

# PULSE



SUMMER 2007 | A PUBLICATION *for* ALUMNI & FRIENDS *of* TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



*A gift of hope for  
West Texans*

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# PULSE



*Congratulations to the 2007 May graduates, which include from left, Kathy Eubanks, SOM; Amy Thane, SOP; John Parker, SOM; Carmen Vela, SON; Jennifer Elmhorst, SOAHS; Matt Fogle, GSBS; and Ashley Varnell, SOAHS.*

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## Kudos!

*Your Pulse magazine was recently honored with a Silver Addy from the Lubbock Ad Federation and a Bronze Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District IV.*

## Guess WHO?

This 26-year veteran School of Nursing faculty member is best known for her ability to simultaneously lecture students and comfort a fussy baby. Her passion for nursing education lies in her dedication to students, and she thrives on knowing each of them. Can you identify this devoted professor?



To find the answer, see page 2.



KENT HANCE

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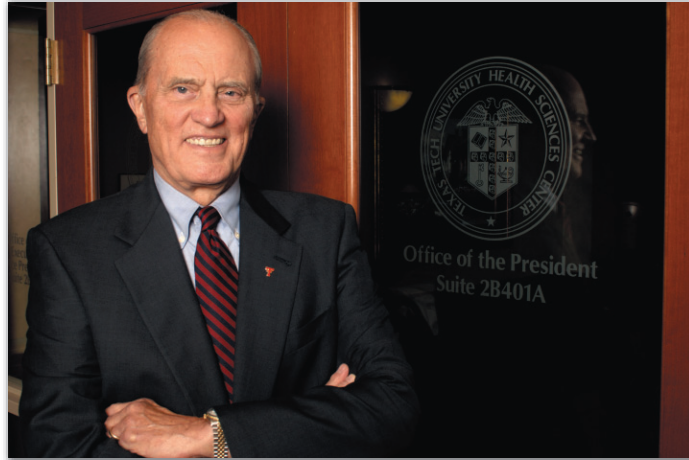
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## SHARE THE SUCCESS

The success of our institution depends significantly on the support we receive from you, our dedicated alumni, donors, students, faculty, staff and members of the communities we serve.

Thank you for answering the call.

From the end of 2006 and into the early part of this year, we have received substantial gifts enabling us to establish new patient initiatives and faculty positions, including:

- \$1 million to assist research and state-of-the art treatment for women's cancers
- \$2 million to establish a research and treatment initiative in epilepsy
- \$4 million to establish endowed chair positions in medicine and nursing

I encourage you to read more on the following pages about these gifts. You too can make an impact with a gift of any size.

Similarly, there have been long-term commitments to this great institution. For example, the South Plains Foundation provides support for basic science research, which in turn helps our researchers leverage federal support such as that from the National Institutes of Health. Recently, through a partnership with The CH Foundation, the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences established an endowed chair for the diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's disease. This foundation also helped the School of Nursing launch and sustain a vitally important patient care service, Senior House Calls.

I'm also pleased as you will see from Infinity Campaign Chairman Steve Helbing's note on page 32, that the El Paso community is nearing its \$25 million goal. That commitment, along with the \$43 million in base funding approved by the 80th Legislature, will allow us to move forward with our plans for the four-year medical school.

Under the leadership of Chancellor Kent Hance, the Texas Tech University System has set a mark of moving our institutions to a level of unparalleled excellence. In order to accomplish that goal, we ask for your continued support to fund scholarships, faculty recruitment and infrastructure.

Thank you for your demonstrated commitment to this great institution and to its successful future.

BERNHARD T. MITTEMEYER, M.D.  
INTERIM PRESIDENT

# grand

ROUNDS

## DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS (TECH) :: Support arrived shortly after the



need for more nursing faculty was relayed to Chancellor Kent Hance, and his wife, Susie.

Mrs. Hance speaks with enthusiasm about leading the charge to establish an endowment in nursing that will eventually sustain four faculty chair positions. The fund began with a \$100,000 donation in February, given by the Hances.

“As a mother and grandmother, health care and children are two things I’m most passionate about,” says Mrs. Hance. “In health care, I truly believe nurses are among the most vital of health care professionals. I am excited to be working toward something that

will improve health care and also enhance Texas Tech.”

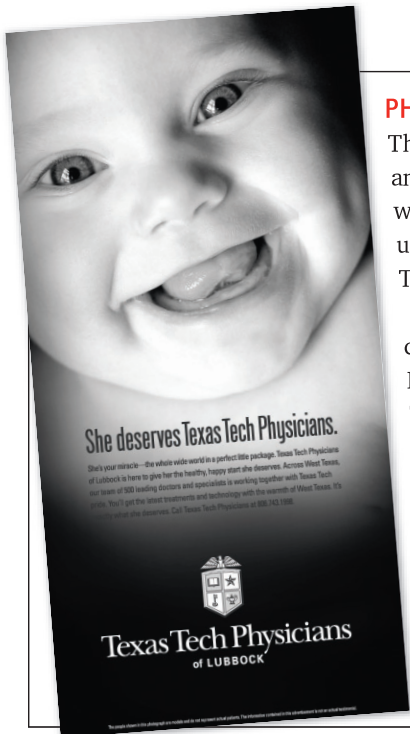
The chancellor’s goals include raising hundreds of millions of dollars to support student scholarships and faculty endowments; increase governmental and private funding for the university’s research mission; and telling the world that Texas Tech is a terrific university that offers an excellent education.

Ambitious? Yes. Out of reach? No. Mrs. Hance says there is nothing more evident than her husband’s love and devotion for Texas Tech – and it goes way beyond the Red Raider Fight Song that plays as his cell phone ringer. After all, she quips, “He has this University of Texas alumna working on his team.

“Kent has such big goals for Texas Tech because he believes so strongly in the Tech system. He has such a vision to take Tech to the next level.”

An attorney by trade, Mrs. Hance has taken her fund-raising cues from her husband, and enlisted a confidant of both hers and the school’s to work with her on the endowment: Nancy Neal (SON ’85).

“With Nancy’s can-do attitude and Texas Tech’s can-do attitude, I feel confident that funds will come,” she says.



## PHYSICIANS GROUP GETS NEW IDENTITY ::

The fruits of more than two years of planning and development were realized early this year when the School of Medicine patient clinics united under one new name and identity ... Texas Tech Physicians.

Developed as a tool to unify patient care efforts in Abilene, Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock and the Permian Basin, Texas Tech Physicians brings together more than 500 physicians ... the largest network of physicians and health care professionals in West Texas.

The new identity was introduced publicly through an advertising campaign earlier this year, and a new website focusing on patients, [www.texastechphysicians.com](http://www.texastechphysicians.com).

# Guess? WHO

**NURSING A PASSION ::** Associate Professor Karen A. Dadich, R.N., M.N., C.N.S., joined the School of Nursing when it was founded in 1981.

As the school celebrated its silver anniversary this spring, Dadich was reminded of times when students couldn’t find child care, so she and other faculty members would teach and care for the students’ children. She speaks of those students, now successful nurses with grown children, with pride shining in her eyes.

Dadich came to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center enticed by the idea of starting a new school. A native New Yorker, Dadich and her husband moved from Arizona to West Texas with their two small children intending to return there within a few years.

Their children started school, and Dadich found not only a job but also a support system within the faculty and student body; that and a passion for the School of Nursing have kept her here.

While she has seen a myriad of changes in the last quarter century, she says one thing has remained unchanged. “Our program is rigorous, but the end product is SO good.”



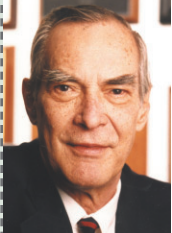
in memoriam



LUBBOCK – **Thomas Jefferson “Tom” Rollins Jr.**, died May 15, 2007, in Lubbock. He was a long-time supporter of Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and was a member of the TTU System Chancellor’s Council. Memorials may be made to the Chancellor’s Council or TTUHSC School of Medicine.



DENVER – **Jean Tyner** died Jan. 5, 2007, in Denver. She was the wife of the late George S. Tyner, M.D., who was dean of the School of Medicine from September 1974 to August 1981. Memorials may be made to the George S. and Jean W. Tyner Teaching and Research Fund in Ophthalmology in the School of Medicine.



EL PASO – **Jonathan Rogers** died March 10, 2007, in El Paso. The former mayor of El Paso and his wife, Patricia Rogers, gave \$1.5 million in 2006 to establish an endowed chair in Physiology at the El Paso School of Medicine.



LUBBOCK – **Alfred “Ray” Farmer, M.D.**, died March 23, 2007, in Lubbock. Farmer earned his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1984 from the TTUHSC School of Medicine. He completed his pediatric residency here in 1987 and served as chief pediatric resident.



LUBBOCK – **Barbara “Carlene” Helm Messer** died Nov. 3, 2006, in Lubbock. She and her husband, Gene, provided funding for the Messer-Racz International Pain Center, which is being constructed adjacent to the Health Sciences Center. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer’s Disease Education at TTUHSC.



