

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

Regents name finalist for HSC president

The UNT System Board of Regents voted June 23 to name Scott Ransom, DO, MPH, MBA, as the sole finalist for the position of president of the health science center.

The selection of Dr. Ransom completes a nationwide search following the announcement in October from Ronald Blanck, DO, health science center president, that he would step down once a successor was approved.

Dr. Ransom is currently executive director of the Program for Healthcare Improvement and Leadership Development and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and health management and policy at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.

He also serves as the director of women's health and gynecology at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center.

Dr. Ransom's research and consulting include areas related to improving the health care delivery system, women's health, leadership development, health disparities and performance improvement.

Prior to joining the University of Michigan, Dr. Ransom was vice presi-

dent for medical affairs and then senior vice president at the Detroit Medical Center, a large seven-hospital health care system.

He is past president of the American College of Physician Executives, which includes a national membership of more than 11,000 physician leaders.

"Dr. Scott Ransom is an energetic and experienced health care leader with the ability to accelerate the development of the health science center," said Lee Jackson, UNT System chancellor.

"We believe Dr. Ransom understands our mission and will be an effective leader on and off campus for our growing health science center," said Bobby Ray, Board of Regents chair.

"The University of North Texas Health Science Center has a long and distinguished record of developing outstanding physicians, scientists and other health professionals to better improve our nation's health," Dr. Ransom said. "I look forward to working with faculty, staff, students and the community to create additional innovative educational programs, community initiatives and investigative efforts

to support our goal of becoming the nation's best in creating knowledge and developing researchers and effective primary care providers."

Dr. Ransom received a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri, a master of public health from Harvard University, and a master of business administration from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

He completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Mich. Dr. Ransom also is a graduate of the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School.

The announcement began a minimum 21-day interim period required by law before the board votes to officially appoint Dr. Ransom to the position.

Jackson recently appointed Daniel Perugini, DO, executive vice president, to serve as interim president starting June 30, when Dr. Blanck's resignation is effective. He will serve in that capacity until the new president's effective start date, Jackson said. ★



HSC celebrates commencement 2006

More than 230 students graduated this year, including 114 new doctors of osteopathic medicine and 28 new physician assistants. The School of Public Health had 53 graduates, including three new doctors of public health, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences had 38 graduates, including nine doctors of philosophy. The ceremonies took place May 20 at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena. See page two for story and photos.

HSC celebrates commencement 2006

Joyce Johnson, DO, MA, former U.S. Coast Guard Surgeon General, applauded graduates at the 33rd health science center Commencement Ceremony May 20 for their hard work in achieving their goal of entering the health sciences professions.

"Your continued efforts will make the world a much better place," Dr. Johnson said. "The many degrees being conferred here today symbolize the teamwork in today's health care field."

Dr. Johnson, a retired rear admiral, talked about the importance of teamwork in health care today and advised students to work together to improve health care.

"The curious thing about a career in the health sciences is that it can meet your expectations, whatever they are," Dr. Johnson said. Not only can a career in the health sciences offer money, power, prestige and geographic flexibility, it also can offer flexibility in the amount of time you work, she said. "You can work part-time. You can work full-time, or you can work all of the time, and those in internships and postdocs will," she quipped.

Dr. Johnson urged the students to take advantage of the opportunities they have to learn and grow so they can make a difference not only in the health professions, but in life. "You choose what is important to you in life," Dr. Johnson said. "Being a leader, an effective leader, means being a whole person."

Dr. Johnson urged the graduates to take a few hours or a few days to contemplate what is important in their lives. "Determine what you want from life, and then set your priorities and goals," she said. "This is one of the few breaks you will have."

This year's ceremony was the final commencement ceremony presided over by Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, who is retiring this summer. Dr. Blanck also presided over commissioning cere-

monies after the Commencement Ceremony for graduates entering the armed forces.

This year, the health science center awarded a posthumous doctoral degree to Rachel Dauphin. Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, presented the degree to Dauphin's mother, Lillian, at the ceremony. Dauphin, who died of Hodgkin's lymphoma before she was able to complete her doctoral degree in pharmacology and neurosciences, worked in Dr. Yorio's lab.

Chang Su, PhD, GSBS 2006, provided the reflections from the gradu-



ating class. Dr. Su was an international student from China who arrived at the health science center almost six years ago.

Dr. Su spoke of her journey through graduate school, describing the good times and the hardships she encountered.

"Many times I burst into tears in the laboratory in front of my lab mates

when I failed critical experiments and felt that I could never graduate," she said. But her passion for science guided her through.

"I struggled through some very rough and stormy days in my life, especially during this past year before my graduation," she said. "A hundred times, I thought I could not make it,

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Commencement

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but something was there, always in my deep heart, to give me strong support and hold me as one piece.”

Dr. Su encouraged her classmates to keep their passion and belief because “the future is a series of unlimited possibilities and chances,” she said. “Our responsibility is to try to use these chances as much as we can.”

