it came time to decide whether or not to evacuate as Hurricane Katrina turned toward New Orleans.

"The day before, we discussed the problem, what should we do," Lafi said. "People who had gone through hurricanes before said, 'It's okay, don't worry. There's really nothing to worry about.' So, the night before, we decided to stay. That same night at 4 o'clock, they called my roommate and I and said, 'We're leaving. Let's go.' It took us about two and a half hours to get out of New Orleans."

From there, Lafi and his friends went to Lafayette, where they stayed

Continued on page 6

Diary of a Volunteer Psychologist

Susan Franks, PhD, associate professor in family medicine and psychology, wrote about her experiences volunteering with the Hurricane Katrina victims. Read her journal and other personal accounts at www.hsc.unt.edu/katrina.

CAMPUS Connection

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Licciardone wins NIH investigator award

The National Institutes of Health issued the Midcareer Investigator Award in Osteopathic Medicine to John Licciardone, DO, MBA, director of clinical research at the Osteopathic Research Center.

“The grant provides me with the opportunity to learn more about advances in the basic sciences as they relate to osteopathic manipulative treatment and to serve as a mentor for beginning clinician investigators and osteopathic medical students and residents,” Dr. Licciardone said. “It also provides support for the Osteopathic Research Center to conduct the largest randomized controlled trial of OMT ever undertaken in subjects with low back pain.”

The five-year, \$778,231 grant will provide Dr. Licciardone, principal investigator of the award, with the opportunity to complete career devel-

opment activities involving osteopathic manipulative medicine as well as pain pathways and placebo mechanisms as they pertain to chronic low back pain.

The career development activities will be available at the health science center through graduate courses in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Public Health and nationally through research with other investigators in collaboration with the Osteopathic Research Center. Off-campus training and education will be available through various organizations such as the American Academy of Osteopathy.

“Learning about new developments in such disciplines as biochemistry, molecular cell biology, immunology, neuroscience and physiology may not only help explain the effects that OMT has on the musculoskeletal sys-

tem, but also the effects it has on the automatic nervous system, the immune system and lymphatic flow,” Dr. Licciardone said.

Founded in 2001, the Osteopathic Research Center was developed with an initial investment of \$1.1 million over a four-year period (2002-2005) from the American Osteopathic Foundation, the American Osteopathic Association and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. These same osteopathic organizations have re-funded the ORC, bringing the total investment to \$2 million for the eight-year period.

The ORC works to increase evidence-based knowledge about the mechanisms of action and clinical efficacy of osteopathic manipulative medicine through research, training, and conducting local and national research. ★

Koulen receives funding for Alzheimer’s research

Peter Koulen, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, was awarded a \$100,000 new investigator research grant from the national Alzheimer’s Association for the next two years.

Dr. Koulen said that the local North Texas chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association was instrumental in him getting the grant.

The funding will support Dr. Koulen’s research, which has focused on ways to influence the activity of nerve cells to keep them healthy for longer periods of time.

“The most practical therapeutic approaches to Alzheimer’s disease that are currently around are all focusing on delaying the onset once it’s diagnosed, or preventing the onset,” Dr. Koulen said. “You know, push it further down the road, but there’s precious little available to do that. That’s why so many researchers are looking into different possible mechanisms.”

Dr. Koulen’s research targets a particular protein that is involved in creating the genetic form of Alzheimer’s disease, which is hereditary. Dr. Koulen said this type of Alzheimer’s disease is generally earlier onset than sporadic Alzheimer’s disease, which occurs among people randomly.

“Our research approach is basically two-pronged,” Dr. Koulen said. “On the one hand, we want to find out what does this protein do and what can we learn about the processes. On the other hand, we want to find out how we can use this protein as a target in our drug targeting or how to use another genetic mechanism to improve the well-being of cells and, subsequently, the patient.”

While Dr. Koulen’s research will focus on the basic science of a particular protein in the brain, he hopes this will lead him and other researchers further along the path of understanding Alzheimer’s disease.

“Our approach is not to come up with a cure and then figure out how the cure works,” Dr. Koulen said. “We want to figure out how the disease works and then design a cure later on.”

Dr. Koulen is also involved in a recently refunded National Institutes of Health program project grant to discover novel drug-therapies for Alzheimer’s disease and another National Institutes of Health program project grant to understand the normal aging of the brain. ★



Peter Koulen, PhD

FAC makes improvements to facilities, offers more information

Students and employees who use the Founders' Activity Center on campus may notice several changes this semester.

The walls in the gym have been repainted, and new, larger mirrors will be placed on the walls in the weight lifting area.

Nicki McGee, fitness instructor at the center, said the exercise equipment in the center has already received repair services to make sure that everything is working correctly, and some of the exercise equipment will receive new vinyl.

New, informative health and fitness posters will also be placed around the building.

Other additions include new exercise mats, stability balls and dumb bells.

McGee said they have also started a Wellness Seminar Series that will highlight a different health issue each month. A member of the health science center faculty will discuss the chosen health topic for the month.

Susie Quintana, health promotion manager, said they also plan to launch a bi-monthly newsletter for faculty, staff and students.

"The FAC newsletter will provide awareness and information regarding food, health and exercise," Quintana said. "We will also highlight a FAC member in every issue."

Also scheduled for reconstruction is the FAC Web site. The site will soon include new fitness class schedules, forms and other updated information.

"We just want to promote health awareness among faculty, staff and the community," McGee said. ★

Kudos to...

Tomi Luan, GSBS doctoral student, and her husband, Huong Huynh, on the birth of their second child, a daughter named Kason, Aug. 9. ★

Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the ones about OMM specialist Russell Gamber (June 2005), 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.