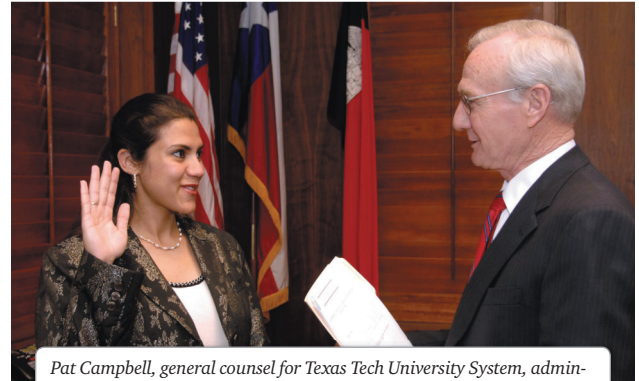
AUSTIN – **Sydney Allen Garrett, M.D.**, died Nov. 30, 2006, in Austin. He was on the TTUHSC School of Medicine faculty from 1973 to 1975.



LUBBOCK – **W.B. “Dub” Rushing** died Jan. 29, 2007, in Lubbock. He was a member of the Texas Tech Foundation. Memorials may be made to the Texas Tech Foundation.

HOBBS, N.M. – **Ramesh Navuluri** died Nov. 29, 2006, in Hobbs, N.M. He was a 1998 graduate of the School of Nursing’s Family Nurse Practitioner program.

*Gifts in memory of or in honor of are routed to the desired location of the donor through the TTUHSC Office of Institutional Advancement, 3601 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Stop 6238, Lubbock, Texas 79430.*



Pat Campbell, general counsel for Texas Tech University System, administers the oath of office to student regent Ebtesam Attaya Islam, PH.D.

**HSC STUDENT NAMED TO BOARD OF REGENTS ::**

Ebtesam Attaya Islam, PH.D., the newest member of the Texas Tech System Board of Regents, is no stranger to Texas Tech. She earned her undergraduate degree at TTU and her doctorate at the Health Sciences Center, where she is a second-year medical student.

Although hers is a non-voting position, Attaya Islam says one of the most important things she wants to do is to effectively represent the student bodies at both universities. She says meeting with the presidents of each student government association to learn about students’ needs is top priority.

Attaya Islam also believes her role is to demonstrate to others the benefits of and spread the word about Texas Tech.

“This is a great school. We have a very supportive community, a family community,” she says. “With the support of our students, we can rank ourselves higher than ever before.”

Appointed in February to a one-year term, Attaya Islam is the second student regent for the system. The position alternates annually between student representatives from TTU and TTUHSC.



OH, HAPPY DAY! – **Eric Cherng, M.D.**, rejoices at the Match Day celebration in Amarillo after learning of his acceptance to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Austin for a pediatrics residency. Medical students nationwide received their residency placements on March 15. School of Medicine hosted celebrations in Amarillo, El Paso and Lubbock for 114 medical students and their families. For the complete list of residency matches, visit [www.ttuhsoc.edu/som/studentaffairs/msiv/residency.aspx](http://www.ttuhsoc.edu/som/studentaffairs/msiv/residency.aspx)

# Spirituality & Health

Once viewed as an impossible mixture,  
now a blend growing in demand

BY DANETTE BAKER

**P**atricia Glover would recommend her family physician to anyone—just ask her. Glover says not only are his medical credentials impressive, but she is awed by the other components Tommie Farrell, M.D., incorporates into his practice.

“I want a doctor who is connected with heaven, and he is,” says the 83-year-old Lubbock resident.

The two first met about two years ago while Glover was in the hospital under another doctor’s care. Farrell, a family physician with Texas Tech Physicians of Lubbock, made a personal visit to her on behalf of the church they both attend.

“I asked him to pray with me and he did, right there by my hospital bed,” she recalls. “I could tell this was something he believed in, and I knew right then I wanted him as my regular doctor. My faith is a very, very important part of my health, and I like my doctor to feel that way too.”

## TEACHING TRENDS

More and more, patients are responding in a like manner. *Newsweek* magazine reported in 2003 that 72 percent want their doctors to recognize and incorporate spirituality into their health care. Yet 80 percent of physicians rarely do, according to information published online in the *American Family Physician*, a publication of the American Association of Family Physicians.

“It really all starts with an awareness of one’s own spirituality and recognition that incorporating it in practice takes delicacy and tact,” says Thomas McGovern, Ed.D., a professor in Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine’s Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Not all doctors are as comfortable with the concept as Farrell. About 50 percent of family physicians are uncertain how to respond to patient’s spiritual needs because of a lack of experience and/or training, according to the *American Family Physician*.

In recent years, many medical schools have taken measures to change that by incorporating spirituality into their curriculum. Now, at least 70 of the nation’s 125 medical schools provide some type of spirituality training, including TTUHSC’s School of Medicine. Additionally, a spirituality component is included in at least 15 psychiatric residency programs nationwide.

McGovern was instrumental in implementing such training at TTUHSC. He and fellow colleague Terry McMahan, M.D., a neuropsychiatry professor and associate dean for the school’s education programs, recently received one of 12 awards given nationwide for their psychiatry residency curriculum from the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health (GWISH). The institute is a leading proponent of the spirituality and health movement.

McGovern is also co-founder of the Consortium for Spirituality and Healthcare, a multidisciplinary group that includes faculty members from TTUHSC and Texas Tech University. The group, established five years ago, meets monthly to discuss the aspects of religion and spirituality

and interaction with health care. They have sponsored four conferences at TTUHSC on the topic.

## PATIENT REQUEST

“I think this could be seen as being responsive to a trend, but really it’s about being responsive to patients by understanding their cultural value system,” says Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H., vice president of Rural and Community Health for TTUHSC and co-founder of the consortium. “In dealing with the patient, it is important to know their values. We talk about cultural competency, and one’s religious background or spirituality is a part of that. For some it’s what they believe about organ transplants or blood transfusions – for others it may be about end-of-life issues. If we know those things about a patient and incorporate them into the health care plan, there’s more of a likelihood that they will stick to the treatment plan and have better outcomes.”

Connie Flores, 55, says “faith and prayer” helps her deal with the constant pain she suffers from post-polio syndrome. Flores,

also one of Farrell’s patients, says he has been the only doctor to respond positively to such comments.

“Your faith or spirituality is a part of who you are,” she says sitting in the lobby at University Medical Center. Her husband was in a room just a few feet away awaiting open heart surgery. “You shouldn’t have to turn it off when you are a patient.”



**Spirituality is that which gives ultimate meaning to a person’s life and accounts for a person’s deepest experiences.**

**–Thomas McGovern, Ed.D.**

## SPIRITUALITY DEFINED

Farrell, assistant professor in the School of Medicine

and director of the early clinical experience bloc of the medical education curriculum, has lectured to first-year medical students on spirituality and health for four years. McGovern established the focus at TTUHSC when he came in 1978.

On an afternoon in mid-February, Farrell told a class of 148 first-year medical students, “We have to make sure we have the personal ability to react properly to statements made by our patients. It’s not about pressing patients into



## A case for faith

At First Baptist Church in Midland, Judith Bartley, R.N., M.S.N., (*SON '87*) has found a place to integrate faith and health.

Bartley is a congregational nurse – one of a growing number of health care professionals serving in their respective faith communities. Congregational nursing, or parish nursing as it's more commonly known, was designated as a specialized practice in 1998 by the American Nurses Association.

“Nursing has historically been focused on assessing the patient and looking at all of their needs while most often a doctor is generally treating the acute phase,” says Bartley. “When the acute phase is resolved, the patient often has many adjustments to make regarding changes in their health status. This is where the congregational nurse can become a vital resource to the patient.”

After retiring from the nursing faculty at Midland College in 1999, Bartley learned about her church's ministry through a notice in the church bulletin. She began volunteering with the program in 2004 and became head of the ministry last year.

“This has really given me the freedom to support people who clearly depend on their faith to get them through,” Bartley says. “I really feel like it is a great relief to people when I ask them during hospital visitation if it is OK for me to pray with them. I find that most people are hungry for that. I think it gives them a peace of mind.”

The ministry at First Baptist, she says, is one driven by the members' needs. The church has an active role of more than 4,000, the majority of whom are elderly. Through blood pressure screenings offered at church, Bartley says she has discovered several members with elevated blood pressure and has encouraged them to seek medical attention.

“It's been a real blessing to be a resource and an advocate for our members,” she says. —*Danette Baker*

‘believing,’ but more so to understand and embrace what the patient already feels contributes to his or her healing.”

For some people, spirituality is synonymous with their faith or religion; for others, the two are distinctly different, says McGovern. “Spirituality is that which gives ultimate meaning to a person's life and accounts for a person's deepest experiences. For some it is their faith. Others find it in nature, in music or simply in the accepted values and principles of life, like human kindness and respect for one another.”

### HEALTHY OUTCOMES

Regardless of how one defines it, spirituality's place in health care is coming into its own.

Hundreds of research studies in medical literature demonstrate the positive effects on health outcomes, says Patterson. “It's proven that people who regularly attend religious services have lower morbidity and mortality rates.”