This year’s ceremonies took place at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena. More than 230 students graduated, including 114 new doctors of osteopathic medicine and 28 new physician assistants. The School of Public Health had 53 graduates, including three new doctors of public health, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences had 38 graduates, including nine doctors of philosophy.

Dr. Johnson, vice president of health sciences in the health and life sciences division of Battelle Memorial Institute, received an honorary doctorate of public service degree from the health science center at the ceremony. ★



HSC hosts first health disparities conference

Experts from around the country converged on the health science center June 2-4 for the first Health Disparities Conference hosted by the Texas Center for Health Disparities.

Conference attendees learned about programs already underway to help eliminate health disparities and were challenged to come up with ideas of their own by conference organizers and presenters.

The keynote speaker for the event, Louis Sullivan, MD, kicked off the conference on Friday evening with a speech detailing his work on health disparities. Dr. Sullivan is the dean and first president of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga. He also served as secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1989 to 1993.

Dr. Sullivan detailed the advances of health care and applauded the health professions on improvements in the United States health system over the last 100 years. Although these improvements have increased life span and reduced communicable diseases, Dr. Sullivan noted that there was a paradox in how health has improved for certain people.

"While we have seen an increase in overall health, we have seen a widening [disparity] between whites and minorities," Dr. Sullivan said. "There is a widening gap in health status."

Dr. Sullivan said that some of the difference can be attributed to factors that can be changed by individuals, such as health habits, but other factors, such as poverty, discrimination, access to healthcare and a lack of opportunity, will have to be addressed at a health policy level.

Dr. Sullivan focused his address on the lack of opportunity, and he described the findings from several reports, including the Sullivan Commission on Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce report, "Missing Persons: Minorities in the Health Professions."



Louis Sullivan, MD, dean and first president of Morehouse School of Medicine, presented the keynote address, "Transforming America's Health Professionals."

The commission found that minorities made up a disproportionate percentage of health care providers. The commission found that opportunities were not as readily available for minority students to enter the health professions, resulting in this disproportionate percentage, and that in turn affected care given to minorities.

The commission made several recommendations in the report to improve the numbers of minorities in the health professions. Dr. Sullivan has worked to implement some of these recommendations through alliances between institutions. These collaborations form the Sullivan Alliance.

The Sullivan Alliance to Transform America's Health Professions includes initiatives to strengthen K-12 education and provide scholarship funds to students interested in the health professions.

The first such alliance that Dr. Sullivan worked to form is the Virginia-Nebraska Alliance, which includes Virginia's five Historically Black Colleges and Universities and

one community college. Two additional schools, the University of Virginia Medical Center and Richmond University in Richmond, Va., recently joined the Alliance. The alliance was formed to increase the success rate of the participating institutions and to

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CAMPUS Connection

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

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Health disparities conference

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assist faculty members in securing research funding.

Dr. Sullivan said he hoped to spread the alliance model to other states and advocate for further scholarship funds for minority students.

Dr. Sullivan urged the attendees at the conference to make a commitment to eliminating health disparities by addressing outcomes issues.

“Good intentions, yes, that’s fine,” Dr. Sullivan said, “but outcomes, that’s important.”

Eduardo Sanchez, MD, MPH, commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, also urged the conference attendees to take action in his Saturday afternoon address.

“We’ve got to look at the broader context,” Dr. Sanchez said. “If we only look at the health issue and don’t look at education and poverty, we are missing the boat.”

Other speakers at the conference addressed the issues of health disparities by providing best practices in clinics, at universities, in hospitals and through research.

The two-day conference, which will be an annual event, was part of the activities associated with the Texas Center for Health Disparities. The center was established at the health science center with a \$7.25 million grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health in 2005.

More than 150 people attended the conference. In addition to Drs. Sullivan and Sanchez, guest speakers included Mike Moncrief, mayor of Fort Worth; **Ciro Sumaya, MD, MPHTM**, from Texas A&M Health Science Center; Sue Pickens from Parkland Health and Hospital System; Jim Walton, DO, from Baylor Healthcare System; Russell Bennett from PacifiCare; Lisa Cacari Stone, PhD, from Harvard School of Public Health; **Xochitl Castañeda, DrPH**, from the California-Mexico Health Initiative; Paul Villas, EdD, from the University of Texas Pan American; Ruben Pamies,



Ciro Sumaya, MD, MPHTM, founding dean of the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health, presented “Changing Demographics: Impact on Health Care and Health Disparities” during the “Health Disparities at the Community Level” session June 3.

MD, from the University of Nebraska Medical Center; Scott Ransom, DO, MPH, MBA, from the University of Michigan; Vijaya Hogan, DrPH, from the University of North Carolina; and Jacobo Kupersztoch, PhD, from Centro Comunitario Mexicano.

