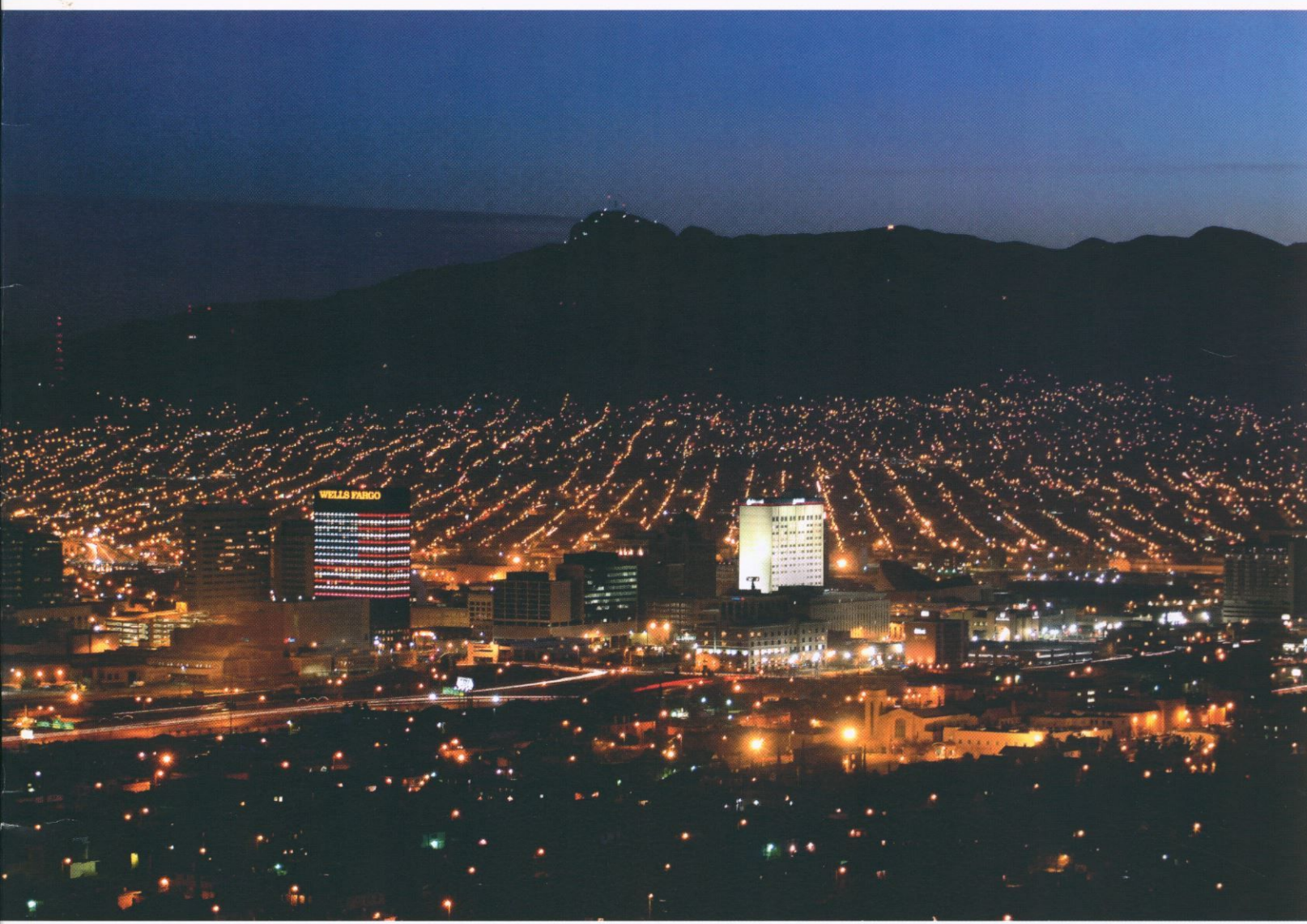


# PULSE

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ■ WINTER 2004



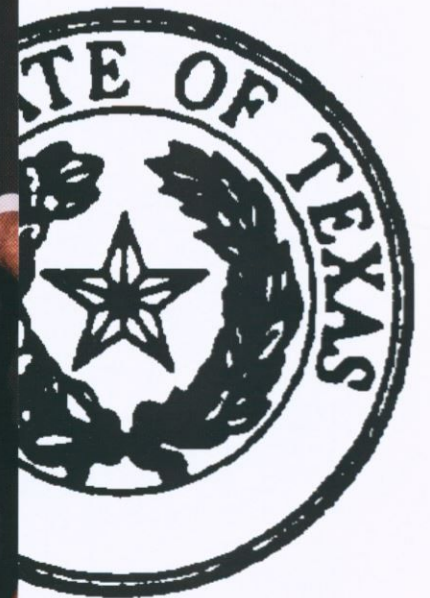
■ The El Paso skyline represents the broad promise of the upcoming four-year medical school at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center campus.



## House Bill 28, Article 10 –

authorizes Texas Tech to issue \$45 million in tuition revenue bonds for the construction of a classroom/office building for a four-year medical school at the El Paso campus.

The governor also announced \$2 million in funding to finance start-up costs and faculty salaries for a new medical school in El Paso.



October 30, 2003



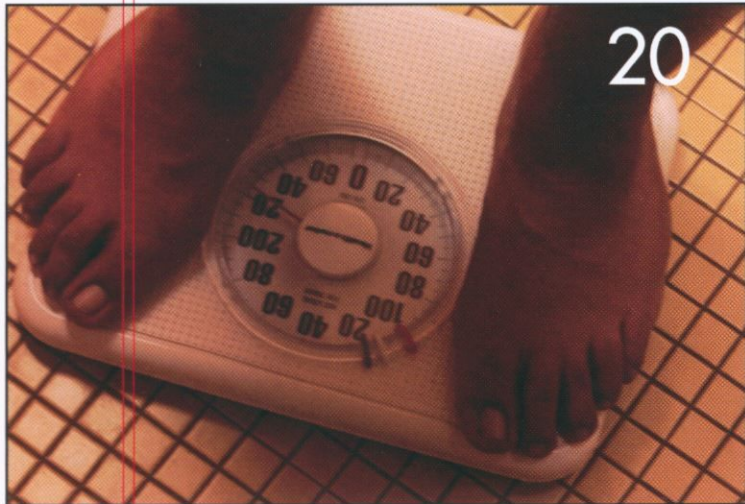
# PULSE

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE

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## TALK TO US

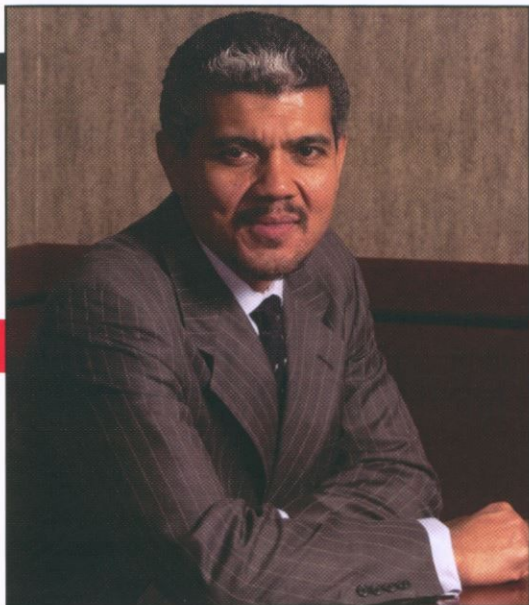
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# Rounds



*Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center President Appointed to*

## THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

**M**EMBERS ARE ELECTED THROUGH A SELECTIVE PROCESS THAT RECOGNIZES THOSE WHO HAVE MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES, HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences announced the election of President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, to its membership.

The IOM members are elected on the basis of their professional achievement. Members are elected through a selective process that recognizes those who have made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care and public health.

The appointment is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of medicine and health. "There are many people who are more deserving of this, but I am obviously extremely honored to be appointed to the IOM," Wilson said. "The IOM has recognized my contributions and most importantly given me a great responsibility to come together with other members to use our knowledge and

resources to better the health care of this country."

