

NORTH TEXAS HEALTH & SCIENCE

Fall 2009

The Quarterly Magazine of UNT Health Science Center



Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

*Graduating highly qualified
osteopathic physicians*

pg. 4

Serving Our Country

*Keeping a rich tradition of military
service and support*

pg. 10

Improving the Quality of Life Everywhere

*Forming partnerships throughout
the world*

pg. 15

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

In times like these, with the health care reform debate at fevered pitch, it might be worthwhile to reflect on what it means to be a medical professional in today's world. And while it's no secret that our health care system is in trouble, there's also much to be proud of and thankful for.

In particular, we can look right here at home to the dedication and commitment of our Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty and students, who devote time and resources to our community. In this issue, you'll read about a labor-intensive, student-led effort to provide free health screenings to many of Fort Worth's homeless population. You'll see how the UNTHSC Warrior Care Program is arming primary care physicians with the tools needed to help returning soldiers with the physical and mental wounds of combat, and how Physician Assistant Studies students are bringing compassionate care to the Fort Worth Homeless Veterans Program.

You'll also learn about our faculty's commitment to graduating top-notch physicians as embodied in the No Medical Student Left Behind program, a technology-driven effort that provides up-to-the-minute grade reporting so faculty have an immediate snapshot of each student's progress. It's truly a value-added element of a TCOM education.

We don't keep our efforts just local, or even national. Our Center for Human Identification is launching an international humanitarian effort called DNA-PROKIDS aimed to help reunite trafficked children worldwide with their families. And you'll meet John Podgore, DO, MPH ('01), whose passion for global medicine inspired him to launch an international clinical rotation program for TCOM students that will take them to Malawi, Africa.

So while the national debate on health care continues, there's no debate that the sense of community reflected in this issue is a hallmark of our institution. That's something to take justifiable pride in, and proof-positive that – even if the system around them needs work – health care professionals at the Health Science Center are dedicated, caring and committed.

And finally, we want to make sure this magazine meets your needs. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed readership survey so future issues of this magazine feature news of interest.

As always, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions at sransom@hsc.unt.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!




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TCOM

Graduating the country's pre-eminent osteopathic physicians for almost 40 years

Founded in 1970, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine represents the cornerstone of the UNT Health Science Center. For almost 40 years it has maintained its osteopathic heritage of focusing on the whole patient – not just symptoms.

More than half, 55 percent, of TCOM graduates currently enter primary care residencies, among the highest in the nation. And our unique Rural Osteopathic Medical Education of Texas program trains doctors to practice in rural and underserved areas. Of all TCOM graduates, 29 percent practice in small Texas towns.

TCOM students consistently lead the nation on results for the osteopathic medicine licensing examination. This year, U.S. News & World Report magazine ranked TCOM 29th among all U.S. medical schools for primary care and 17th for the family medicine specialty. The magazine has ranked TCOM among the top 50 for primary care for eight consecutive years. At the same time, TCOM's tuition is the lowest of all Texas medical schools.

Passionate, caring students who give back to the community are becoming a TCOM trademark. In the following pages are stories about students spearheading an effort to provide free health screenings for Fort Worth's homeless population and faculty who are passionate about graduating top-notch physicians, creating the No Medical Student Left Behind program, featured in this section.



Christian Dean, (TCOM '12), launched a program to provide free health screenings to homeless individuals in Fort Worth and is seeking grants to expand the program.

Fort Worth's homeless experience caring hands of TCOM students

Students create program to provide free health screenings

Let's call her Mary. She's a member of one of Fort Worth's most vulnerable populations. You see, Mary doesn't have a home. And she thinks she might be pregnant.

Now meet Christian Dean. He's in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's Class of 2012 and first vice president of the Medical Student Government Association. He's met hundreds of Marys. From the time he entered high school, he's spent hours in homeless shelters, often serving meals. Other times he played an even more important role as a dominoes partner or someone to talk to, providing the men and women a momentary distraction from their circumstances.

And now Dean, who holds a master's of science degree from the Health Science Center's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, is making sure Fort Worth's homeless people have one less thing to worry about – their health care needs. He's arranged for TCOM students to provide monthly health screenings for them.

During each session, Dean and his classmates see dozens of patients in three hours, providing free screenings and referring patients to a physician if indicated. It's a student-led effort supervised by faculty volunteers. Dean, along with Amir Barzin, president of TCOM's class of 2012, and Ghazaleh Moayedi, Class of 2012 vice president, brought the idea to Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, TCOM vice dean and a board member for Fort Worth's Day Resource Center, where homeless individuals may stay when shelters are closed.

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Fifteen student volunteers participate in each screening session. The location alternates between the Day Resource Center and the nearby Presbyterian Night Shelter. Students make arrangements with shelter staff, recruit volunteers, gather supplies donated by UNT Health and load and transport tables for osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), a technique to correct musculoskeletal issues with manual contact. They set up and tear down. It's a labor-intensive operation. But Dean says it's worth it.

"This is why I went into medicine," Dean said. "I'm seeing patients who have real emerging medical issues. This is very fulfilling."

The patients love it, and Dean is even acquiring fans.

"There are clients who specifically ask for Christian," said Barzin. "They'll wait until he's available."

The homeless shelters love it. Case managers say they are relieved that the TCOM group is one that is truly committed – one that doesn't just show up once and never again.

Dean and his classmates, supervised by a physician faculty member, have arranged treatment for at least two people suspected of having tuberculosis. They sent one gentleman directly to the hospital after a physician confirmed he had a serious heart problem, potentially saving his life. They've counseled patients on pre-natal care and on controlling hypertension and diabetes. They talk about health promotion. And they've performed osteopathic manipulative treatment.



Ghazaleh Moayedi, (TCOM '12), helps coordinate free health screenings that homeless shelter officials say "underscore our clients' intrinsic value as human beings."

"My hip hasn't felt this good in a long time," one client said after an OMM treatment. "I love young doctors – they are so full of enthusiasm."

But it's not enough.

"We need to make sure this program continues, that it is sustained," Dean said. "I'd love to see us have a student-run clinic of our own to serve those who are indigent, a place where third- and fourth-year students and physicians could sign up to volunteer on a regular basis."

The students are writing grants, seeking funding to expand the program, or, at the very least, maintain the monthly screenings. Dean thinks a physician-staffed mobile clinic might be another approach to help those who have no transportation.

There's no doubt that homeless individuals have unique problems that make them challenging to treat. Moayedi has first-hand experience with that.

"It's hard for the homeless population to trust the public; they are often taken advantage of," she said. "You have to actively listen to them in order to build a trusting relationship."



Amber Lehmann, teaching fellow, discusses symptoms with a patient at the Fort Worth Day Resource Center.

"It's easy to make assumptions about homeless people and their situations; the real challenge is empathy and compassion," Moayedi said. "When you serve the homeless through medicine and talk with them one-on-one, you realize that it really doesn't matter whose fault it is that they are poor or homeless. This is a person who needs help. No one deserves to live in this condition."

She and Barzin both agree with Dean. The monthly medical screenings help fill a health care gap, but the patients could benefit from more.

"These patients feel abandoned by the medical system," Barzin said. "My personal goal is to make sure this program continues and grows so we can include as many people as possible."

But back to Mary.

It turns out she's not pregnant. Had she been, the students would have made sure she received pre-natal care. In some ways she's relieved, but her face also reveals a trace of disappointment.

Mary is one of the more than 2,000 homeless men, women and children in Tarrant County.

Some are chronically homeless, and others found themselves homeless after losing their jobs. In the crowded room, they line up, awaiting their turn with a student doctor. The students saw more than 70 patients between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. that Friday.

"It would be hard for a practicing physician to go to a shelter at 1 p.m. on a Friday and see 70 homeless patients,"

Barzin said.

So it's a win-win situation. Students have the opportunity to enhance their skills while caring for people who need help. And they say it is immensely satisfying.

"Sometimes, as we're wrapping up, we'll look at each other and just shake our heads," Barzin said. "It's like we're asking each other 'can you believe we're really doing this?' It doesn't matter that you have an exam next week or that you're missing a couple of hours studying."

Dean agrees.

"I thought I wanted to go into something like 'Doctors Without Borders' when I graduate," he said. "But there are so many people in the U.S. who need care. There's no reason to leave."