Program participants from the health science center included **Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD**, associate dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; **Daniel Perugini, DO**, executive vice president; **Thomas Yorio, PhD**, dean of GSBS and vice president for research; **Marc Hahn, DO**, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and vice president for health services; **Adela Gonzalez, PhD, MPA**, vice president for community affairs and institutional diversity; **Robert Kaman, PhD, JD**, associate dean and director of outreach for GSBS; **Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH**, dean of the School of Public Health; and **Bruce Dubin, DO, JD**, associate dean of academic affairs and medical education for TCOM. ★

In the News

The May 1-7 issue of the *Fort Worth Business Press* included an announcement that **Marco Mendoza**, employee relations manager, was named chair of the Easter Seals Greater Northwest Texas Business Advisory Council. Pictures from the group’s annual meeting at the health science center were also published.

An article in the May 4 edition of the *Star-Telegram* about the increasing risk of type 2 diabetes in American youth contained quotes from **Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH**, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, as well as a summary of her results from a 2000 study of Fort Worth ISD elementary schoolchildren. The article was originally printed in *The Seattle Times*.

The May 4 online edition of the *Fort Worth Business Press* included an article about the **DNA laboratory** at the health science center helping to identify suspects in a Bay City murder case. The suspects are currently on trial, and conviction will be based primarily on the results provided by the lab. Several quotes were included from lab director **Arthur Eisenberg, PhD**.

Clyde Higgs, MPA, executive director of Tech Fort Worth, was interviewed for an article in the May 12-18 issue of the *Dallas Business Journal*. He explained the purpose of Tech Fort Worth and its overall goals. Higgs’ photograph was also included as one of seven on the cover of the publication.

Profiles of three spring 2006 health science center graduates — **Eric Gonzales**, **Juan Prieto Castañeda** and **Mary-Katherine Sanchez** — were featured in the May 13 edition of the *Dallas Morning News*. The profiles explained that all three intend to focus their careers on helping Latinos lead more healthy lives.

The “Work Faces” section of the May 15 issue of the *Star-Telegram* honored **Monte Troutman, DO**, chair of gastroenterology and associate professor of internal medicine, for his 19 years of service in the House of Delegates of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. ★

Hispanic Wellness Fair scheduled for Aug. 5

The eighth annual Hispanic Wellness Fair will take place Saturday, Aug. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Amon Carter Exhibits Hall, Will Rogers Memorial Complex.

Fair organizers are currently seeking volunteers who are fluent in both English and Spanish. Volunteers are needed to assist with some of the screening services and to hand out packages, fill out forms, and set up and break down booths.

The wellness fair is sponsored by the health science center, the School of Public Health, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, PacifiCare, Secure Horizons, Telemundo, Baylor All Saints Medical Center, Cook Children's Health Plan, Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth, Pfizer Inc., Coca Cola Bottling Company, Cuidado Casero, JPS Health Network, Tarrant County Medical Society Alliance Foundation, Bank of America, Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., BNSF Railway Company, EECU, Fort Worth Public Health Department, Hispanic Healthcare Professionals Association (HISPA), Tarrant County Public Health Department, UTA School of Nursing, Univision Radio, Spring Creek Barbeque, Panchos Mexican Buffet, *Diario La Estrella*, *El Hispano News*, and *Panorama Newspaper*.



At last year's fair, people waited for hours outside of the building early in the morning as volunteers inside set up booths and prepared for the six-hour, non-stop rush.

Over 20,000 screenings and services were provided during last year's fair, including vision exams, prostate cancer screenings, HIV/AIDS tests, respiratory screenings, dental exams, mammograms, glucose tests, immunizations for children, diabetes screenings, nutrition screenings and osteopathic manipulative treatment. This year's fair will provide similar services.

School supplies and bicycle helmets also will be distributed at the fair, and children's activities will be available throughout the day.

"I think this is an important service that we provide for those who don't have medical insurance or access

to medical care," said Adela Gonzalez, PhD, MPA, vice president for community affairs and institutional diversity at the health science center and one of the founders of the Hispanic Wellness Fair.

The fair has continued to grow in its seven-year history, having started with about 2,000 participants in 1999.

Attendance at last year's Hispanic Wellness Fair exceeded 15,000, with people lining the sidewalks of the Will Rogers Convention Center beginning at 6 a.m. to wait for the doors to open.

For more information, call ext. 5087 or visit www.hsc.unt.edu/annual/HWF. ★

SPH researchers win top prize for paper

Health science center researchers from the School of Public Health were awarded the top prize for Best Paper in Health Promotion and Prevention at the Business and Health Administration Association's 2006 conference.

The paper, "Disparities in Access to Health Care: The Case of a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Detoxification Treatment Program among Minority Groups in a Texas Hospital," was written by Alberto Coustasse, MD, MBA, DrPH, research assistant professor in health management and policy; Heidi

Venegas, a doctoral student in the School of Public Health; Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of biostatistics; and Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health and professor of health management and policy.

The study analyzed racial disparities in health insurance access, length of stay, drug and alcohol abuse, and relapse at a community hospital in Texas where people were seeking medical detoxification services. The researchers found that non-Hispanic

blacks were more likely to be insured compared to non-Hispanic whites, mostly through public insurance such as Medicaid and Medicare.

They also found that Hispanics were three times more likely to be uninsured compared to non-Hispanic blacks and were more likely to have a shorter length of stay than non-Hispanic whites.