2005-2006 Holiday Schedule

Labor Day	Monday, September 5, 2005*
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24, 2005*
Thanksgiving Holiday	Friday, November 25, 2005*
Winter Holiday	Friday, December 23, 2005**
Winter Holiday	Monday, December 26, 2005**
Winter Holiday	Tuesday, December 27, 2005**
Winter Holiday	Wednesday, December 28, 2005**
Winter Holiday	Thursday, December 29, 2005**
Winter Holiday	Friday, December 30, 2005**
Spring Break	Thursday, March 16, 2006***
Spring Break	Friday, March 17, 2006**
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29, 2006*
Independence Day Holiday	Monday, July 3, 2006**
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4, 2006*

*Holidays to be observed by clinics.

**State agencies must have enough employees on duty to conduct the public business of the agency. Employees shall be granted equivalent time off during the 12-month period following any holiday worked.

***The health science center will close on Thursday, March 16th, 2006. The institution being closed for four consecutive days for spring break will allow substantial savings. Salaried employees are required to use vacation or compensatory leave for this one day.

Employees may observe one or more of the following holidays or other traditionally recognized religious or cultural holidays (with supervisory approval) by substituting vacation or compensatory leave or by working one or more of the health science center holidays shown above.

Rosh Hashanah	October 4 and 5, 2005
Yom Kippur	October 13, 2005
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 16, 2006
Cesar Chavez Day	March 31, 2006
Good Friday	April 14, 2006

ORC funding renewed

The Osteopathic Research Center, a national research organization housed at the health science center, received \$900,000 in renewing funds for the next four years.

"The ORC has made progress beyond our expectations," said Scott Stoll, DO, PhD, executive director of the ORC. "We are elated that the profession recognizes these accomplishments and has entrusted us for another four years to build upon our prior success to the benefit of the osteopathic profession."

Founded in 2001, the Osteopathic Research Center was developed with an initial investment of \$1.1 million over a four-year period (2002-2005) from the American Osteopathic Foundation, the American Osteopathic Association, and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. These same osteopathic organizations have renewed funding for the ORC, bringing the total investment to \$2 million for the eight-year period.

"The refunding of the ORC again demonstrates the excellence and importance of the research being done," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center. "This reflects well on the health science center and the osteopathic profession."

Enrollment continues to grow

UNT 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 1,046 students this fall from 1,021 students in fall 2004, 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, health science center president.

The ORC works to increase evidence-based knowledge about the mechanisms of action and clinical efficacy of osteopathic manipulative medicine through research, training, and conducting local and national research.

"Funds are dedicated to building osteopathic manipulative medicine research capabilities across all colleges of osteopathic medicine," Dr. Stoll said.

Funded research projects include the use of OMM during pregnancy and in treating diabetes, pneumonia, back pain, autonomic neural function and lymph flow. Unfunded projects include collecting pilot data in the areas of OMM and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, immune function and recovery after knee arthroscopy.

The ORC staff includes Dr. Stoll; Hollis King, DO, PhD, associate executive director; Michael Smith, PhD, research core director; John Licciardone, DO, MBA, director of clinical research; Daisha Cipher, PhD, biostatistics core director; des Anges Crusier, PhD, MPA, administrative director; Krista Thrasher, senior editorial assistant; Heather Denney, MPA, research project manager; Kimberly Fulda, MPH, research project manager; and Asma Salam, MD, clinical research coordinator. ★

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine showed the greatest increase in students with 520 students, including 135 new students.

"With the shortage of physicians in Texas and the nation, the Texas College 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."

Continued on page 13

In the News

The *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* mentioned the health science center in an article, "Cities push to get their own 'wet labs'," published in its July 11 issue.

Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, was quoted in an article in the July 15 *Senior News Source* about Joseph LaManna, DO, who was honored by Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc. for his 20 years of service as chairman of the board.

The *Fort Worth Business Press* announced **Patrick Keehan's** award as student doctor of the year in its July 18-24 issue.

The **Willed Body Program** at the health science center was mentioned in a feature article about death published July 20 in *Inside Collin County Business*.

Linda Davis, PA, and **Raul Patel, DO**, assistant professor of internal medicine, were quoted in a story about rheumatoid arthritis in the *Star-Telegram* July 23.

Merharvan Singh, PhD, and **James Simpkins, PhD**, were mentioned in the August 1-7 issue of the *Fort Worth Business Press*. They are co-editors of the book "The Future of Hormone Therapy: What Basic Science and Clinical Studies Teach Us."

The **Texas Missing Persons Database** was mentioned in an article about a homicide victim that has been missing for 20 years in the Aug. 3 issue of *The Dallas Morning News*.

A brief about the **Hispanic Wellness Fair** appeared on the front page of the *Star-Telegram* Aug. 6.

Adela Gonzalez, PhD, was quoted Aug. 6 in an informational column by Mercedes Olivera in *The Dallas Morning News* and in an article about the **Hispanic Wellness Fair** in the *Star-Telegram*. ★

Katrina changes plans for new chair

Things haven't gone exactly as planned for the arrival of Eric Johnson, MD, PhD, new chair of the departments of epidemiology and environmental and occupational health in the School of Public Health

Dr. Johnson wasn't scheduled to be here until Jan. 1, 2006, arriving from Tulane University, but Hurricane Katrina altered his plans. Instead of a planned move to Fort Worth with his equipment, research, furniture and personal belongings, Dr. Johnson fled New Orleans after riding out the storm in a hotel just outside of the city.

