

Campus Connection Friday, Dec. 5, 2008

Your biweekly source of news on UNT Health Science Center people, plans and progress.

Grant will establish new geriatrics education program at TCOM

Recently, the [Donald W. Reynolds Foundation](#) board of trustees approved 10 grants, totaling almost \$20 million, to strengthen physician's geriatrics training across the United States. The UNT Health Science Center was awarded almost \$2 million for a program led by Janice Knebl, DO, professor of Internal Medicine and Endowed Chair of Geriatrics, who will develop the Reynolds Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (GET-IT) program. GET-IT will focus heavily on establishing geriatrics faculty development for rural osteopathic faculty and implementing geriatrics continuing medical education programs for practicing physicians through the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The grants from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation will support comprehensive projects in academic health centers to train medical students, residents and practicing physicians in geriatrics.

"The Reynolds Foundation has now committed almost \$80 million under this initiative," said Fred W. Smith, chairman of the Foundation's board of trustees. "The Foundation's goal is to improve the quality of health care for elderly people across America by preparing physicians to address their special needs. The trustees and I are proud of the work that the Foundation's grantees have conducted thus far and look forward to the accomplishments of this new group of exciting projects."

The Aging and Quality of Life program was conceived by the Foundation in response to a growing consensus that physicians lack adequate training to meet the increasing needs of the frail elderly patient. Such patients typically suffer from multiple, interactive physical and psychosocial conditions -- both acute and chronic -- that compromise their capacity to function in the daily life and lessen their independence.

Forty-eight academic health centers applied for grants in response to a call for proposals from the Foundation in November 2007. With the assistance of a panel of geriatrics experts, 10 were chosen.

The institutions selected and grant amounts are as follows:

- Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C. - \$2,000,000
- University of Alabama, Birmingham, Ala. - \$2,000,000
- University of California, Irvine, Calif. - \$1,999,994
- University of Massachusetts, Worcester, Mass. - \$1,983,066
- University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford, N.J. - \$1,998,421
- University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas - \$1,998,504
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. - \$1,939,517

- University of Texas, Houston, Houston, Texas - \$2,000,000
- University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas - \$1,994,480
- Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C. - \$1,994,741

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is a national philanthropic organization founded in 1954 by the late media entrepreneur for whom it is named. Headquartered in Las Vegas, Nev., it is one of the largest private foundations in the United States.

Smoking shelter will be removed next week

The UNT Health Science Center has a long-standing smoke-free campus policy that prohibits smoking anywhere on campus, including in parking lots and around buildings. To adhere to this policy and to ensure the health of our employees, students and visitors, the Health Science Center will be removing the smoking shelter on the circle drive in front of the Patient Care Center. The last day that the smoking shelter will be available for use is Wednesday, Dec. 10.

UNTHSC has formed a Wellness Task Force to promote the wellness of our employees and students by addressing smoking on campus and promoting physical activity. We asked Shawn Jeffries, PhD, assistant professor of Psychology and Wellness Task Force member, a few questions about our smoke-free policy:

Why is the smoke-free campus policy important to our employees, students and visitors?

Dr. Jeffries: According to the [National Cancer Institute](#), tobacco use, particularly cigarette smoking, is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States, and cigarette smoking alone is directly responsible for approximately 30 percent of all cancer deaths annually. Our smoke-free policy can help improve the health of everyone on campus.

How will the Health Science Center's non-smoking campus policy be enforced?

Dr. Jeffries: At this point, members of the Wellness Task Force, as well as an informal group of medical students, will be politely informing people they see smoking on campus of our smoke-free policy and handing out reminder cards to this effect. In the near future, we intend to inform either department heads, supervisors or the Department of Student Affairs about violators of the smoke-free policy, and appropriate consequences will be administered through those groups.

How does the Health Science Center help its employees and students quit smoking?

Dr. Jeffries: We currently have the free PATCH program (Positive Attitudes Towards Changing Habits) offered to employees and students twice a year. The program offers smoking-cessation counseling, plus free nicotine-replacement medication. For those individuals who wish to only use nicotine-replacement medication, we will be offering this free of charge through the Founders' Activity Center (FAC).