David R. Smith, M.D., chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, said Wilson's election to the institute underscores the breadth of academic, research and administrative excellence that he brings to his job at the health sciences center. "It acknowledges not only his national reputation in academic medicine, but his standing in the international medical community," Smith said. "The membership of the IOM undoubtedly understands his commitment to improving the health of entire communities and to addressing health disparities throughout this state."

Established in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences, the institute has become recognized as a national resource for independent, scientifically informed analyses and recommendations on issues related to human health. With their election, members make a commitment to devote a significant amount of volunteer time as members of IOM committees, which engage in a broad

range of studies on health policy issues.

Wilson is a nationally recognized ophthalmologist, specializing in glaucoma. He has delivered more than 150 invited lectures, many of them internationally, and has published numerous articles, book chapters and abstracts. He is a reviewer for all of the major ophthalmic journals and is on the editorial board of "Archives of Ophthalmology."

He actively participates on numerous national and international committees such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology EyeCare America, Glaucoma Project; the Advisory Council of the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH; the FDA Advisory Committee, Ophthalmic Devices; Glaucoma Society of the International Congress of Ophthalmology; the Glaucoma Advisory Committee of Prevent Blindness America and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Glaucoma Foundation.

Membership to the IOM is a lifetime appointment. Wilson's term began Oct. 1, 2003.



**Scatter-factor induced carcinoma cell migration research**

**RESEARCHER RECEIVES NEW NIH GRANT**

**AMARILLO** — J.Suzanne Lindsey, Ph.D., an associate professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy in Amarillo, has been awarded a \$222,000 research grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute. The grant, entitled, "Scatter-factor Induced Carcinoma Cell Migration," begins Sept. 1 and is good for two years.

Lindsey's grant means School of Pharmacy researchers in Amarillo are presently conducting 10 research projects with NIH funds. The total funding for those projects is more than \$3.98 million.

The majority of NIH grants are awarded to research teams headed by a principal investigator. Lindsey, however, is the sole recipient of this latest grant.

"Fully 70 percent of the investigators who receive this grant from

the NIH-NCI go on to receive a larger grant," Lindsey explained. She said the larger grants are typically funded for five years at more than \$1 million.

Other active NIH projects presently underway at the School of Pharmacy include:

- Choline Transporter Mediated Brain Drug Delivery by David Allen (\$148,000)
- Mumper SC: Nanotemplate Engineering of Cell-Specific Nanoparticles by David Allen (\$21,309)
- Calcitonin in Prostate Growth and Neoplasia by Girish Shah (\$740,000)

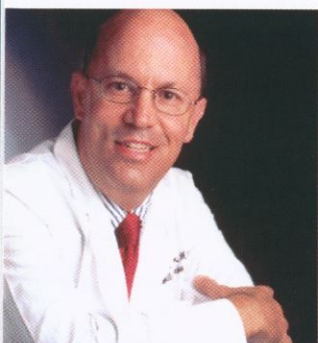
- Opening of the Blood Brain Barrier to Antitumor Agents by Quentin Smith (\$36,556)
- Regulation of MGMT by Phosphorylation by Kalkunte Srivenugopal (\$885,120)
- Estrogen and High-Affinity Choline Transport by Jim Stoll (\$74,000)
- 3UTR Determinants in Angiotensin II Receptor Regulation by Thomas Thekkumkara (\$780,892)
- Targeting Blood-Brain Barrier in Neuroinflammatory Disease by Ulrich Bickel (\$1,003,390)
- Estrogen, fatty acyl CoA & NOS Function in Hypertension by Margaret Weis (\$74,000)

*The majority of NIH grants are awarded to research teams headed by a principal investigator.*

**Homan Named Vice President of Clinical Affairs**

**LUBBOCK** – President M. Roy Wilson, M.D. recently named Richard V. Homan, M.D., as vice president of clinical affairs for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Homan will continue to serve as dean of the School of Medicine at the health sciences center in addition to his new position.



**Homan**

Wilson said this is a newly created position that replaces former Vice President James Laible. In his new position, Homan will be responsible for a number of issues.

"Dr. Homan is familiar with the role of clinical affairs through his work as the dean of our School of Medicine. His leadership and dedication to our students and patients will continue in his new role of vice president," he said.

Homan will oversee the approximately \$100 million budget of Health Care Systems which includes the development and implementation of systems to manage the Texas Department of Criminal Justice contracts, Texas Tech Physician Associates, as well as other health care objectives throughout the health sciences

center. He also will coordinate the delivery of multidisciplinary clinical services.

"I am excited about the opportunity to enhance the coordination and communication of clinical services," Homan said. "We will continue to look at ways to coordinate interdisciplinary clinical services with all of the schools within the health sciences center in order to benefit our patients to receive quality care from all disciplines."

Homan replaces Laible who served as vice president for health care systems and hospital relations for 10 years. Laible retired from his position but will continue to serve as a part-time special assistant to the president.



## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF ACADEMIC CLASSROOM BUILDING

**C**hancellor David R. Smith, M.D., and President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., celebrated the grand opening of the Academic Classroom Building on Nov. 10 at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Wilson said the building is the result of years of planning and it considers stringent program requirements to meet the need for increased classroom space at the health sciences center. "The bottom line is that we are here for our students. This facility will provide the best educational atmosphere for them," Wilson said.

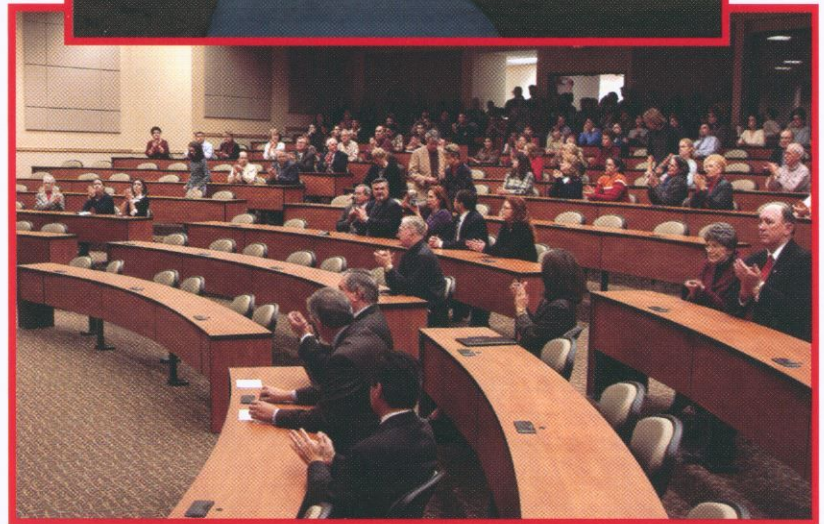
Elizabeth Preston, president of the health sciences center's Student Government Association, said the needed space is welcomed among the students. "All of the students are excited about it," Preston said. "We feel this is a better learning environment with the new classrooms and technology. It ups our education level."

The new two-story 60,000 square-foot addition contains two large 200-seat tiered lecture halls, a 200-student teaching lab, three medium-sized classrooms and a number of smaller conference and seminar rooms. Most classrooms include extensive data communications and HealthNet distance learning capabilities.

Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Richard V. Homan, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, Alexia Green, Ph.D., dean of the School of Nursing, Paul Brooke, Ph.D., dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences, and Charles Seifert, Pharm.D., regional dean of the School of Pharmacy.

Also present were Donna Bacchi, M.D., chair of the university public art committee, Mike Ellicott, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, Lee Lewis, CEO of Lee Lewis Construction, and Mary Crites, a principal with the design firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper Inc.

The Academic Classroom Building's cost was \$15,400,000. The project began in December 2001.





## TTUHSC STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

**LUBBOCK** – Sarai Granados was recently selected to represent the health sciences center as the recipient of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association's (ASHA) Minority Student Leadership program, class of 2003.

Granados, a second-year graduate student in the Department of Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences in the School of Allied Health Sciences at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, is one of 30 students who was selected from more than 100 applicants.

The purpose of the program is to provide a forum for racial/ethnic minority students to come together to experience and participate in a set of leadership-focused educational programs and activities of the annual convention and to build and enhance racial/ethnic minority students' leadership skills.