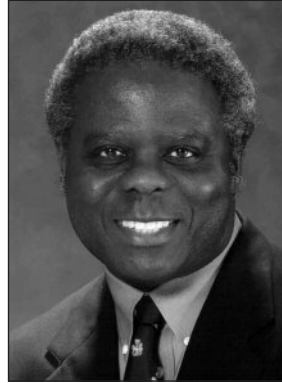
"I feel I'm more fortunate than most people, really," Dr. Johnson said. "Things worked out for me."

He made it through the storm and traveled to Fort Worth, where he was able to step into a new job and continue his work. When he recently made a whirlwind return to New Orleans, he even found his house intact, with only minor damage to his property.

"I'm really thankful," he said.

On the Friday and Saturday before Hurricane Katrina arrived in New Orleans, Dr. Johnson was working in

his lab at Tulane. Focused on wrapping up as much research as possible before he was scheduled to move to Texas,



Eric Johnson, MD, PhD

he was unaware of the impending hurricane.

"You just don't think about these things when you work in the lab until late," he said.

A cousin called Dr. Johnson on Friday evening to tell him that a Category 5 hurricane was bearing down on New Orleans and that he should leave.

Since Dr. Johnson's house was located right next to Lake Pontchartrain, he had responded to previous hurricanes by evacuating or seeking refuge in the Tulane Health Sciences Center's sturdy buildings or in a hotel in downtown New Orleans, and that was the plan for this one.

Dr. Johnson made his reservations for Sunday night and began moving books and papers in his laboratory, office and home to the highest points possible, preparing for what became a far more devastating flood than he had imagined.

When Dr. Johnson went to claim his room Sunday evening, he was turned away; evacuation orders issued by the mayor of New Orleans left him without a place to stay.

As he traveled outside of the city, going from one hotel to another looking in vain for a vacant room, Dr. Johnson finally came upon the hotel that he had stayed in when he first came to New Orleans. There were no rooms available there either, but a total stranger stepped in and offered Dr. Johnson his room. It was there where Dr. Johnson rode out the winds and water of Hurricane Katrina.

Because of the way that the hotel was situated, it weathered the storm, but Dr. Johnson described the scene as chaotic, with the sound of breaking glass all around and debris being

Continued on page 9

Displaced Tulane student joins SPH

continued from page 2

with a friend's relative for about two weeks. During the wait, Lafi checked the Tulane web site and the Amideast web site, since Amideast is sponsoring his stay in the United States as a student.

"During the second week, the Amideast people began to think that I needed to go to another university," he said. "They contacted this university [the health science center], and there was a place. I thought about other choices, because at Emory University they have a similar program that I was going to study at Tulane, but they didn't have a place for me."

When Lafi first arrived at the health science center, he was greeted

at the airport by Dianne Wynn, director of admissions for the School of Public Health. Lafi stayed at Wynn's house that evening as well, and for a few days at another student's house in the area, but now he is rooming with two other international students who made their way from Tulane University.

"The people here are very nice," Lafi said. "Everyone has been very helpful and welcoming."

While Lafi didn't experience the brunt of Hurricane Katrina's wrath, he has been affected by the aftermath.

"I didn't experience the hurricane itself, but I feel all of the influences of the hurricane," Lafi said. "The scenes

are very catastrophic. I saw the area where we lived. The water is to the roofs. We were very fortunate that we got out from there."

For now, Lafi is trying to return to life as a graduate student. When he attended his first class, his classmates were taking their first test. The professor gave him the notes and information that he had missed, and said that Lafi and the other students who had arrived from Tulane University could make up the test at a later date.

"I'm doing the best that I can to get the things that I've lost," Lafi said. "I'm starting to feel some return of balance." ★

Scientist meets challenges, accomplishes goals

He strides to the podium to begin a presentation that will end another phase of his life. He looks squarely at the audience as he says, "Good afternoon, and thank you for coming." His voice doesn't waver as he begins explaining his findings and displays slides of charts, graphs and drawings of experiments.

"Today, I'd like to talk with you about gating, ion channels, and GABAA receptors and epilepsy."

This is the day that Eric Gonzales has been waiting for for five years. At the end of this day, a group of his professors will become his colleagues. They'll come out of a room and call him "Doctor Gonzales."

He paces back and forth as he talks to a group of 50 students, faculty and staff, and family, including his mother, Olga, his father, Jesse, and his wife, Elaine.

"I can't see myself doing anything else," he said. "Getting up every day and doing experiments, I like it. It's hard work, but I like to do it."

That enthusiasm for science has kept Gonzales going and brought him to this day, more than a year since he felt the first pain.

It was May 2004, and Gonzales was about to embark upon a Grass Foundation Fellowship, one of the most important events of his young career. The fellowship gave him the opportunity to act as an independent researcher from May to August, something that he had always dreamed of doing.

The pain had begun before his journey to Massachusetts, but it went away, and Gonzales didn't think about it again. Instead he pursued his dream.

When Gonzales attended North Side High School in Fort Worth, it was a high school for the medical professions, and initially, Gonzales had set his sites on being a medical doctor.

"I went to UT Austin thinking I was going to go into a medical field and be a practicing doctor of some sort — treat patients, cure diseases, that kind of

thing," Gonzales said. "Junior year, I realized I can't stand the sight of blood. I get queasy. Also, I couldn't whole-heartedly fill out the applications. My heart wasn't in it, and I figured that if my heart's not in it now, it probably would-



Eric Gonzales (right), PhD, received the 2004-2005 Edward E. Elko (left) Award for Distinguished Service to the Graduate Student Association for his efforts as a mentor and role model.

n't be in it if I got into a school."