The researchers concluded that the differences in care were a result of aggressive case management, barriers to healthcare based on socio-cultural

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SPH paper

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issues and possibly discriminatory practices. The researchers could not conclude whether the differences in care based on these factors were intentional or unintentional.

"These findings are not news," Dr. Coustasse said, "but the main thing is that Hispanic Medicaid patients were being discharged earlier than other patients. That *is* news and a reality of discriminatory and/or stereotyping practices."

The researchers also discovered that Hispanics were more likely to relapse. The researchers believe that the relapses occurred because Hispanics were discharged earlier, interrupting the normal course of care, which hindered access to treatment such as rehab.

At the time of the study, the waiting period for the only public rehabilitation facility in the county was 21 days, and the researchers concluded that this 21-day wait increased the instance of relapse among Hispanics, creating a vicious circle. ★

HSC wins silver in statewide physical activity competition

Health science center employees have a reason to be proud — a group of faculty and staff took the silver medal in the Texas Round Up, a program developed by Governor Rick Perry and the Texas Department of Health to encourage Texans of all fitness levels to incorporate daily physical activity and healthy choices into their lives.

Thirty-two employees completed the Round Up, earning the health science center third place honors.

"I was thrilled!" said Susie Quintana, health promotion manager for the health science center's Founders' Activity Center and organizer of the silver-medal-winning team.

Participants signed up online, committing to complete six weeks of physical activity. The health science center started with 113 participants, who signed up to increase their level of activity to 30 minutes a day, five days a

week, and track their progress on the Texas Round Up Web site for the six weeks of the program.

Quintana said this year's success gives her motivation to try to improve on the health science center's performance in next year's Round Up.

"There will definitely be a team next year," she said. "I plan to contact the individuals who participated this year to encourage them to become supporters and advocates for the program in their departments."

But a silver medal isn't the only benefit to the health science center's participation in the Round Up. "Being involved in the Round Up provides health science center employees the opportunity to increase physical fitness and live longer, healthier lives," she said.

This year's participants were also treated to an awards luncheon May 31 to celebrate their achievement. ★

Variety helps keep fitness high priority

Sometimes making fitness a priority is a struggle, but that is not the case for Marian Ford. "[I] ran my first mile race at 5 and never looked back," she said.

An avid runner and soccer player in both high school and college, Ford said she is always up for a workout and exercises five or six days a week.

Since she began working as an accountant in student financials three years ago, Ford has utilized the Founders' Activity Center and the HealthSaver Program, which allows benefits-eligible employees to participate in approved physical activity programs for up to 90 minutes of work time per week.

Ford said a varied combination of exercises and athletic sports keeps her focused and never bored. In addition to weight training three times a week



Marian Ford

at the FAC during her lunch break, Ford rollerblades and swims at least three or four times a week after work

and on the weekends and participates in a weekly volleyball game.

Ford said she is not too strict when it comes to diet. She still enjoys her favorites like chips and salsa, anything with an Italian flair, and frozen yogurt, but she stresses enjoying everything in moderation.

Ford is always on the go, working full time at the health science center and traveling to UNT Denton to complete her MBA, but she still makes time to take care of her body.

Her advice to others is to "do what you like so it's fun. Having a partner or a radio with good music makes it a lot easier," she said.

Take it from this busy employee, student and athlete, it is possible to make time in your day for exercise. You just have to do that: make the time. ★

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Gonzales named Outstanding Graduate

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

It is the highest award given to a student in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. This year's recipient is Eric Gonzales, PhD.

Dr. Gonzales performed his doctoral research in the pharmacology and neuroscience discipline under the direction of Glenn Dillon, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience and associate vice president for research and biotechnology administration.

Dr. Gonzales was selected as the discipline's outstanding graduate student in 2005 and received Research Appreciation Day honors in 2003, 2004 and 2005. He was selected as a member of Sigma Xi, The International Research Society in 2005. In 2004, he earned the prestigious Grass Fellowship at the

Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

Dr. Gonzales was an active student leader. He served the Graduate Student Association as president and served as president and vice president of the Society for the Advancement of Latino Scholars in Academia and as treasurer of the Black Graduate Student Association.

In 2005, he was selected as the recipient of the Edward E. Elko Award for Distinguished Service to the Graduate Student Association. He first joined the health science center as a participant in the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Fellowship program.

Dr. Gonzales is a postdoctoral fellow with the Vollum Institute at the Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Ore. A



Eric Gonzales, PhD, recipient of the Graduate Faculty Award for the Outstanding Graduate of 2005-06, with his major professor, Glenn Dillon, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience and associate vice president for research and biotechnology administration

Fort Worth native, his goal is to return to the area to pursue a career in academic research. ★

Congratulations spring graduates!