Other benefits are discussed in *The Handbook of Religion and Health*, co-authored by Harold G. Koenig, M.D., director of Duke University's Center for the Study of Religion/Spirituality and Health. Examples include prevention of certain illnesses such as depression and substance abuse and the marked improvement in illnesses such as high blood pressure.

**Your faith or spirituality is a part of who you are. You shouldn't have to turn it off when you are a patient.**

—*Connie Flores*

*Newsweek* also reported in its Nov. 10, 2006, issue that the National Institutes of Health plans to spend \$3.5 million in coming years on “mind/body” medicine.

But not everyone's on the bandwagon. One of the primary arguments opponents make against tanding the two is that it stands to compromise the physician-patient relationship. Editorials in family medicine journals and in various mainstream publications such as *Newsweek* and *Time* magazines point to the physician's authoritative role with the patient and the harm that can come from doctors “prescribing” religion as part of the treatment. Others argue that biblical teachings of punishment for “sins” or immoral living are still adhered to in many cultural groups.

“Practicing (medicine) as a curative model is narrow-minded,” Farrell argued. “If our only purpose as physicians is to cure, we have somewhat already failed. There will be patients we can't cure.” 





TONJA HAGY

TONJA HAGY

endowments

# a gift of hope

**T**HAT'S ALL WE CAN DO HERE FOR YOUR CHILD."

Terry and Kelly Crofoot heard those despairing words nine years ago and have since made numerous trips to specialty clinics throughout the country seeking help for their 17-year-old son, Clay, who has epilepsy. Clay is pictured above and on the cover with his horse, BillyBob.

About 2.7 million Americans have this neurological disorder, characterized most often by seizures. According to the Epilepsy Foundation, about 200,000 epilepsy cases are diagnosed each year – half of which occur in children. Through treatments, those with epilepsy often lead normal, productive lives. For many, however, the seizures compromise quality of life and sometimes result in death.

To save other West Texans battling epilepsy the heartache and expense of traveling for the best care, the Crofoots, along with Terry's parents, Jay and Virginia Crofoot, pictured above, have established the Crofoot Family Endowment in Epilepsy. The family's generous gift of \$2 million to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will support the Crofoot Chair in Epilepsy in the School of Medicine as well as provide funding to develop a comprehensive program in Lubbock for the diagnosis and treatment of epileptic disorders.

"We want all people of West Texas to have access to quality health care for this disorder without having to travel away from home," says Terry Crofoot. "Our hope is that this gift will provide the best in research and treatment for this region."

## Inspired?

For more information regarding financial support for TTUHSC, please contact:

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

3601 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET STOP 6238, LUBBOCK, TX 79340  
806.743.2786

[HTTP://GIVING.TTUHSC.EDU](http://giving.ttuhs.edu)



Trina Lanza, M.S.N., a nurse practitioner, is renovating an existing home in Arlington, Texas, establishing a clinic to better serve her patients.

IAN HALPERIN

# Extending the Reach

*Physician assistants and nurse practitioners help meet burgeoning demands of health care*

|| BY JEROD FOSTER ||

As the only physician assistant on staff at Midland Family Medical Clinic, Jubel Reed, PA, (SOAHS '01) regularly has the opportunity to congratulate a newly pregnant couple or the responsibility of explaining the potential risk of cancer to a patient.

“Here in Midland, I see everything from the sniffles to heart attacks,” he says. While his duties call for supervision from a physician, Reed’s responsibilities and work hours are similar. “I am on call all day, everyday. I have even made a 9-1-1 call for a patient in Midland while attending a conference in Dallas.”

Reed is among a rapidly growing group of highly-trained medical professionals referred to as physician extenders or mid-

level providers, who are performing duties traditionally reserved for physicians.

The role of the physician assistant formally came into existence in 1965, although its roots date back to the 17th century Russian military. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Allied Health Sciences began its physician assistant program in 1999.

After spending 11 years as a flight nurse, Mike Reddell, PA, (SOAHS '05) decided to further his career as a physician assistant.

“PA school is based on the same principles that are taught in medical school,” says Reddell, who works



JEROD FOSTER

Mike Reddell, PA, spent 11 years as a flight nurse before earning his degree as a physician assistant.

at the Center for Orthopedic Surgery in Lubbock. “It allowed me to start thinking like a doctor, and for me, it seemed a better fit working with a physician. Surgical operations and patient rounds are handled more effectively and efficiently in this type of working relationship.”

Reddell states the role of the physician assistant is well-suited for several situations. “I believe we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg for physician assistants in the medical field. PAs fit in with rural health care where one doctor can oversee several PAs, and it fits in well with managed care also.”

Likewise, the role of nurse practitioner originated in 1965, but with a focus of serving children’s medical needs, primarily in underserved areas such as rural America. Since inception, nurse practitioners have gained autonomy as primary health providers in less populated as well as urban areas.

Bill Holland, M.S.N., (SON ’94) is a nurse practitioner in Seminole, Okla., population 6,900. He says the term mid-level provider is often misunderstood by patients in the rural setting because of the traditional doctor-nurse working relationship. However, Holland believes the acceptance of nurse practitioners in the past 10 years has increased and, in the last five years, opportunities for nurse practitioners have greatly developed.

Georgeanna Welch, R.N., M.S.N., FNP, (SON ’87, ’03, ’04) is a nurse practitioner at the Allergy and Asthma Clinic of West Texas in Lubbock. She says one advantage of working in specialty care is patient education.

“While working in such focused care may seem simple, it just

lets us concentrate more on the complexities of a general issue,” Welch says. “We still view care as holistic, and it is nice because we can focus on education and prevention in addition to treatment for our patients.”


Trina Lanza, R.N., M.S.N., F.N.P., (SON ’92, ’05) a nurse practitioner in Denton, Texas, recently obtained hospital privileges at Presbyterian Hospital. “Our (nurse practitioners) ability to have hospital privileges is beneficial

for patients because we can follow their care throughout their hospital stay and then back home again,” she says.

“Continuity of care is important for good outcomes. When someone says I want you to take care of me, it has a positive effect on my work.”

Lanza plans to establish her own clinic in Arlington, Texas. “Owning my own clinic has always been a dream,” she says. “I plan to serve the community through Medicaid, Medicare and insurance.”

While the traditional roles of the physician assistant and nurse practitioner continue to serve out their initially intended responsibilities, it is evident that these roles are also expanding and fulfilling other needs of the medical community.

“We need to focus on collaborative efforts in medicine,” Welch says. “It’s a collaborative environment, and that’s the way it should be in any health care situation.” 



JEROD FOSTER

Georgeanna Welch, M.S.N., a nurse practitioner at the Allergy and Asthma Clinic of West Texas in Lubbock, says patient education is an integral part of her work.



NEAL HINKLE

Jubel Reed, PA, has a diverse patient load as the only physician assistant with Midland Family Medical clinic in Midland.

## Nurse Practitioner

- YEAR STARTED 1991
- NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED (ACROSS SPECIALTIES)  
Approximately 150 students
- GRADUATES FROM NP PROGRAM 278
- NUMBER OF NPS NATIONALLY Approximately 145,000
- NUMBER OF NPS IN TEXAS 6,466
- TTUHSC OFFERS 4 DIFFERENT SPECIALTIES Acute care, Family, Gerontological, Pediatric

## Physician Assistant

- YEAR STARTED 1999
- CURRENT NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED 99
- GRADUATES FROM PA PROGRAM 147
- NUMBER OF PAS NATIONALLY Approximately 70,000
- NUMBER OF PAS IN TEXAS Approximately 3,500

# uncommon occupations

BY REBECCA HARDIN

Not all TTUHSC alumni work in traditional health care settings. In fact, some of them work in pretty treacherous places – from trauma rooms in the sky to DEA crime labs. Here are a few of their stories.

## nursing in high altitudes

**Peg Cavins, B.S.N, CFRN, CEN**

*Flight nurse for Careflite*

Frisco, Texas

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

School of Nursing, 2006

Peg Cavins works a thousand feet in the air aboard an Agusta A109 helicopter – oftentimes performing emergency medical care on critical patients. Special training, including exercises in a cadaver lab, is required annually for flight nurses to perform procedures such as solo nasal intubations, chest decompressions and chest tube placement – just for starters.

In 15 years of flying, Cavins says she has seen the spectrum. She recounts one call when a 13-year-old girl was doing back flips after cheerleading practice and landed wrong. When the team arrived on scene, Cavins says the patient could not feel her legs. Calling on their unique training, the flight team was able to initiate steroid therapy until they arrived at the emergency room.

As a result of the in-flight care and emergency services on the ground, Cavins says the young woman can walk again with the assistance of crutches.

Based at a fire station in Frisco, just north of Dallas, Cavins begins each shift by making sure the helicopter is equipped with everything that may be needed. While describing her daily routine, she is interrupted with yet another call to duty, demonstrating what she refers to as a fast-paced job where one never knows when and what the next call will bring.