For a few months, Gonzales floundered, not knowing what to do. Then he met Liz Davis, associate director of the McNair Program at the health science center. Davis was at a career fair at UT Austin, recruiting students. She encouraged Gonzales to apply.

"I did, and I got in," Gonzales said. "I came here, met my current mentor [Glenn Dillon, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience], worked for him during the summer and realized that research is what I wanted to do instead. I think I've had more fun with research than if I'd have gone to medical school."

His work in the lab brought Gonzales a sense of family, introducing him to a group of people who cared about him as a student, researcher and person. It was that care and concern that saw Gonzales through the past year.

The symptoms started before Gonzales left for his Grass Fellowship in Massachusetts.

"I thought it was maybe just inflammation, so I went to an emergency care clinic," Gonzales said.

"They thought maybe it was inflammation too, so they gave me several shots and the pain subsided. So I thought, 'Okay, this is cool. It went away.' No worries. No pain."

A month went by and the pain returned. This time Gonzales was in Massachusetts, and this time, emergency room personnel forwarded him to an oncologist. What followed

was a blur of activity that resulted in a return to Fort Worth and a diagnosis of testicular cancer.

"I got in on a Saturday," Gonzales said. "Monday, I met with Glenn [Dillon]. Tuesday, I went to the doctor, and that same week on Thursday, it was the surgery."

About a week after surgery, Gonzales met with an oncologist, who determined that a course of chemotherapy would be needed. And from the middle of September to October, Gonzales underwent treatment.

"From the blood test, it looked like it knocked out all of the cancer by taking out the testicle, so the doctor was thinking two cycles of chemotherapy would knock out the cancer completely," Gonzales said. "One week, each day, where it takes about six hours for the intravenous solution to

Continued on page 13

Renovated student lounge reopens

The newly renovated student lounge reverberated with the sounds of Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, singing along with the karaoke machine to the tune of James Brown's "I Feel Good" at the lounge's reopening Aug. 15.

"He sounded enthusiastic," said Daniel Perugini, DO, executive vice president of the health science center, about Dr. Blanck's singing skills.

And Dr. Blanck wasn't the only person enthusiastic about the grand opening of the student lounge.

Faculty, staff and students were on hand to enjoy the light refreshments and play pool and pingpong.

"This place turned out better than I expected," said Rynn Sloan, director of student development.

The student lounge, located on the first floor of the Education and Administration Building, closed May 23 for renovations. The split-level, 2,400-square-foot lounge is heavily utilized by first year and international students.

"It's a great space, and I didn't think that the renovations were needed until I saw the holes in the floor," Dr. Blanck said.

Most of the lounge is now on the lower level with a raised area at one end. The new lounge features a western themed décor and has more cabinet space, a bigger kitchen sink and a new sound system. A wheelchair lift between the two levels was also included to comply with the American Disabilities Act.

Stephen Barrett, director of facilities management, said he think the lounge looks great. "I like the flexibility of the space and the décor," he said. ★



Ronald Blanck, DO, president, accompanied by backup dancers Bobbie Ann Adair (left) and Prudence Zavala, student development coordinators, performs James Brown's "I Feel Good" at the opening of the newly renovated student lounge.



Above: Thomas Moorman, EdD, associate vice president for student affairs, enjoys a game of pingpong at the student lounge reopening Aug. 15. Left: The renovations included new cabinetry and appliances in addition to a new sound system, new flooring, and new tables and chairs. The renovations also included asbestos abatement.

SPH student participates in Yale AIDS institute

Godavari Patil, PhD, a master's student in the School of Public Health and a doctoral student at UNT Denton, participated in the Yale International AIDS Summer Institute, held in June at Yale University.

The institute, which is part of Yale University's Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS, offered participants a combination of educational sessions, networking activities and workshops that were intended to serve as a catalyst for initiating new research, improving ongoing research and creating partnerships for future collaborations.

The topic of this year's institute was "The Ethics of International AIDS Research: Contemporary Practices and Controversies," which brought participants from around the globe.

The week-long program covered such topics as the conceptual framework of ethics in health research, ways of ensuring equity in developing ethics frameworks and carrying out research, cross-cultural issues of informed consent and material inducement, designing ethical research projects, and the meaning of ethical research in the context of community and society.

Dr. Patil was one of 30 people from around the world who were cho-

sen to attend the institute. She received funding from various departments at the health science center for her trip, including the President's Office, the Dean's Office in the School of Public Health, and the Department of Biostatistics.

"After Africa, Asia is the second most infected continent in the world," Dr. Patil said, which was one reason that she was so interested in attending this year's institute.

Dr. Patil earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from Karnataka University in her native India. Her research has included studies on AIDS, and she is interested in helping to make research and public awareness a larger part of the agenda in developing countries.

"These are problems that are faced in other countries," Dr. Patil said, "so it is the researchers' responsibility to educate the participants and to provide help to those who participate in any study."

Dr. Patil has published several papers in her home country, where she was a professor of sociology, and a book about the sociological aspects of being a widow in Hindu society, a topic that hits close to home because Dr. Patil's mother is a widow.

Dr. Patil and her two brothers all started teaching as assistant professors in India, and one by one they have made their way to the United States, each finding the financial means to study abroad through scholarship funds. Dr. Patil also came to the United States as a Rotary International Scholar.

"My brothers are my role models, and our parents are our inspiration," she said. "In addition to this, our teachers helped in shaping our careers. Scholarships have helped all of us go to the United States. We really value education."