Adib Asrabadi, DO, MS

Yamileth Cazoria-Lancaster, DO, MS, MPH

Joel Ellis, PhD

Kendra Felipe-Ortega, MS

Paul Giles, DO, MS

Ji-Yeon Hwang, MS

Sung-Yong Hwang, PhD

Jill Kurschner, MS

Jie Liu, PhD

Rashmi Lote, MS

Dongmei Lu, PhD

Joseph Orcutt, MS

Carolyn Pickett, DO, MS

Mousumi Som, DO, MS

Janice Thomas, DO, MS

Andrew Timboe, MS

David Tsai, MS

Joyce Varkey, MS

Dongdong Zhou, MS

Raven wins Cohen Award

Peter Raven, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, is the 2005-2006 recipient of the Benjamin L. Cohen, DO, Award for Achievement in Faculty Research.

Dr. Raven joined the faculty in 1977 and has maintained an active research program throughout his career. "Peter was selected for this award because of his longstanding history of grant funding and his contributions to research," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research.

In addition to his research efforts, Dr. Raven has contributed to graduate education. He currently supervises four graduate students and has supervised 36 GSBS graduates. He has also mentored 19 medical student researchers and many summer program participants, high school students and others.

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

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

GSBS celebrates success at GSA awards banquet

The Graduate Student Association held its annual awards banquet at the Cultural District Banquet Center May 12. The following honors were awarded:

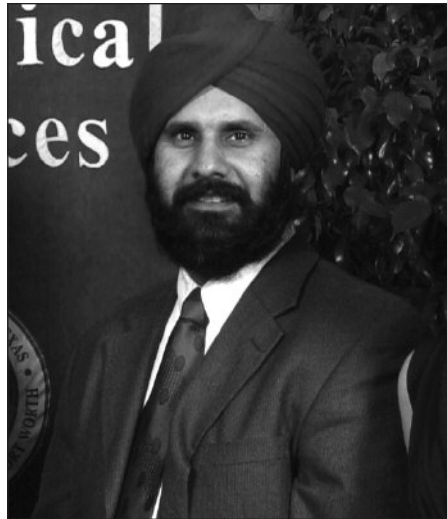
Departmental/Discipline Awards for Outstanding Students

Sarah Rothwell, forensic genetics
 Angela Brimhall, clinical research and education, family medicine
 Paul Giles, clinical research and education, manipulative medicine
 T.J. Bartosh, cell biology and genetics
 Shalini Persaud, biochemistry and molecular biology
 Nowland Bambard, microbiology and immunology
 Kissaou "Bertin" Tchedre, biomedical sciences
 Jeremy Clark, premedical sciences
 Arti Sharma, integrative physiology
 Joshua Gatson, pharmacology and neuroscience

Graduate Student Association Awards

Lorie Gonzalez, GSA Outstanding Member
 Pam Struve, GSA Outstanding Staff Member

Forensic genetics students have some fun with Thomas Yorio, PhD, GSBS dean, at the GSA annual awards banquet May 12.



*Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, PhD, 2006
 GSA Outstanding Faculty Member*

Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, PhD, GSA
 Outstanding Faculty Member

GSBS Awards

Erica Kafka, Outstanding First-Year Student
 Peter Raven, PhD, Benjamin L. Cohen, DO, Award for Outstanding Research Achievement
 Eric Gonzales, PhD, Graduate Faculty Award for Outstanding Graduate ★

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 2005-06:

Michael Forster, PhD
 Peter Raven, PhD
 James Simpkins, PhD
 Edward Elko, PhD
 Annita Bens, PhD
 Jerry Alexander, PhD
 Eunsun "Mariana" Jung, PhD
 Rustin Reeves, PhD
 Fred Downey, PhD
 Dan Dimitrijevic, PhD
 Ming-Chi Wu, PhD
 Michael Martin, PhD
 Thomas Yorio, PhD
 Raghu Krishnamoorthy, PhD
 Jerry Simecka, PhD
 Glenn Dillon, PhD
 Clyde Higgs, MPA
 Tina Machu, PhD
 Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD
 Hriday Das, PhD
 des Anges Crusier, PhD
 Alakananda Basu, PhD
 Andras Lacko, PhD
 Robert Kaman, JD, PhD
 Robert Wordinger, PhD
 Robert Mallet, PhD
 Porunelloor Mathew, PhD
 Harold Sheedlo, PhD



Institutional Advancement

HSC honors donors at luncheon

More than 80 donors, students and health science center representatives gathered at the Petroleum Club in downtown Fort Worth May 5 for the annual Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by the Office of Institutional Advancement and the UNTHSC Foundation.

Ronald Blanck, DO, health science center president, introduced the luncheon guests, which included the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's only living founder, Carl Everett, DO; TCOM's first two employees, Ray and Edna Stokes; Wayne Stockseth, a member of TCOM's founding board of directors and a former chair of the UNT Board of Regents; several donors of endowed scholarships; several directors of Texas-based foundations; and a number of alumni.

Dr. Blanck welcomed all "to celebrate the generosity of our friends and donors who help our students achieve their dreams ... to become outstanding osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, scientists, researchers, teachers and public health experts."

Daniel Perugini, DO, executive vice president, joined Dr. Blanck to make a special presentation to Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, who retired from her position as vice president for institutional advancement at the end of May.

