

NORTH TEXAS HEALTH & SCIENCE

Summer 2009

The Quarterly Magazine of UNT Health Science Center



SCHOOL of
PUBLIC HEALTH

How healthy is our future? pg. 4

U.S. News & World
Report Rankings

8th consecutive year! pg. 15

A Full Ride:
The Gift of a Lifetime

Thank you, Dr. Hill! pg. 26

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



Recent headlines about the H1N1 “swine” flu outbreak remind us that in matters of public health, education is a far better defense than hearsay. Certainly, it pays to be vigilant: The devastating Spanish Flu of 1918-20 killed an estimated 20-50 million people worldwide. And in countries where malnutrition and overcrowding are rampant, this new flu strain could indeed take a terrifying toll.

In places like these, vigilance indeed can make a difference. Vigilance requires credible evidence from knowledgeable resources – in other words, education. Specifically, education about public health concerns to inform communities about proper precautionary measures against transmission and effective treatment. Thanks to advanced medical education in this country and most other developed nations, we’re far better prepared to inform and educate our society on important matters regarding public health.

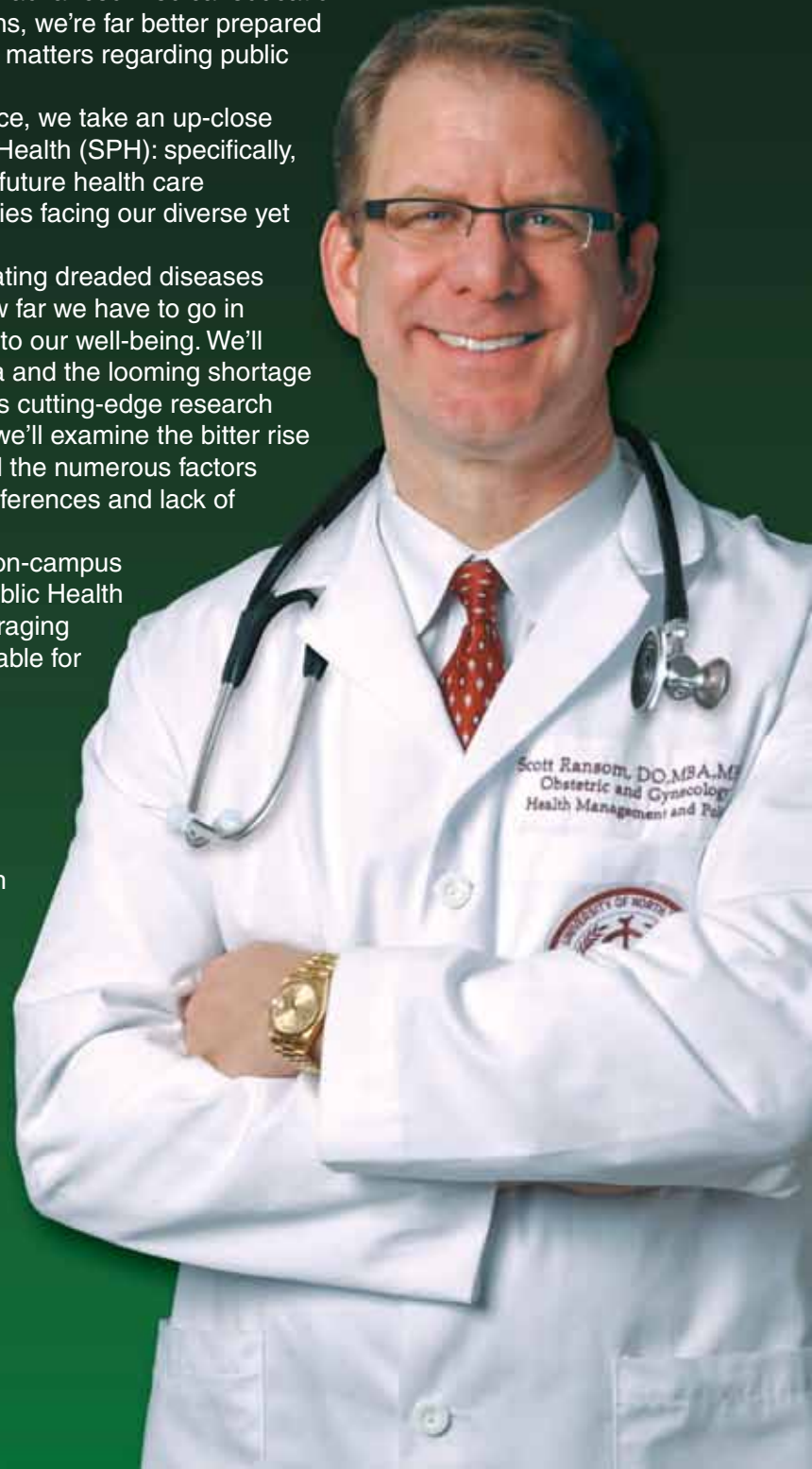
In this issue of North Texas Health & Science, we take an up-close and personal look at our own School of Public Health (SPH): specifically, the people and programs designed to educate future health care professionals on the challenges and opportunities facing our diverse yet interwoven world.

We’ll explore how far we’ve come in eliminating dreaded diseases like polio, typhoid fever and smallpox – and how far we have to go in stopping environmental and behavioral threats to our well-being. We’ll detail the growing problem of childhood asthma and the looming shortage of trained public health professionals, as well as cutting-edge research into the role of obesity, aging and cancer. And we’ll examine the bitter rise of health disparities in minority populations and the numerous factors involved: poverty, language barriers, cultural differences and lack of insurance, to name just a few.

We’ll also take a look at how an intensive, on-campus summer program called SPHERE (Summer Public Health Education and Research Experience) is encouraging students to consider the many disciplines available for those who choose public health as a career.

All this hard work and effort has one goal: to responsibly inform the public and educate tomorrow’s health care professionals about attaining and preserving good health for their patients. As Dr. A.T. Still, the founder of osteopathic medicine, once said: “To find health should be the object of the doctor. Anyone can find disease.” As students, faculty and researchers at this great institution, that’s our job: examine and address the larger picture of our community’s most vital needs, and responsibly point the way to better overall health for our citizens.

As always, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions at sransom@hsc.unt.edu.



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On the cover
Rick Hill, DO ('78), with some of his collection.

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SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

How Healthy is our Future?



Smallpox. Polio. Typhoid fever. Influenza. Even dental cavities. All represent monumental health issues that have been largely reduced – or even eliminated – thanks to an increasingly important discipline: public health.

With this spring's H1N1 "swine" flu outbreak and worldwide pandemic alert, the term "public health" has become a primary focus for communities today. While most of us think of our own health as a private matter, public health, on the other hand, involves the things that affect us all as a population, through the shared conditions, behaviors and environmental factors that impact us on a larger scale – the issues that create a safer world for all of us.

Public health success stories

For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), perhaps the greatest success story in public health is the reduction of infectious diseases through use of vaccines. Routine immunization has eradicated smallpox and led to the near elimination of polio. Vaccines have reduced some preventable infectious diseases to an all-time low, and now fewer people suffer from measles, pertussis and other illnesses. Experts now are rallying worldwide to develop an effective vaccine for "swine" flu.

Fluoridation of drinking water, another key public health achievement, began in 1945 and benefits both children and adults by preventing tooth decay, regardless of socioeconomic status or access to care. The CDC reports that fluoridation has played an important role in reducing tooth decay by 40 to 70 percent in children and lowering adult tooth loss by 40 to 60 percent.

The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) puts it this way: "Public health makes the world in which we all live safer and, as a result, protects the health of every person."

Indeed, public health affects just about everything in our world – the air we breathe, the water we drink, our surroundings, and the trends that impact our health and well-being.