Granados participated in a full schedule of events at the ASHA annual convention Nov. 13-16 in Chicago. While at the convention, Granados gained an understanding of how the association works while attending four days of meetings, receptions and seminars.

"It is a privilege to have received the MSLP scholarship and I am proud that I learned more about the profession from speech-language pathologists across the nation," Granados said. "I have no doubt that my trip to Chicago fostered a deeper understanding of ethical and clinical issues that deal specifically with culturally diverse clinical populations and professionals."

## School of Nursing Receives Grant for Geriatric Training

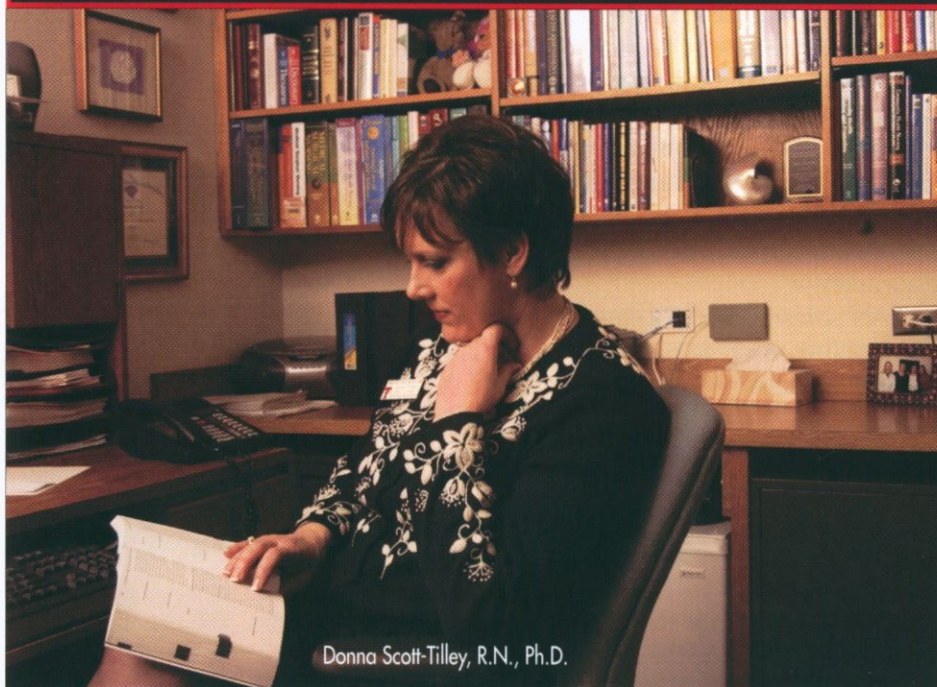
**LUBBOCK** – Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing was notified recently it received a \$560,685 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. The School of Nursing, in conjunction with the Institute for Healthy Aging at the health sciences center, will offer geriatric education and mentoring to registered nurses working in long-term care.

The program, as part of the institute's Geriatric Education and Training Academy, will provide training in geriatrics and leadership skills for certified nurse aids and licensed vocational nurses currently employed in long-term care facilities or who are seeking a career in long-term care. For registered nurses who participate, there will be a long-term support network to assist them in providing the best possible care for their patients, instruction in leadership skills and knowledge and resources to train and support the paraprofessional staff in their agencies. The program will also increase the number of registered nurses certified in geriatric nursing in West Texas.

"The Geriatric Training Academy, as a component of the Institute for Healthy Aging, is key to improving the health and care of aging West Texans," said Glen Provost, chair of the board of directors for the Institute for Healthy Aging. "Much of the mentoring, education, and leadership created by this project will be sustained by the project participants themselves as they work to improve the quality of long-term care settings."

Donna Scott-Tilley, R.N., Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Nursing, will serve as project director overseeing development of curriculum, recruiting of participants, collaborating to provide continuing nursing education offerings and management of the overall project.

"Already at the forefront of geriatric training, we are really looking forward to the development and implementation of the Geriatric Training Academy," said Alexia Green, R.N., Ph.D., dean of the School of Nursing. "Dr. Scott-Tilley is well-suited to serve as project director with her expertise in geriatrics, hospice care and end-of-life issues."



Donna Scott-Tilley, R.N., Ph.D.



# Area Health Education Programs Supported through TTUHSC Funding Package

**LUBBOCK-** The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has been awarded \$2.5 million over the next three years from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to expand access to health care in West Texas with a health education and workforce development program.

Texas Tech will use the funding to expand the West Texas Area Health Education Program by creating four additional AHEC centers across West Texas. AHEC of the Plains was opened on June 13, 2002 in Plainview and was the first of its kind to address the critical shortage of health care providers in the western half of Texas.

The AHEC's mission is to address the health care provider shortage and improve health care access in West Texas through education and development of the health care workforce. AHEC's activities primarily target rural and urban underserved populations. Future health workforce development efforts include a heavy emphasis on promoting health care careers among rural and West Texas youth who are most likely to remain in West Texas.

Patti Patterson, M.D., vice president of rural and community health at the health sciences center, said 19 coun-

ties in West Texas do not have a single physician, while 27 counties have less than three. She said the situation will worsen as many of the existing health care workers approach retirement age — unless we develop a pipeline of health care providers who can take the place of these retirees.

"We hope these education centers will encourage people to pursue a career in health care and the pipeline of health professionals will increase. Health care and economic development in rural communities go hand-in-hand," Patterson said. "This is a resource that communities can draw on to strengthen local education and health care infrastructure."

"The program is multifaceted but the primary objective will be promoting health careers among school-aged kids. It may be through mentoring programs or summer health care academies."

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., president

of the health sciences center, said this award is exciting for the health sciences center and the communities involved.

"Funding for this program will enable us to carry out our mission to train quality health care professionals who are focused on serving in rural and underserved communities, bringing important primary health care services to our patients."

Patterson added that the AHEC of the Plains has already provided health career services to more than 4,000 people in 25 counties. The health sciences center anticipates opening two of the new centers in 2004 and the remaining two centers in 2005.

The AHEC is administered by the Office of Rural and Community Health at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.





### New Executive Vice President Named



Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center President M. Roy Wilson, M.D. named Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., as the executive vice president for academic affairs and dean of the graduate school of biomedical sciences. Nairn began his duties in January.

Nairn previously served as senior associate dean for academic affairs and professor and chair for the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Neb.

Wilson said Nairn has all of the academic and professional credentials that make him the best person for the position. "I have known Dr. Nairn for many years having worked with him at Creighton University, and have seen first-hand his excellent leadership and dedication to academics. Without question he will serve the health sciences center well with his commitment to our students, academics and research."

Nairn said he chose Texas Tech because it was an opportunity to join a strong university health sciences center on the move upward. "This is a challenging and exciting opportunity to join President Wilson and all of the talented faculty, staff and students at the health sciences center," Nairn said. "I am looking forward to enhancing the academic programs through this new position of executive vice president for academic affairs and dean of the graduate school of biomedical sciences."

Wilson, who said Nairn's naming is the most important recruitment he will make as president at the health sciences center, created the position. "I wanted academics to be on the same level as finance in our organizational structure."

Wilson said Nairn's position will be responsible for a number of issues. "We need to put more focus on research. We are doing well, but in order to excel as an institution we

must look at how we can improve. We will benefit from his research knowledge," he said.

"I'm very excited about the potential of several research areas at the health sciences center which we hope to enhance in the next several years," Nairn said. "This specifically includes the training programs and environment for our graduate students and post doctoral fellows who are such a vital part of the engine of research."

The position of executive vice president for academic affairs is responsible for the following departments: rural and community health, research, institutional compliance, and student support services and operations.

Nairn has served as the interim dean for the Creighton University School of Medicine and faculty associate for the Center for Health Policy and Ethics. He served at Creighton University since 1995.

He earned his B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland in 1973. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the MRC National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London and the Royal Free School of Medicine at the University of London.

Nairn was a post-doctoral research fellow and then post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y. from 1976 to 1981. He was a faculty member at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor from 1981 to 1995, serving as associate professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the M.D./Ph.D. program.