Total employee wellness is our key concern. Therefore, the Health Science Center strongly encourages any type of physical activity, including walking. Walking maps of the area around the Health Science Center and buildings are available at the FAC.

Super Docs to the rescue

Ten UNT Health physicians were named Super Docs in the December issue of *Texas Monthly* magazine. Each year, the magazine asks more than 40,000 medical professionals across Texas to nominate doctors for the list based on the question, "If you needed medical care, which doctor would you choose?" The list also includes Texas doctors who have received special recognition from their peers or demonstrated expertise in their specialties, based on replies received from the polled physicians.

UNT Health Super Docs:

Kathleen Crowley, MD, Internal Medicine

Sam Buchanan Jr., DO, General Surgery (retired)

John Fling, MD, Allergy & Immunology

David Lichtman, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery

Arvind Nana, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery

Alan Podawiltz, DO, Psychiatry

Bernard Rubin, DO, Rheumatology

Russell Wagner, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery

Martin Weiss, DO, Cardiology

Ray Page, DO, from our partner, The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, also made the list of top oncologists.

Look for TCOM alumni who made the list in a future issue of Campus Connection.

Facilities survey results

In order to serve you better, Facilities Management conducted its first survey last July to get feedback on its services, and to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. In all, 251 faculty and staff members responded to the survey. With your feedback, Facilities Management is improving customer communication and speeding up their work order process.

Survey Highlights:

- On a scale of 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), 69 percent of respondents rated their satisfaction with the services provided by Facilities Management as a 4 or a 5.

- The service areas with the highest average scores on the 1-to-5 scale were Lock and Key Shop (4.24), Paint Shop (4.21), and Sign Shop (4.01). Average scores for all service areas ranged from 3.33 to 4.24.
- Respondents were most satisfied with Facilities Management’s courtesy (3.92 on the 1-to-5 scale) and quality of service (3.88).

The survey also identified potential areas for improvement. Facilities Management will focus on the following priorities in the coming year:

- Improving ongoing customer communication/feedback/updates during long lead-time projects
- Reducing Work Order response times

NEWS BRIEFS

UNT Health Town Halls next week

Kathleen Forbes, MD, executive vice president of Clinical Affairs and Business Development, will host two UNT Health Town Hall meetings for all UNT Health and UNTHSC employees next week. At the meetings, Dr. Forbes will discuss leadership changes, the group's five-year strategic plan and various elements of the process improvement teams, including recommendations from the Human Resources Task Force. She also will answer questions from the audience.

You can submit questions or topics for the meetings anonymously to townhall@hsc.unt.edu by Monday, Dec. 8, at noon. The Office of Marketing and Communications will pass the questions to Dr. Forbes. She will answer as many questions as possible, but we can't guarantee that every question will be addressed at the meetings.

UNT Health Town Hall Meetings:

Tuesday, Dec. 9	Wednesday, Dec. 10
7 – 8 am	Noon – 1 pm
Luibel Hall	Luibel Hall
Pastries will be served.	Pizza will be served.

Reminder: President’s Holiday Open House

Stop by the EAD eighth floor on Dec. 17 from 2 – 4 pm for refreshments and holiday hospitality from the Office of the President and other departments.

IN THE NEWS

Cardarelli on Texas' health ranking

Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, assistant professor of Epidemiology, is quoted in Wednesday's [Star-Telegram](#) regarding Texas' ignominious drop from 37th to 46th place in [America's Health Rankings](#) state rankings. "It reflects a lack of prioritization at the state level for health," Dr. Cardarelli said. "If we don't make significant changes now, we're headed down a path where I don't see these rankings for Texas getting any better."

Roby speaks at Distinguished Women's Series

The address by Rhonda Roby, PhD, project coordinator at the UNT Center for Human Identification, to the Dallas Regional Chamber as part of its Distinguished Women Speaker Series was featured in [Dallas Morning News](#) Columnist Bob Miller's section on Dec. 1.