Over the course of the 20th century, ASPH reports, public health has changed our world for the better in at least 10 significant ways, through:

- The control of infectious disease
- Advances contributing to the decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
- Better access to family planning information and resources
- The fluoridation of drinking water
- Factors impacting healthier mothers and babies
- Continued efforts toward a healthier, safer food supply
- The recognition and promotion of tobacco use as a health hazard
- Measures creating safer vehicles and highways
- Safer workplaces
- Vaccinations

Practitioners help make sure public health solutions truly benefit everyone. Unfortunately disparities still exist that impact the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease. These disparities include poverty, language barriers, cultural differences, lack of health insurance and access to health care, immigration status, education levels, inadequate access to

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Tom Vaughan, PhD, Texas A&M International, working on the Rio Grande River for the STEER collaborative environmental education research program in Laredo, with SPH students Benjamin Cruz, Inder Patel and Daniel Browne.

transportation and child/elder-care services, environmental risks, and differences in individual and community support. Many public health programs address these disparities.

What do public health practitioners do?

A discipline with such varied responsibilities requires an equally varied team to battle these important issues.

Public health professionals work in a variety of settings: health administration, government agencies, community-based organizations, non-profits, hospitals, clinics, university settings and public health departments. They work as health educators and nurses, in occupational health and in corporate wellness. They advocate laws and conduct research in the academic, medical, pharmaceutical, governmental or private foundation environments.

Smog, gang intervention, biomedical research, nutrition, mental health, the needs of an aging population and the escalating costs of health care – these issues and more are all public health concerns.

Uniquely qualified to train professionals

The Health Science Center's School of Public Health (SPH) graduates professionals with the skills to improve our collective health, and it is one of only 41 such schools accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Our SPH student body is one of the most diverse of any public health school in the nation. Diane Wynn, MEd, director of the SPH Office of Student and Academic Services, says students choose our program because of its many strengths.

"There is a strong emphasis on research in areas like epidemiology, the social and behavioral sciences, environmental health, and health management and policy," she said. "We bring to North Texas a fully accredited school of public health, with all departments housed on a single, main campus, and a large number of faculty and student activities to support the school's academic programs. Our student association is very active. The cost of living here is reasonable, the admissions staff is friendly, and we really go the extra mile to help new students acclimate to the

community. Our school is in a great location, being next-door to the Fort Worth Cultural District and in the heart of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex."

The SPH offers three primary degree programs – Master of Health Administration, Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health – and dual degrees.

A profession in demand

As public health issues grow, so does the need for public health professionals. According to a 2008 ASPH study, nearly 250,000 more public health workers will be needed in the United States by 2020 than will be available, due to the already documented and forecasted shortages of physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, health care educators and administrators. In addition, up to 23 percent of the current workforce is becoming eligible for retirement. Adding to this concern is the complexity of today's public health challenges and the growing need for U.S. preparedness and response to global health threats that may originate beyond our borders.

The ASPH report states: "Tackling the health implications of tobacco use, heart disease, obesity and physical inactivity, not to mention the threat of globally spreading infectious diseases, depends entirely on the availability of a well-trained public health workforce. These shortages have very real impacts – fewer public health nurses mean fewer cancer screenings and fewer immunizations. Not enough epidemiologists make it harder to respond to food-borne outbreaks or to track emerging infectious diseases. An appropriate number of well-trained public health professionals is critical to safeguard the health of our nation and our world."

Faculty add to the body of knowledge

In addition to helping train public health professionals, SPH faculty are involved in research collaborations of their own to help address the growing issues of our world. Their work explores such topics as aging, cancer, cardiovascular

disease, diabetes, dietary behaviors, economic issues and health, environmental exposure, mental health and psychiatric disorders, children's and women's health, and special issues affecting African-American and Hispanic populations.

Research projects range from work by Elena Bastida, PhD, on obesity, aging and Mexican Americans to studies on cancer by SPH faculty including Carlos Reyes-Ortiz, MD, PhD; Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD; Fang Fang Zhang, MD, PhD; Sue Lurie, PhD; and Jim Stimpson, PhD. Also, David Sterling, PhD, and Eric Johnson, MD, PhD, are exploring the effects of environmental exposure on public health.

Finding the best ways to meet needs

"Keeping up with the public health needs of our world is critical," said SPH Dean Richard S. Kurz, PhD, "which is why we are also looking to the future through new programs and new ways to meet the demands of the field, address workforce trends and prepare students at all ages and stages of their careers.

"For instance, programs like our Summer Institute offer concentrated, three-week courses for working professionals, students and lifelong learners interested in gaining additional experience in a compacted format," he said. "We are also developing new PhD programs in five concentration areas, as well as a new Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree in Public Health Practice to provide advanced leadership training for individuals who plan to serve in government, private or not-for-profit settings.

"Our goal at the Health Science Center is to help prepare future public health leaders, researchers and practitioners for their essential roles in the state of Texas, the nation and around the world."

– Richard Kurz, PhD



Students Celebrate Public Health with Community Partners

As part of Public Health Week 2009, School of Public Health students hosted a community health fair on campus, featuring healthy-cooking demonstrations, lipid screenings, body fat analysis, fire safety information and more. More than 200 "This is Public Health" T-shirts and souvenir water bottles were distributed within the first 15 minutes.

Community partners and vendors joining the event included Texas Health Resources Harris Methodist Fort Worth, Texas Alzheimer's Association, Cook Children's Medical Center, Chipotle Grill, Z's Café, The Body Firm, the Health Science Center Founders' Activity Center, City of Fort Worth Environmental and Police departments, UNTHSC Center for Community Health, and the Fort Worth and Hurst fire departments. Special promotions were provided by Country Legends 92.1 Radio.

The School of Public Health prepares people to become:

- Behavioral and social scientists
- Biostatisticians
- Community health educators
- Environmental health specialists
- Epidemiologists
- Health care administrators
- Industrial hygienists
- Laboratory professionals
- Maternal and child experts
- Occupational health specialists
- Policy analysts
- Professors
- Researchers
- Safety professionals

Other public health professionals include:

- Dentists
- Mental health specialists
- Nurses
- Nutritionists
- Physicians
- Psychologists



Joining Diane Wynn, SPH Office of Student and Academic Affairs (in red shirt), in distributing public health giveaways were Mayowa Ijagbemi, ('09), and Jennifer White, who is pursuing a master's degree in community health.

Public Health in Action

Addressing Flu Outbreaks

For a textbook example of public health in action, just consider this spring's H1N1 "swine" flu episode, which triggered an aggressive worldwide response among public health communities.

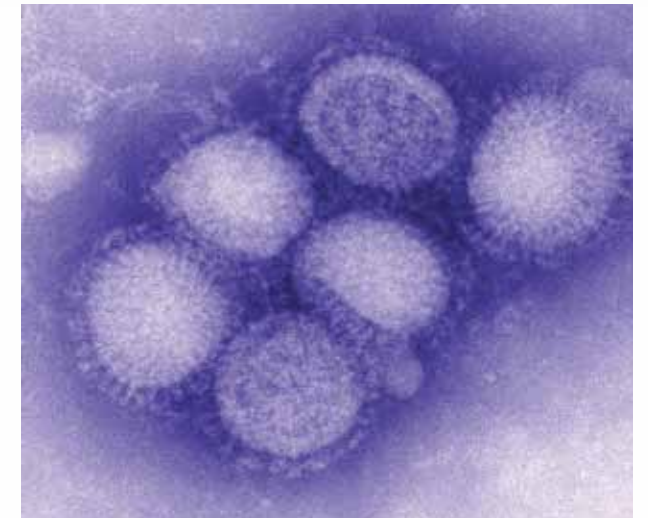
Organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the World Health Organization activated their information systems to provide immediate outreach, breaking updates and continuing advisories on this serious health threat. Local health departments also activated their response plans.

Web sites like www.PandemicFlu.gov, www.cdc.gov, www.hhs.gov and others became critical resources, providing press releases and briefings, data on confirmed cases, guidance on limiting the spread of germs and preventing infection, checklists for families and individuals in at least 10 languages, and information for specific groups like child care providers, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, travelers, the travel industry, clinicians, and laboratories.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security publicized its long-standing "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, Response and Recovery Guide," and agencies even engaged social media to help spread the word – blogs, e-mail subscriptions, online video and podcasts, Twitter, mobile updates and more – that helped keep individuals and communities as informed as possible.