In 1996 he was involved in the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Leaders in Medical Student Education at Harvard Medical School. In 1997, Nairn served as a participant in the AAMC Council of Deans Executive Development Seminar for Deans in Philadelphia.

He has published numerous articles in scientific journals and received research grants from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and American Cancer Society.



## CDC Selects Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in El Paso for Pilot Program — only five sites selected throughout country

**T**exas Tech Health Sciences Center in El Paso has been awarded a one-year grant from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish a Regional Center for Public Health-Medicine Education. This center will be one of five funded throughout the country as a pilot program to incorporate public health into the medical student curriculum.

The long-term goal is for these centers to develop programs that can be used in medical schools throughout the country to link public health and medicine at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels of medical education. Texas Tech will develop a program that includes web-based teaching for second-year medical students and community-based public health experiences for fourth-year students.

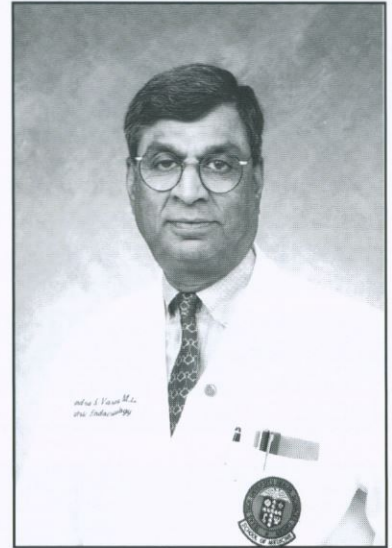
Principal investigator for this project will be Darryl M. Williams, M.D., M.P.H., executive director of Texas Tech's Office of Border Health. Other members of the planning team include Lynn S. Bickley, M.D., associate dean for curriculum, Tyrone Borders, Ph.D. and Ronald Warner, Ph.D., of the Department of Family and Community Medicine in Lubbock, Mary Spalding, M.D. and Ulysses Urquidi, M.D., of the Department of Family and Community Medicine in El Paso and Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., regional dean of the El Paso campus.

A requirement of the award is that the program will be developed in cooperation with a department of health. Representatives from Regions 9 and 10 of the Texas Department of Health, the University of Texas School of Public Health El Paso campus, and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission will also serve on the planning committee.



## Varma Receives Award of Merit

**W**ith continued contributions to the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS), medical students and the children of Texas, Surendra K. Varma, M.D., university distinguished professor and vice chairman of pediatrics at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, has been awarded the TPS Sidney Kaliski Award of Merit.



Varma, a member of the TPS since 1974, said being a member of this organization has given him many opportunities to become involved in different organizations, both state and nationwide. "The TPS helped me tremendously," he said. "They gave me many responsibilities and allowed me to serve in different committees and leadership roles."

Richard Lampe, M.D., chairman, Department of Pediatrics, said Varma's contributions to children, education and the TPS made him deserving of the award. "It has been my privilege to work with Dr. Varma as he continues his tireless efforts in teaching and patient care," said Lampe.

Varma said he is deeply honored and humbled by receiving the Sidney Kaliski Award. "It tells me that what I have been doing for the last 25 years at Texas Tech has been recognized by my peers outside of this institution," he said.

Throughout his career as a physician and educator, Varma said improving the health care of the children and medical education have been his driving forces.

Varma served as president of TPS from 1995 to 1996 and has been recognized many times for his contributions in education and medicine nationwide. He was also instrumental in developing legislation for newborn screening of congenital hypothyroidism in Texas which has helped in preventing mental retardation in children with this disease.

Varma is appreciative for the role he plays in his pediatric patients' lives. "Every time I see that we have helped these children, I feel grateful," he said. "We do it because it makes a difference and it comes from the heart."



## IN MEMORIAM

**P**reston Smith, who served the state of Texas as governor, lieutenant governor, state senator and state representative, died in October 2003.

The 1934 graduate of Texas Technological College was instrumental in establishing the Texas Tech School of Medicine and School of Law during his time as governor. He spent much of his life since 1945 in the Legislature supporting issues that advanced Texas Tech.

A nine-foot bronze statue is one of many items on campus that mark his contributions to the university.



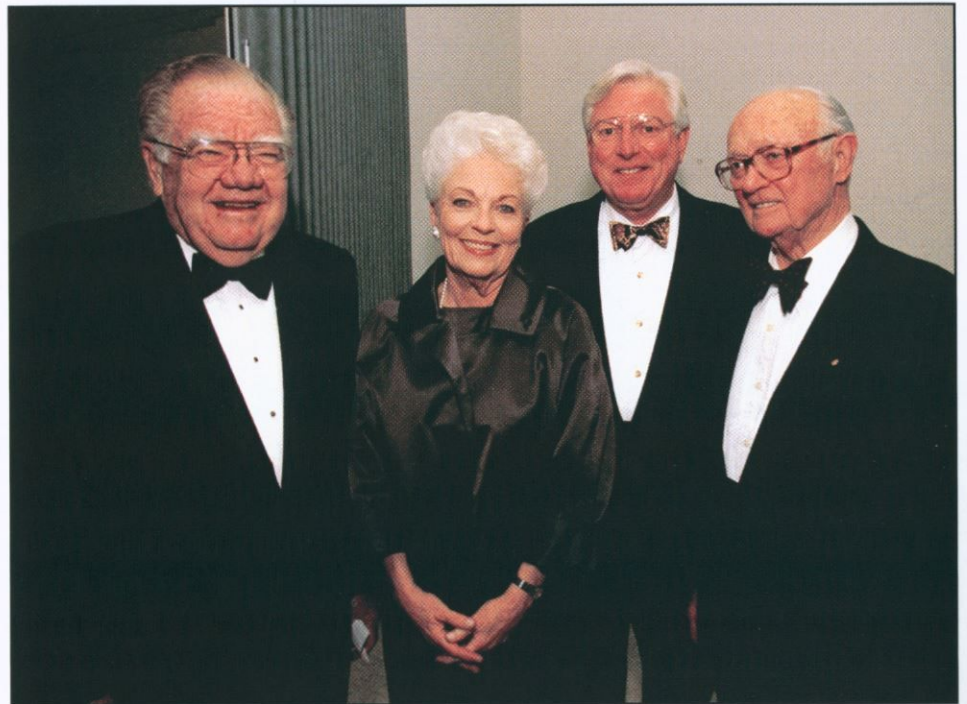
*(Above) Preston Smith spent a great deal of time addressing groups from behind a podium.*

*(Right, top) The former governors of the state of Texas came together for the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Texas Tech University.*

*(Right, bottom) The ribbon cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Library.*

# Preston Smith

*Texas governor, lieutenant governor, state senator and state representative (1912-2003)*





## School of Pharmacy Names New Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs

David Allen, Ph.D., the first faculty member hired by the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Pharmacy in May, 1995, was named associate dean for curricular affairs effective Sept. 1. His new responsibilities include

overseeing curriculum development and delivery; facilitating the design and implementation of the School of Pharmacy's school outcomes assessment program; and operational oversight

and staff supervision of the Teaching and Learning with Technology Center. He will also serve on the school executive committee and as the dean's representative to the curricular affairs, outcomes assessment and faculty development committees.

Allen earned a doctor of philosophy in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy in Lexington, Ky. In addition to his academic achievements, Allen completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Laboratory of Neurosciences, National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. His research interests include the physiology and function of the blood-brain barrier and evaluation of predictors of academic success in pharmacy curriculum. His primary focus related to the blood-brain barrier is drug delivery to the central nervous system.



# Profile

## PASO DEL NORTE

# Foundation



The Paso del Norte Foundation in El Paso is showing their support for the four-year medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso with a \$1.25 million scholarship grant for local students. The scholarship grant/loan program is for students who attend Texas Tech School of Medicine and choose to practice in El Paso.

The foundation initiative will provide \$1.25 million in grant support over five years and will issue a challenge to the community for an additional \$750,000 in matching funds. To qualify, students must be from the El Paso region, southern New Mexico or Ciudad Juarez.