IAN HALPERIN

# protecting the work force

## **Tom Fogarty, M.D.**

*Chief Medical Officer and Vice President  
Concentra, occupational health care*

**Dallas, Texas**

**Doctorate of Medicine, 1980**

**Family Medicine Residency**

**School of Medicine, 1983**

Tom Fogarty remembers trying to take a nap in the middle of the night on an old, uncomfortable seat on the bus owned by former President Lyndon B. Johnson's radio station.

The bus, converted into a make-shift mobile services unit, was parked in Lorenzo, Texas, where Fogarty was giving pulmonary function tests to employees of a mop factory located outside of this rural community. Those were the humble beginnings of Concentra, Fogarty's billion-dollar occupational health care company.

The trip to Lorenzo was just one of many out-of-the-ordinary experiences Fogarty remembers from his 24-year journey in occupational medicine.

Concentra still has mobile units today, but the accommodations are much different than in 1979, when Fogarty launched the company in Amarillo. Fogarty's wife, Susan, likens today's 18-wheel mobile units to a rock-star tour bus.

Fogarty is in charge of more than 650 doctors and 350 therapists across the country who treated 10 percent of all work-related injuries in the United States in 2006. The company also helps employers meet health care needs that range from the safety of employees and the environment to Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations and biological monitoring.

"I view what we do as a cross between family practice and public health," Fogarty says. "In a plant with 1,000 employees, we look at everyone on an individual basis to deal with their health care needs. At the same time, we look at problems from a population standpoint by creating a safer work force and environment."

With employer health insurance premiums rising – 7.7 percent in 2006 according to the National Coalition on Health Care – and employers paying a majority of the health insurance costs, American businesses are looking for avenues to keep their workers healthy.

"As costs have increased, employers are more cognizant about having healthier employees, and healthy workers make better decisions on health care," Fogarty says.

With clients ranging from car manufacturers to meat packing plants, Concentra recently noted a trend in on-site care. Several employers have opened 24-hour health clinics. To date, the clinics mainly handle job-related injuries but Fogarty says the integrated model encourages employees to utilize the site for care such as blood pressure and cholesterol checks. The model raises awareness of a healthier lifestyle.

"If you can create a culture and awareness in the work place, it will carry over into the home," says Fogarty, "thus creating a healthier family."



# citius, altius, fortius swifter, higher, stronger

**Kristin Tucker, MAT, ATC, LAT**  
*Former Fellow in Athletic Training*  
**U.S. Olympic Training Committee**  
**Marquette, Mich.**  
**Master of Athletic Training**  
**School of Allied Sciences, 2005**

More than 25,000 athletes prepare for the world's most anticipated sporting events at Olympic Training Centers across the United States. Kristin Tucker got a firsthand look at some of the nation's most talented Olympians while completing a fellowship in 2006 as an athletic trainer for the Olympic Training Committee in Marquette, Mich.

Located at Northern Michigan University, the Olympic Education Center is the training facility for degree-seeking Olympic athletes in everything from women's freestyle wrestling to short-track speed skating. As one of eight fellows, Tucker worked primarily with weight lifters and women's freestyle wrestlers.

The opportunity is one she hopes will open a myriad of doors in the future.

"My experience as a whole at the training center was very interesting and allowed me to get a greater perspective on what is available for athletes competing in today's world," Tucker says. "It also allowed me to fine-tune my skills."

Tucker, now the head athletic trainer for Pampa Independent School District, is working on the five years of real-world experience required by the Olympic



PROVIDED BY KRISTIN TUCKER

committee before she can work at Olympic events. While she won't be eligible for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Tucker has aspirations of returning to national and international events.

"I really feel that helping athletes achieve their goals is one of the greatest honors I have as an athletic trainer," says Tucker. "If I ever have the opportunity to again contribute my skills to the hard work and training our Olympic athletes dedicate themselves to, it would be a privilege I could not pass up."



MARK HATCHER/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# crime stopper

**Darrell Eubank, Ph.D.**  
*Senior forensic chemist*  
**U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration**  
**Dallas, Texas**  
**Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 2000**

Darrell Eubank knows there is no shortage of drugs on the street of America today. In fact, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration made more than 29,000 drug-related arrests in 2006. That's a statistic Eubank doesn't care for, and one he is doing his best to change.

Eubank's headquarters are at the South Central Lab in Dallas, one of nine in the United States. There he analyzes samples of alleged controlled substances for various law enforcement agencies in seven states. In addition, he performs various types of training and provides assistance with seizures of clandestine laboratories, illegal operations consisting of equipment and chemicals needed to manufacture controlled substances.

Eubank finds a great sense of accomplishment each time he completes a case. "I work in one of the top forensic drug laboratories in the country with high tech instrumentation that is second to none," he says.

Law enforcement officials submit their samples for analysis to the DEA. The results are a vital part of their case. Eubank, an expert in controlled substance analysis, plays an important role in the war on drugs by determining if the accused had illegal drugs in his or her possession.

"My job makes a difference," he says. "I am an integral part of a team that helps protect our country from the many problems associated with drug abuse."

# protecting america from terrorism



**Jonathan Kiel, Ph.D.**  
*Civilian senior scientist for counterproliferation*  
**U.S. Air Force**  
**San Antonio, Texas**  
**Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 1981**

Johnathan Kiel joined the U.S. Air Force in 1973 with a two-fold purpose. He needed financial support for his education, and his family had a long history of military service dating back to the Civil War. Kiel retired from active duty in 1988, but has continued to work for the military as a civil servant.

“It was a low point for me, leaving the service before I thought I would, but at the same time, I feel I made my greatest contribution to my country when I became a civilian,” says Kiel.

Kiel works behind the scenes protecting America from terrorism. He is stationed at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Brooks City Base in San Antonio, Texas, where he serves as the senior advisor on preventing and countering biological warfare and bioterrorism attacks through non-medical means.

Kiel is working to develop the science and technology of forecasting environmental effects of a biological agent. He is also helping to develop science and technology for the practice of recovering infectious agents from the natural environment.

In addition to his research and advisory duties, Kiel teaches classes on venomous snake bite treatment and herpetology at the base’s School of Aerospace Medicine. With involvement of U.S. troops in the Middle East, where venomous and unfamiliar snakes are common, training in these areas has become vital, he says. **P**

# CLS:

CLINICAL LAB SCIENCES

NEAL HINKLE

BY KIM DAVIS



BEHIND THE SCENES  
OF HEALTH CARE



## These are the scenes of today's television hits: white-coat experts meticulously examining DNA swabs or scrutinizing diseased blood cells with state-of-the-art technology.

With Petri dishes spread far and wide, these experts are none other than lab technologists – but the shows characterize them as heroes, figuring out everything from disease diagnoses to whodunit.

On the other side of the lights, camera, and action, however, lies the reality: lab technologists are often the unsung heroes. They spend most of their time behind the scenes, quietly solving the case, and are rarely seen as the character who is front and center.

Thanks to Hollywood, and the success of real programs such as the School of Allied Health Sciences' Clinical Lab Sciences Program (CLS), recognition of the profession – and its importance – is growing exponentially.

In 1986, only five graduates made up the inaugural CLS class. Now enrollment includes 50 students in the undergraduate program and another 16 in the graduate program. Increased enrollment helps fill the national need for qualified lab technologists.

“This combined enrollment is considered one of the largest laboratory sciences programs in the nation,” says CLS Program Director Lori Rice-Spearman, MT (ASCP), M.S., (SOAHS '86). “Even more extraordinary is the fact that both programs exceed the national average pass rate for first-time examinees.”

Openly considered one of the more grueling degree programs by many of the school's graduates, the CLS program is credited as an exemplary academic curriculum.

“I know I'm going to be a better doctor because I have a degree in CLS,” says Josh Hull, M.D., (SOAHS '03, SOM '07), a recent graduate of the School of Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. “My experience in lab sciences makes me more sensitive and understanding about knowing who is behind the scenes, and who is *really* behind all the numbers, figures and diagnoses on virtually every patient chart.”

Hull, who chose to follow a pre-med track in the CLS program, credits his undergraduate experience for preparing him for medical school.

“The CLS program was perfect for me,” he says. “It gave me all the transfusion medicine background ... hematology background ... you name it, and the CLS program comes into play whenever I think of how I've been well-prepared to succeed in medical school.”

He added that it's not just a primer to becoming a physician. In fact, he'd be happy to live life as a lab technologist if medical school had not been an option.

“I work as a medical technologist every weekend to help with medical school, and I absolutely love it,” he said.

My experience in lab sciences makes me more sensitive and understanding about knowing who is behind the scenes.

—JOSH HULL, M.D.

Josh Hull, M.D., credits his undergraduate training in the Clinical Lab Sciences program for his success in medical school.



JEROD FOSTER

OPPOSITE PAGE: Lori Rice-Spearman, MT (ASCP), M.S., director of the Clinical Lab Sciences Program, and Crystal Rodriguez, a student in the program's pre-med curriculum track.

In spite of the Hollywood hype, more technologists are needed.

“We hear all the time about the nursing shortages across the country, and that is very real,” says Rice-Spearman. “But, there isn’t much talk about the fact that we also are in constant need of medical technologists nationwide.”