Dr. Patil has also published a book about computer use among older people, and she has published two papers while studying in the United States.

Next year, Dr. Patil will graduate from the health science center with an MPH, and after another year of study at UNT, she will earn a PhD in sociology. After she completes her degrees, she plans to go back to teaching.

Dr. Patil also attended a Texas Public Health Training Center Summer Institute July 18-22 in Houston. This year's theme was Leadership in Action: Strategies for Communities. ★

Katrina changes plans for new chair

continued from page 6

thrown against the building. Dr. Johnson put the chairs and one of the beds up against the windows in his hotel room as the hurricane made its way through.

"By 5 o'clock in the evening, it was beautiful and calm outside with just a light, detectable breeze, and we came out to view the flooded streets and buildings," he said. "It was just amazing."

Because of electrical and water damage, the hotel had all of its occupants leave on Tuesday, which was when Dr. Johnson began making his

way to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and what he saw in and around New Orleans shocked him.

"It was a devastating scene," Dr. Johnson said. "It was just like a sea."

Since his arrival, Dr. Johnson has dealt with the normal challenges of adjusting to a new job, a new city and a new way of life.

Added to that normal period of adjustment is the shock of such an abrupt departure and the loss of almost 20 years of research work, since his specimens, normally stored at sub-zero temperatures in his lab at Tulane,

thawed while utilities were down in New Orleans.

"Our research will suffer," Dr. Johnson said.

Although many papers and research that he thought had been lost to the floodwaters were untouched, the specimens lost at Tulane will still slow the progress of his cancer research.

Still, Dr. Johnson considers himself lucky, and plans to rebuild what has been lost. "I am grateful to the people of Texas," he said. "They have just welcomed people with open arms." ★

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

GSBS welcomes incoming students

New Student Orientation for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences was held Aug. 10-12. Eighty-two new students joined the graduate school for fall 2005. Of those new students, 18 percent are underrepresented minorities, 56 percent are women, and 73 percent are Texas residents.

“Our orientation is more extensive than most graduate schools,” said Carla Lee, director of admissions and services for GSBS. Lee and Prudence Zavala, student development coordinator, are responsible for GSBS orientation planning.

“The orientation program has several goals. Students are prepared to

begin our integrated core curriculum, gain understanding of the research programs on our campus, learn what we expect of our students, and maybe even make some friends among their new classmates,” Lee said. “It’s my favorite time of year because all of the new students are so excited and happy to be here.”

Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean, hosted a luncheon during orientation to advise students on selecting a faculty mentor. “There is probably no other decision a student makes that is more important to his or her graduate education,” he said. Dr. Yorio’s advice included reviewing research papers pre-

viously published by the faculty mentor and interviewing current lab members in addition to the faculty member.

Students who completed the orientation satisfaction surveys were overwhelmingly pleased with the experience. Lee said the orientation program is revised each year based on the feedback received from the prior orientation.

Classes for the fall semester started Aug. 15, and the ceremonial beginning to the academic year, Convocation and White Coat Ceremony, was held on Sept. 23 at Will Rogers Auditorium. Faculty and returning students attended in addition to the new students and their family and friends. ★

Congratulations, summer 2005 graduates!

Scott Andrews, MS

Kevin Condel, MS

Eric Gonzales, PhD

Jae Kyung Lee, PhD

Margo Mikeska, MS

Kaajal Devendra Patel, MS

Farah Jo Homsy Plopper, MS

Angela Prescott Kanaly, MS

Leslie Don Roberts, PhD

Nicolas Ronquillo, MS

Sara Ann Taylor, PhD

Richard Virgilio, MS

Dennis Yip, MS

GSBS ANNOUNCES NEW DEADLINES

The GSBS Office of Admissions and Services has revised the application deadline schedule for 2006.

Feb. 1, 2006 - Application deadline for all new PhD applicants to be considered for funding

March 1, 2006 - Final application deadline for all degree-seeking applicants

April 1, 2006 - Application deadline for the post-baccalaureate certificate program in premedical science

GSBS also announces a common application deadline for applying for Project SCORE and MKITS funding. That deadline will be Feb. 1. Applications will be available on the GSBS and SPH Web sites in January.

School of Public Health

SPH welcomes Lopez as new student services coordinator

The School of Public Health is pleased to welcome Tiffany Lopez as the new coordinator of student services. Lopez came to the health science center from Tarrant County College, where she served as an instructor and counselor for the Center of Academic Success for three years. She was also education facilitator at Alcon Laboratories, Refractive Division.

In her new position, Lopez will be responsible for maintaining relationships with students and faculty. She will also be responsible for researching and implementing new career development opportunities for students and graduates.

She will serve as the staff liaison to the Public Health Student Association and the School of Public Health Alumni Society and as the coordinator for the activities of Delta Omega, the honor society for public health professionals.

Lopez will also assist the student and alumni associations in developing



Tiffany Lopez

their goals and objectives for the upcoming year and provide guidance on fundraising and student/alumni development initiatives. ★

SPH teams with UNT to offer MBA in health services management

The School of Public Health has teamed with the UNT College of Business Administration to develop a curriculum that allows business students to pursue an MBA with a concentration in health services management.

This cooperative collaboration is offered to students interested in the management of health services agencies and institutions. It will give students the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of the administrative and organizational processes within such organizations while training them in the management skills necessary to effectively serve the business of health care.

The new program seeks candidates with executive level management experience, clinicians, and individuals with a strong desire to manage change and improve health care in their communities. It is also intended to broaden career opportunities for students.