"With the approval of a four-year medical school in El Paso, this grant would enhance the opportunity to encourage more physicians who are new graduates to stay in the region and establish their practice," said Ann G. Pauli, president and CEO, Paso del Norte Health Foundation. "By working together with Texas Tech, we look to assist in meeting the demand for physicians in this area and provide the perfect environment for area students to improve their medical education while contributing to the health of our region."

The initiative aims to improve the doctor/patient ratio in El Paso and its surrounding areas. For the past several years, the physician population in the El Paso region has been declining.

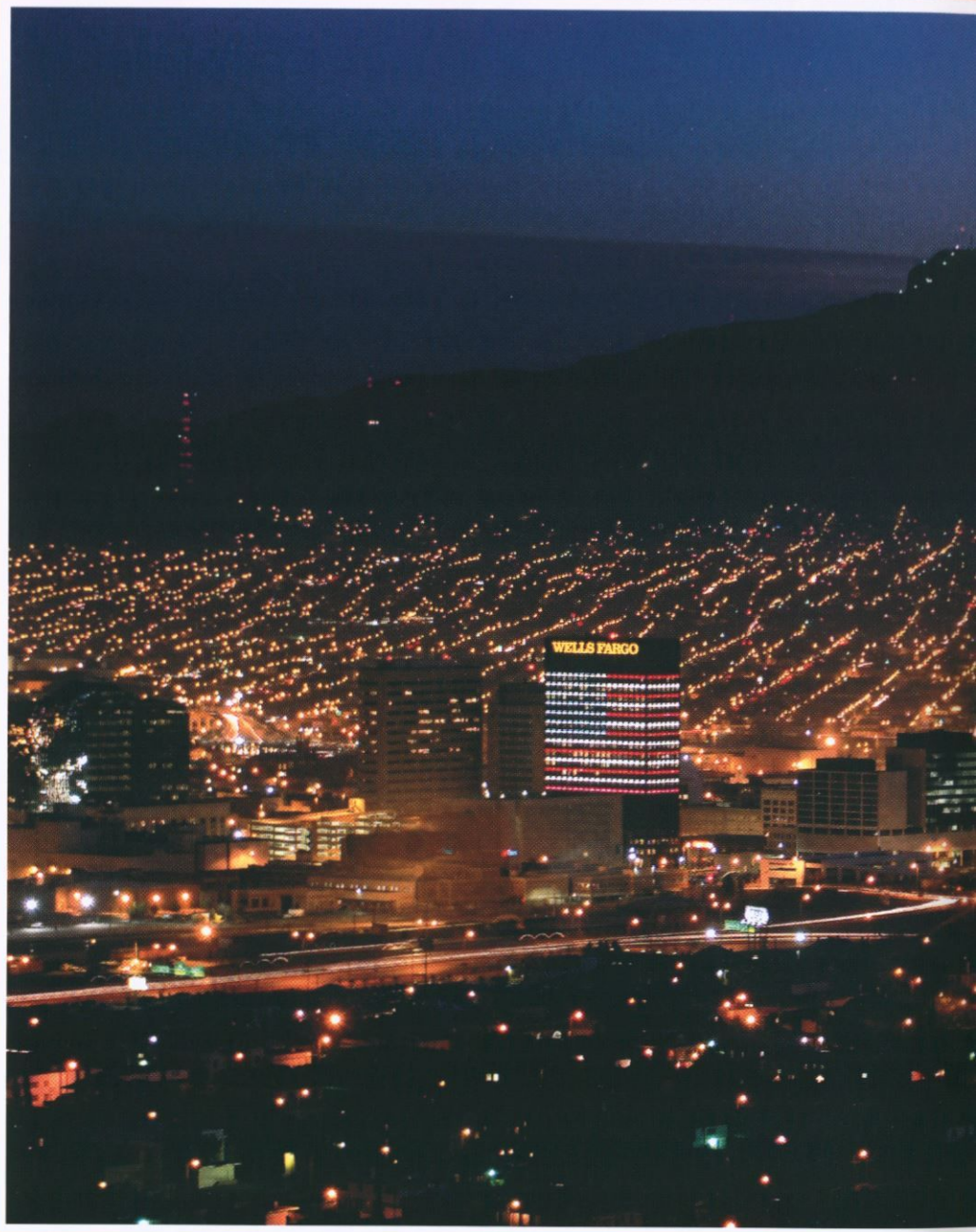
The proposed loan program from the foundation provides loans to the new four-year medical students to begin in the fall of 2005, but carries a commitment of funding to Texas Tech students during 2004.

Foundation officials said this is a community effort to encourage students to remain in the region to establish their practices after their education has been completed. Most students complete their education within five years and their potential of loans would be approximately \$20,000 per year depending on need. The loans would be forgiven if the students establish their practice in this area. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso will oversee the program and determine eligible candidates.

The Paso del Norte Foundation is committed to understanding the regional health issues and creating large prevention and education programs along the United States-Mexico border. The effort includes encouraging the mostly Hispanic population of the area to adopt healthy behaviors like physical activity and good nutrition as well as preventing disease, injury and teen pregnancy.



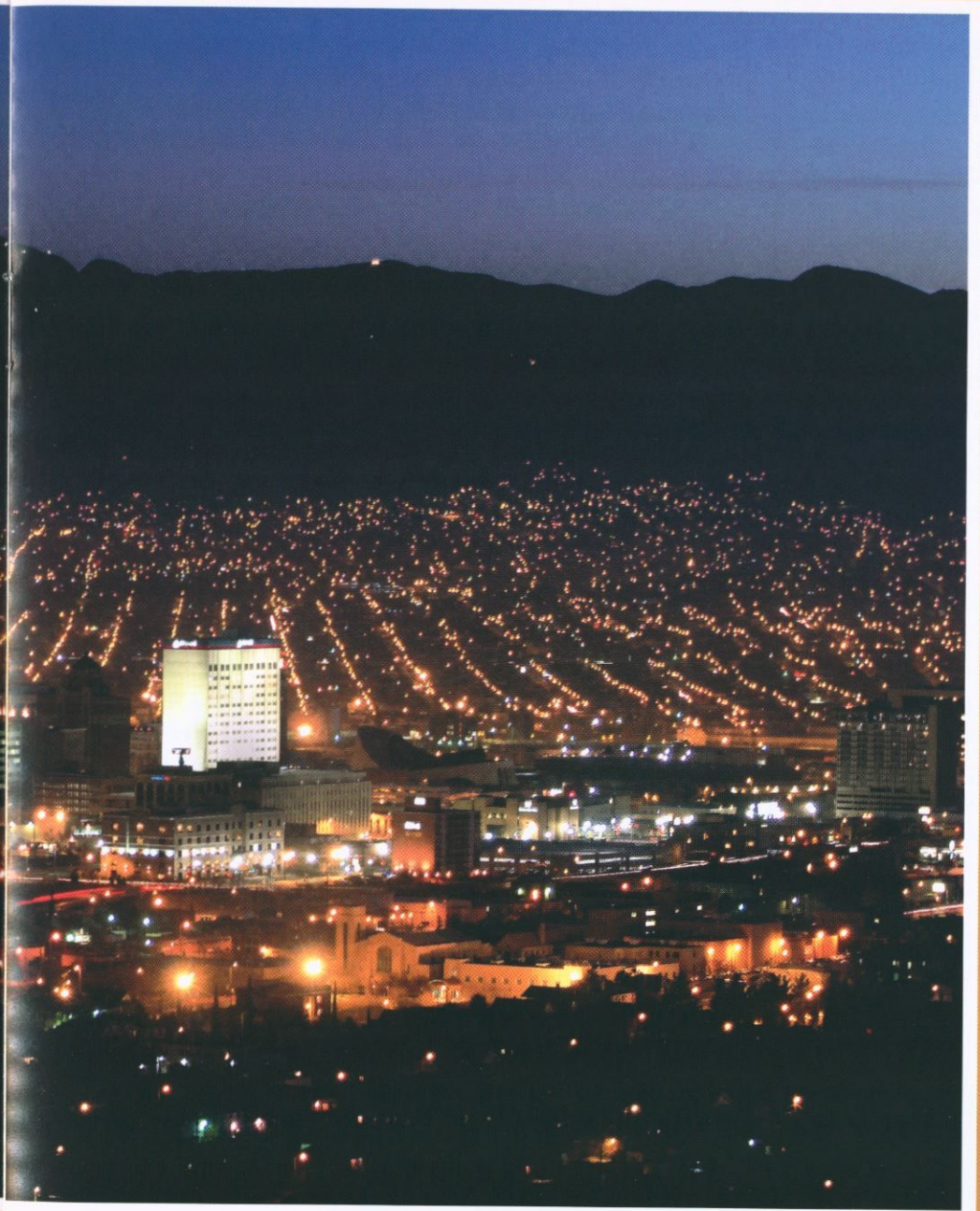
by  
Patricia R. Kalderis Williams  
& Cathy Reynolds



# FROM DREAM TO REALITY

Let's just call it the snowball effect. Four years ago, then-Texas Tech University Chancellor John T. Montford started the ball rolling with his vision of a full-fledged four-year medical school in El Paso.