Remarks by three guest speakers concluded the event.

Medical student Leslie Reddell Houston, who was just two weeks away from graduating with honors at the time of the luncheon, thanked donors on behalf of all health science center scholarship recipients and discussed the importance and impact of caring.

George Pepper, UNTHSC Foundation board member and former UNT regent, encouraged everyone to "spread the good word," and to encourage others to learn more about and become personally involved in the growth and success of the health science center.

Stockseth, president of Parts Distributing Company in Corpus Christi, recalled how he was introduced to osteopathic medicine in the 1960s and said he was proud to be a "disciple" for the health science center today. ★

Upp named interim VP for advancement

Greg Upp, vice president for institutional coordination, has been appointed interim vice president for institutional advancement while a national search is conducted for a successor to Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, who recently retired.

"This is a natural 'extra duty' for Greg," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president. "He was the Texas agent for the Southwestern Bell Foundation for many years, and served on the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/UNTHSC Foundation Board of Directors from 1992 to 2000, the last five of those years as chair. He's been an integral player in our strategic growth planning for more than a decade, and he is experienced and comfortable working with our students, staff, faculty and administrative team, as well as the Fort Worth community at large."

Upp, who has been charged with chairing the search committee for the new vice president, said he is talking with executive search firms that specialize in recruiting fundraising professionals for institutions of higher education. The search could take from four to six months, he said.

"The new vice president will join us at a very exciting time in this institution's life," Upp said.

"We have 15 acres of prime real estate to develop a long-term master plan for, and, of course, we will soon have a new president," he said. "Our goal is to hire a proven advancement leader who is eager to help us move to the next level." ★



From left: Edna and Ray Stokes; Charles Ogilvie, DO, professor emeritus; Ralph Willard, DO, president of TCOM from 1981 to 1985; and Margaret Willard, EdD

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Student clinician ceremony set for June 29

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine will host its second annual Student Clinician Ceremony from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 29 at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth.

The ceremony, a new tradition that is a continuation of the White Coat Ceremony students participate in the fall semester of their first year of medical school, was designed to provide guidance, information and support to medical students beginning their clerkships.

“This transitional experience, celebrating the completion of the formal didactic period of the first two years of medical school and the entrance into the clinical rotation period of the third and fourth years, will reinforce the importance of ethical values and patient-centered care in the clinical setting,” said Rynn Sloan, director of student development.

The ceremony will include recognition of outstanding interns and residents with the presentation of the

Arnold P. Gold Foundation’s Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award, selected by third-year TCOM students; the Coleman Award for Outstanding Pre-Clinical Faculty, selected by second-year students; and the Outstanding Basic Sciences Faculty Award, selected by first- and second-year students.

The keynote speaker for the event is Mona Khanna, MD, medical correspondent for CBS-Channel 11 news.

Sloan said the program is an opportunity for students to pass on knowledge gained through experience to their fellow students. Students already involved in their clerkships offer insight, encouragement and information to the incoming third-year class.

“One of the key components of the [ceremony] is that it is a program planned for students by students,” Sloan said.

The ceremony is funded and planned by the Medical Student Government Association. Last year’s inaugural ceremony was made possible by a

\$5,000 grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which promotes humanism in medicine to foster compassionate relationships between patients and caregivers. The foundation also provides the funds for the resident awards.

“I’m so proud of our student leadership for taking on this challenge in the midst of their other responsibilities and for enforcing the values of the health science center and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation,” Sloan said.

The foundation’s Web site explains why it encourages these ceremonies: “Through ceremonies and rituals, society passes on its values and publicly acknowledges the importance of certain transitions in the lives of its members. Such events provide inspiration and help to outline society’s expectations. Through ceremonies developed by the Gold Foundation, medical schools demonstrate their commitment to humanism and professionalism, to students and to the medical community at large.” ★

Gonzalez chosen as clinical employee of month

Mona Gonzalez said she became a medical assistant to help other people, and being named employee of the month for her work at Family Medicine Central Clinic makes her feel like she has achieved that goal.

“It’s an honor,” Gonzalez said. “I told [Judy Steudeman] that it was just an honor for her to nominate me. My supervisor has acknowledged me.”

Gonzalez has been a medical assistant at the health science center for six years. Her duties include escorting patients to exam rooms, giving injections and returning patient phone calls for the doctors. She also helps patients



Mona Gonzalez

with services, such as blood pressure checks, that do not require a doctor’s visit.

“I nominated Mona because of her steadfast commitment to her work as a medical assistant and her willing spirit,” said Judy Steudeman, nursing services supervisor. “I can rely on Mona to take good care of her patients.”

Steudeman said Gonzalez also exhibits other characteristics that an employee of the month should possess, such as dependability, flexibility, punctuality, caring, a professional

demeanor, interpersonal skills, honesty and excellent job skills.

“Mona takes her job seriously, but she never takes herself too seriously,” Steudeman said. “She is eager to learn and willing to adapt to our ever-changing workplace practices, new technologies, etc. I can also depend on Mona if I need a volunteer to go to another clinic.”