Homeless shelters praise TCOM students

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students have been providing free health screenings at two Fort Worth homeless facilities, the Day Resource Center and the Presbyterian Night Shelter, since last fall – to glowing reviews from the facilities' staffs.

"The entire team, from the executive director to the case aides, thinks the screenings are a great benefit," said Nichole Henry, program manager for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. "The clients enjoy it, also."

Jessica Grace, lead case manager for the Day Resource Center, agrees.

"We are very grateful that the medical students take the time to come out. They detect conditions that may have gone undetected otherwise."

– Jessica Grace

Many of the clients don't have transportation, and the students can assist with minor issues and answer questions – preventing the need for bus rides to and from John Peter Smith Hospital and a possible long wait, carrying all their possessions with them.

"And if the student suggests they need to visit JPS, our clients are more likely to follow up and go," Henry said.

Grace said the students are easy to work with.

"TCOM provides everything for the screenings," she said. "We just follow up and provide bus passes if the client needs to see a primary care physician."

The biggest benefit, though, she said is intangible.

"The clients see that the medical community cares about them. Medical services can be hard for them to access. At these screenings, the students are people who clearly choose to be here and who want to listen. There are no barriers to obtaining a screening.

"This underscores our clients' intrinsic value as human beings."

Physicians volunteering to aid homeless

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students offer their thanks to these physicians who volunteer to assist with health screenings at Fort Worth's Day Resource Center and Presbyterian Night Shelter:

- John Bowling, DO
- Sam Buchanan, DO ('75)
- Bruce Dubin, DO, JD
- Damon Schranz, DO ('98)
- Robert Sloane, MD

No Medical Student Left Behind

A technological approach is only part of TCOM's commitment to students

UNT Health Science Center faculty members are monitoring Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) students with up-to-the-minute reporting of classroom exam grades, allowing professors an at-a-glance picture of each student's grades, progress and any academic pitfalls encountered.

This system, called "No Medical Student Left Behind," gives TCOM faculty a chance to proactively reach out and help students who are faltering before they slip too far academically. It is truly a value-added element of a TCOM education.

Developed by Jerry Alexander, PhD, director of Academic Information Services, the No Medical Student Left Behind software provides an instant snapshot of an entire class's progress, allowing for early intervention with students who may need help.

"You can look up a roster of 150 students and within one minute, you can tell who is in trouble, who needs academic assistance," Alexander said. "When a student is helped proactively and is able to graduate, the student's investment, as well as that of the state of Texas, is protected."

Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, vice dean of TCOM, has used the program since its inception, and he has noted the ease with which he is able to reach out to students.

"It gives me rapid access to information that might have required me to go to several resources in the past," Dubin said. "I'm constantly trying to spot students who are at risk to get them tutors, or to evaluate them for learning differences, or whatever the case may be, early."

An unanticipated result of the initiative, in use for three years, has been the enthusiastic effect it has had on students.

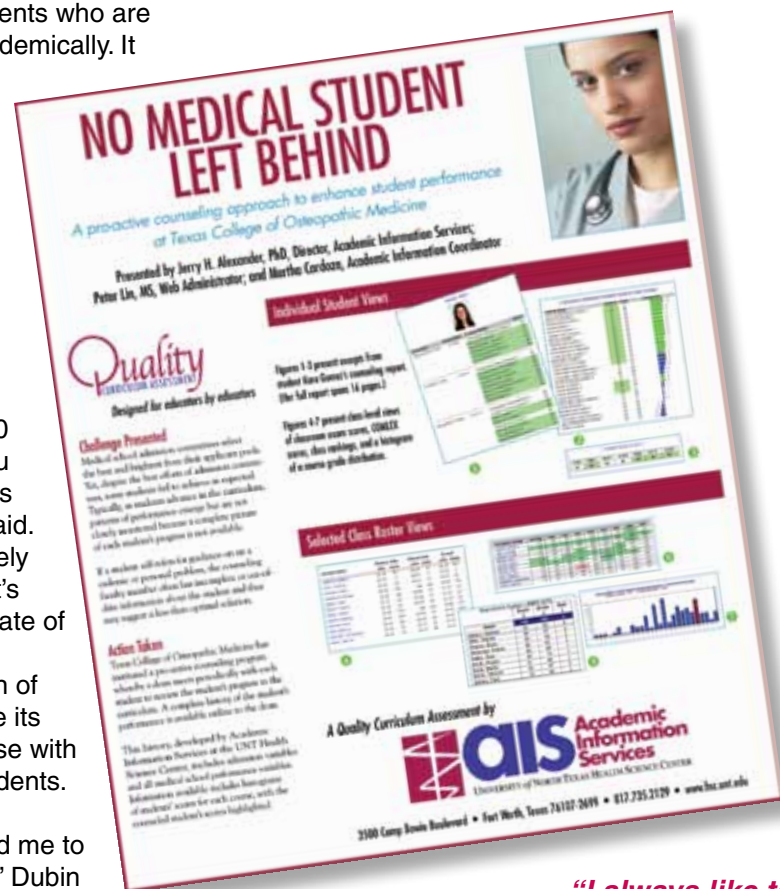
"We were surprised at the level of support and enthusiasm for the project among students," Alexander said. "As administrators began using the reports for advising and counseling, news of the project spread among students, and they began to

come in and request counseling sessions."

Students also may leave anonymous feedback about and for their professors, allowing them a real-time opportunity to improve the quality of their own teaching.

"The comment section proves very valuable because the students trust us and they feel very confident that they can provide feedback in a safe environment," Dubin said.

Alexander said that technology is definitely not the only contributing factor to TCOM students' success.



"I always like to say, it's not about the technology, it's about a climate that's created in a whole sense. Students know, 'I belong here and somebody is listening to me.'"

— Jerry Alexander

Physicians throughout Texas help prepare TCOM students for practice in underserved areas

Small rural towns have a reputation for offering a slower pace of life. But nothing could be further from the truth for a small-town doctor.

Often the only health care provider for the entire population, they may find themselves setting a broken bone, delivering a baby, performing a colonoscopy or doing rounds at the local nursing home – all on the same day.

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's ROME (Rural Osteopathic Medical Education) program, prepares students for practice in small towns and underserved areas. They spend as much as a year in hospitals and clinics that serve rural communities throughout the state, learning from local doctors, many of them TCOM graduates.

"Positive medical school experiences influence specialty and practice location choices," said John Bowling, DO, director, Division of Rural Medicine. "Our ROME adjunct faculty across the state provide this positive experience for our students. It is because of them that our students will choose rural practice locations. I am indebted to them for their role in making ROME a success." ❏

ROME adjunct faculty members and the cities they practice in (all in Texas) are listed below.

Family Medicine

Alan Barker, DO ('02) – Bay City
Joseph Berger, DO ('94) – Fairfield
Ramon Cantu, DO – Eagle Lake
Denise Casper, DO ('00) – Bridgeport
Kevin Cunningham, DO ('04) – Eastland
Rebecca Daley, DO ('97) – Liberty
Robert DeLuca, DO ('84) – Eastland
Howard Dickey, DO – Comanche
Steven Ellerbe, DO ('90) – Liberty
Richard Erickson, DO ('93) – Sweeny
John Galewaler, DO – Whitesboro
Tony Hedges, DO ('91) – Littlefield
Gene Herzog, DO ('91) – Gainesville
David Hill, DO ('93) – Cuero
Jeffrey Hutchins, DO ('96) – Dublin
Teresa Kinsfather, DO ('88) – Giddings
Todd Kisingbury, DO ('86) – Whitesboro
Mary Kretzer, DO – Goldthwaite
R. Paul Livingston, DO ('74) – DeLeon
Bruce Maniet, DO – Bells
Luther Martin, DO – Sweetwater
Mark McClanahan, DO ('87) – Brownfield
Jeffrey Rettig, DO – Groesbeck
Mario Sanchez, DO ('88) – La Feria
Rick A. Siewert, DO – Perryton
Russell Thomas, DO ('80) – Eagle Lake
Craig Whiting, DO ('79) – San Saba
David Wright, DO ('80) – Plainview
Steven Yount, DO ('83) – Bastrop
Claire Zengerle, DO ('92) – Goliad