So how does the system work when a potential pandemic like H1N1 "swine" flu strikes, and what happens during an alert situation?

- Federal, state and local officials begin activating their readiness plans.
- Public health departments and clinical laboratories begin surveillance for influenza-like illnesses and work with front-line clinicians and laboratory personnel for testing and reporting potential cases.
- Local, state and federal government, as well as public health and medical officials, begin addressing strategies for mitigation. They also start to monitor and work globally with other partners to prioritize checklists and communicate vital information and guidance to families and individuals, workplace/business officials, schools, community organizations, health care providers and others.
- The health care sector begins addressing patient care issues and capabilities, continuity of service for patients not affected by the flu, protection of the health care workforce, and medical supply contingency plans; hospitals activate their business continuity plans.
- Communities reinforce infection control and clinical guidelines.
- Officials address vaccine availability, distribution and use, as well as the travel-related risk of transmitting the disease.
- Public health professionals develop and distribute communications on regular, timely schedules.
- Organizations and employers assess state and local workforce readiness to prepare appropriate community responders for a potential public health emergency.
- Various agencies and organizations – law enforcement, businesses, long-term and other residential care facilities, health insurers, and the travel industry, for example – all activate their plans and begin taking emergency preparedness measures. ■



An image of the newly identified H1N1 influenza virus taken by the CDC Influenza Laboratory

Children's Asthma

School of Public Health Targets a Growing Local Problem

Lisa Wilson McIntyre knew there was something wrong with her son, Anetwaun McIntyre, when he was just six months old. But doctors had trouble pinpointing the problem. When she brought him to UNT Health's John Fling, MD, the physician immediately diagnosed the baby with asthma and began a partnership with McIntyres that continues today.

"Dr. Fling's care allowed Anetwaun to be a typical boy."

– Lisa Wilson McIntyre

"Dr. Fling taught Anetwaun how to use his inhaler and how to be responsible for his asthma so I wouldn't have to get up in the middle of the night," Lisa McIntyre said. "And he taught me to be a responsible parent. He made sure I picked up his medicine on time so Anetwaun wouldn't miss a day."

The result? McIntyre, now 17, lettered in football at Fort Worth's Arlington Heights High School, made the all-district team as a linebacker and no longer has asthma symptoms.

Today, McIntyre's experience is all too common.

According to Cook Children's Health Care System research, more than 110,800 children with asthma live in the local Tarrant, Johnson, Denton, Hood, Parker and Wise counties – a number that will rise by almost 14,000 during the next four years if conditions remain the same.

Slightly more than half of these asthma sufferers missed three or more days of school in 2008, costing local school districts more than \$12 million in public school funding.

Asthma affects one in every five children. Its victims typically have significantly more additional health issues than those who aren't affected, require more medical care and are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems.

That's why the Health Science Center's School of Public Health (SPH) selected the critical topic of children's asthma for this year's North Texas Health Forum, held this spring at Fort Worth's Colonial Country Club.

Fling, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics in the Texas College of Osteopathic



Anetwaun McIntyre, 17, all-district linebacker at Fort Worth's Arlington Heights High School, no longer has asthma symptoms.

Medicine, and director, Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Clinic for UNT Health, joined other experts in making presentations at the conference.

Keynote speaker Noreen M. Clark, PhD, stressed that children's asthma is an important national problem, and she recommended that communities organize health coalitions and partnerships to coordinate the services children need to manage their asthma. Clark is the Myron E. Wegman Distinguished University Professor of Public Health and directs the Center for Managing Chronic Disease at the University of Michigan.

Kicking off National Public Health Week 2009, the two-day conference attracted more than 150 attendees. Cook Children's Health Care System CEO and President Rick Merrill also spoke at the conference, which featured panel presentations on North Texas community issues and strategies for improving asthma outcomes locally.

The SPH will conduct the next North Texas Health Forum in April 2010. 📅

A World of Global Experience

SPH Students Volunteer from India to Africa to Saipan

Ask a School of Public Health student, "How did you spend your summer?" and you're likely to get a very interesting answer.

Twenty students spent last summer volunteering with community agencies around the globe to gain knowledge and hands-on experience addressing important public health issues.

They found unique, challenging and life-changing assignments with agencies as far away as France, Saipan, Ghana and Kenya, as well as right here in Texas and across the United States in such cities as Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; Milwaukee; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

For example, Alexandria Appah, MPH ('09) went to New Delhi, India, where she volunteered for Child Family Health International, a nongovernmental global health organization. There she saw children suffering from eye diseases caused by malnutrition, widespread tuberculosis, water sanitation issues contributing to the spread of hepatitis A and substance abuse problems that exacerbate a high incidence of HIV/AIDS.

At the Venu Eye Institute, she found the most common adult diseases treated are cataracts and glaucoma, while many children suffer from vision impairments and blindness due to improper nutrition. The

"Our world is global now, and public health is about everyone, everywhere. It's about making a difference."

– Efua Opoku

institute offers free eye exams and evaluations for surgery in remote outlying clinics. Appah recalled traveling for three hours one day with a health care team to reach a small clinic, where the group found a line of more than 40 patients already waiting, ranging in age from 2 to 90.

"Through this experience, I realized how far public health can span and how it can reach a large number of people when it is performed in an organized, thought-out manner," Appah said. "Venu was a great example of how a well-run program can reach even the most remote populations."

Appah's final three weeks were spent with SAHARA, a grassroots, nongovernmental agency



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focused on substance abuse and HIV/AIDS outreach. This, by far, was what Appah calls her most rewarding and most difficult experience – and where public health services can mean the difference between life and death for a vast majority of the population. She had an opportunity to see firsthand the impact of SAHARA's drug treatment center in Old Delhi, where intravenous substance abuse is widespread; to shadow outreach coordinators on their daily rounds through local neighborhoods; and to learn firsthand from the agency's staff, comprised 90 percent of former drug users who have been through the SAHARA treatment program themselves.

“This experience helped me realize that it is essential for me to be part of creating a strategy that addresses poverty, preventable diseases and access to health care for everyone. This experience has reinforced my passion for public health and changed my life forever.”

– Alexandria Appah

Bryan Shaw, ('08), found himself living with a rural Mannan tribe family in Kerala, a state in southwestern India. He learned the language, shared in the local agricultural and domestic work, participated in social/cultural and religious events, helped create a documentary on the Mannan tribe and even shared tea with the Mannan king.

He wanted to study the health problems of rural, indigenous populations, so he worked with Yearoutindia, a volunteer-based, nongovernmental agency responsible for social programs in community development and sustainability. Part of his effort included conducting an extensive community census through individual, focus groups and informal interviews. Shaw became recognized as more than an outside researcher or volunteer; he became a familiar community member contributing to better health.

The experience, he said, “proved that it doesn't matter where you were born in terms of what communities you can be included in – and whatever community that may be, you can contribute in many different ways to making it a better and healthier place to live.”

Jeanolivia Grant, MD, an OB/Gyn physician working on her MPH degree, was involved with an index for measuring the adequacy of prenatal care in Saipan. She worked at the Commonwealth Health Center, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, in the western Pacific Ocean on



Photos from students' scrapbooks.

the island of Saipan. Grant recently returned to Saipan to work full-time for Commonwealth Health Center's OB/Gyn department on a two-year contract.

Cory Timmons, MPH ('08), a former Peace Corps volunteer, evaluated the results of a pilot outreach program to train Kenyan girls and young women on reproductive health issues and in becoming peer educators. She volunteered for the Sisterhood for Change Project, administered by the Kisumu Medical and Educational Trust.

Efua Opoku, ('09), participated in a practicum that addressed maternal mortality, considered a national emergency in Ghana, West Africa. Her work with the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Policy Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Department allowed her to help develop a high-level, two-day conference on this topic, a milestone for the MOH.