For more information, visit www.coba.unt.edu/mgmt/hsm or call ext. 2166. ★

Fall 2005 Career Fair

The School of Public Health will host a career fair Thursday, Oct. 20, on the health science center campus. Representatives from a variety of companies, agencies, and organizations will meet with students, faculty and alumni from the health science center and other local colleges and universities.

Employers and educational institutions will have the opportunity to share information about what they are looking for in potential employees, interns, residents and doctoral students, and it is a great opportunity for networking. The career fair is free to everyone. ★

Incoming SPH class large, diverse

As the 2005-2006 academic year commences, the School of Public Health welcomes another burgeoning class of students and looks forward to an exciting year ahead.

SPH students reflect the diversity that leads to an enriched academic and research environment. In the new class, five states are represented, with students coming from all over the United States.

Five countries are also represented, including Russia, India, England and Gujarat. These demographics exemplify that SPH is truly an international center for future public health professionals.

To kick off the new academic year, the School of Public Health held the annual new graduate student orientation. Daniel Perugini, DO, executive vice president; Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research and biotechnology; and Tim Strawderman, PhD, assistant professor of health management and policy and assistant dean for SPH planning and administration, welcomed the new group of SPH students in Luibel Hall.

In the fall 2005 admissions cycle, SPH accepted 39 master's students and eight doctoral students and has a current total class size of 223. ★

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Hispanic Business ranks TCOM in top 5 schools

Hispanic Business magazine has ranked the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine as one of the top five medical schools in the nation for Hispanics.

TCOM was fifth behind Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of New Mexico, and Texas A&M University Health Science Center. The announcement was made in the September edition of the magazine, which contained its education report.

“The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine appreciates the strength an institution garners from diversity within its ranks,” said Marc Hahn, DO, dean. “We have strived to develop quality academic programs within a rich environment that ensures diversity.”

Rounding out the top ten, as rated by *Hispanic Business*, were the University of Kansas, the University of Arizona, East Carolina University, Edward Via Virginia, and Ohio State University.

This was the first year that *Hispanic Business* rated medical and engineering schools, adding to their previous directories of business and law.

“We are very excited to be included on this list,” said Ronald Blanck, DO, health science center president. “This ranking shows our continued commitment to improve diversity in the medical profession in an effort to help bridge the gap in health disparities.” ★

Rosemond chosen as Employee of the Month

When Tameka Rosemond, medical assistant in family medicine, found out that she was chosen as Employee of the Month, she was shocked.

“I didn’t do the work that I do here to win an award,” she said. “I did it from the heart.”

Rosemond, 29, received the award after her supervisor, Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MPH, assistant professor of family medicine, received positive feedback about her from two of his patients.

According to the letter of recognition written by Dr. Cardarelli, two of his patients were kicked out of their homes. After going to a homeless shelter, they called Rosemond to obtain proof that they were receiving medical care.

She filled out all the necessary forms, and after finding out the patients were sleeping on hardwood floors, she immediately faxed the shelter proper documents enabling them to receive beds. Rosemond also called to check on the patients and even took them out to lunch.

“There had been only a few times in which I have been touched by the actions of others,” Dr. Cardarelli said in his recognition letter. “This demonstrates that through compassion and



Tameka Rosemond

care we can make a strong difference in a patient’s and an individual’s life. Those two patients, who are husband and wife, had expressed to me their sincere appreciation for what Tameka has done for them. Because of Tameka’s unselfish actions, I want to express my gratitude and recommend for her to be recognized for her actions.”

Rosemond, who has worked at the central family medicine clinic for a

year, said she enjoys the teamwork and unity among her co-workers there.

“I like my job, and I have a passion for helping people,” she said.

Some of Rosemond’s regular responsibilities include checking patients in and taking their chief complaints and vitals signs; handling referrals and called-in prescription requests; scheduling appointments for patients; and performing immunizations, blood draws, strep and pregnancy testing, and urinalysis.

She also assists Dr. Cardarelli with examinations and minor surgeries, such as toenail removal.

“Tameka always has a smile and a kind word and attitude for her patients and co-workers,” said Judy Steudeman, RN, nursing services supervisor in family medicine. “Part of the health science center vision is the idea of fostering a culture of high morale, quality, caring and trust. She demonstrates these principles in her daily work consistently.”

Rosemond attended medical assistant courses at Remington College in Fort Worth and plans to start work on becoming a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) next the spring at Tarrant County College. ★

Scientist meets challenges, accomplishes goals

continued from page 7

go through. Two weeks to recover, then you go in to do the next cycle.

“The first chemo went fine,” Gonzales said. “I didn’t get sick until that Saturday. The following week, I went back to work, and that’s when my hair started falling out. I also found out that I had to have the other testicle removed.”

Up to that point in his graduate education, Gonzales had been actively involved in school and in volunteering throughout the community. A graduate of North Side High School, he had been volunteering there before his illness.

He was tutoring anatomy, physiology, chemistry, biology and math students, and he was advising the science labs at St. Rita’s Catholic School. But his own battle with testicular cancer left him weak and unable to provide the help to high school students that he so enjoyed.

“I enjoy helping out, and I like to encourage other people,” Gonzales said. “I just feel like I’m doing my job.”

But Gonzales’ focus had changed to battling cancer, so everything else had to be put on hold.

“Last fall was pretty, pretty tough, I think, on a lot of people,” Gonzales said. “I feel fine now, but it was tough. It still is at times. It helps being a scientist, because you have access to all of the information that you could possibly need.”

Now, Gonzales has checkups every three or four months to ensure that everything remains okay.