Internal Medicine

Larry Cunningham, DO – Jacksonville

OB/GYN

Michael Glover, DO ('83) – Sweetwater
Amy Klein, DO ('98) – Gainesville
Charles Thompson, MD – Nacogdoches

Pediatrics

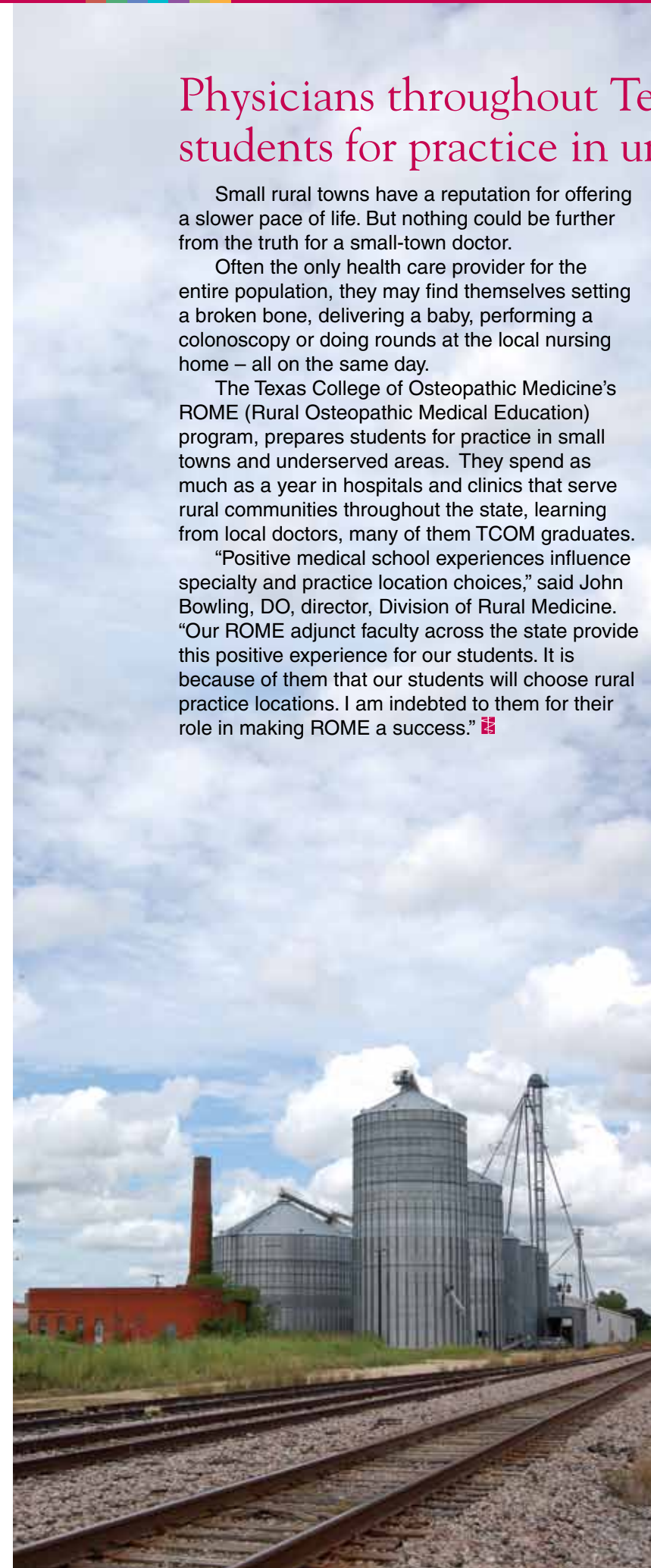
Kae McCrory, DO ('95) – Longview
Ruth Rector-Wright, DO ('82) – Plainview

Surgery

Ray Morrison, DO – Crockett ('86)

Cardiology

Kevin Gallagher, DO ('00) – Fredericksburg





Serving our country

Health Science Center students, graduates and leaders have a rich tradition of military service and support

Rick Gray, DO ('09), is commissioned into the U.S. Army following this spring's commencement.

Doctors of osteopathic medicine have a strong history of military service, and this is true here at the Health Science Center. The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's first employee served in the Marines during World War II.

Countless other veterans, active duty servicemen and future officers have also served the Health Science Center, either as faculty, staff or as a student. The first osteopath to be surgeon general of the U.S. Army, Ronald R. Blanck, DO, also was president of the Health Science Center from 2001 to 2006.

That respect for military service is receiving outside attention. In 2009, the Health Science Center was designated a "military friendly" school by G.I. Jobs magazine, which ranks the center among the top 15 percent of colleges,

universities and trade schools nationwide for recruiting military students.

Some employees leave the Health Science Center to serve in active duty and then return to their positions here, and several students each year enter the military as officers upon graduation. The Health Science Center hires veterans at every level, and educators are seeking ways to give the health care providers of today and tomorrow the tools necessary to treat the physical and mental wounds of combat.

Commissioning ceremony ushers graduates into an officer's life

In keeping with the tradition of doctors of osteopathic medicine serving in the military, several Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students opt to enter the military each year upon graduating. These students sign a contract with the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program, committing to five years of military service following medical school. In return, the student receives paid tuition, fees, a monthly stipend for room and board and a longevity base



of four years of service toward military retirement.

"We have about 35 of these students right now," said Col. (Ret.) Dennis Shingleton, TCOM's assistant dean of Finance and Administration.

Shingleton tries to give them a sense of what military service will be like – without interfering with their medical studies. And because they will be health care providers, he brings these students together with faculty physicians who have served in the past.

"I ask the faculty to relate to the students what military life was like for them," he said. "I can tell them what my experiences were, but I wasn't a physician. The faculty can describe what they will face and are likely to experience."

At the commencement ceremony, these students are commissioned at an O3 level into their branch of the military – a captain if it's the Army or Air Force, or a lieutenant if the Navy.

"I insist that they wear their uniform," Shingleton said. "They take the oath to duty, honor, country – and usually their family will be there and will pin the insignia on their collar."

Upon commissioning, these newly graduated physicians and officers begin their service to the military.

Warrior Care Program seeks to treat mental, emotional wounds

Army strong. Not self but country. Peace through strength.

Members of America's military are seen as strong, solitary figures expected to defend their country without showing cracks in their emotional armor. Even their military mottos reflect that. But one of wartime's realities is death. Soldiers may have to do what to many is unthinkable – take another human life.

Headlines in the Psychiatric Times journal state that soldiers who kill often need psychological support. Those who make it home are often haunted by memories of seeing others killed or of their own actions required in combat – things they

could not comprehend before their military combat service that are now a permanent part of their life stories.

The Warrior Care Program at the UNT Health Science Center was designed with these men and women in mind. Its mission is simple: to provide primary care physicians with specialized training to recognize symptoms of combat-related stress, and to provide support for those in need of psychological support for themselves or their families.

"The program addresses the gap between military and civilian life, and it's those who continuously cross between those lines who we want to find and help," said des Anges Cruser, PhD, executive director of the Mental Sciences Institute. "It's that hidden community that we do not always easily see in our everyday experience."

She said physical symptoms can be signs that combat veterans, or members of their families, are suffering from the stresses of re-entering civilian life abruptly after long separations.

Unexplained anxiety, recurring illnesses that don't respond to traditional treatment and behavioral changes can all indicate that the individual and his or her family may need support.

"It's less the illness and more the pattern," Dr. Cruser said. "We want to raise the awareness of primary care providers and future health care practitioners to effectively recognize the effects of exposure to combat and deployment on those who serve and their families."

A survey to determine who in North Texas is dealing with the effects of military deployment, combat and separation has been available through the Mental Sciences Institute Web site for several months. Preliminary results were anticipated in late October. The Mental Sciences Institute works with the local mental health association in Tarrant County to build relationships with military organizations and advocates to help those in need to access appropriate resources.

The goal is to ensure the sacrifices made while serving our country don't endure after soldiers return to their families.



1st Medical Brigade Patch

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Terry Hashey, DO ('03), examines an Afghan patient

TCOM graduate saves lives in Afghanistan

Immediately after graduating, Terry Hashey, DO ('03), completed a family medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., then jumped onto an airplane for Afghanistan.