While the CLS program is working to change the nation’s professional deficit, becoming a lab technologist is not the only option for those graduating with a CLS degree. The program offers three separate tracks, depending on each student’s career aspirations. Besides the standard option track for those wanting to work behind the scenes, the CLS program also offers a physician assistant track and a pre-med track such as that taken by Hull. All three are based on a 28-month program, which includes a seven-month clinical internship.

“At the root of all them is the tremendous importance of diagnostics,” Hull said. “There’s simply no other program like it.”

TTUHSC graduate Sixtus Atabong, PA, (SOAHS '02, '05) agrees.

“The clinical skills I gained from the CLS program made my years in training as a physician assistant so much better,” says Atabong, who earned his degree from the CLS program’s physician assistant track.

Atabong now works for Richard George, M.D., a neurosurgeon with Neurological Associates, LLP, in Lubbock.

“As a professional, I am so vitally aware of the importance of the technologists in the lab and their role in the ultimate outcome for each and every one of our patients at our facility,” Atabong says.

For Rice-Spearman, also serving as a CLS associate professor, it was the love of teaching that kept her in the field. An initial creator of Lubbock’s CLS program – a model for similar programs nationwide – Rice-Spearman is proud to look back on her graduates and praise their many successes.

“The medical field is wide open to our graduates,” she said. “In addition to physician assistants, lab technologists and doctors, we have many graduates who have become

**In reality, you don’t see their faces like you do on the TV shows, but the people in the lab are always the ones figuring out the cases day in and day out.**

– Brian Williams, M.D.

pharmacists, veterinarians and even lawyers with specialties in the medical/legal field.”

Though Hollywood shows are far from reality, many graduates agree there’s a definite parallel between the two.

“Laboratory science is like the Sherlock Holmes of medicine,” says Brian Williams, M.D., a 2001 CLS graduate, now serving his residency at the Mayo Clinic. “In reality, you don’t see their faces like you do on the TV shows, but the people in the lab are always the ones figuring out the cases day in and day out.”

“Bottom line is this,” Hull says. “I truly believe many in the health care field still don’t recognize the daily contributions of those behind the scenes – in the lab. My goal is to change that thought process a little at a time each and every day I serve as a physician.

“After all, they truly *are* the heroes of medicine.” 

Brian Mahmood, a student in the Clinical Lab Sciences Program’s pre-med curriculum track.



You came.  
You studied.  
You graduated.



*And somewhere in between, you made some lifelong friends.*

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LAUNCHES LATER THIS SUMMER

When you visit the new online community, you can access the alumni directory, career center, class notes and register to attend the 2007 Health Sciences Center Reunion.

*Watch your snail mail for initial user id and password.*

For more information contact [TTUHSCAlumni@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:TTUHSCAlumni@ttuhsc.edu).



Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., division chief of Women's Health and co-director of the Women's Health Research Institute, and Shanna Uhrich, clinic manager for Internal Medicine, in an exam room at the women's center. The new facility is scheduled to open this summer.

**NEW APPROACH TO WOMEN'S HEALTH** :: A new concept in treating women's health is coming to the Amarillo campus later this summer with the opening of the Center for Women's Health and Gender-Based Medicine.

The center represents a novel approach to state-of-the-art evaluation of wellness and disease, says Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., division chief of Women's Health and co-director of the Women's Health Research Institute at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Amarillo.

This women's health endeavor will encompass all three mission areas: education, research and patient care, she says. Thus, the TTUHSC Center for Women's Health and Gender-based Medicine partners well with other institutional women's health endeavors such as the Women's Health Research Institute. According to Jenkins, a foundation is being built that will establish TTUHSC as a national leader in women's health and gender-specific medicine.

**POWELL TRADES BUSINESS FOR BOOKS** :: Kim Powell, PHARM.D., eagerly waits for Aug. 12 -- the day that 40 students will make Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center history as the inaugural class at the School of Pharmacy in Abilene.

She describes her anticipation as exciting and awe-inspiring.

"In the 25 years that I've been in the field, I've never seen a community this excited about embracing pharmacy as an academic discipline," says Powell, the school's regional dean in Abilene. "This community has greeted me and this school with their arms held out wide, wanting to help in any way possible to see that this school opens."

Powell joined the School of Pharmacy in January after having served as clinical specialist in managed care at Scott & White Prescription Services in Temple. She also was director of pharmacy services for Coryell Memorial Hospital in Gatesville and has 15 years experience in retail pharmacy. Powell earned her doctorate from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy and completed a specialty pharmacy residency in Drug Information from the University of Texas and Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple.

As a member of the School of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Council, Powell says she had the opportunity to interact with students during the intern and residency process. Their level of professionalism and knowledge was a factor in her decision to move from the business world to academia.

"I consider it a great honor to now have a hand in molding these students."



SOP Regional Dean Kim Powell, PHARM.D., anticipates the school's August opening.



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR HEALTH:**

"Small changes can reap big rewards" was the take-away message for the 275 people attending this year's Women's Health Symposium held in May. The event, sponsored by the Women's Health Research Institute, educates women about improving their health and well-being.



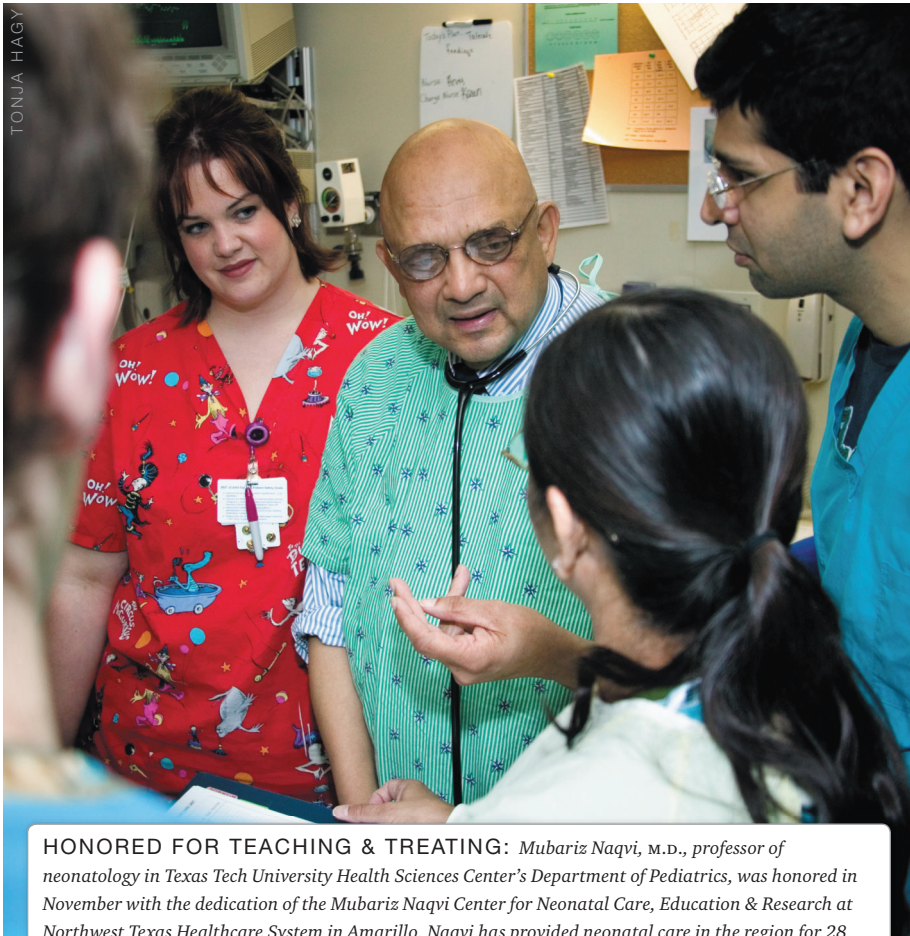
**CANCER SUPPORT:** *The J. Avery Rush family recently established the Mrs. J. Avery "Janie" Rush Endowed Chair in Women's Health and Oncology through a \$1 million gift to the School of Medicine at Amarillo. The chair, named in honor of Janie Rush who is an ovarian cancer survivor, will support the school's recruitment of a nationally known physician with clinical and research expertise in women's health and oncology. This physician also will form partnerships with The Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and the Texas Oncology Physicians Association. The School of Medicine added \$300,000 to the endowment, making the full amount of the chair \$1.3 million. Mrs. Rush is the mother of Avery Rush, M.D., an assistant clinical professor at Amarillo and member of the Texas Tech Foundation Board. Two of his sons, Jave and Ryan, are School of Medicine alumni. Their brother, Sloan, completed an internal medicine residency at TTUHSC at Amarillo and is now an ophthalmology resident at TTUHSC at Lubbock.*

*Thank you for your continued support!*

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, the Dr. Steve Urban Endowed Professorship in Internal Medicine has been completed.

W.H. and Joyce Attebury started the professorship in 2006 honoring Urban's work. The Atteburys are long-time patients of Steve Urban, M.D., associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. An article about Urban and the professorship was published in the Winter 2006 issue of Pulse, and you responded to the request for additional funding.