In December, a groundbreaking for a new research facility laid the foundation for the vision to become a reality. It has taken a lot of effort by the community, by the health sciences center and by legislative leaders to get to this point.

What Montford started began gathering momentum when the El Paso community and the health sciences center joined forces to gain legislative support and convince the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that it was time to change their formal positions opposing any new medical schools being built in Texas.



During the 2001 legislative session, the El Paso legislative delegation successfully spearheaded an effort to secure \$40 million in tuition revenue bonds for the research facility and a clinic expansion project. A blue ribbon committee of community leaders then went to work to mobilize local support, and plans for the research facility were drafted.

At a ceremony revealing plans for the \$38.5 million research facility, Chancellor David Smith, M.D., said, "This is a down payment on hope, not simply about educating medical students."

The momentum continued when philanthropists J.O. and Marlene Stewart donated 10.2 acres of land near the existing Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso building as a site for the school. "Our donations are based upon our view of the world and what we consider to be critical life issues," the Stewarts said.

Another gift was bestowed by the Paso del Norte Foundation, when it approved a \$1.25 million scholarship grant program for local students to coincide with the approval of the four-year medical school. Foundation President and CEO Ann Pauli said by working together with Texas Tech, the group looks forward to meeting the demand for physicians and to providing the perfect environment for area students to improve their medical education while contributing to the health of the region.

The Cimmaron Foundation and Wolslager Foundation showed further support by donating a total of \$750,000 more in matching funds for scholarships.

In 2003, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso's position as a national leader in border health issues was recognized nationally when President George W. Bush appointed Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., regional dean of TTUHSC El Paso, to the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission.

The bi-national commission develops and coordinates actions to improve the health and quality of life along the United States-Mexico border. The Border Health Commission will undertake a study to look at ways to solve the border's health problems, a mission that mirrors that of Texas Tech El Paso.

"My hope is that we not only educate physicians for the border and West Texas, but that we can contribute by performing nationally ranked research on Hispanic and border health," De la Rosa said.

Shortly after news of De la Rosa's appointment, Gov. Rick Perry signed House Bill 28, Article 10, which authorizes Texas Tech to issue \$45 million in tuition revenue bonds for the construction of a classroom/office building for the four-year medical school. He made a trip to El Paso for a ceremonial signing of the legislation. During the ceremony, the governor announced he had freed up \$2 million more in funding to finance start-up costs and faculty salaries.

For De la Rosa, a native of El Paso, it was a defining moment. "To take a dream that your hometown has had for years and make it a reality is incredibly rewarding," he said.

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., president of the health





sciences center said, "We believe the action by the legislature in authorizing the bonds for the classroom building is a very important step. We truly have cause to celebrate as this will be the first medical school built in Texas in nearly 30 years and the first in the nation on the border."

The original vision for a four-year medical school in El Paso grew out of the recognition that Texas Tech could help alleviate a severe shortage of physicians in the area. Currently there are less than 120 physicians for every 100,000 people in El Paso. The national average is 198 physicians per 100,000 population. The Texas average is only 150 per 100,000. Studies have shown that most medical students remain in the region in which they received their education to establish their practices. The addition of the first two years of the medical school will allow students from El Paso and nearby regions to complete their education near home. It is hoped that this effort will help retain doctors in the area.

"As an El Pasoan, a four-year medical school would have allowed me to stay close to my family and the city I grew up in," said Richard Guerrero, M.D., first-year resident in internal medicine. "Concepts of a medical school are very foreign, unknown or unattainable to many El Paso elementary, middle and high school students. Having a four-year medical school in El Paso gives these kids a tangible goal."

Teaching the basic sciences that make up the first two years of medical school will also bring more highly qualified scientists and researchers to the area to provide the missing link necessary to perform border health research.

"Typically, basic science professors not only teach, but want to conquer issues by studying and doing research. Now they can study diabetes at a fundamental level to discover new treatments and uncover breakthroughs," Guerrero said. "This missing link would provide specialists with a partnership that makes all the difference. It will open a lot of doors for border research, and everyone benefits from it. It's invaluable."

Students graduating from Texas Tech's El Paso campus will have seen diseases that only a small fraction of medical students ever come across in their four years of medical school. El Paso students may encounter biblical diseases such as plague, and other ailments that have virtually been wiped out in the United States, but flourish in many

emerging nations.

"You see diseases here that are present in more advanced stages, that are endemic to the border region," Guerrero said. "The volume of patients we have to look at is greater than at other campuses. This provides an intense learning environment and allows students to learn so much more."

The 83,000 square-foot research facility will house not only research on environmental health and infectious diseases, but also a repository dedicated to data on Hispanic health and a genomic facility to link hereditary diseases in families.

The medical students with roots within the Hispanic culture who attend school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso may well provide great insight for generations to come. "Each student brings his or her history to the table. With the growing numbers of diseases affecting Hispanics, those students reared in this culture will have valuable knowledge to share that is not found in their textbooks," added De la Rosa.

"The importance of research done in El Paso is actually going to have a huge impact on the rest of the nation," said Tony Islas, M.D., director of Texas Tech's Kellogg Clinics. "By doing research here, we'll be able to contribute significant amounts of knowledge to the current literature, dealing with Hispanics and the diseases that affect our area, mainly diabetes, hypertension, obesity and depression."

This is the first time since the U.S. government began keeping count of the nation's population more than 200 years ago that Hispanics have outnumbered other minorities, with a population of approximately 38.8 million. Along with this surge in numbers is the increased need for education regarding medical issues affecting Hispanics.

This is where Texas Tech will fill a void.

"Filling a niche of border and Hispanic health not only allows us to meet our mission in West Texas but also gives us a nationally prominent niche among all medical schools. Dealing with health care disparities is a national issue. The disparity of health in Hispanics will be our primary focus of research," De la Rosa said. "On a personal note, I would love to be able to say it was our school that solved the problem of diabetes in Hispanics."

Construction on the classroom building for the new four-year medical school will begin in two years.

"We anticipate finding funding for increased staff, operations, maintenance and building costs," De la Rosa said. The initial class will enroll first-year students in 2007.





# LOW-CARB DIET TO LIVE BY

By Jennifer Hunt

Overall health and wellness do not seem as important as they once were. Americans today are eating out more frequently, eating much larger portions of food and are eating foods higher in calories and lacking in nutrients. As the epidemic of obesity grows in Americans, so does the desire to tip the scales to lower weight and begin making healthier food choices.

Kathy Chauncey, R.D., Ph.D., registered dietitian and associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, said different and bizarre dieting plans are becoming

a common occurrence in the attempt to counteract weight gain. "The strong desire to see a smaller number on the scale tends to drive people to extremes when it comes to eating habits," she said.

These fad diets are overrunning the market, giving people unrealistic expectations if they cut out entire food groups from their daily diets. "Many extreme low-carb diets will not allow a person to eat a piece of fruit simply because it contains carbohydrate," said Chauncey. "Because of this, people are not evaluating foods properly and are eliminating very healthy, very nutritious foods."