He had served in the Texas Army National Guard while attending TCOM, and he volunteered for deployment as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves after his residency, as a flight surgeon.

He cared for 700 aviators as their family physician, and he also flew on combat missions and medical evacuations. And, not surprisingly, he learned to expect the unexpected. Like the time he received a radio call to pick up a soldier with a chest wound.

"I grabbed someone else's aid bag and left," he said. "When I showed up, there was not one soldier, but two civilians with serious chest wounds."

He didn't have all the equipment he needed, so he worked intently with what he had to try to save their lives.

"I put a needle in one man's chest to decompress his pneumothorax (air in the chest cavity caused by a damaged lung)," Hashey said. "And then I held his hand, because I didn't have any medicines for pain."

Both survived. And, yes, some Afghans shot at him. "Fortunately, they didn't have very good aim," he said.

Hashey brought that same passion to the practice he established in Jacksonville upon

returning home. He'd been told it was impossible to succeed with a solo practice there, but, he says, "I've been doing it for two years. And I'm so busy, I'm adding another physician."

He said TCOM faculty supported his military obligations, working with his drill schedule and endorsing the opportunity he had as a third-year medical student to do a six-week pediatric rotation at Fort Hood's Darnall Army Medical Center, as well as complete the U.S. Army Flight Surgeon Course at Ft. Rucker Ala.

"TCOM was very pro-military and very pro-American," he said. And TCOM's preparation led him to what he said was the "best job in the world."

"I was taking care of soldiers and making sure they came home to their loved ones."

Future doctor knows firsthand power of medical military service

Student David Padro (TCOM '12) entered the Army in 1999 and joined the 1st Ranger Battalion, where he served as a paramedic until he left the military in 2004.

"I wanted to have an adventure, which I certainly did," Padro said of joining. He graduated from the Ranger and Airborne schools and the Special Operations Medical Course. He said his deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan were the highlights of his career.

"I was able to use all the skills the military taught me to save soldiers," he said, which led him to pursue medicine as a career. The highlight of his time so far at the Health Science Center, he said, was "the moment when



David Padro, (TCOM '12), served as a paramedic in Iraq and Afghanistan before enrolling in medical school.

I received my letter of acceptance to TCOM, and I realized that I was going to accomplish my dream of being a doctor.

"I have had the privilege to see the Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio; it's a rehabilitation center for members of the military who have suffered amputations and severe burns," Padro said. "I have seen firsthand how instrumental doctors are in the military and how they often represent the difference between life or death.

"There is no greater joy than being a physician for the brave men and women who swear to protect this nation and values I hold dear."

Helping soldiers cope with extreme environments

U.S. Army Maj. Robert Carter III, PhD (GSBS '01), MPH ('03), is using his Health Science Center education to study physiology relative to extreme environments such as heat, cold and high altitude – all conditions which today's soldier may encounter.

He says his degrees in biomedical sciences with a concentration in cardiovascular physiology and in epidemiology prepared him for a leadership role in the military and qualified him to supervise a widely quoted analysis on environmental illness.

"Because of my MPH in epidemiology, I was able to take the lead on that project," Carter said. "We gained a better understanding of the genetics, treatment and mitigation of heatstroke."

And now he's involved in writing return-to-duty guidelines for soldiers who experience heatstroke.

"We're changing Army policy," he said. "We're determining how to provide the best care without inhibiting the soldier's duty performance and career progression."

Carter is a member of the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps and is assistant director for research and technology and Department of the Army Systems Coordinator, Medical Systems, within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, and he also serves as a White House social aide.

He says the highlight of his scientific career came in 2006, when he was the first U.S. Army medical scientist assigned in France as part of a Department of Defense effort to promote international cooperation in military research. He was assigned to a premier military medical research laboratory in Europe, the Centre de



U.S. Army Maj. Robert Carter III, PhD, GSBS ('01), MPH ('03), with Robert Kaman, PhD, JD, associate dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Recherces du Service de Santé des Armées at La Tronche, France, for two years.

"I was working on a project with foreign scientists that integrated my personal interest in heat shock proteins with their interest in muscle injury. We developed a better understanding of how heatstroke and muscle injuries evolve and related that to getting individuals back to duty."

Carter believed his work as a military scientist would be enhanced by non-medical training, so he took what some might consider an extreme measure: He completed paratrooper training in Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga.

"This gave me a real live opportunity to experience what combat soldiers endure, and it gave me credibility with war fighters."

What's next? Carter said next year he will spend time in a combat zone gaining input from operational commanders on how technology can be deployed more quickly to save lives on the battlefield.

He remembers his time at the Health Science Center fondly, saying the highlight was serving as the class of 2001 commencement speaker.

"That was my opportunity to represent all students during my time at the Health Science Center," Carter said. "That was an honor." ■



Veterans inspire compassion in Physician Assistant Studies students

The veterans arrive as most patients do, with a physical symptom that needs to be addressed. However, these patients also arrive with a bag that contains literally all of their belongings and a world of problems.

They are homeless, and they provide a unique challenge to students in the Health Science Center's Physician Assistant Studies' program, who learn shades of compassion in ways many never imagined through a clinical rotation at the Fort Worth Homeless Veterans Program.

In addition to their medical concerns, many of these patients also have psychiatric and substance abuse issues – some of which are made worse by post-traumatic stress syndrome. They may have frighteningly high blood pressure readings. They may not smell particularly good.

Tanya Smith, (PAS '10), remembers her first day in the clinical rotation.

"It was shocking," she said. And, she admits, frustrating at first. Smith met patients who were addicted to cocaine, had suffered a stroke caused by uncontrolled hypertension and were homeless, "and they weren't doing anything to change their behavior," she said.

"The most important thing I learned is to meet people where they are in life," she said. "I shouldn't try to judge. Just because they are abusing drugs doesn't mean they are a bad person. And often they are homeless because they lost their job. I can just try to help them become healthier. You have to have so much compassion and patience."

Dave Mackie, RNP for the Fort Worth Homeless Veterans Program, knows this rotation can be difficult at first.

"This is a challenging rotation, but after the second week, the students start shaping up very nicely," he said. "We emphasize the wholeness of the individual. We recognize the humanity in everyone. The students respond really well."

And the patients also respond well, said Linda Saucedo, program manager.

"The patients enjoy the students," Saucedo said. "The students come across to them as being



Tanya Smith, (PAS '10), and Dave Mackie, RNP, outside a veterans' facility near downtown Fort Worth

very interested in them. Our population can be less than enticing to deal with – suddenly you can be up to your elbows dealing with a veteran who doesn't have access to a shower. But the students have a fresh way of looking at everything."

Mackie says the center's staff benefits as well. "When the students are here," he said, "everybody practices just a little bit better."

Smith said her time at the center gave her great respect for the programs and people assisting homeless individuals.

"I appreciate so much what they do," she said. "They start with an eight-page history and physical. They aren't treating a disease, they really are treating the person as a whole."

That holistic approach is what drew her to the Health Science Center's Physician Assistant Studies program.

"I like this program because of the osteopathic medical school," she said. "I believe in the holistic approach that osteopathic medicine promotes."

The PAS program is "family oriented," she said. The faculty here "wants you to reach your goals and be the best you can be."

When she ended the rotation, Smith says although it was difficult, she's glad she completed it. "It made me appreciate what I have," she said. "I learned respect, sincerity, graciousness and being loving. It was an honor to give of myself to these patients." ❧



Improving quality of life everywhere

UNTHSC forms partnerships throughout the world

A philosopher once said that we are all citizens of the world. The Health Science Center proves it shares that view through global initiatives that illustrate we are all as interconnected as the cells in the human body, and that by sharing knowledge we can make people's lives better everywhere.

International clinical rotations to begin next year

When John Podgore, DO, MPH ('01) as a U.S. Army officer was "yanked from Cleveland and sent to the middle of Vietnam where you have limited resources to practice medicine," he learned that "there is a lot more to medicine than you learn in the United States."

And that's how his passion for global medicine began. Podgore has developed that passion into one of many international efforts the UNT Health Science Center participates in.

Soon he'll be mentoring fourth-year Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students in Malawi, Africa, launching the school's first international clinical rotations. The partnership in Malawi began in 2005 when the Centers for Disease Control and the American Schools of Public Health awarded him a fellowship to spend a year in the country with the CDC Global AIDS Program.