Your donations, along with gifts from patients and friends, and support from the John and Mary O'Brien Foundation for Academic Excellence, helped raise an additional \$200,000 to bring the professorship to its \$500,000 goal. The money will help the School of Medicine recruit and retain a physician who can focus on bed-side manners and teaching clinical skills, the practices for which Urban is known.



TONJA HAGY

**HONORED FOR TEACHING & TREATING:** *Mubariz Naqvi, M.D., professor of neonatology in Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's Department of Pediatrics, was honored in November with the dedication of the Mubariz Naqvi Center for Neonatal Care, Education & Research at Northwest Texas Healthcare System in Amarillo. Naqvi has provided neonatal care in the region for 28 years and has been instrumental in education, research, outreach programs and community fundraisers. The NICU serves those in the top 26 counties of Texas as well as western Oklahoma, eastern New Mexico and southern Kansas.*

**DONATION ESTABLISHES PROFESSORSHIP** ::

William P. Hale, M.D., and his wife, Sue, recently established the William P. Hale, M.D., and Sue Hale Distinguished Otolaryngology Professorship. The professorship, the first for the School of Medicine at Amarillo, will help the school recruit and retain a physician faculty member in otolaryngology. Hale has practiced otolaryngology in Amarillo for 45 years.



TONJA HAGY

Recent SON graduate Eunice Mbese hopes to one day use the skills she gained to serve people of the Darfur region in Africa.

**INSPIRED TO SERVE** :: As a 9-year-old in Africa, Eunice Mbese (SON '07) watched in disbelief as a man openly admitted on national television that he had AIDS.

"I remember because it was World AIDS Day," Mbese recalls. "It was the '80s, and back then it was a big deal, you know, especially in Africa. He was the first man to talk about his disease publicly, and he was giving so many people hope. I thought, 'Wow, I want to give people hope like that someday.'"

Now 21 years later, Mbese is on the way to fulfilling her dream. "God has given me a platform," she says, "and it wasn't luck, and it wasn't a coincidence. What Texas Tech (Health Sciences Center) has given me is something I can't really define with words."

Mbese grew up in a small village in Nairobi with four sisters and one brother. "My mom was a single parent," she says, "but she was a big believer in 'You can do whatever you set your mind to.'"

Five years ago, Mbese came to the United States to pursue a college degree. She credits her success at TTUHSC to the countless people she believes God placed in her life to encourage and support her in her endeavors.

Although she has no definite plans, Mbese says she is passionate about the Darfur region and hopes for a future opportunity to serve in that area.

"It doesn't matter where I am in life; what matters is that I am doing what I love to do, and what I'm called to do."



**CELEBRATING GOOD TIMES:** School of Nursing alumnae Karen Esquibel ('97, '02), Melissa Lehman ('97), Heather Morris ('97, '03) and Susan Stuhr ('97) enjoy festivities during the school's 25th Anniversary Celebration in January. The three-day event was the highlight of a yearlong focus on the school's accomplishments.



*Kathy Sperry, Ph.D., senior director for the Institute for Forensic Science, leads a tour of the new facility for Clifford Fedler, Ph.D., associate dean, Texas Tech University Graduate School, left, and Lubbock City Council member John Leonard.*

## FORENSICS INSTITUTE CELEBRATES NEW FACILITIES ::

City and county officials joined representatives from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech System to celebrate the January opening of new facilities for the Institute for Forensic Science. The institute can now offer amenities such as enhanced distance-education programs for rural law enforcement officers throughout the South Plains and Panhandle regions.

Additionally, the training facility will serve as classroom space for a proposed Forensic Science master's degree program. The institute also plans to add a research component through a forensic pathologist fellowship program.

The Institute for Forensic Science, established in 2001 through the combined efforts of TTUHSC, TTU and its School of Law, has brought together professionals from within the TTU System as well as regional law enforcement and public health professionals, criminal defense and prosecuting attorneys, judges and scientists to improve the field of forensic science across West Texas.

Additionally, the institute supports the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's office and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program. The SANE program trains registered nurses to provide comprehensive care to sexual assault survivors.



**HONORED FOR THEIR SUPPORT:** *Norman Schulman, M.D., Carol Levenson, Linda Robins, M.D., (SOM '84), and Scott Robins, M.D., were among those attending the Clinical Faculty Appreciation Dinner in April hosted by TTUHSC Interim President Bernhard T. Mittemeyer, M.D., and School of Medicine Dean Steven Berk, M.D. Honored guests were faculty and clinical faculty who have contributed to the vision of TTUHSC that began nearly 40 years ago.*

## STUDENT PROJECT EARNS HONORS ::

Congratulations to the TTUHSC American Medical Student Association whose GRACE project recently received national recognition from the AMSA Foundation's Achieving Diversity in Dentistry and Medicine initiative for its innovative approach to creating a more diverse health care work force.

Germán R. Núñez G., Ph.D., vice president of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at TTUHSC, says this national recognition is a significant accomplishment by itself, but more so given the other honoree, the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, is ranked among the top five medical schools in the nation.

GRACE, or Great Recruiting and Community Explorations, was established in 2005 by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (ODMA) as part of its community outreach programs. GRACE pairs medical students with students from local middle-schools who come from underrepresented or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Their goal is to educate the younger students about different career options in health care.

"I am very proud of this national award that brings due recognition to the efforts and commitment of our students and to the dedication of our office in guiding the students throughout this project, says Yolanda Gonzaga, ODMA director, who initiated the program.



McCall Nipp, Amanda Vasquez, Angela Gutierrez, Molly Bartolowits and Ashley Caivano

**STORK DELIVERY** :: Students in the School of Nursing helped raise more than \$29,000 in baby items and monetary donations at the school's annual Stork's Nest Baby Shower held in April. Students have hosted the event for the past five years raising more than \$85,000. The Stork's Nest is a non-profit organization sponsored by the March of Dimes and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority that provides baby items to pregnant women and teens as incentives to seek prenatal care.



Stacie Hiraki

**ANSWERS FOR MS PATIENTS** :: Help for West Texans with multiple sclerosis is on the horizon with the establishment of a new endowment at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Multiple sclerosis, a disease of the central nervous system that disrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body, affects one in 1,000 Americans, according to the American Academy of Neurology.

The endowment, housed within the School of Medicine's Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, will focus on the diagnosis and treatment of the disease through an academic program and specialty patient clinic. Presently, there are only four treatment locations in Texas, the closest located in Dallas.

"Recent developments in the diagnosis and treatment of MS have significantly improved the quality of life for patients and their families, but much more remains to be done," says Randolph Schiffer, M.D., the Vernon and Elizabeth Haggerton Chair in the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. "Establishing a dedicated subspecialty academic program here in Lubbock will enable the Health Sciences Center to participate in these many exciting developments."

The Teva Corporation, a pharmaceutical company providing medication for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, provided a \$30,000 gift in December to help fund the endowment.

## DISTINGUISHED FACULTY RECEIVE CHANCELLOR COUNCIL AWARDS ::

Two faculty members from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center were recognized in December with Chancellor's Council Awards.



Bickley

Lynn Bickley, M.D., received the Distinguished Teaching Award, and Paula Grammas, Ph.D., accepted the Distinguished Research Award.



Grammas

"The heart and soul of this university is its great teachers and researchers," says Texas Tech System Chancellor Kent Hance. "It's vital that we have professors who can inspire our students, and researchers who can come up with solutions to problems that help not only our university but our society. I am proud that we are able to honor the best faculty members in this way."

Bickley is a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, associate dean for curriculum in the School of Medicine, and director for geriatrics education at the Garrison Institute on Aging.

Grammas, executive director of the Garrison Institute on Aging, is a professor of neuropsychiatry and holds the Mildred and Shirley L. Garrison Chair in Aging at TTUHSC.



## WILLIAMS RECEIVES PROFESSOR EMERITUS TITLE ::



At its October meeting, Texas Tech University System Board of Regents named Darryl Williams, M.D., as Professor Emeritus.

Williams, who retired last year, held several positions with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center during his 16 years with the institution. Most recently, he was the executive director of the Office of Border Health and Area Health Education in El Paso and

served as the principal investigator and project director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence. He also was executive director of the Office of Curriculum and Planning for the four-year medical school in El Paso.

In addition, Williams served as dean of the School of Medicine from 1990 to 1995 and of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences from 1992 to 1995.



**FOR A GOOD CAUSE:** Zenaido Camacho, Ph.D., associate academic dean for the School of Medicine, and his wife, Carol, enjoy this year's Celebrity Chef event. Held in February, the event featured food from the best of El Paso's most celebrated chefs as well as a live and silent auction. El Paso's Rotary Clubs, in conjunction with Las Palmas and del Sol Medical Centers, host the annual event, which for the past two years has benefited the four-year medical school.

**HEALTH CARE ACROSS THE BORDER ::** Brenda Castells, M.D., is sometimes pressed for time to do all that her job requires. However, for the past two years she has made time to volunteer one weekend a month at the Hospital La Familia in Juarez, Mexico.