Rafes named WVSOM president

Richard Rafes, PhD, JD, formerly with UNT and the UNT Health Science Center, has been named president of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, as reported in several publications.

KUDOS

Rhonda Roby, PhD, project coordinator at the UNT Center for Human Identification, was invited to speak as part of [The Dallas Regional Chamber's](#) Distinguished Women Leaders Lecture Series presented by *The Dallas Morning News* on Dec. 2. The lecture series educates the public about women leaders, identifies opportunities and challenges for women leaders, and highlights their achievements. Roby shared her experiences as one of few women in presentations at the Pentagon and on the golf course, crediting the women trailblazers who opened doors for her along the way.

Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, professor, chief of Geriatrics and Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians endowed chair in Clinical Geriatrics, received the 2008 [University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine](#) (UNECOM) American Geriatrics Student Chapter Humanism in Aging Leadership Award funded by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The award is given to physicians who exhibit exemplary academic and professional practice in the care of older adults. As part of the award, Dr. Knebl gave a presentation to UNECOM students last month.

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of Biostatistics, was invited to serve as a member of the [Susan G. Komen for the Cure's](#) Prevention and Risk Reduction scientific peer review committee. Dr. Singh will serve a three-year term on the committee.

Save for retirement and save money on your taxes

A Tax-Deferred Account (TDA) is a savings plan that allows eligible employees of the Health Science Center to set aside savings for retirement tax free. All salaried employees are eligible to contribute to a TDA, also referred to as 403(b) plans or TSAs.

Employees may enroll in a TDA any time during the year by signing a Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) and completing carrier application forms. You may change your TDA carrier up to two times per year. Deductions for a TDA will begin the first of the month following the date all forms are received by the Human Resources Department. For example, paperwork submitted by the last day of December would be effective with the January pay period (the check you receive on Feb. 2).

The earnings on your savings will not be subject to income taxes until you withdraw your money (usually at retirement). Your savings automatically will be deducted from your check each month. You can start and stop your TDA at any time during the year. You do not have to wait for an enrollment period.

IRS 2009 contribution limits announced

The IRS announced cost-of-living adjustments to various pension plan limits for tax year 2009. All of the limits that apply to the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) and Tax Sheltered Annuities (TSA)/Tax Deferred Annuities (TDA) will change for 2009, as noted below:

Total contribution allowed to ORP and TSA/TDA combined	\$49,000 (up from \$46,000)
Limit on elective deferral for TSA/TDA only	\$16,500 (up from \$15,500)
Over age-50 catch-up (TSA/TDA only)	\$5,500 (up from \$5,000)

457(b) Deferred Compensation plan limits changed, as noted below:

Limit on elective deferral for 457(b)	\$16,500 (up from \$15,500)
Over age-50 catch-up 457(b)	\$5,500 (up from \$5,000)
Special three-year before retirement catch-up for 457(b) (Note: This option cannot be used in conjunction with over age-50 catch-up for 457(b))	\$33,000 (up from \$31,000)

For more information on TDAs or IRS limits, contact HR Benefits Representatives Stella Fair, Victoria Zamora or Angelina Shelby at ext. 2690.

Etiquette for working with people with disabilities

The Health Science Center is committed to providing equal opportunities for diverse employees. By ensuring that we interact appropriately with different groups, including those of differing physical capabilities, we can ensure fair treatment for everyone.

Human Resource Services has developed "Etiquette for Working with Persons with Disabilities" and "Facts You Should Know About Service Animals" to help us understand and respect our co-workers. For more information on the Health Science Center's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), contact Cheryl Wells, director of EEO, at ext. 2218.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name: June Coleman

Title: PBX operator

Department: Telecommunications

How long have you worked here, and what did you do before joining UNTHSC?

In the summer of 1999, I was not working. My house was spotless. Even the outside of the house, windows and the yard were well groomed. My kids were grown and on their own, my husband was gainfully employed and the green backs were calling me. I had worked too many years not to continue.