He returned to Africa in 2007 to fill in for four months as temporary director of a pediatric cerebral malaria ward – helping treat children with severe malaria. While there he developed ties to the African Bible College (ABC), which operates a hospital in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe. When the ABC received a donation to upgrade pediatric care, its leaders chose to update cancer facilities for children and turned to Podgore for help. That, in turn, led to establishing the TCOM clinical rotations.

In 2010, Podgore will mentor two to four



John Podgore, DO, MPH ('01), examines children with malaria in Malawi, Africa.

students per session in a four-week global medicine elective rotation at the African Bible College. Students may choose from rotations in adult medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics or trauma.

"The students will have an opportunity to see medical care practiced in a resource-limited situation where there is a high incidence of infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and HIV," Podgore said. "They will see diseases that are uncommon in the United States, like malaria and leprosy. They will see another culture. And they will gain an increased awareness of global medical issues."

Continued on page 16



Podgore is well prepared to mentor students on global medicine.

While in the military, he earned the U.S. Army's Legion of Merit honor for outstanding medical services and had medical assignments in Vietnam and the United States, as well as research assignments in Cairo, Egypt. He earned a master's degree in public health from the School of Public Health in 2001.

In addition to his contributions to public health in Africa, he's helped rebuild the Iraq Medical Society and is a faculty volunteer for the Medical Alliance for Iraq. He conducted his third medical symposium there in October, a medical training session on pediatric disaster medicine.



The Center for Human Identification helped the Chilean government identify remains of Pinochet dictatorship victims.

International experts in DNA

Art Eisenberg and Bruce Budowle pioneered DNA forensic techniques and are now central figures in a global exchange of information and expertise.

They have helped the Chilean government re-identify remains of people victimized by the 1970s Pinochet dictatorship. They are working with Bond University in Australia to help develop genetic markers to assist with facial reconstruction of skulls for identifying victims. They are helping several countries establish their own DNA databases. They are asked to speak throughout the world. And they are working with the University of Granada in Spain on developing international DNA registries to deter human trafficking of children and to help reunite abducted and homeless children with their parents (see story on page 18).

Eisenberg, PhD, is chair of Forensic and Investigative Genetics and co-director of the UNT Center for Human Identification. Budowle, PhD, is vice-chair of the Department of Forensic and Investigative Genetics and executive director of the

Health Science Center's Institute of Investigative Genetics. Together they represent more than 50 years of experience in DNA-related human identification and parentage investigations, and they stay on the cutting edge of this rapidly evolving technology.

The Health Science Center has developed a reputation for producing DNA information that can be trusted.

"These countries approach us because of our expertise in all aspects of DNA analysis and because of the quality of our analysis," Budowle said. "We have some of the best qualified staff to do this work, and they don't consider it a 9-to-5 job. They work nights and weekends because they want to, because they know 9-to-5 won't get the job done. Our staff helps develop processes and set standards. Their input makes a better product."

Why the dedication?

"We don't do it for the money," Eisenberg said. "We do this because we believe in it. When you bring passion and expertise together, good things happen."

International collaboration on ulcer and cancer studies

Lori Fischbach, PhD, MPH, assistant professor and vice-chair of the Department of Epidemiology, has been involved in several recent studies in the U.S., Mexico and Colombia on treatment for the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori*, suspected to cause duodenal ulcers and gastric cancer.

She has conducted several large "meta-analyses," analyses that combine the results of several studies, to determine the best recommendations for treating *H. pylori* worldwide, including several for the Canadian Helicobacter Study Group consensus guidelines. She is now conducting several additional meta-analyses, including three for an international Cochrane Systematic Review group, an international non-profit organization dedicated to making accurate information about health care available worldwide.

Fischbach has been the principal investigator on two clinical trials and one 12-year longitudinal study in Pasto, Colombia, to determine the short- and long-term effects of *H. pylori* and treatments. She also collaborated on a cohort study along the U.S.-Mexican border to determine how the bacterium is transmitted in children, and she is a co-investigator for a study on *H. pylori* and obesity on Barrett's esophagus, a condition in which the color and composition of the cells lining the lower esophagus undergo change.

Study of heavy metals contamination in Peru

David Sterling, PhD, chair of the School of Public Health's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, has studied environmental health issues in the Andes Mountains of central Peru for five years.

His work started with a study in La Oroya, Peru, a city of 35,000 identified as one of the top 10 contaminated cities in the world by the Blacksmith Institute and home to a large lead smelter. This work concluded that 98 percent of the children in La Oroya and 100 percent of those living near the smelter had lead poisoning, as well as elevated levels of other metals. He also found widespread heavy metal contamination in the area's homes and environment.

This led to a project to establish air, water and soil monitoring stations at sites throughout the Mantaro River valley and to train local individuals to operate the equipment and interpret the data.

In August, Sterling and his team presented a seminar and a "train-the-trainer" program on evidence-based public health to faculty at the National University of Central Peru in Huanacayo, leaders in the community and the Archdiocese – an effort funded with a U.S. Agency for International Development grant.



Researchers led by David Sterling, PhD, assess water quality near a Peruvian lead smelter.

Partnerships on 6 continents

In addition to partnerships with countries in South America, Africa and Australia, the Health Science Center is collaborating with interests in Asia, Europe, Canada and Mexico.

Al Yurvarti, DO ('86), chair of Surgery, is working with the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, on a bioengineering project.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences has academic and research partnerships with Naresuan University in Thailand, the Dyanand Sagar Institution and the Indian Institute of Technology in India and the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences in Moscow.



Igor Yu Malyshev, MD, PhD, helped forge an international partnership between the Health Science Center and the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences in Moscow.

Continued on page 18



Fulbright studies in China change student's future

Esther Han graduated from college, took a trip to China and found a calling.

While earning a bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, Han learned about the HIV and AIDS crisis in China. She was intrigued.

"Until then, I had never given a passing thought to what the HIV/AIDS situation looked like in China. And, from what I was reading, it didn't seem like anyone really had an idea of how badly the virus was affecting a nation of 1.3 billion people," said Han.

She earned a 10-month fellowship from the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Program to study the education and prevention of HIV and AIDS in China.

She saw first-hand how the disease affected people from the crowded streets of Shanghai to mountain villages in the rural Yunnan Province. She heard the stories of people living with the disease, such as the sex workers trafficked from other areas with the promise of good jobs and money (see related story on trafficking on this page,) and the woman who was abandoned and left with nothing after her partner learned she was HIV positive.

She visited brothels disguised as salons and slept on floors in rural huts. She worked with non-profit organizations combating the disease. And, she met doctors who traveled up mountainsides to provide what might have been the first medical care the villagers there had ever received.

"It was an unforgettable and unique experience that has ultimately made a lasting impression on where and how I will practice medicine," said Han.

She then entered the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Now in her third year, she wants to practice in underserved parts of the world. She said TCOM's commitment to community service and focus on practicing in the areas that need doctors most will help her get there.

"TCOM also has some great faculty members who are dedicated to serving in the international setting – they have been nothing but supportive," Han said.

"It's important for U.S. physicians to work in underserved areas, but for those who have a passion and the desire for a life overseas, I think it would not only bring health care to people who may have never seen a physician, but it would also be a deeply rewarding experience for the physicians themselves." ❏



Esther Han traveled with physicians 16 hours by bus and another four hours on foot to treat patients in a remote Chinese village who had no access to health care.

DNA-PROKIDS: A weapon against trafficking of children

Trafficking of children has become a tragic global enterprise that exploits as many as 1.2 million children each year, according to UNICEF. The victims may be forced into prostitution, slavery, illegal adoptions or marriages as "mail-order" brides.

Jose Lorente, MD, PhD, associate professor at the University of Granada in Spain, and Art Eisenberg, PhD, chair of Forensic and Investigative Genetics and co-director of the UNT Center for Human Identification, wanted to do something about it.

They are collaborating on an international humanitarian effort using DNA testing to deter human trafficking and help reunite abducted and homeless children with their parents. The project is called DNA-PROKIDS.