Castells, who served until April as chief resident in the School of Medicine's Department of Neuropsychiatry, accompanied clinical faculty member Bernardo C. Tarin-Godoy, M.D., as he treated indigent patients at the hospital's psychiatric clinic.

A month after establishing the free clinic, Tarin-Godoy asked for volunteers, and Castells answered the call. What she discovered was a tremendously underserved community in need of psychiatric services. "The people we are helping have so many needs — poverty, family problems — and have no time to worry about what's going on around them," she says.

Castells, now working on a child psychiatry fellowship in Maryland, says the experience in Juarez gave her a more in-depth education.

"I have seen illnesses that other residents in other programs may not see until later in their training," she says. "I've seen patients with schizophrenia, individuals wandering the streets, depression and bipolar disorders. I've also seen mental retardation, uncontrolled aggression and post traumatic stress disorder.

Castells added that many of the people they see continue treatment with follow-up visits to the clinic.

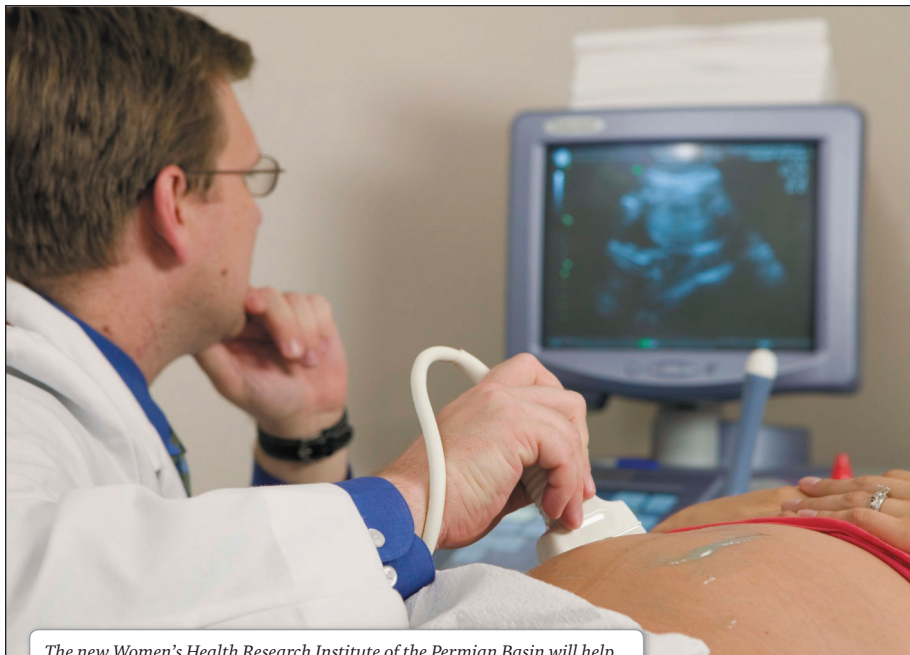
"It's always wonderful to help the community you live in and to see dysfunctional lives become functional again."



Brenda Castells, M.D., volunteered her services at a psychiatry clinic in Juarez, Mexico, while she was a resident at the TTUHSC School of Medicine at El Paso. Shown with her at left is Luz Bauerkemper, patient services specialist for the Department of Neuropsychiatry.

# permian basin

ROUNDS



The new Women's Health Research Institute of the Permian Basin will help promote patient care, research, community health and medical education.

**TEACHING HOSPITALS SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE** :: Midland Memorial Hospital and Medical Center Hospital in Odessa gave \$150,000 each in support of the establishment of the Women's Health Research Institute of the Permian Basin. Funding will help promote patient care, research, community health and medical education throughout the Permian Basin and rural West Texas.

"The Women's Health Research Institute brings together the women's health education programs at each of these Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center teaching hospitals, including the Spirit of Women at Medical Center Hospital and women's health outreach programs through Midland Memorial Hospital," says School of Medicine Regional Dean John C. Jennings, M.D.

Jennings was instrumental in creating the Women's Health Research Institute of Amarillo and has a long history in promoting women's health and research statewide and nationally.

**FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN TO BENEFIT SOM STUDENTS** :: In January, Texas Tech Physicians and the Odessa Chamber of Commerce Medical Expansion Committee announced a major fundraising campaign that will provide scholarships for future medical students at the Permian Basin.

Matthew Furst, M.D., (SOM '87) chief of staff at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, chairs the committee consisting of community and business leaders,

School of Medicine Regional Dean John Jennings, M.D., presented a check to Furst for \$15,000 on behalf of Texas Tech Physicians of the Permian Basin to kick-off fund-raising efforts. School of Medicine Dean Steven L. Berk, M.D., matched the funds with a donation from the School of Medicine in Lubbock.

**HOSPITAL DISTRICT ESTABLISHES ENDOWED CHAIRS** :: The Ector County

Hospital District Board of Directors designated \$4 million in February to support four endowed chairs for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin.

The gift will establish chairs in the Obstetrics and Gynecology, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine departments. Additionally, the gift will fund the first-ever endowed chair for the School of Nursing to support the regional dean position.

Endowed chairs enable TTUHSC to recognize its most talented faculty members as well as to recruit outstanding new members.

**SON ESTABLISHES NEW CENTER OF EXCELLENCE** ::

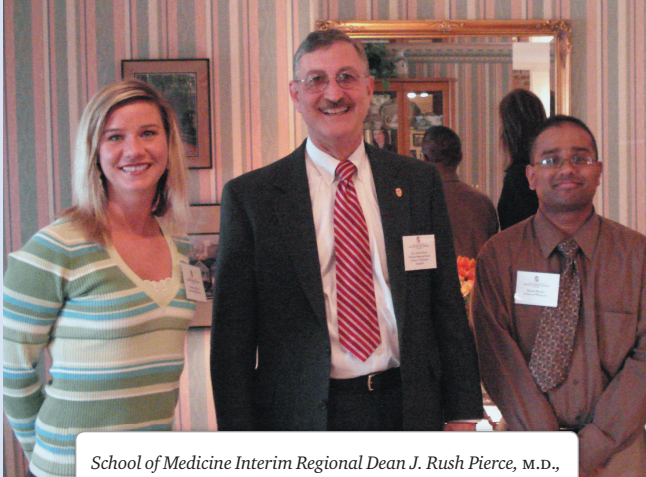
Through a partnership with Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, TTUHSC School of Nursing has established a new Center of Excellence in Evidence-Based Practice with a focus on discovering ways to improve patient care and safety.

"The center symbolizes a unique partnership of academia and service that will integrate research, education and patient care," says Sharon Cannon, ED.D., co-director. "The nearest evidence-based practice center in Texas is located in San Antonio, so we are excited to bring this concept to West Texas."

Through this center, multidisciplinary teams of educators and health care providers will be supported and encouraged to look beyond the traditional approaches in research, education and patient care to find new methods of delivering health care, utilizing holistic care of the patient, adds Carol Boswell, ED.D., (SON '81, '91) co-director.



Carol Boswell, ED.D., School of Nursing professor; Mary McClellan, administrative support staff member; and Sharon Cannon, ED.D., regional dean



School of Medicine Interim Regional Dean J. Rush Pierce, M.D., enjoys some great company during the Amarillo reception with Katherine Elliott, PHARM.D., (SOP '06 and current resident), and Kamal Bhakta, PHARM.D., (SOP '07).



School of Allied Health Sciences Dean Paul P. Brooke, PH.D., FACHE, with recent graduates Heather Hill, Meaghan Villareal, Sarah Connley, Britney Roberts and Jessica Noggler.

Alumni and May graduates from the TTUHSC at Lubbock and Amarillo enjoyed an opportunity to network in April. Health Sciences Center deans and the Office of Alumni Relations hosted receptions to give alumni the opportunity to visit with some of our outstanding graduates.



**GOLDBY REWARDED FOR SERVICE** :: The Bronze Star was awarded to Cpt. Katrina Goldby R.N., B.S.N., J.D., (SON '98) for her role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. She was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve 413th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Goldby was deployed in 2003 as a member of a five-person team attached to the 101st Airborne.

Her duties were to help assess damage in Baghdad and Talafar, and stabilization of resources early in the war. The team worked to determine several things – the number of people left homeless, citizen access to fuel and/or electricity, and damage to public buildings such as schools, mosques and health care facilities.

“I was just doing my job, like everyone else,” says Goldby, a 16-year member of the reserves, who now works as an administrative director at the J.O. Wyatt Clinic in Amarillo.

The most difficult part of her service, says Goldby, were the sacrifices her 10-year-old twins have made.

“My children were very hard to leave. In fact, that was the only hard part,” she says. “This was an amazing experience; you just don’t get to do this kind of work anywhere else.”

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For questions about the community contact [rebecca.hardin@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:rebecca.hardin@ttuhsc.edu).



Rita Mitchell, a student in the Nurse Practitioner Program, and her preceptor, Heather Morris, R.N., M.S.N., FNP-C, (SON '97, '03) joined School of Nursing supporters and alumni in March at the annual Nurse Practitioner Dinner.