Steudeman said Gonzalez also met the perfect attendance requirement for an employee of the month.

“That is a tough one for a working mom with two small children, but for the month of April, Mona achieved 100 percent attendance and no tardies.”

Gonzalez said her 10 years of work in the field prove she loves her job.

“You kind of have to like what you do to be in it that long,” she said. ★

School of Public Health

SPH honors outstanding students at banquet

The School of Public Health held its annual awards banquet honoring outstanding students May 5 at the Fort Worth Club. Dean's list students, honor society inductees and Research Appreciation Day winners, as well as the outstanding faculty member, advisor and staff member, were also recognized.

Departmental Awards for Outstanding Students

Tanushree Tomer and Yan Lu,

outstanding master's students in biostatistics

Heidi Venegas-Rios, outstanding doctoral student in biostatistics

Kimberly McGee, outstanding master's student in environmental and occupational health

Lockwood Taylor, outstanding master's student in epidemiology

Larry Segars, outstanding doctoral student in epidemiology

Shanna Brown, outstanding master's student in health management and policy

Thaddeus Miller, outstanding doctoral student in health management and policy

Melissa Oden, outstanding master's student in social and behavioral sciences

Khiya Marshall, outstanding doctoral student in social and behavioral sciences

Top Graduate Awards

Anita Kurian, Leon Brachman Community Service Award

Benjamin Willis, Kenneth H. Cooper, MD, MPH, Research Award

Matthew White, Bob Crow Outstanding MPH Graduate Award

Mary-Katherine Sanchez, Outstanding Doctoral Graduate Award

Matthew White, Outstanding SPH Tutor



Khiya Marshall, outstanding doctoral student in social and behavioral sciences and second place winner in the RAD Public Health Poster Competition, and Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health



Anita Kurian, winner of the Leon Brachman Community Service Award, first place RAD Public Health Poster Competition and second place RAD Public Health Oral Competition and a student inductee into the Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Omega, the National Honor Society for Public Health, and Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health

Dean's List

Elizabeth Adcock

Shimona Bhatia

Yamileth Cazorla-Lancaster

Prateek Chaudhary

Eva Evans

Rachael Jackson

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School of Public Health

HSC hosts 'Milestones' traveling art exhibit

The School of Public Health displayed the national "Milestones in Public Health" traveling art exhibit April 18-21 in the Kiva lounge in the Research and Education Building. The exhibit features art and information from the book *Milestones in Public Health*, recently published by international pharmaceutical company Pfizer Inc.

The Association of Schools of Public Health and Pfizer organized the exhibit, which will be displayed at

schools of public health and other locations throughout 2006.

Milestones in Public Health describes the 11 most significant achievements in public health in the 20th century. Each chapter outlines the history behind the milestone, a case study, a vignette and a reflection on the future challenges that lay ahead in each topic area.

The book's topics include vaccines and the eradication of smallpox; automotive safety; environmental health; infectious disease control;

advances in cancer, cardiovascular disease, maternal and child health, oral health, nutrition, and addiction; and the development of the U.S. public health infrastructure.

As part of the event, the SPH Office of Student and Academic Services hosted a "Lunch and Learn" lecture April 20. Harvey Brenner, PhD, professor and chair of social and behavioral sciences, presented "The Impact of the Economy on Life Expectations in Industrialized Countries." ★

Banquet

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Lynn Lewis
 Tam-Nhi Nguyen
 Donna Rodriguez
 Lockwood Taylor
 Krista Thrasher
 Suzanne Tolbert
 Matthew White
 Ben Willis

Research Appreciation Day

Anita Kurian, first place, Public Health Poster Competition
 Khiya Marshall, second place, Public Health Poster Competition
 Thaddeus Miller, first place, Public Health Oral Competition
 Anita Kurian, second place, Public Health Oral Competition

Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Omega, the National Honor Society for Public Health

Student Inductees:

Prateek Chaudhary
 Ana Chiapa-Scifres
 Kimberly Fulda
 Anita Kurian
 Jeannette Oshitoye
 Nykiconia Preacely
 Bavana Rangan
 Lockwood Taylor



Incoming Public Health Student Association officers for 2006-2007: (sitting, left to right) Nicki McGee, master's program representative; Ashley Garrett, secretary; Nykiconia Preacely, doctoral program representative; (standing, left to right) Dorian Villegas, vice president; Marcus Mitias, treasurer; and Joseph Rodriguez, president

Dorian Villegas
 Matthew White

Faculty Inductee:

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of biostatistics

Outstanding Faculty Member, Advisor and Staff Member

Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, MPH, assistant professor of epidemiology, outstanding faculty

Kristine Lykens, PhD, assistant professor of health management and policy, outstanding advisor

Tiffany Lopez, coordinator of student services, outstanding staff ★

Faculty Advances

Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, is first author of a book chapter, "Functional interactions of PARP-1 with p53," published in May in the book *Poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation*, edited by Alexander Bürkle. **Hilda Mendoza-Alvarez, MPH, SPH 2003**, clinical research coordinator II in internal medicine, and Hanswalter Zentgraf, PhD, and Manfred Frey, PhD, both professors at the German Cancer Research Center at Heidelberg, are co-authors. **Dr. Alvarez-Gonzalez** also was awarded two small grants by the American Chemical Society-Project SEED program to sponsor four summer research projects in biochemistry for two college-bound students and two Fort Worth Independent School District high school students.