The Life Technologies Foundation backed the effort with a \$500,000 grant. By establishing DNA registries of parents with a missing or abducted child, homeless children living on the streets or in shelters, and children in orphanages or illegal adoption centers throughout the world, PROKIDS intends to record the DNA identity of children most vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

"This problem is on the same magnitude as that of illegal drugs and arms trading," Eisenberg said. "PROKIDS is a proactive approach to solve a problem, to reunite families and offer investigative leads to bring down these crime organizations." ❏

Public Health's new doctoral program prepares graduates for leadership

The School of Public Health (SPH) launched an enhanced Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree in Public Health Practice this fall, updated to offer advanced training in public health leadership for individuals serving or planning a career in government, private or not-for-profit organizations.

"We have moved to a school-wide public health practice approach with a focus on leadership rather than on degree options within specific concentrations," said Christine Moranetz, PhD, SPH associate dean for academic affairs and chair of the new Department of Public Health Education.

For those seeking an academic doctoral degree focused on research in the five core public health sciences (epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, health disparities, health services and policy), the school is developing a new PhD program that is scheduled to begin in fall 2010.

"We are changing in response to the evolving needs of public health across the state and the nation and to support students' expanded career opportunities. A student could apply the DrPH degree competencies to any organization or level of community leadership. The goal is to help prepare public health leaders who may be working in a variety of roles."

– Christine Moranetz

SPH student Joyce Hood, RN, MPH '07, who is director of occupational health services for Cook Children's Health Care System in Fort Worth, recently transferred into the program because of its professional practice focus, the opportunity to tailor her degree plan toward the concentrations that best fit her personal career path and the ability to choose electives that complement her area of interest.

"Research is not the major part of my job," Hood said, "and this new program allows me to focus on other areas within the doctoral environment."

– Joyce Hood

In addition to local professionals, the new program has already attracted students from the armed services and states as far away as Indiana, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Maryland.

Twenty students are enrolled in the 60-semester-credit-hour program, which is offered on a full- or part-time basis. ❏



Christine Moranetz, PhD, SPH associate dean for academic affairs, is chair of the new Department of Public Health Education.



SPH doctoral student Joyce Hood, RN, MPH ('07)



For information on the Doctor of Public Health program, go to www.hsc.unt.edu/education/SPH/Programs.cfm

CAMPUS FACILITY UPDATE

Medical Education & Training Building to open in spring 2010

Pre-cast concrete going up on the Health Science Center's new Medical Education and Training Building is the most visible sign of exterior progress for the facility.

On the interior, walls are being framed, and mechanical infrastructure installed. Glass and stone will be installed after the first of the year, and the building should be substantially complete by April 1, 2010.

The new building, located at Camp Bowie Boulevard and Montgomery Street, is being built on the site of the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas, which the Health Science Center purchased in 2005.



In the Community

Hispanic Wellness Fair

UNTHSC students, faculty and staff volunteered at Fort Worth's 11th annual Hispanic Wellness Fair on Aug. 1. They helped deliver health information and services to more than 4,000 attendees at this year's fair.



Class of 2013 cleans up the along Fort Worth's Trinity Trails

It didn't take the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2013 long to start giving back to the Fort Worth community. During orientation, the entire class, along with the Medical Student Government Association (MSGA), volunteered to clean up along Trinity Trails. MSGA executive council members Bill Betz, Christian Dean, Matt Garcia, Ghazaleh Moayedi and Amir Barzin coordinated with the Fort Worth Parks and Recreation Department to plan the clean-up. The group picked up trash on Trinity Trails near the new Fort Worth Police and Firefighters Memorial.



NEWS

UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



José A. Pagán, PhD, has been named chair of the Department of Health Management and Policy in the School of Public Health. He joins the Health Science Center from the University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, where he was an economics professor and director of the school's Institute for Population Health Policy since 2005. He has also served as director of the school's Center for Border Economic Studies. He was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and School of Medicine, and he earned the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy Research.

Steve Mifflin, PhD, has been appointed chair of Integrative Physiology. Before joining the Health Science Center, Mifflin served as professor of Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He holds a PhD in physiology and biophysics from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and his research explores how the brain responds to and adapts in diseases such as sleep apnea, heart failure and hypertension.

Thomas Cunningham, PhD, has been appointed professor of Integrative Physiology and director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute. Prior to joining the Health Science Center, Cunningham was associate professor of Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He earned his PhD in psychology from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. His research interests include using cellular neurophysiological approaches to study neural systems involved in body fluid balance and cardiovascular regulation.

Christine Moranetz, PhD, was promoted to associate dean of Academic Affairs and chair of the new Department of Public Health Education. She also serves as associate professor in both the Department of Public Health Education and the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. In

her new position, Moranetz will provide strategic vision, expertise and leadership in academic initiatives and curricular development strategies that enhance program and degree offerings in public health. She also provides the Doctorate in Public Health Practice (DrPH) degree program with a new focus in leadership and management and coordinates the development of a new PhD program in Public Health Sciences (see related story on page 19).

Alvin Mathé, DO ('89), assistant professor of Medicine in Geriatrics for UNT Health, has been named medical director of the new Palliative Care unit at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth. The new 16-room unit will focus on patients who require relief from pain, symptoms and stress of serious illness. The goal of palliative care is to prevent and relieve suffering and to ensure the best possible quality of life for patients and their families.

Quoted ...

James Simpkins, PhD, chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, on his research on administering estrogen to male trauma patients, in almost 100 media outlets including CNBC, AOL News, The Los Angeles Times, The Houston Chronicle, Forbes and Reuters ... **Jane Scott, DO**, ('81), on preparations to deliver her 4,000th baby as a physician in West Texas, in the Lubbock Avalanche Journal ... **David Lichtman, MD**, chair of Orthopedics, on finally receiving his bachelor's degree from Tufts University after a 43-year medical career, in the Star-Telegram, Yahoo.com and major business journals across the country ... **Art Eisenberg, PhD**, on the Health Science Center's PROKIDS project in conjunction with the University of Spain at Granada, an international humanitarian project to deter trafficking of children, in approximately 20 media outlets across the country, including MSN and Reuters (see story on page 18).

New DO and PA students get their white coats

On July 25, 185 incoming Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students and 56 incoming Physician Assistant Studies students put on their white coats for the first time to symbolize their chosen careers in medicine at UNTHSC's annual White Coat Ceremony at Will Rogers Auditorium. Students also took an oath acknowledging their responsibilities and willingness to assume the obligations of their new professions.

Robert Early, president and CEO of JPS Health Network, presented the keynote address. Phillip Saperstein, DO, professor of Family Medicine, was awarded the TCOM Founders' Medal. Stanley Weiss, DO, UNT Health Science Center professor emeritus, was awarded the Mary E. Luibel Distinguished Service Award.



Robert Winslett (TCOM '13) tries on his white coat.



Phillip Saperstein, DO, was awarded the TCOM Founders' Medal.



Stanley Weiss, DO, earned the Mary E. Luibel Distinguished Service Award.



Applause!

TCOM posts top COMLEX scores – fourth consecutive year

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners announced in September that the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) Class of 2009 had the highest scores in the nation on the Level 2 Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX). These students, who graduated this summer, also had scored the highest on their Level 1 exams. In July, the board announced that the Class of 2010 also scored the best in the nation on the Level 1 COMLEX exam. This is the fourth consecutive year that TCOM has been the top performer in the nation on this exam. All states require medical students to pass a licensing exam before they receive licenses to practice medicine. The MD equivalent is the United States Medical License Examination.

TCOM faculty, alums receive TOMA and TxACOFPP honors

A dozen TCOM faculty and alumni were honored at the recent Texas Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA) and Texas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (TxACOFPP) joint convention in Arlington.

TCOM faculty and alumni who received awards at the convention include:

Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, TCOM vice dean, who received the TOMA Meritorious Service Award, presented in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in scientific, philanthropic or other fields of public service to the osteopathic profession in Texas.

Richard Gray, DO ('09), received TOMA's Student Doctor of the Year Award, presented to a fourth-year osteopathic medical student for outstanding accomplishments in academic achievement, leadership and service to the community and the profession. He was unable to attend the convention because he has reported to Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, Ill., to begin a Family Medicine residency. (See photo on page 10.)