It also allowed her to revisit the land where she was born and lived until age 14, and where her father and other relatives still live. Opoku, who graduated this spring with a master's degree in Health Management and Policy, said it was worthwhile to study the policy side of international public health, to see that “policy does have a great impact on how things are done and that it takes a lot of effort, from the highest officials down, to



Efua Opoku ('09) helped plan a two-day conference on maternal mortality while serving as a volunteer in Ghana, West Africa.

build awareness of important issues, influence populations and create change.

“I believe it is beneficial for students to step outside the United States or wherever they live to gain a broader perspective, given the opportunity, to see what works and what doesn't in other countries,” Opoku said, “and to learn how to be part of the solution. There are many needs and opportunities out there.”

Thanks to Grant, Scholars Sample Public Health as a Career

Five undergraduate students will end the summer with broader knowledge of the public health field because of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded “Pathways to Public Health” grant from the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) awarded to the Health Science Center.

The 10-week Summer Public Health Education and Research Experience (SPHERE) program is the first such program hosted by the School of Public Health (SPH) and represents a partnership between the Health Science Center's SPH Center for Public Health Practice and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) summer outreach programs.

The five SPHERE scholars will be on campus until July 31. The program is designed to increase students' knowledge of public health and the variety of careers available in order to increase understanding, training and recruitment of future diverse public health professionals.

Principal investigators on this grant are Claudia

Coggin, PhD, assistant professor, SPH Social and Behavioral Sciences Department; and Robert Kaman, JD, PhD, professor and associate dean, GSBS, and director of the Health Science Center Office of Outreach.



Undergraduates exploring public health careers through the SPHERE program are (first row) Katelyn Finch, Tiffany Khamnungthai and Kristen Carter; and (second row) Rene Tellez Jr. and Nicholas Bergren.

Conference Stresses Prevention to Reduce Health Disparities



Keynote speaker Lovell A. Jones, PhD, director of the Center for Research on Minority Health, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and attendee Gregory Buck, PhD, of Corpus Christi

About 350 health care and community health professionals joined UNT Health Science Center faculty and students exploring the striking differences in health status between racial and ethnic minorities and the general U.S. population at the fourth annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities on May 28-29. Nationally recognized speakers and panelists highlighted ongoing research programs – including community engagement programs – that aim at understanding the causes of such disparities and devising innovative strategies to prevent and eliminate them.

Thursday's keynote speaker, Fernando Torres-Gil, PhD, associate dean of Academic Affairs for the School of Public Affairs at UCLA, said that as the world experiences greater longevity and increased diversity (by the year 2030, 20 percent of the U.S. population will be 65 or older), we must invent new ways to expand health care coverage, improve long-term care, and maintain entitlement programs like Medicare and Medicaid so that today's students are not forced to care for their aging parents.

On Friday, Lovell A. Jones, PhD, director of the Center for Research on Minority Health at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, challenged the audience to recognize distinctions among various ethnic populations, pointing out that Africans are not the same as African-Americans, who are not the same as Caribbeans.

Also speaking was Robert Carter, PhD, MPH ('03), who discussed the importance of exercise as preventive medicine.

Panel discussions were conducted that targeted heart failure and hypertension rates in African-Americans, perceptions in the value of the HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccine based on ethnic differences and the growing prevalence of illicit drug use among Hispanics.

The conference provided an opportunity for participants to share their research with the health disparity community and the public during student poster presentations. Winners of the poster presentations were Zeida Kon, School of Public Health; Kirtigandha Salwe, School of Public Health; and Kim Aldy, Molecular Biology and Immunology.

New STAR Fellows Receive Health Disparities Research Training

STAR (Steps Toward Academic Research) Fellows are emerging junior faculty who receive a year of collaborative training and interaction with faculty from the UNT Health Science Center and other institutions on fostering health disparities research initiatives – culminating in a competition for two \$25,000 grants for health disparities research. The 2009 STAR Fellows winners are Richard Palmer, DrPH, Florida International University, and Grant Wangila, PhD, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff. The program is funded by the National Center of Minority Health and Health Disparities through the Texas Center for Health Disparities on our campus.

New 2010 STAR fellows are: Christine Barroso, DrPH, University of Texas School of Public Health in Brownsville; Charles Bland, PhD, Mississippi Valley State University; Rustin Crutcheley, PharmD, University of Houston; Debra Jackson, PhD, University of Louisiana at Monroe; Keith Jackson, PhD, University of Louisiana at Monroe; Yu-Shen Lin, ScD, School of Public Health; Angela Roberts, PhD, Texas Wesleyan University; Tasleyma Sattar, DO, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine; Sumihero Suzuki, PhD, School of Public Health; and Sushma Yadav, PhD, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

2010 U.S. News & World Report Rankings Jump

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) jumped to 29th in the nation for primary care medical schools this year, according to U.S. News & World Report's ranking for 2010.

This is the college's eighth consecutive appearance in the top 50. TCOM was also listed as third in percentage of graduates entering primary care residencies. The Physician Assistant Studies program ranked 34th, and the Department of Family Medicine ranked 17th.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of TCOM," said Alan Podawiltz, DO, interim vice president for Health Affairs. "Not only do our students continue to outscore all other osteopathic medical students nationally on the COMLEX board exam, our class size continues to grow. We are now educating more osteopathic physicians than ever before, and more of our graduates enter primary care than any other Texas medical school."

Each year, U.S. News & World Report ranks professional school programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine. The rankings are based on expert opinions about program performance and statistical indicators that measure the quality of the school's faculty, research and students.

To gather the opinion data, U.S. News & World Report surveys deans, program directors and senior faculty to judge the academic quality of programs in their field on a scale of 1, which is marginal, to 5, which is outstanding. Professionals who hire new graduates are also surveyed for the rankings.

Rankings are included on the magazine's Web site – www.usnews.com – and in the May 2009 issue of the magazine's printed version.



TCOM Class of 2012 Honors Those Who Willed Their Bodies to Science

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) Class of 2012 planted a tree on campus dedicated to the people who donated or willed their bodies for science. Called the Legacy Project, the class hopes each new class of TCOM students will continue the tradition.

Family members of Willed Body Program donors gathered for the planting on April 24 to remember their loved ones. Presentations were made by Diah Osman, TCOM Class of 2012; Harold Sheedlo, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy; Roy Martin, DMIN, assistant professor of clinical ethics; and family members. They planted a magnolia tree between the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library and the Patient Care Center.

Anyone may participate in the Health Science Center's Living Legacy program by donating a planting. Through this program, participants may donate a tree or other plants to recognize a new baby or anniversary – or to remember a lost loved one. Information is available on the UNTHSC Web site at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni/advancement/LivingLegacy.cfm>, by calling 817-735-2181 or by e-mailing livinglegacy@hsc.unt.edu.

Information about the Willed Body Program is available at http://www.hsc.unt.edu/departments/pathology_anatomy/willedbody/ or by calling 817-735-2047.



Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2012 Legacy Project committee members Danish Ali, Miriam Garcia, Oluwaseun Olaiya, Sheila Mendez and Ghazaleh Moayedhi help plant a magnolia tree to honor those who donated their bodies to the school.

CAMPUS FACILITY UPDATE

Beam by Beam, New Building Emerges



The Medical Education and Training Building is taking shape on the Health Science Center campus at the corner of Camp Bowie Boulevard and Montgomery Street. The structural steel is almost completely erected, and crews are working on the concrete floor placement in the upper floors and the chiller HVAC equipment.

A live Web cam feed of the site is linked to the Campus Facility Update site at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/campusfacilityUpdate/>.

The new building is part of the first phase of the Campus Master Plan developed by the Health Science Center after purchase of the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas. It will feature two 250-seat auditorium-style classrooms that can be joined into one 500-seat space; size-flexible conference and meeting facilities; a small café-style eating area; a large osteopathic manipulative medicine training room; and a new, state-of-the-art patient simulator training facility. 🏗️



IN *the* COMMUNITY



Elementary school students learn about the brain from Robert Routh, PhD, assistant professor, cell biology and anatomy.