These individuals are also

eating foods that are better eaten in smaller, more controlled portions. "I recently read that pork rinds are being classified as a healthy snack just because they don't have carbohydrate," said Chauncey. "This is an example of an extreme diet that is not focusing on healthy eating habits."

As a registered dietitian, Chauncey has been administering a weight loss plan consisting of whole foods for the past five years. This plan basically helps direct the individual towards decreasing their intake of refined sugars and flour while encouraging the intake of whole and unprocessed foods. "Whole foods include fruits, veg-







etables, grains, beans, nuts and seeds that have not been processed to remove vitamins, minerals and fiber," she said. "Fresh, frozen or canned foods are considered whole foods."

After receiving so many requests on information pertaining to her whole foods weight loss eating plan, Chauncey decided to write a book, "Low-Carb Dieting For Dummies."

"I wrote the book to try and put a little common sense in this low-carb debate that is going on," said Chauncey.

The book provides guidelines and encouragement to develop a plan where one will eat as many healthy carbs as they wish, like fruits and non-starchy vegetables, while limiting other carbohydrate servings to five per day. The plan also includes the accompaniment of lean protein sources and very low-fat cheeses. "One of the key features of this diet is to never be hungry," said Chauncey. "The rule is to direct the satisfaction of that hunger to certain healthy food groups."

It is important to limit the intake of carbohydrate when the foods contain a surplus of calories. "These high-carbohydrate foods can include things like cakes, cookies, chips and particularly soft drinks," she said.

Chauncey said this book contains a plan of healthy eating habits that one can follow for life. "It is important that this diet be easy to

follow so people will stick with it and not give up."

A change must be made in one's long-term eating habits in order for proper, gradual weight loss to occur. Chauncey said many people, when ready to lose weight, want to lose it all at the same time. "Losing about one to two pounds a week is a good goal," she said. "This helps to prevent gaining the weight

this plan a part of their daily lifestyles. There are other benefits as well. "Because of weight loss, blood pressure improves. Because of a healthier diet, people are sleeping better. Because they sleep better, they have more energy. And because of all of this, they have a better outlook on life," she said.

By planning for meals, exercising regularly and focusing on the

**“It is best to focus on having overall wellness rather than restricting ourselves to meet a magic number on the scale ... health always triumphs over weight.” — Kathy Chauncey**

back after you have worked so hard."

Chauncey also said she wants to change people's food plans for the rest of their lives, not just to help them lose weight now. "The whole foods weight-loss plan which is a lower carb diet without being extreme is beneficial in this goal of overall health and well-being," she said.

The diet has helped improve triglyceride levels and blood-sugar levels of people who have made

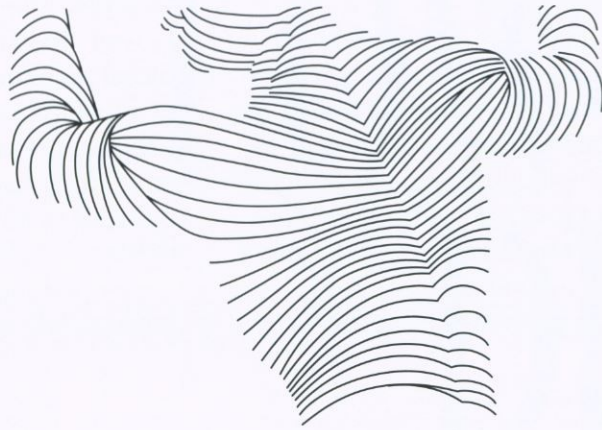
portion and quality of what you consume, rather than the number of carbohydrate grams, weight loss and long-term health will follow close behind.

Chauncey said that it really all comes down to the fact that people come in all shapes and sizes. "It is best to focus on having overall wellness rather than restricting ourselves to meet a magic number on the scale," she said. "To me, health always triumphs over weight."





# MEDICAL COMMUNITY EMBRACES ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT



By Melody L. Ragland

Julie and Justin Tidwell tried for 15 months to conceive. They served as foster parents and were beginning the necessary steps towards adoption. Julie had personally decided that invasive procedures such as in vitro fertilization were not an option. After visiting their family physician, Justin jokingly suggested that Julie try an alternative treatment, acupuncture. She did, and on June 22, 2003 the couple had their first child, a son, Jackson.

Their family physician is Tommie W. Farrell, M.D., in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and a certified acupuncturist. Farrell practices traditional medicine, but also uses acupuncture to treat patients who do not respond well to conventional treatments. Pain is the No. 1 reason Farrell uses acupuncture, but he can treat patients like Julie who are trying to conceive, along with patients having trouble sleeping or battling depression.

According to Farrell, acupuncture is the application of thin, specialized needles placed into specific locations of the body in an effort to produce a therapeutic benefit to the person receiving the treatment. Needles are placed in the body to address the specific illness and at times are used to tap into or manipulate the patient's own healing powers.



"A person speaks with the acupuncturist who asks the patient questions, not only to understand the disease or ailment they have, but also their character, personality and strengths," he said. "This is how we tailor the treatment for each patient."

Treatments differ for each patient and their needs. It takes Farrell less than five minutes to insert the needles in a patient and the length of time the needles are left lasts anywhere from five to 25 minutes.

Farrell's interest in the alternative treatment began while he was a third-year medical student at the University of Texas Southwestern. His brother, who was living in Taiwan, had sprained his ankle playing basketball. "He called me up and asked if I was learning acupuncture," Farrell said. "I said, of course not, this is America. He told me that nothing had ever made his ankle feel better so quickly."

He was intrigued by the thought of alternative methods and began researching the topic. He found the first licensed acupuncturist in Texas practiced in Dallas and was allowed to closely observe his work.

"I was very impressed, especially with pain issues and how the acupuncturist was treating people with pain," he said. "I liked the science he understood behind it. At that point I made the decision, if I have a patient in pain I'll make sure I remember to consider referring them to an acupuncturist."

When Farrell came to the health sciences center for his residency, he was surprised at how many people experienced pain and decided he would like to explore the topic more instead of referring his patients on to a specialist. "I started wishing I could be more effective treating people with pain," he said. "I had the perception that some people would prefer it if a medical doctor could also provide these treatments."

Mike Ragain, M.D., chair, and Ron Cook, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of Family and Commu-

nity Medicine were extremely supportive of Farrell's choice to expand his knowledge about acupuncture. After receiving permission to have extra time during his residency, he took courses offered through the University of California in Los Angeles.

Farrell's interest in acupuncture thrilled Ragain, the chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, who said alternative medicine is moving to the forefront due to patient demand.

"Whether we as doctors endorse it or not, patients are seeking alternative treatment regimens," Ragain said. "Therefore we have a duty to inform patients as best we can. Acupuncture has been practiced for thousands of years on millions of people. The fact that it continues means there must be some benefit."

Julie, just one of Farrell's success stories, agrees. A self-proclaimed skeptic, she said her original thoughts of acupuncture were not favorable because she did not know enough about the subject. After learning more about the ancient Eastern treatment and its place in today's Western culture, she is now a firm believer. "Knowing Dr. Farrell for almost three years and knowing that he's a medical doctor made the procedures more comfortable," she said. "I really trust him."

Farrell only performed two acupuncture treatments on Julie and she actually became pregnant

after the first treatment. "I went in for the first procedure and it went well," she said. "I didn't experience any pain and I'm frightened of needles. I became pregnant two weeks later. I went in for the second procedure because I didn't know at the time I was pregnant."

Farrell said acupuncture is becoming more popular, especially with more medical doctors gaining interest in the alternative treatment. Farrell said Julie's initial skepticism is normal and that even he had initial concerns when deciding whether or not to practice acupuncture.

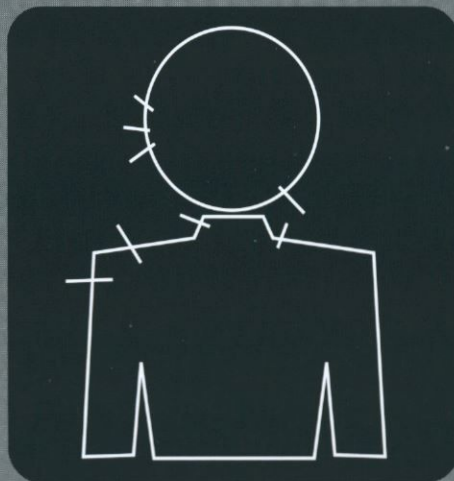
"I was concerned that people in the medical community may see me as a yahoo, but that hasn't been the case at all," he said. "It's important for doctors to be educated on it in order to help patients make the right decisions."