“Testicular cancer, if it comes back in any form, still has the same blood markers,” Gonzales said. “The same protein that was in Lance Armstrong’s cancer was in mine.”

After recovering from two surgeries and chemotherapy treatments, Gonzales married his fiancé, Elaine, in the spring, one of the highlights of his year. Completing his dissertation this summer was the culmination of the year, signifying Gonzales’ entry into a new realm.

“I think it’s time for me to move on,” Gonzales said. “You know, every graduate student, I think, gets to that point. I’m at that point.”

But no matter where the Gonzaleses move, they hope to return to their home state, possibly their home town.

“We’d like to come back to Texas,” he said. “This institution would be nice. I still want to become a professor and train graduate students. Whatever I do, I just want to do the best that I can do. The best job I can do.”

Dr. Dillon, Gonzales’ mentor during his graduate studies at the health science center, said he knows that Gonzales will not only do an excellent job as a researcher, but he will be the role model that young people need to succeed.

“Eric has been an excellent student

all around,” Dr. Dillon said. “He’s done so much more than his research. He’s a role model for a lot of kids around here, and he’ll continue to be that role model for others.”

That role model status led the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to select Eric Gonzales as the 2004-2005 recipient of the Edward E. Elko Award for Distinguished Service to the Graduate Student Association. He was also named the top student in the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience.

“He’s one of the best students we have,” said Peter Koulen, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, as he waited to hear Gonzales’ lecture during his public dissertation defense.

For Eric Gonzales, the day of his dissertation defense, in front of his family, friends and colleagues, was the end of life as he knew it as a graduate student and a new beginning as a postdoctoral fellow.

In September, he and his wife will see what that new beginning is really like when they venture off to Portland, Ore., where Gonzales will begin work as a postdoctoral fellow at the Vollum Institute. He will study acid-sensing ion channels that increase as a result of patients having a heart attack or stroke, work that fits in to what he studied and learned at the health science center. ★

Enrollment

continued from page 5

The Physician Assistant Studies Program enrollment increased from 81 students last year to 84 this year.

“We are excited about the popularity of the PA career,” said Henry Lemke, PA-C, MMS, director of Physician Assistant Studies. “Last year we received over 530 applications, far exceeding the number of spaces we could offer.”

The School of Public Health’s enrollment was down from last year’s

233 to 223. Fernando Treviño, MPH, PhD, SPH dean, said that he expected that trend to change with the addition of new faculty and the opening of the Center for BioHealth. However, Dr. Treviño emphasized the need for slower, measured growth for the school, which had its five-year anniversary last year.

Total enrollment numbers for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences increased from 206 students last year to an all-time high of 219.

“We are excited to continue expanding our ranks, including 75 new graduate school students,” said Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean.

The health science center’s enrollment increase of more than 2 percent followed a UNT system-wide trend, with enrollment growing on the Denton campus by 0.8 percent and on the Dallas campus by 10.8 percent. Enrollment numbers at all three campuses are all-time highs. ★

Faculty Advances

Sejong Bae, PhD, associate professor of biostatistics, and **Karan Singh, PhD**, chair and professor of biostatistics, published the paper “A Rich Family of Generalized Poisson Regression Models with Applications” in the June issue of *Mathematics and Computers in Simulation*.

Alakananda Basu, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, is first author of the paper “Activation of ERK during DNA damage-induced apoptosis involves protein kinase C-delta,” published in the September issue of the journal *Biochemical Biophysical Research Communication*. **Haidi Tu**, former research assistant in molecular biology and immunology, is co-author.

Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, MPH, SPH 1999, assistant professor of epidemiology, has been named a fellow by the Foundation for Community Empowerment. FCE annually selects six scholars for a two-year fellowship to support research efforts in applied research and policy analysis of issues that impact urban areas. **Dr. Cardarelli's** research will focus on reducing health disparities through emphasizing the influence of educational attainment on health.

Christopher de Fiebre, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, has been awarded a grant for \$362,688 from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for “Mouse model of binge drinking-induced neurotoxicity.” **NancyEllen de Fiebre, MA**, senior research associate in pharmacology and neuroscience, is co-principal investigator on the project. **Dr. de Fiebre** presented the seminar “Alpha7 Nicotinic Cholinergic Receptors: Modulators of Ethanol Toxicity?” as part of the Smoking and Alcohol Abuse: From Lab to Clinic satellite meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism meeting June 25 in Santa Barbara, Calif. He is also senior author of a paper presented at the meeting, “Lethality to a Single Dose of Ethanol is Enhanced in Alpha7 Nicotinic Receptor Null Mutant Mice.” **NancyEllen de Fiebre** is first author of the paper. In addition, **Dr. de Fiebre** served as chair of the Neuroscience Review Panel for the State of Arizona Disease Control Research Commission July 26-28 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Jinjun Gong, graduate student in cell biology and genetics, received a travel award to present “A Systematic Screen of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Deletion Mutant Collection for Novel Genes Required for DNA-Damage Induced Mutagen-

esis” at the Ninth International Congress on Environmental Mutagens Sept. 3-8 in San Francisco, Calif. **Eunmi Kim**, graduate student in biomedical sciences, is co-author, and **Wolfram Siede, PhD**, associate professor of cell biology and genetics, is senior author.

Jeff Hantes, DO, TCOM 1998, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is co-author of the paper “Diagnosis and Laparoscopic repair of type I obturator hernia in women with chronic neuralgic pain,” published in the April-June issue of the *Journal of Laparoendoscopic Surgery*. Paul Perry, MD, of Brookwood Women’s Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala., is co-author.