'Cool' Mini Med School Teaches Anatomy and Osteopathy

Although shorter in stature than our typical medical student, 54 fifth-graders stood tall in their interest this spring while identifying a heart, brain, kidney and other organs as part of Mini Medical School, a celebration of national Osteopathic Medicine Week. The Pediatric Students Association sponsored the event, hosting students from one of our Fort Worth Independent School District Adopt-a-Schools: Maude I. Logan Elementary School.

Most said the overall experience was "cool" – although a few pronounced the anatomy study "gross." The gross factor notwithstanding, all were enthusiastic participants throughout the day as they examined X-rays, practiced using a stethoscope, bandaged Marks-a-Lot "wounds," and learned about hygiene, exercise and nutrition.

Caregiver honored by UNTHSC- sponsored award

Doris McDaniel takes care of those for whom hers may be the only face they still recognize. They suffer from dementia, and they live in a world that grows increasingly unfamiliar. They are often bewildered, confused, frightened and sometimes just a bit headstrong.

McDaniel, a caregiver for Home Instead Senior Care in Dallas, delivers comfort, safety and a familiar, sunny face that brings order to their world and peace to their families.

The Health Science Center, recognizing the tremendous challenge posed by caring for those with dementia, is proud to sponsor an honor given each year by the Greater Dallas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, the University of North Texas Health Science Center R.J. Roper Caregiver Award.

McDaniel earned this year's award for her care of a woman with dementia. The woman's daughter

wrote that McDaniel took her mother "from a place in her life where she was very unhappy, threatened by her aging and loss of her fierce independence, to one of contentment and peace, feeling the love with which Doris surrounded her. And now that Mother requires more care than Doris can provide, Doris goes almost daily to see her [in her nursing home], and still gives her loving care and a watchful eye to make sure she is getting what she needs."

Our sponsorship of the award also allows the Alzheimer's Association to provide respite care for one year to four families in need – allowing full-time caregivers time to take care of themselves. 🏡



Award winner Doris McDaniel and Randy McGuffee, director, Community Relations, UNT Health Science Center


NEWS

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Artful Gathering – More than 90 schools in 10 counties were invited to participate in the 24th annual Health Science Center High School Art Show this spring. Approximately 200 entries were accepted into the juried exhibition. Art supplies and ribbons were awarded to winners in all eight categories, and the works were displayed in the Education and Administration building's Atrium Gallery.

Budowle joins DNA lab team

 Bruce Budowle, PhD, was named executive director of the UNT Center for Human Identification. He brings renowned expertise in the areas of counterterrorism — primarily in identification of victims of mass disasters—and microbial forensics. Prior to joining the Health Science Center, he was senior scientist for the FBI in Washington, D.C. Budowle was a principal advisor in efforts to identify the victims of the World Trade Center attack in 2001 and helped establish a mitochondrial DNA sequencing program to enable high-throughput sequencing of remains.

(National Public Radio) posit of whether or not marijuana should be legalized and the potential ripple effect of legalization. The “All Things Considered” piece aired April 20 on KERA 90.1 in the Dallas-Fort Worth market. In the scenario, marijuana has been legalized, and Nejteck commented on the physical and psychological effects.

DNA lab makes headlines nationwide

The UNT Center for Human Identification's efforts to identify missing persons continued to deliver national media attention. An Associated Press story named the DNA lab as the identifying agency in the case of a body found in a shallow grave in Arkansas. The man was identified as Jon Fincher, who was a suspect in his mother's murder.

Jennifer Ozan named UNT System Student Regent

Gov. Rick Perry appointed Jennifer Ozan, TCOM ('10), to serve as the student regent for the University of North Texas System. Ozan, of Fort Worth, is president of the TCOM Class of 2010 and a member of the American College of Family Physicians, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and American Association of Osteopathic Women Physicians. She is also a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and Bowl for Kids' Sake. Her term expires May 31, 2010.

Quoted ...

Harvey Brenner, PhD, professor of social and behavioral sciences, on the relationship between government expenditures on health care and mortality rates, on CNN.com ... **John Podgore, DO**, professor of pediatrics, on the possible link between autism and childhood vaccines in the Fort Worth Business Press ... **Bruce Budowle, PhD**, executive director of the UNT Center for Human Identification, on how important forensic science is to a strong biodefense program, in the Khaleej Times, published in Dubai, UAE ... **Richard Kurz, PhD**, dean of the School of Public Health, on the difficult decisions that undocumented patients must make to receive health care, in the Fort Worth Business Press ... **Jim Sims, PhD**, safety officer, on why local school districts and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reacted as they did after initial reports of the H1N1 “swine” flu outbreak, in the Star-Telegram ... **Eric Johnson, MD, PhD**, chairman and professor of epidemiology, on the seriousness of the H1N1 flu in the Star-Telegram.

Are you a fan of the UNT Health Science Center?

The UNT Health Science Center now has a page on the popular social networking site Facebook. The page is updated regularly with Health Science Center news, photos and events. To join us on Facebook, start a free account at www.facebook.com, search “University of North Texas Health Science Center,” and click on “Become a fan.”

Pot or not?

Vicki Nejteck, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry, played devil's advocate to the NPR



Texas House Speaker Tours Campus – President Scott B. Ransom, DO, MBA, MPH, joins Texas House Speaker Joe Straus and UNT Chancellor Lee Jackson as they review construction on the new Medical Education and Training building on March 27. Straus and State Rep. Charlie Geren met with the chancellor and Health Science Center leaders for a tour that included the Center for Human Identification and a visit with Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students about the ROME (Rural Osteopathic Medical Education) program.

Applause!

33 UNT Health physicians are 'Top Docs'

Thirty-three UNT Health physicians were named Top Docs by Fort Worth, Texas magazine in its April 2009 edition. To create the list, the magazine asked nearly 3,000 area members of the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and the Tarrant County Medical Society to name the best doctors in Fort Worth.

Our Top Docs:

Cardio/Thoracic Surgery and Vascular Surgery

Albert Yurvati, DO, ('86)

Cardiology

Jennifer Naiser, DO, ('00)

Martin Weiss, DO

Gastroenterology

Monte Troutman, DO

Geriatrics

Janice Knebl, DO

Amy Moss, DO, ('95)

Gynecological Oncology

Ralph Anderson, MD

Gynecology/Obstetrics

Khoi Chu, MD

Lynn Speaks, DO, ('98)

Hematology

Kathleen Crowley, MD

H. Lance Mandell, MD *

Infectious Diseases

Barbara Atkinson, DO

Internal Medicine

Giti Azmabalani, DO, ('03)

Neurology

William McIntosh, DO

Oncology

William Jordan, DO *

Shadan Mansoor, MD *

Ray Page, DO, PhD *, ('91)

Vinaya Potluri, MD *

Michael Ross, MD *

Henry Xiong, MD, PhD *

Robyn Young, MD *

Orthopedic Surgery

Russ Wagner, MD

Palliative Care

Alvin Mathe, DO, ('89)

Podiatry

Brian Carpenter, DPM

Alan Garrett, DPM

Travis Motley, DPM

Psychiatry

Marija Djokovic, MD

Elma Granado, MD

Prema Manjunath, MD

Carol Nati, MD

Alan Podawiltz, DO

Scott Winter, MD

Rheumatology

Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH ('01)

*Affiliated with the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

For the second consecutive year, the **Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's Texas Medical Association - Medical Students Section** was named TMA's Chapter of the Year. TCOM's chapter was selected by the TMA Student Executive Council for its involvement in the community and efforts to inform its student body about current legislative and political happenings. The award was presented at TMA's annual TexMed conference this May in Austin.

Sue Lurie, PhD, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, was awarded a Fulbright grant that begins in September to teach at Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary. Lurie will also pursue research opportunities while in the country. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program.

Thomas Yorio, PhD, provost and executive vice president, recently chaired the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation site visits to the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, Wash., and the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York.

He also was the keynote speaker at the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Nevada's Research Day where he spoke on "Ocular Therapeutics: More than Meets the Eye," and he helped the West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine's administration and faculty in developing graduate programs for their institution and advancing their research efforts.