## PRECEPTOR ROLE SIGNIFICANT PART OF NURSING EDUCATION

Alumni, faculty, staff, preceptors and students of the Nurse Practitioner Program gathered March 1 at the International Cultural Center to celebrate a time honored tradition – using preceptors in education.

The School of Nursing began using preceptors, professionals who mentor and teach, in 1991 to facilitate the nurse practitioner program.

Rita Mitchell, R.N., B.S.N., LNFA, a student in the family nurse practitioner program, says the preceptors are a great resource.

“I tell my preceptors to take everything they know and put it in my head,” she says. “Some of them share with me what they learned from their preceptors.”

Melanie Fowler, R.N., M.S.N., FNP ('96), was among the first students in the program to have a preceptor. Hers was Darlene Norton, R.N., M.S.N., C.F.N.P., one of the program's founding faculty. After graduation, Fowler served as a preceptor. Although she does not currently have students, she often finds herself with a patient wishing she had one with which to share the experience.

One of Fowler's students was Susan Andersen, APRN, PH.D. ('97), now a faculty member and preceptor for the School of Nursing.

Andersen says that the preceptor portion of the nurse practitioner program has changed dramatically over the years.

“Back then, there just weren't that many preceptors who were nurse practitioners; we had to work a lot with doctors,” says Andersen. While that wasn't always a disadvantage, everyone agrees that there is a very big difference.”

“Nurse practitioners have a very holistic approach,” says Mitchell. “We treat the whole body.”



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**JASON HEUERMAN**  
PHARM.D.  
SOP '01

## PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

BY LINDSEY DUNCAN

**JASON HEUERMAN, PHARM.D.**, discovered an interest in pharmacy long before he was old enough to go to college.

"In high school, I started delivering prescriptions for a pharmacist named James McCoy in Abilene," he says. "I got to know the people in the community and the little old ladies would give me cookies and sit and talk with me. I knew right then I wanted to be a pharmacist."

Heuerman now is co-owner with McCoy of McCoy Drugstore South in Abilene, where they fill prescriptions from local doctors and from veterinarians.

"It's kind of a niche here in Abilene," Heuerman says. "We

have to ask some people when they come in if they are picking up medication for themselves or their pets."

Being personable and accessible is an important part of the McCoy's Drugstore work philosophy, says Heuerman.

Those skills, he says, were an integral part of the education he received from the School of Pharmacy.

"The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy is a leader in Texas. It has good framework and good employees and the skills that you learn at this school will put you above the rest, especially because of the experience students get in working with the community."

## STAR-SPANGLED SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JULIE TOLAND

**KATE BALDOCCHI, A.U.D.**, never imagined the Star-Spangled Double T she designed as a student would still be going strong more than five years later.

Baldocchi created the emblem, a sketch of the U.S. flag inside a Double T, in 2001 shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. What started out as a personal – and therapeutic – creation eventually came to be a symbol of pride for Red Raiders nationwide.

As the Star-Spangled Double T made its way across campus and eventually, through the licensing process, decals and lapel pins were created, which the Student Senate began selling to benefit the TTUHSC Student Scholarship Fund.

Since its inception, the scholarship fund has earned more than \$30,000 and continues to help TTUHSC students further their education.

Baldocchi's many accomplishments while a student at TTUHSC earned her the prestigious Grover E. Murray Education Award for Outstanding Contributions to Higher Education in 2002. She was the first student ever to receive the award.

Today, she is an audiologist at Austin Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, a large otolaryngology/audiology group with clinics in Austin and surrounding communities. But her heart will always be with TTUHSC.

"I had a wonderful time as a TTUHSC student," she says. "The faculty in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences provided the educational structure that has developed into a job that I love."

**KATE BALDOCCHI**

AUD

SOAHS '01, '05

## REWARDING WORK

BY REBECCA HARDIN

Freedom to make mistakes, and learning to be independent are two things **GREG RIGDON, PH.D.**, remembers most about the educational opportunities offered to him by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

"I received a lot of really good training on how to do things right in science and not take short cuts," says Rigdon, a pharmacology graduate. He says the patience of his professors and his mentor, James Pirch, Ph.D., former TTUHSC professor, contributed to his success.

As vice president of new product development at ICAGEN Inc., a small pharmaceutical company based in Durham, N.C., Rigdon oversees the studies required to turn new molecules into drugs from initial activity in animals to clinical trials.

He says working for a smaller company does have advantages. "You can actually be involved in the process of developing a drug from the time the compound is first synthesized up until the compound is in the clinic and eventually marketed for patient use."

While the entire process can take as many as nine years to complete, Rigdon says working toward a common goal with such a diverse group of people is very satisfying. A typical project team includes experts in molecular biology, pharmacology, toxicology, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, regulatory, medical and marketing.

"The entire process is fun, and it's a great way to apply scientific techniques and knowledge to actually benefit people," says Rigdon. "It is an incredible time commitment and scientific challenge, but there are always new problems to solve, and we are all working toward a worthy goal -- improving the lives of patients."

**GREG RIGDON**  
PH D  
GSBS '85



## PROFICIENT AT HIS PRACTICE

BY IVANNA RICE-FLEWHARTY

**MIKE RICE, M.D., PH.D.**, has dedicated the last 13 years to understanding, diagnosing and treating patients with complex diabetes cases. He established the Rice Diabetes Center, located in Lubbock, and serves as its director.

In addition, he speaks at national venues on behalf of Novartis, Pfizer, Eli Lilly and sanofi-aventis pharmaceutical companies. Rice says his presentations provide an avenue that helps educate physicians, students, mid-level providers and nurses about a topic in which he is passionate.

He says the future of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center looks positive, and adds he is “excited by its growth” that he sees in other parts of the state with the different schools and programs developing in El Paso, Amarillo, Abilene and the Permian Basin.

### **MIKE RICE**

MD, PH D

GSBS '93, SOM '94





**MARY SLATER**  
RN, MSN  
SON '83

## JOURNEY TO THE WATER'S EDGE

BY KIM DAVIS

After a career of nurturing students and patients, **MARY SLATER, R.N., M.S.N.**, now spends her time nurturing nature.

Slater is living her retirement dream on the Emerald Coast of Florida, and spends her summers as part of the South Walton Turtle Watch Group.

"We love to say we live just six minutes from door to shore," she says of the beachfront home that she shares with her husband, Mitchell.

Slater is possibly remembered most for penning the Affirmation of Commitment for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing in 1983; however, she says she affectionately remembers the years she served on the faculty (1986-1993). Slater traveled to Lubbock in January for a visit to her alma mater during the school's 25th anniversary celebration.

"When I came to teach at the School of Nursing, we had a model that was different from anyone else in the country because

our first-semester students had clinical experience where most baccalaureate programs did not offer clinicals until the third year," she says. "Some of my fondest memories are of the School of Nursing's beginnings."

Slater's expertise and love for gerontology brought new career opportunities in 1994 when she moved to Kentucky to become nurse manager of the dementia unit at Lexington Christian Health Center. But her love for teaching soon lured her back into the field; and in 1995, she joined the associate degree nursing program at Eastern Kentucky University and remained there as an associate professor until her retirement in 2005.

Now, her focus is on nurturing the environment around her and helping the population of Loggerhead Sea Turtles.

"There's a piece of me that will always be a nurse," she says. "Retirement is just the next part of my journey."

# To Infinity and beyond!

BY STEVE HELBING

Less than two years ago, El Paso community leaders and supporters of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center four-year medical school turned out en masse to help the El Paso campus kick-off its Infinity Campaign, a capital campaign with a goal of raising \$25 million in private funding.

Former Texas Tech University System Chancellor John T. Montford set the stage in 1999 with the vision of a full-fledged, four-year medical school in El Paso, primarily to alleviate the physician shortage on the border. Our community showed


tremendous support for that vision as the El Paso campus launched the most ambitious private fundraising effort in its history.

The new medical school complex will feature two new structures. The Medical Science Building I, dedicated in January 2006, will be the hub of border health research to study cancer, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, infectious diseases and other diseases prevalent in this region. The Medical Education Building will provide student services facilities as well as classrooms, a library, administrative offices, a simulation room, basic sciences labs and a gross anatomy lab.

When the medical school is complete, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso School of Medicine will make history by becoming the first four-year medical school on a United States border.

Obviously, there are international ramifications to this endeavor and numerous benefits for public health, research, economics and quality of life. This is an historic moment for the El Paso area and the West Texas region. The history of the El Paso region has been shaped by big events -- the arrival of the railroads and the Army in the 19th century and the founding of the School of Mines, now The University of Texas at El Paso, in the 20th century. Like those historic events, the opening of the four-year medical school will be a 21st century event that will change the quality of life for our region and for Texas in ways that cannot be reversed.

To date, the Infinity Campaign has raised almost \$23 million and every dollar contributed so far has come from El Paso! We've enjoyed fantastic support from so many people in this community. I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of our investors and can't begin to thank them enough.

Everyone is optimistic about the future of the new medical school. The success of the Infinity Campaign will guarantee the establishment of this, the first medical school for Texas in more than 30 years. 



*Steve Helbing is chairman of the Infinity Campaign in El Paso, which supports the four-year medical school in El Paso.*



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