Rick Lin, DO ('01), received TOMA's New Physician of the Year Award, presented to an osteopathic physician in practice for five years or less. It recognizes community service, excellence in osteopathic practice and contributions to public health.

TCOM faculty and alumni were also elected to TOMA and TxACOFPP offices for the 2009-10 term. They include:

Damon Schranz, DO ('98), assistant professor of Family Medicine, director of clinical preceptorship, vice chair of education in Community Medicine – president of the Texas ACOFP

Patrick Hanford, DO ('83) – TOMA vice president

Duane Selman, DO ('87) – speaker of the TOMA House of Delegates

Ray Morrison, DO ('86) – re-elected vice speaker of the TOMA House of Delegates

Paula Rossi, DO ('04) – a two-year term on the TOMA Board of Trustees

Steve Worrell, DO ('80) – re-elected to a three-year term on the TOMA Board of Trustees

John McClanahan, DO ('08) – intern/resident trustee

David Anderson (TCOM '11) – student trustee

Faculty and staff kudos

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, was nominated and approved to serve on the evaluators registry for the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation, qualifying him to participate on site visits to evaluate osteopathic college's COCA accreditation.

Terry Gratton, DrPH, assistant professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, received the 2009 Walter F. Snyder Award for his contributions to the environmental health profession. The award is given annually by the National Sanitation Foundation International and the National Environmental Health Association. Gratton was recognized for his 40-year career with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department,

the U.S. Public Health Service and the UNT Health Science Center School of Public Health.

John Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, has been named a J.O. Watson Lecturer for 2010, awarded by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation that recognizes those who have advanced osteopathic medicine. Licciardone is TCOM's associate dean for Clinical Research and executive director and Osteopathic Heritage Clinical Research Chair at The Osteopathic Research Center within the Health Science Center.

Darlene Ryan, executive director of TECH Fort Worth, has been elected to the board of directors for the National Business Incubation Association. TECH Fort Worth is a nonprofit business incubator and a public-private partnership of the Health Science Center, the City of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth business community.

UNTHSC honored by FWISD

The UNT Health Science Center was awarded the Fort Worth Independent School District's (FWISD) Golden Achievement Award for Partnership Excellence for the sixth consecutive year.

The annual award honors the school district's community partners who support activities and programs for the FWISD's students and teachers.

Annually, the Health Science Center hosts several programs that teach FWISD students about the sciences and scientific professions, including the Adopt-A-School program, the Go Center Project, Project SCORE and the Vitalink Internship program.

Employees recognized at annual Appreciation Day

The Health Science Center's approximately 1,800 faculty and staff members were recognized at the annual Employee Appreciation Day with lunch served by the Executive Team and T-shirts proclaiming "Proud to Be UNTHSC."

Faculty and staff later told us why they are proud to be a part of UNTHSC:

"I am proud to be part of a team that strives to take care of our patients' needs, shows compassion and listens."

Sharon Rutledge, UNT Health

"I am proud to be back at the UNTHSC because I am able to provide a high level of musculoskeletal medical care to patients while surrounded by other musculoskeletal specialists who allow UNTHSC to be a center of musculoskeletal excellence."

Alan Stockard, DO ('76), Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

"I feel a sense of pride for every student I help, knowing that I make a positive difference in their future. I love that my coworkers and peers are always so friendly and helpful. They're always willing to lend a hand."

Sloan White, Student Affairs

"I am proud to be UNTHSC because we support the local arts, charities and the community as a whole. That's something I truly believe in."

Mary E. Bloch, Obstetrics and Gynecology



Alumni update

SPH alumna returns 'home' in leadership role

Finding one's true calling is often an interesting journey, and the path that led Elizabeth (Liz) Treviño Dawson to the UNTHSC School of Public Health (SPH) for her education – and now back again in a leadership role – is no exception.

As new SPH Assistant Dean for Curriculum, Treviño Dawson, MPH ('02), DrPH ('05), feels as though she has "come back home" in a role perfectly suited to her.

As a young girl growing up in Mexico, Treviño Dawson dreamed of becoming a doctor. When her family moved to McAllen, Texas, during her junior high school years, her first challenge was to learn English. She then became the first in her family to graduate from college. It was during her undergraduate years at Texas A&M University in Kingsville that she discovered the Health Science Center and the concept of public health.

In 1997, Treviño Dawson came to the center to participate in what was then called the Health Career Opportunity Program, which introduced undergraduates to health studies and prepared

them for medical school entrance exams.

"This is where I learned about public health and the fact that public health focuses on the community at large – locally, across the state, around the nation – versus the individual," she said.

"I realized that through the health management and policy track I could help shape and make decisions, improve community health status and make things happen to help others. It literally changed my career direction, and UNTHSC was the only school I considered attending."

– Liz Treviño Dawson

She earned master's and doctor of public health degrees here while working as a consumer health specialist for the City of Fort Worth Health Department and in various roles on campus, including coordinator for the Texas Public Health Training Center.

Most recently, she served as health equity manager for Baylor Health Care System in Dallas, developing solutions to health disparities in hospital care delivery and patient outcomes.

Treviño Dawson advises those pursuing a public health career to "get involved, join committees and boards, volunteer, attend conferences, meet the people who are shaping public health at the local and state levels and enhance your classroom learning by going outside the campus to gain more exposure."

"That's the way to earn your seat at the table, build partnerships and collaborations and begin making an impact," she said.



Liz Treviño Dawson, MPH ('02), DrPH ('05)

Welcome New Alumni: Class of 2009

The Alumni Office congratulates all 2009 graduates and formally welcomes you as official alumni. Our alumni associations have adopted a "no-dues" policy, and you are encouraged to take advantage of the benefits offered, some of which include:

- Opportunities to gain Continuing Medical Education credits
- Access to numerous services from the Gibson D. Lewis Library
- Specialized campus tours
- Notice of all alumni reunions
- Invitations to special events and functions

As a member of one of our alumni associations, you have an opportunity to help make a difference with your alma mater and to your legacy – our current students.

If you are interested in serving on either the TCOM or GSBS Alumni Association board, please contact Denise Armstrong in the Alumni office at (817) 735-2278, and she'll put you in touch with the appropriate contact.

Again, congratulations! We look forward to partnering with you in advancing your school, supporting its students and connecting you with your fellow alumni.

Alumni Board members named

Please welcome our new Alumni Board members.

School of Public Health (newly formed board):

- Allen Applegate, MPH ('06)
- Karen Bell Morgan, MPH ('04), CHES
- Lynn Gray Breaux, RN, DrPH ('05)
- Rachael Jackson, MPH ('08)
- Samira Meymand-Fritchman, DDS, MPH ('01)
- Marcus Joseph Mitias, MBA, MPH ('07)
- Harrison Ndetan, MSc, MPH, DrPH ('07)
- Melissa Oden, MPH ('06), LMSW, CHES
- Thenisha R. Smith, MPH ('01)
- Elizabeth Treviño Dawson, MPH ('02), DrPH ('05)

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences:

- Major Robert Carter III, MPH ('03), PhD ('01), FACSM
- Eric Gonzales, PhD ('05)

They join these existing GSBS board members:

- Annita Bens, PhD ('92)
- Patricia Cappelletti, MS ('98)
- Ginelle Gellert, PhD ('03)
- Harlan Jones, PhD ('01)
- Jami Kern, PhD ('03)
- Pamela Marshall, MS ('02)
- Julie Poirot, MS ('03)
- Eve Shulman, PhD ('04)

Physician Assistant Studies:

- Jackie Beeler, MPAS ('05)
- Sergio Haynes, MPAS ('09)
- Tonya Khan, MPAS ('04)
- Lisa Moody, MPAS ('99)
- Jay Pribble, MPAS ('09)

Who join these board members:

- Clint Bastible, MPAS ('05)
- David Gonzales, MPAS ('00)
- Karen Kindler, MPAS ('99)
- Stanley Kotara, MPAS ('01)
- Heidi Medcalf, MPAS ('04)



Krista Gordon and Denise Armstrong

We're Here For You!

It doesn't matter what degree you hold from the Health Science Center ... rely on Krista Gordon and Denise Armstrong to be your personal connections to your alma mater, your alumni organization and the latest alumni-student initiatives.