In addition, he was selected to be a part of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation's Lasker/IRRF Initiative for Innovation in Vision Science Workshop to be conducted at Woods Hole, Mass. As part of the workshop, a small interdisciplinary group of scientists establishes core questions and identifies areas of investigation into neuro-degenerative diseases that affect the eye.

Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, MPH ('99), assistant professor of epidemiology, and Brent Sorrells, MBA, associate director of entrepreneurship for TECH Fort Worth, were named to Fort Worth Business Press' 2009 40 Under 40 list, featuring 40 Tarrant County business and community leaders under the age of 40. The list was included in the May 25 issue of the Business Press.

Sejong Bae, PhD, School of Public Health associate professor of biostatistics, has been elected to membership in the International Statistical Institute (ISI) for leadership excellence in the development of statistical methods and their application. Established in 1885, the ISI is one of the oldest scientific associations operating today; it is composed of more than 2,000 individual elected members who are internationally recognized as leaders in the field of statistics.

Elisa Priest, doctoral student in epidemiology focusing on chronic diseases and clinical trial design and processes, was honored at the recent SAS Global Forum in Washington, D.C., as one of nine 2009 SAS Student Ambassadors and as winner of "Best Contributed Paper," Statistics Section, by the organization. SAS provides business analytics software used in statistical analysis and data manipulations.

Albert Yurvati, DO ('86), chair and professor of surgery, was re-elected chairman of the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery (AOBS) at its mid-year meeting last month. The AOBS oversees the examination, board certification and Osteopathic Continuous Certification of all AOA-trained surgeons. The Board is composed of 15 members representing osteopathic surgeons in all surgical specialties.



Commencement 2009

A total of 285 students from all four of the Health Science Center's schools were awarded degrees on May 16. Devin Flaherty, DO, PhD, received the Chancellor's Award, and Lori Gonzales, PhD, received the President's Award. (upper left) UNT Chancellor Lee Jackson, MPA, presents U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess, MD, with a hood for an honorary Doctorate of Public Service. Burgess was keynote speaker at the ceremonies. (upper right) Thomas Moorman, EdD, vice president of student affairs, hugs Betty Belton, registrar and long-time commencement organizer, after a presentation in honor of Belton's upcoming retirement. (right) TCOM graduate Kelly Sprawls; Kim Fulda, DrPH ('06), interim vice chair of research and assistant professor of family medicine; and TCOM graduate Billy Effinger pose before the ceremonies begin.



Alumni *update*

Students Explore Specialties with Those who Practice Them



Gregory Friess, DO ('79), connects with future TCOM student Beenish Bhaidani (GSBS '09) and other students.

In order to help medical students decide in which specialty they want to practice, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) Alumni Association and the Health Science Center's Alumni Office sponsored a Specialty Round Table on campus this spring.

Among the TCOM alumni who joined faculty members and friends for the event were DOs **Sharon Clark** ('82), **Scott Ewing** ('01), **Jenica Rose-Stine** ('05), **Boris Loffe** ('04), **Betsy Schenck** ('78), **Jon Sivoravong** ('93), **Jeff Steiner** ('04) and **Alan Stockard** ('76). They shared information about their specialties with the first-, second- and third-year students attending.

Specialties represented were family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, infectious disease, occupational medicine, pathology, pulmonology and critical care, cardiology, internal medicine, dermatology, radiology and nuclear medicine, emergency medicine, psychiatry, anesthesiology, and sports medicine.

TCOM graduates enter residency programs

Our 128 graduating TCOM physicians were accepted into primary care or specialty residencies at 76 locations throughout the country. Six chose military residencies, 20 selected osteopathic residencies and 103 entered allopathic residencies.

Slightly more than half, 53 percent, are in Texas-based residencies. The remaining are working in one of 25 states, the District of Columbia or at one of five military bases.

The Texas-based facilities are: Austin Medical Programs; University of Texas Medical Branches in Austin, Galveston and Houston; San Jacinto Methodist in Baytown; Family Practice Brazos Valley in Bryan; Conroe Regional Medical Center; Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital in Corpus Christi; Methodist Charlton Hospital in Dallas; Methodist Dallas Hospital; University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Texas Tech University Affiliates in El Paso and Lubbock; and

John Peter Smith Hospital and Plaza Medical Center in Fort Worth.

Also Baylor Medical Center in Garland; Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor Medical Center, Hillcrest Medical Center and Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston; University of Texas Health Science Center and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio; Scott & White Hospital in Temple; and McClennan County Family Medicine in Waco.

Among the locations outside Texas are: Cook County-Stroger Hospital in Chicago; Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Case Western/Metro Health Center in Cleveland; Detroit Osteopathic Hospital; West Virginia University Hospitals in Morgantown; the LSU and Tulane Schools of Medicine in New Orleans; Einstein/Jacobi Medical Center in New York; George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; and Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.

Physician Assistants Celebrate 10th Anniversary with Gala

The Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) Program celebrated the 10th anniversary of the graduation of its charter class by inviting all PAS alumni to a celebration at the Fort Worth Club this spring. The event was planned and sponsored by the Physician Assistant Alumni Society, the PA Studies Program and the Alumni Office – and it drew rave reviews from attendees. Themed “A Night in Mumbai,” the event included dancing, karaoke and a silent auction that generated close to \$1,000, which will be used for PA scholarships.



PA Chris Cooper, UNTHSC faculty; Jana Peretti, PA (01); Gena Luke, PA (01); and President Scott Ransom



Diane Chew, program staff; alumni president Heidi Medcalf, PA (04); and Karen Kindler, PA (99)



Joshua Williford, PA (99); PA Hank Lemke, PAS chair; and Justin Capers, PA (05)



Aggie Watson, PA (08); Sam Watson; Russell Smith, PA (08); and David Gonzales, PA (00)


Alumni Provide Life Science Career Counseling

Several alumni shared their insights during the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Life Science Center Career Panel in April. The event provided an opportunity for graduate students, post-docs and alumni to explore life science careers.

Alumni participating in the panel were **Julie Crider, PhD**, ('94), manager of scientific publications, Alcon; **Leslie Napier, PhD**, ('97), director of consumer products clinical, Alcon; and **Maurice Williams, PhD**, ('03), medical science liaison, Healthpoint Ltd.

Also participating were **Rance Berg, PhD**, assistant professor and graduate advisor for the Health Science Center's Department of Molecular

Biology and Immunology; **Tom Capetan**, vice president, licensing and business development, Alcon; and **Amy Ulfers**, patent agent, Jackson Walker LLP law firm.

The Health Science Center's Graduate School Alumni Association, Office of Technology Transfer & Commercialization and Office for Postdoctoral Education sponsored the event. 

Keep in touch
alumni@hsc.unt.edu
 817-735-2278 or 800-687-7580
www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni

ADVANCEMENT *update*

First Doctor of Philanthropy Awards Given



It's said that Prometheus, the wily Greek mythological character, is the first recorded philanthropist. He stole fire from the mighty Zeus and gave it to humankind. Why?

The reason forms the very definition of the word "philanthropy" – love of mankind through giving.

Osteopathic physicians Carl E. Everett and Clay W. Gilbert are indeed lovers of mankind. Because of their generous gifts to the Health Science Center, they were inducted in March as "Doctors of Philanthropy," the institution's highest level of philanthropic support.

Everett, co-founder of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM), and Gilbert, anesthesiologist and family practitioner, did not make these gifts to gain public acknowledgement.

"They are not individuals who crave recognition," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, provost and executive vice president for the Health Science Center. "In fact, both of these distinguished osteopathic physicians were a little hesitant initially to accept public recognition of their generosity.

"However, they ultimately agreed that in order for us to achieve our goal of becoming a top-10 medical school and health science center, we have to celebrate all our successes, including outstanding ones such as this in the area of philanthropy. Their gifts raise a new bar on our institution's journey toward history making progress."

During a ceremony in the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library, Yorio noted that the men's gifts further the Health Science Center's mission of improving the health and quality of life for the people of Texas and beyond.

"Philanthropists give to organizations that they believe exhibit excellence, success and trustworthiness," Yorio said. "We commit ourselves again today to the highest level of excellence and thank Drs. Everett and Gilbert for their trust."