Alakananda Basu, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, is senior author of a poster, "Protein kinase C-epsilon exerts anti-apoptotic signal via protein kinase B/Akt and Bax," presented at the Sixth Annual Meeting of International Cell Death Society held June 2-5 in Angra dos Reis, Brazil. **Dongmei Lu, PhD, GSBS 2006**, is first author, and **Jie Huang**, senior research assistant in molecular biology and immunology, is co-author.

Fred Downey, PhD, Regents Professor of Integrative Physiology, presented a plenary lecture, "Hypoxic Conditioning Suppresses Cytotoxic Nitric Oxide Production by Endothelium upon Reperfusion Following Acute Myocardial Ischemia," at the Fourth International Conference of Endothelium Dysfunction, May 18 at Vitebsk State Medical University in Vitebsk, Belarus.

Marty Knott, TCOM 2007 and doctoral student in integrative physiology, has won the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association's 2006 George W. Northrup, DO, Medical Writing Award for his article, "Increased Lymphatic Flow in the Thoracic Duct During Manipulative Intervention." The article appeared in the October 2005 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. **Johnathan Tune, PhD**, assistant professor of physiology at the University of Indiana College of Medicine and former assistant professor of inte-

grative physiology at the health science center; **Scott Stoll, DO, PhD**, chair and associate professor of manipulative medicine and executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center; and **Fred Downey, PhD**, Regents Professor of Integrative Physiology, are co-authors. **Knott** will accept the award at the opening session of the 111th Annual American Osteopathic Association Convention and Scientific Seminar Oct. 17 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Andras Lacko, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, is first author of the paper "Trojan Horse Meets Magic Bullet to Spawn a Novel, Highly Effective Drug Delivery Model" published in the June issue of *Chemotherapy*. **Linda Mooberry**, doctoral student in biochemistry and molecular biology; **Maya Nair, PhD**, research assistant professor of molecular biology and immunology; **Sulabha Paranjape**, research assistant in internal medicine; and **Walter McConathy, PhD**, associate professor of internal medicine, are co-authors.

Thaddeus Miller, MPH, SPH 2003, doctoral student in health management and policy and research fellow in internal medicine, is first author of "Characteristics of osteopathic physicians choosing to practice rural primary care" published in the May issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. **Roderick Hooker, PhD**, director of rheumatology research, Department of Veterans Affairs, Dallas and adjunct associate professor in the School of Public Health; and **Douglas Mains, DrPH**, assistant professor of health management and policy, are co-authors.

Anna Ratka, PhD, PharmD, RPh, former associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, presented "Hot Flashes and Systemic levels of Gonadal Hormones" at the 14th Annual Congress on Women's Health June 4-6 at the Hilton Head Marriott Beach and Golf resort in South Carolina. The abstract was also published in the May issue of the *Journal of Women's Health*, the sponsor of the Congress on Women's Health. **James Simpkins, PhD**, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience and director of the Insti-

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Faculty Advances

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tute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research; **Vanessa Miller, APRN, DrPH, SPH 2005**; **Kimberly Brown, RN**, clinical research coordinator for pharmacology and neuroscience and IAADR; **Monica Jenschke, RN, MHS, CRNA**, doctoral student in pharmacology and neuroscience; **Evelyn Perez, PhD**, post doctoral research associate in pharmacology and neuroscience; and **Atul Raut, MD**, doctoral student in pharmacology and neuroscience, are co-authors.

Linda Reed, MEd, PA, academic coordinator and assistant professor of physician assistant studies, published "Determinants of faculty job satisfaction and potential implications for physician assistant program personnel" in the May issue of the *Journal of Physician Assistant Education*.

Lori Rodriguez, master's student in epidemiology, presented the paper "Public health preparedness and response: a comparative study of healthcare providers" at the Midyear Scientific Meeting of the Society for Public Health Education

May 5 in Las Vegas, Nev. **Francisco Soto Mas, MD, PhD, MPH**, former assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, is co-author.

Xiangrong Shi, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, is corresponding author of the paper "Cerebral autoregulation is preserved during orthostatic stress superimposed with systemic hypotension" published in the June issue of the *Journal of Applied Physiology*. **Hong Guo, MS**, visiting research fellow in integrative physiology; **Nancy Tierney, RN, PhD**, assistant professor of internal medicine; **Frederic Schaller, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine; **Peter Raven, PhD**, professor of integrative physiology; and Scott Smith, PhD, assistant professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center, are co-authors.

Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, professor of surgery, has been elected vice-chair of the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery. He also serves as the board's cardiothoracic discipline chief examiner. ★