Marty Knott, DO/PhD student in integrative physiology, is first author of the paper “Pyruvate-fortified cardioplegia suppresses oxidative stress and enhances phosphorylation potential of arrested myocardium,” published in the September issue of the *American Journal of Physiology - Heart and Circulatory Physiology*. **Myoung-Gwi Ryou, MS**, doctoral student; **Jie Sun**, research associate; **Abraham Heymann**, senior science technician; **Arti Sharma, MBSS**, doctoral student; and **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor, all of integrative physiology, and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor and acting chair of surgery, are co-authors. Yu Lei, research intern, University of Texas at Arlington, and Mirza Baig, PharmD, pharmacist, Plaza Medical Center, are also co-authors.

Sue Gena Lurie, PhD, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, was elected as secretary of the board of directors for Tarrant County ACCESS for the Homeless in August.

Robert Mallet, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, is author of the paper “Hypoxic modulation of cardiac L-type calcium current: interaction of reactive oxygen species and beta-adrenergic signaling,” published in the September issue of *Cardiovascular Research*. **Dr. Mallet** is also first author of the paper “Metabolic cardioprotection by pyruvate: recent progress,” published in the July issue of *Experimental Biology and Medicine*. **Jie Sun**, research associate; **Marty Knott, DO/PhD** student; and **Arti Sharma, MBSS**, doctoral student, all of integrative physiology, and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor and acting chair of surgery, are co-authors.

Continued on page 15

Faculty Advances

Continued from page 14

Porunelloor Mathew, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, is senior author of the paper “Mutational analysis of the human 2B4(CD244)/CD48 interaction: Lys68 and Glu70 in the V domain of 2B4 are critical for CD48 binding and functional activation of NK cells,” published in the July 15 issue of *The Journal of Immunology*.

Stephen Mathew, PhD, research assistant professor of molecular biology and immunology, is first author. **Pappanaicken Kumaresan, PhD**, research scientist, University of California, Davis, Calif., formerly of molecular biology and immunology; **Jae-Kyung Lee, PhD**, GSBS 2005, postdoctoral research fellow in molecular biology and immunology; and **Van Huynh, MS**, GSBS 2001, research assistant, UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, are co-authors.

Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH, professor of internal medicine and chief of rheumatology, is author of “Management of Osteoarthritic Knee Pain,” published in the September issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

Arti Sharma, MBSS, doctoral student in integrative physiology, is first author of the paper “Pyruvate improves cardiac electromechanical and metabolic recovery from cardiopulmonary arrest and resuscitation,” published in the July issue of *Resuscitation*. **Marty Knott, DO/PhD** student; **Jie Sun**, research associate; and **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor, all of integrative physiology, are co-authors. **Rodolfo Martinez, MS**, GSBS 2003, and **Jian Bi, MD**, both formerly of integrative physiology, are also co-authors.

Xiangrong Shi, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, is corresponding author of the paper “New insight into the mechanism of cardiovascular dysfunction in the elderly: transfer function analysis,” published in the September issue of *Experimental Biology and Medicine*. **Hong Guo, MS**, visiting research associate in integrative physiology, is first author. **Frederick Schaller, DO**, associate professor, and **Nancy Tierney, PhD, RN, NP**, assistant professor, both of internal medicine, and Scott Smith, PhD, assistant professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, are co-authors. **Dr. Shi** is also corresponding author of the paper “Sympathetic cardiac influence and arterial blood

pressure instability” published in the March issue of *Autonomic Neuroscience: Basic and Clinical*. **Kevin Formes, MS, DO**, GSBS 2002, and **Walter Wray, MS, PhD**, GSBS 2003, both former students in integrative physiology, and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor and acting chair of surgery, and **Martin Weiss, DO**, assistant professor of internal medicine, are co-authors.

Wolfram Siede, PhD, associate professor of cell biology and genetics, presented “Spontaneous DNA Damage Due to Mitochondrial Metabolism Triggers Checkpoint Activation in Repair-Deficient *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*” at the Ninth International Congress on Environmental Mutagens Sept. 3-8 in San Francisco, Calif. **Vaibhav Pawar**, graduate student in biomedical sciences, and **Liu Jingjing, PhD**, a former postdoctoral researcher in cell biology and genetics, are primary authors. **Nila Patel**, research assistant in cell biology and genetics, is co-author. Gerald Shadel, PhD, associate professor at Yale University, and Paul Doetsch, PhD, professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., also collaborated on the study. **Dr. Siede** is also editor of the book “DNA Damage Recognition,” published in September by CRC Press/Taylor & Francis. He also contributed a chapter as author. Yoke Kow, PhD, professor at Emory University, and Dr. Doetsch are co-editors.

Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, professor and acting chair of surgery, co-chaired the annual Therapeutic Filtration and Extracorporeal Circulation meeting at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine’s Hammersmith Hospital in London, England, Sept. 1-3. He also presented the paper “Application of Leukocyte Filtration in Pulmonary Surgery” at the meeting. **Dr. Yurvati** is also first author of the paper “Leukocyte filtration for off-pump coronary artery bypass,” published in the inaugural issue of the journal *Filtration*. **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor; **Matt Barlow, MS**, graduate student; **Shekhar Deo, MS**, graduate student; **Norvan Daniel**, graduate student; **Shavsha-Johnson-Davis, MS**, graduate student; and **James Caffrey, PhD**, professor, all of integrative physiology, are co-authors. Girolamo Ortolano, PhD, Pall Medical Corporation, and Greg Paul, Terumo Cardiovascular Systems Corporation, are also co-authors. ★