Carl E. Everett, DO

Everett, originally from Arkansas, joined the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas in 1949, serving as chief of staff for a year and as a member of the board of directors for one term. When the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association decided in 1961 to establish an osteopathic medical school in Texas, Everett became secretary-treasurer and one of the co-founders, along with the late George J.

Luibel, DO, chairman; and D.D. Beyer, DO, vice chairman.

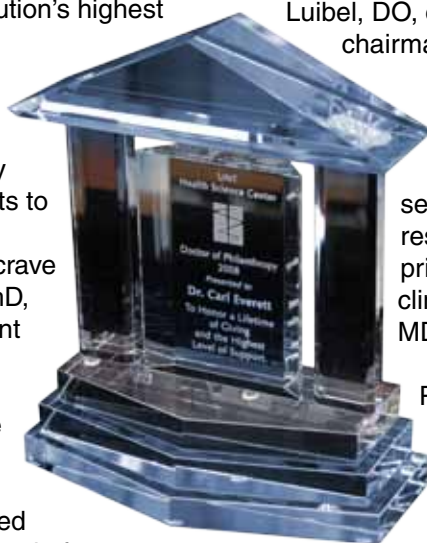
He also created an innovative nursing home clinical model during his 30 years as co-founder, co-owner and partner in several local nursing homes, where residents had daily on-site access to primary care and benefitted from a clinical partnership between DOs and MDs.

In 1973, Everett was named Practitioner of the Year by the Texas General Practitioner Society, and he was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree by the University of North Texas.

Clay W. Gilbert, DO

Gilbert graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1954 with a bachelor of science degree in biology and minors in chemistry, psychiatry and religion. After graduating from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mo., he practiced general medicine in Athens, Texas, until 1967. He then practiced as an anesthesiologist until he retired from the specialty in 1986, and he returned to family medicine until 1989.

As a result of Gilbert's gift, TCOM will create the Clay W. Gilbert Chair in Family Medicine, furthering the college's strong commitment to primary and family care.



Alan Podawiltz, DO, TCOM interim vice president for health affairs; Carl E. Everett, DO; Clay W. Gilbert, DO; and Thomas Yorio, PhD; celebrate the awarding of our first "Doctor of Philanthropy" honors to Everett and Gilbert.



**To Your Health:
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UNT Health Science Center invites you to attend its annual gala, celebrating 10 years of the School of Public Health

Saturday, October 10, 2009
6:30 pm
Renaissance Worthington Hotel


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Texas College of
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Save
the
Date

September 11-12, 2009



A Full Ride

Dr. Rick Hill and his wife, Cindy Hill

Rick Hill, DO ('78), will be sending future generations of Texas family physicians to medical school. And he's getting them there with some really fast cars.

The cars are part of a \$2.1 million estate gift to the Health Science Center, its largest individual philanthropic gift to date. But the vehicles represent more than pistons and gasoline – they include a bit of Hill himself.

Calling him a “car guy” is an understatement. Hill is a race car driver, a mechanic, a collector and a lifelong appreciator of the automobile. He likes cars with “soul” — the kind that he couldn't afford when he was younger. His garage holds more than a dozen unique cars – from a 1931 Ford Model A to a 2005 Ford GT, also known as the GT40 – and just as many motorcycles.

But he didn't always have that many keys on his ring. He set aside his passion for cars and motorcycle racing when he was accepted to the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) in 1974 – back when the old bowling alley on Camp Bowie Boulevard served as a classroom and a mobile home served as the student center. For Hill,

going to TCOM was the opportunity of a lifetime, but it was also a huge financial challenge. He put his heart and soul into medical school, and he got some help along the way.

“During my second year, the school became state supported and the costs came way down so a guy like me could afford to go, and that was huge,” Hill said. “And if it hadn't been for the student loan program, I wouldn't be here doing this now.”

Since his graduation in 1978, he's made a habit of giving back. For the past 30 years he has served the community of Humble, Texas, as a family physician. He's treated generations of families – sometimes even if they couldn't pay for his services – and they have repaid him with their loyalty.

“We went through the early '80s when oil busted in Houston,” Hill said. “People lost their insurance and didn't have anything. But, we made it work. All those people kept coming even when times improved, and now I've got more work than I can do.”

Through the decades he has learned first-hand what a family doctor means to a community. Now he wants to help supply communities across Texas

Hill bought this 1978 Corvette pace car to commemorate his graduation from TCOM. His commencement was May 20, 1978, just eight days before the original pace car circled the track at the Indianapolis 500.

with good family doctors, so he's giving the ultimate gift to make that happen: he's donating assets including his beloved car collection.

Hill and his wife, Cindy, are giving this largest-ever single gift to provide scholarships for TCOM students studying to be primary care physicians in Texas. When the donation is fully endowed, it will support TCOM students for years to come, but the Hills aren't waiting — they've also made a donation to award the first scholarship this year. With this and other annual gifts, Hill will honor those who helped him along the way. The first scholarship will honor TCOM's first dean, the late Henry Hardt, who was instrumental in Hill's acceptance to medical school.

It's the gift of a lifetime, but Hill said the decision was easy.

“If we fund education for family doctors, they will be able to serve a community in Texas,” he said. “There will be a benefit to a great number of people.”

“I want to give something back to the people of Texas. I want to give them family doctors.”

And besides, he said, “What else would I spend my money on? If I buy more cars, I'll have to fix more cars.”



Meadows Foundation Grant May Lead to Safer Texas

The Health Science Center received a \$105,400 Meadows Foundation grant to develop a program expected to help prevent those on probation from committing another crime and returning to jail.

Offender populations have an increased risk for having untreated mental illnesses – it has been estimated that up to 25 percent of adult offenders have a serious mental illness (including major depression, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder) and that 75 percent of offenders who have a severe mental illness also have a substance abuse problem.

These probationers have high rates of suicide, medical problems, homelessness and unemployment, and they are more likely to violate their probation and to be repeat offenders. They need access to mental health services.

But how to determine which need treatment and the type of treatment needed?

Researchers from the Health Science Center's Primary Care Research Institute may have the answer.

Thanks to the Meadows Foundation, they are collaborating with partners at Texas Wesleyan University and the Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department to develop computer-based mental health screenings that can be administered by non-psychiatrists to recognize problems early, determine treatment needed and triage the probationers based on the severity of their problems. Those who need additional services will be referred to medical professionals.

Investigators will convert a 72-question mental health screening test into a bilingual audio-visual computer-assisted system. Five touch-screen computer kiosks will be provided to the Tarrant County CSCD for placement in the Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program Unit so chemical dependency counselors can easily administer the screening to 2,000 probationers.

Findings will be broadly published so other probation departments can adopt the program if they wish.

The Meadows Foundation is one of the top private philanthropic institutions in the nation and has a 61-year history of providing more than \$550 million in grants and direct charitable expenditures to more than 2,000 Texas organizations.

In addition to the Meadows Foundation grant, the Byrne Foundation of Fort Worth provided significant additional private funding for the program.



President Scott B. Ransom thanks Michele Reynolds, tournament co-chair, for her participation contributing to a successful event.



Al Cross and Dr. Stan Weiss at the hole-in-one contest on 13, sponsored by Jerry's GM Ltd.



Representing Austin Commercial, Craig Alford, Brad Brown, Joey Berry and Mike Scott accept the first-place award from Ransom.

18 holes put education on the leader board

This spring's President's Invitational Tournament at Ridglea Country Club scored an eagle for education: \$70,000 that will be used to support the Health Science Center's students and scientists. Community leaders Fred and Michele Reynolds chaired the committee leading the successful event. Our thanks go to the presenting sponsors: Garvey Texas Foundation and Quest Diagnostics.

UNTHSC Foundation Introduces New Board Members

Community and business leaders, alumni, and distinguished medical and scientific professionals serve, without compensation, on the UNT Health Science Center's Foundation as advocates, advisors and strategists. As board members, they partner with the UNTHSC president, his leadership team and the Office of Institutional Advancement to help make friends, raise community awareness and conduct fundraising campaigns to benefit the Health Science Center.