Got a personal or professional achievement to brag about? Send them an e-mail. Want to help organize a class reunion? Call them. Want to get in touch with a classmate? Let them know. Have an idea for a new alumni activity? Well, you get the idea.

What's new with you?

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

ADVANCEMENT *update*



3 Gifts ... 5 Reasons By Gary B. Grant Vice President of Development

I'd like to take a moment to reinforce something that can be easy to forget: the impact people have when they make charitable gifts.

"These gifts not only advance important work and help

individuals, they play a role in moving our society forward. Every gift is a stroke of the oar, and together they propel our ship forward. For that effort, I thank all of our donors."

– Gary B. Grant

The UNT Health Science Center has received a record number of gifts of all sizes this year from donors from all walks of life, which makes us both humble and proud.

We are humbled by the trust in our institution that these gifts imply. And we are proud that providing doctors and physician assistants, conducting medical and public health research, graduate sciences education and hands-on patient care – are causes that the communities we serve also support.

We asked three people why they chose to give a gift this year: Jackie Finch, president, Cancer Research Foundation of North Texas; Clay Gilbert, DO, retired physician; and Jareen Schmidt, president, JES Foundation. Here are the reasons they gave:

Quality

Gilbert: "I am very impressed with the quality of the people and programs at the Health Science Center. I became familiar with the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Health Science

Center from attending American College of Osteopathic Family Physician conferences, where I met a lot of the administrators, faculty and students. I grew up in a family with a strong tradition of family doctors who loved to take good care of their patients. Since I don't have children of my own, I see TCOM as a way I can continue that family physician tradition by helping the students there get a high quality medical education."

Compassionate patient care

Schmidt: "I've had a positive feeling about the Health Science Center for many years through knowing and working with some of its physicians. I always felt as though the center's doctors were not only very expert, but also very caring. My positive impression became even stronger when my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and needed special care. The Geriatrics Department and Dr. Janice Knebl [Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Endowed Chair in Geriatrics] provided excellent care. Going through this process has given me a strong desire to support the Health Science Center's Alzheimer's research programs. Not only is this disease costly for families to deal with emotionally, but the impact to our health care system could be disastrous due to the high cost of caring for Alzheimer's patients."

Forging of ongoing relationships

Finch: "The close relationship we have with the great cancer researchers at the Health Science Center makes all the difference. Our philosophy at CRFNT is to find very capable and brilliant cancer researchers and provide seed funding to help them launch their work. We feel this is a way to empower the researchers to do early work that establishes important preliminary data and leads to other major funding later. We really look at our relationship with the Health Science Center as a strong partnership. The staff is always willing to help with goals and activities we have in common."

Gilbert: "I am in close contact with the Health Science Center on what is happening and feel as though I'm part of the forward progress. I believe the institution will do a good job and use the support I have given to make a positive impact on the health of the community."

Schmidt: "I've been able to meet some of the Alzheimer's researchers at the Health Science Center and know that they are very bright people who are working hard every day to cure this disease. I'm glad we can play a part in their work."

Commitment to developing primary care practitioners

Gilbert: "I became convinced that TCOM was an excellent osteopathic medical school providing a quality education and well-trained physicians. And I was impressed with the growth of the school and felt the commitment to graduating more primary care and family practice physicians."

Commitment to continuous improvement

Gilbert: "I feel good about the fact that TCOM is the place where I have chosen to invest my financial support for the future. I believe the school is committed to attracting the best faculty and students and to providing the very best education possible. I wanted to do something for humanity and felt that by providing support to endow a chair in family medicine, I could help make a positive impact on future generations who will need access to good family practice doctors."

Many thanks for your help

We thank all our supporters who help us by putting their philanthropic oar in our waters and helping the Health Science Center's mission: To improve the health and quality of life for the people of Texas and beyond through excellence in education, research, clinical care, community engagement and to provide national leadership in primary care.



The Cancer Research Foundation of North Texas (CRFNT) presented donations to three Health Science Center researchers exploring cancer mechanisms. Pictured are Sushma Yadav, PhD, assistant professor, Molecular Biology and Immunology; Jackie Finch, president, CRFNT; Roberta Frost, treasurer, CRFNT; Sharad Singhal, PhD, associate professor, Molecular Biology and Immunology; and Praveenkumar Shetty, PhD, postdoctoral research associate.

Groundbreaking brain trauma research findings now in clinical trials

In an instant, a healthy young man is involved in a violent car wreck on the Dallas North Tollway that leaves him with serious head injuries – and his future brain function hangs in the balance. In the critical period before emergency responders race him to the hospital, paramedics administer a dose of estrogen, a female hormone, in hopes of protecting his brain and helping it recover function. The estrogen trial is the next step in ongoing research that began at the UNT Health Science Center.

In this groundbreaking clinical trial, James Simpkins, PhD, chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, collaborated with Jane Wigginton, MD, Department of Surgery, Division of Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center of Dallas, to determine how rapid estrogen administration can protect the human brain following injury. The two scientists are translating Simpkins' earlier animal studies of the protective effects of rapid estrogen treatment to human patients with severe traumatic brain injury and shock due to significant blood loss.

"Our laboratory research demonstrated that rapid estrogen intervention protects the brain following injury, including stroke or sudden cardiac arrest," Simpkins said. "Now, UT Southwestern and Parkland Health and Hospital System are advancing our research to studies in human subjects. If we can administer these drugs to trauma victims very early, I believe that we can protect the brain and increase survival."

Simpkins leads a large National Institutes of Health-funded research program to discover substances that can protect the brain from injury. This is the first major clinical study to emanate from these basic science studies at the Health Science Center.

Estrogens are made in large amounts by young women, but only in small amounts by men. Prior studies suggest that young women are more resistant to brain trauma injury than post-menopausal women and men. This apparent resistance may be because of their higher estrogen levels. These studies will test that hypothesis.

James Simpkins, PhD, chair of Pharmacology and Neuroscience

UNT Health clinic focuses on caring for nation's military veterans

If committing yourself to the care of others in the medical profession is a calling, then Clifton Cage, DO, and his team consider using those talents to care for those who committed themselves to our freedom as a blessing.

Every day, the U.S. Veteran's Administration Clinic at UNT Health's Patient Care Center on the Health Science Center campus is focused only on veterans. Cage, along with Sobali Ghazali, MD, and their team, care for men and women who have served and fought for our country as far back as World War II.

The clinic, which opened in 2002, is also known as a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, or CBOC. UNT Health became certified to use the VA's electronic medical records system, in itself an accomplishment. One of the nation's most highly-regarded health systems by those in the medical community, the VA was among the first to implement an electronic medical record system, and it emphasizes consistent training and a rigorous certification process, for its providers. Quality management monitoring is done at least quarterly, with special emphasis on preventive care and mental health assessments.

"The VA does an amazing job for veterans," said Judy Steudeman, RN, who works with Cage and Ghazali in helping care for the patients.

Cage noted that "what you read in the papers (about VA care) gives them a bad rap – veterans have better access to care, especially in terms of mental health, than media reports suggest."

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a common issue, he said, adding that "many will finally come to acknowledge they are affected by PTSD, so

every year we're prompted to screen for it."

A staff of social workers serves as a critical link and as patient advocates to help coordinate care when the team needs to refer a patient for specialized treatment not provided by UNT Health.

The team says the real joy of providing care is the connection the staff develops with the patients. "This is a neat bunch," Cage said. "They want to tell you their stories."

And Darla Pierce, LVN, is inspired by her patients.

"They come in wanting to be identified as a vet – they are always wearing caps and jackets with veterans' logos on them," Pierce said. "They just have such a great love of their country, and they know we'll listen to them."

Cage sums up the experience by saying, "The bottom line is that we appreciate them and they appreciate us. We try to say 'thank you,' and it's a privilege to serve them."



Thomas Diver, PA-C, examines a patient at the VA Clinic in the UNTHSC Patient Care Center.

SAVE *the* DATE

Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
University administrative offices and clinics - closed

Dec. 24-30 Christmas Holiday
University administrative offices - closed
Clinics - closed half-day Dec. 24
Clinics - closed all day Dec. 25

Dec. 31-Jan. 1 New Year's Holiday
University administrative offices - closed
Clinics - closed half-day Dec. 31
Clinics - closed all day Jan. 1

*For more information about any news item or event,
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