I started in June of 1999 as a temp in facilities and watched the job postings to see what I might apply for full time. The PBX job was posted, so I applied and was hired full time in August 1999. I have done phone work at various places and was an actual operator for Southwestern Bell when the operator answered, "Number please." Oops, lid off the age thing.

Of the many jobs I have held, including various types of office jobs, the ONE that meant the most to me and gave me the most job and personal satisfaction was being an LVN. I went to school as a single mom, with five kids in school. If it had not been for my kids helping me, picking up the slack, I would never have made it. So when I went job hunting I searched out places that let me get as close to being in the medical profession as I could, seeing as how my nursing skills and knowledge were a little out of date. My Grandmother raised me and her motto was, "It is better to wear out from use, than to rust out from disuse." I have tried to always hold a job, carry my weight and instill that in my children.

What are your duties as PBX operator?

My job is to answer all incoming calls as promptly as I can, answer and field in-house calls and questions, give directions on how to find us, direct folks seeking various locations within the university, and keep the directory as current as I can. I try to be as helpful and patient as I can be. That could be me calling, and I know how I would hope to be answered. I do enjoy my job.

I would like for the university at large to know how many things the telecommunications department takes care of and how hard they work at keeping everyone's phone connected so everyone can stay 'connected'. When you reach for you phone, cell phone or pager, and it works as it should, you never give us a thought. But when it doesn't, you can rest assured we are there and will get the job done in a timely manner. Knowing that will help you and us to keep things running smoothly.

What's the best part about working at the Health Science Center?

The best part of working at UNTHSC is the feeling of being where things are going on. Being a little part of all those that come through here, knowing the students will leave here and go into small towns, cities and other places in the world to treat the sick, do research, and discover new theories and cures.

The physicians I personally see are the physicians here at the university. I mean, why not? We are teaching the doctors of tomorrow. My proudest moments at UNTHSC are not mine alone: they are the school's responses to 9/11, to the hurricane that devastated New Orleans, and the many things that are done by student groups that gather things needed by those in the community. And, I enjoy the cohesive feeling of the people who work here every day handling what needs to be done to make the University of North Texas Health Science Center a great place. My personal proudest achievements are my children and my grandchildren.

What do you like to do when you aren't at the Health Science Center?

I like to work in my yard, though it seems to conspire against me, and 'we' repeat the same work every year (dang black gumbo soil). I like to walk, try to work in some exercise, and I am presently looking for a bike. You know, just a simple bike that moves at my speed with the old coaster brakes. I keep in touch with my family, take care of my husband and, as everyone knows, I like to read.

SAVE THE DATE

Dec. 5

UNTHSC Annual Craft Show

10 am – 3 pm

Atrium

jbranden@hsc.unt.edu

Casino Night

7 – 11 pm

Fort Worth Zoo

Contact the [Office of Student Life](#) for tickets and information.

Dec. 17

Office of the President's Holiday Open House

2 – 4 pm

EAD 840

Dec. 22 – Jan. 2

UNT Health Science Center Winter Holidays

Watch the Daily News and Campus Connection for more information on these events and more.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Campus Connection is published the first and third Fridays of each month by the Office of Marketing and Communications for UNT Health Science Center employees, students and friends. Please feel free to forward this e-newsletter to others and print it for those who don't have access to a computer.

Our goals are to:

- Keep you informed about the Health Science Center's strategic plan, priorities and goals.
- Promote the UNTHSC values of compassion, integrity, teamwork, innovation, pride and excellence.
- Demonstrate how the people and programs of the Health Science Center really do make a difference.
- Enable you to be a well-informed UNTHSC ambassador.

You're invited to contribute to the continuous improvement of this e-newsletter and other UNTHSC Family communications by sending story ideas, news, suggestions and questions to news@hsc.unt.edu.

Carl Bluemel

Electronic Media Manager

cbluemel@hsc.unt.edu

817-735-2115

Matt Havlik

Communications Coordinator II

mhavlik@hsc.unt.edu

817-735-2554

Campus Connection

University of North Texas Health Science Center

817.735.2554

3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard | EAD 834 | Fort Worth TX | 76107-2699