Although the Health Science Center is state-assisted, less than half of its annual operating budget is provided by the state. The rest must come from tuition, fees, clinic revenues, gifts, grants and contracts. The board is dedicated to maximizing private resources for all the educational, research, patient care and service activities of the Health Science Center.

We welcome the newest members of the UNT Health Science Center Foundation Board of Directors:

John Avila Jr., president and chief executive officer for Thos. S. Byrne Ltd. He is president of the Byrne Foundation, chair of the development advisory board for the Mental Health Association of Tarrant County and has served on the United Way Board of Directors.

Travis E. Baugh, president and chief operating officer for Healthpoint Ltd., a Fort Worth-based specialty pharmaceutical company. He serves

on the board of DFB Pharmaceuticals and the advisory board of BioHouston, a group dedicated to promoting the life science industry in south Texas.

Adelaide E. Bratten, executive director of Streams and Valleys Inc., formed to plan and coordinate the recreational development of the Trinity River in Tarrant County. She serves on the Alumni Foundation for R.L. Paschal High School and on the Mayfest Inc. board of directors.

Brian E. Happel, Fort Worth market president for BBVA Compass. He is active in the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, and a board member for Downtown Fort Worth Inc. and the Fort Worth Executive Roundtable. He is also the 2009 vice-chair of the Mayor's International Dinner as part of Fort Worth Sister Cities.

James R. (Jack) Jackson, brewery vice president, MillerCoors - Fort Worth Brewery, represents the company on community outreach and local business relations and partnerships. He has been a member of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Jubilee Theatre Board of Directors and is a member of the Great Commission Baptist Church and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Timothy A. Sullivan, FACHCA, president of T.A.S. Health Care Consulting, a partner and director of regulatory compliance for LGD Management, and partner and director of real estate and property development for Legend Healthcare L.L.P. He is active in numerous charitable and civic organizations and an ordained deacon at Birchman Baptist Church. 🇺🇸



Research Appreciation Day (RAD) – In 17 years, RAD has grown from a small poster session conducted for biomedical sciences graduate students to a showcase of the wide spectrum of research conducted in all four schools on campus. Students submitted 181 posters this spring for judging. A representative from the office of U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess, MD, presented awards of up to \$700 to the winners. Josephine P. Briggs, MD, director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, focused on translational research and the study of complementary and alternative medicine during her keynote address.

HPV Vaccine Draws Distrust From Some



Female caregivers of African-American girls may agree that most vaccines are important to protect from disease, but many are afraid to have their children vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV), according to a new study by the Center for Community Health (CCH) at the Health Science Center.

HPV is a common cause of sexually transmitted disease. Some types of HPV can cause genital infections and gynecological cancers.

Despite having high education levels and regular access to a primary care physician, the HPV Vaccine Acceptability Study found that most participants were not adequately informed about the virus or the vaccine; more than half answered false when asked if HPV is a sexually transmitted disease.

Participants also were fearful of having their children vaccinated for HPV due to negative perceptions arising from distrust of the medical community and frustration at the Texas governor's mandate that all girls entering sixth grade receive the vaccine, consistent with a government advisory panel's recommendation.

While they said they distrust the medical community, "they did say that they would likely listen to a celebrity," said Rachael Jackson, MPH, associate director of the CCH. "One said, 'Get [popular singer] Beyoncé to tell us to get it, and we'll listen.'"

Many of the caregivers also were concerned about the vaccine's long-term health impact.

Forty-three mothers or primary female caregivers of African-American girls between 7 and 18 years old participated in the study. They had to be 24 years old or older, reside in Tarrant County and speak English. When asked about their education levels, 32.6 percent had graduated high school or received their GED, 39.5 percent had one to three years of college and 23.3 percent were college graduates.

Only 21 percent of participants indicated that they did not have a personal doctor or health-care provider, and 84 percent reported they had visited their doctor in the previous year for a routine checkup.

The study was conducted by Jackson and Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, director of the CCH. More information about this and other CCH projects can be found at www.centerforcommunityhealth.org.

Kidney cancer work announced

The team of Sharad Singhal, PhD, associate professor; Jyotsana Singhal, senior research assistant; Sushma Yadav, PhD, assistant professor; Mukesh Sahu, GSBS student; Yogesh Awasthi, PhD, professor; and Sanjay Awasthi, MD, professor, all of the Department of Molecular Biology and Immunology, published findings in *Cancer Research*, a publication of the American Association of Cancer Research, about the use of RLIP76 repression in kidney cancer therapy. Repression of the protein has already been shown to be effective in treatments of leukemia, melanoma, colon, lung, prostate and ovarian cancer.



Work showcased in Research Texas

Three Health Science Center researchers' work was featured in the spring edition of *Research Texas*, a special publication of the Fort Worth Business Press. Elena Bastida, PhD, associate dean for research in the School of Public Health; Michael Forster, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience; and Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, chief of geriatrics, were all included in the publication.

Vaccinations Offer Best Prevention Against Certain Deadly Diseases



Marianne R. Levine, DO

Just a generation ago, polio, Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) and diphtheria were concerns for any parent with children. Tens of thousands of children caught diseases that deformed, disabled and killed. Now these diseases either have been eradicated or have incidence rates close to

zero, thanks to public health vaccination programs.

For the nation – and the world – the public health impact has been significant, although some parents choose not to vaccinate, or under-vaccinate, their children.

"I do have some parents who don't vaccinate their kids," said UNT Health pediatrician Marianne R. Levine, DO, assistant pediatrics professor at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The facts in this country easily support the effectiveness of childhood vaccinations.

- Incidence of Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) has dropped more than 99 percent.
- In the 1964 -1965 epidemic, 12.5 million cases of rubella (German measles) were recorded. Only 9 cases were reported in 2004.
- Before 1963, more than 3 million cases of measles were reported each year. In 2002, there were 44 cases.
- In 1952, polio paralyzed more than 21,000 people. In 2002, there were no cases.
- In the early 1940s, there was an average of 175,000 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) per year. In 2002, 9,771 cases were reported.
- Diphtheria dropped from 100,000 cases each year to only one in 2002.

Many of the parents' concerns centered on unfounded scientific data published in a British medical journal. The hypothesis that the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine was associated with autism was originally proposed in highly publicized case reports printed in *The Lancet* in 1998. The authors suggested that autism

symptoms were temporally associated with the MMR vaccine, said Joyce Mauk, MD, president, CEO and chief medical officer of the Child Study Center in Fort Worth.

Researchers were suspicious of a vaccine component: thimerosal. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine proved there was no correlation between thimerosal and autism. In short, the report said, "the body of epidemiological evidence favors rejection of a causal relationship between the MMR vaccine and autism" and "between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism."

"There's just no scientific reason to believe that vaccinations cause autism," Mauk said.

Indeed, in 2004, 10 of the 13 authors of the British study retracted their claims. Some of the controversy may merely be a result of timing.

"The first signs of autism may present about the same time children are beginning to receive their vaccinations," Mauk said.

There has also been concern by some that a baby's immune system cannot tolerate more than one vaccine at a time. "Children will have some 25 different shots by the time they are 4 years old," Levine said, noting that years of scientific studies have shown the scheduling and tolerance of the immunizations are well-suited for children at the appropriate age.

"Families should get their information from their pediatrician or family doctor," Mauk advised, "and be cautious about getting information from the Internet or a talk show."

Certainly, as with any vaccination, there are small chances for side effects and some complications, such as mild fever, irritation of the injection site and even seizures.

But Levine said the best she can do for her patients is give them unbiased, scientifically-based information regarding each vaccine and the proper schedule. She recommends the Web sites of the CDC (www.cdc.gov) and AAP (www.aap.org), which have specific "Immunization" sections.

"I try to emphasize that it's better to prevent a disease than to try and cope with it," Levine said.

And Levine should know. She had an uncle who died of polio when he was just 24.

"Once you have one of these preventable diseases, there's no real cure," she said. ■

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Renaissance Worthington Hotel

*Celebrating 10 Years of the
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