The majority of Farrell's acupuncture patients have been referred to him by other physicians. In Farrell's experience, the medical community has not only been tolerable of using acupuncture, but has been accepting of it.

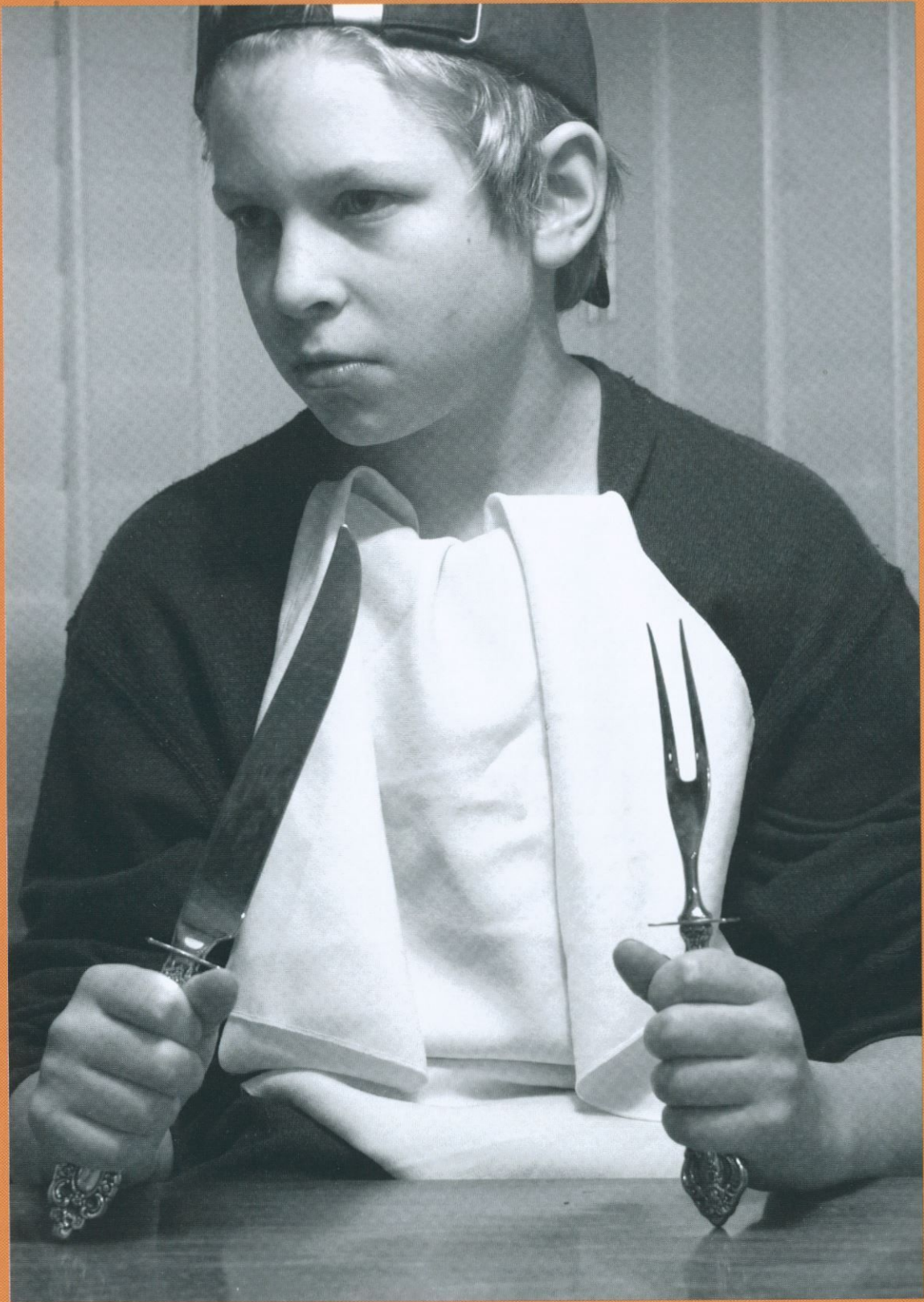
"No medicine helps everything," he said. "I'm hopeful in my lifetime that I'll become more educated on what types of pain and what illnesses benefit the most from acupuncture."

Ragain believes that acupuncture does indeed work and said the National Institutes of Health has done studies showing the treatment is effective for certain painful conditions. "As a teaching institution, the health sciences center has a duty to teach residents and students about these techniques." He said, "It is also important that patients have access to providers who can safely provide these procedures."

According to Julie, having a medical doctor perform the treatment made the entire experience more comfortable. "I would try it again if we are unable to conceive again," she said. "I'm also much more open to using acupuncture when other options don't work."









*Weighing Heavily on Our Health:*

# The Obesity Epidemic

■ by Suzanna Cisneros Martinez

**M**anuel and Josie are suffering from what millions of Americans are affected by every day. Manuel suffers from Type 2 diabetes. Josie has hypertension or high blood pressure. What is unique about these siblings is that Josie is 7 years old; Manuel is 10. Doctors have determined that they are clinically obese.

A growing trend in the adult population of the United States, obesity in children is increasing at alarming rates — so much so, that this generation of American children will be the first in American history that will have a shorter lifespan than the preceding generation.

Children are becoming more overweight to the extent that it is a national emergency, noted Surendra K. Varma, M.D., University Distinguished Professor and vice chairman of pediatrics at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. “The trend, especially in the last five years, is the emergence of more obese children, which is a serious societal health problem because it will lead to other health problems for them, if not now during their childhoods, then certainly down the road,” Varma explained.

Overweight children can develop problems such as high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, colon cancer and sleep apnea. Varma, who has practiced pediatric endocrinology for more than 25 years, also said that an overweight child may develop heart problems or perhaps may suffer a stroke at an earlier age than someone who is not overweight. “And if a person is of African-American, Hispanic or Native American origin, then he or she is even at a greater risk for developing these diseases. Add obesity to the pile, and odds are that the individual’s health will suffer,” he said.

Patti Patterson, M.D., vice president for rural and community health, said that only 20 years ago heart

disease and Type 2 diabetes were considered diseases of adults. Now such cases among children are becoming commonplace. Answers, she said, must be found for stopping this trend.

“There’s no vaccine, there’s no simple answer. It’s not like smoking, where you can just quit. You have to eat,” Patterson said. “Our focus on health needs to change.”

Varma warns parents about how they define obesity in their children. “Many parents may think of extreme, extreme excess weight, but obesity is actually when someone is heavier than 20 percent of their ideal weight, for both children and adults.” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the percentage of children and adolescents who are defined as overweight has more than doubled since the early 1980s, and about 13 percent of children now are seriously overweight.

“Modern technology may play a large part in the lack of physical activity with today’s children. In our lifestyle, we see children playing more computer games and watching more and more television,” Varma commented. “Our society definitely suffers from a lack of physical activity, and also an increase in intake of more fast food — all of which can lead to weight gain. As a nation, we must change our eating habits.”

Academic institutions ought to take the leadership role in promoting healthy communities, said Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center President M. Roy Wilson, M.D. “We have to do something, and here in Lubbock, we have the right size community to be able to make a difference in people’s health, and most importantly, in their lives.”

A great opportunity at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center to address the developing health crisis of obesity has come from the Association of Academic



Health Centers. The association recently awarded planning grants to convene community stakeholders for improving the health of local communities to four health science centers across the nation, including Texas Tech, Duke University Health System, New York Medical College and the University of Nebraska.

“Obesity is rapidly becoming one of the most serious health threats in Lubbock and the region. This initiative responds to national calls for strategies to improve fitness and nutrition, especially of children,” he said.

The first step in the Healthy Lubbock Initiative was to bring together from across the community individuals who are a part of collaborative efforts to improve awareness and access to healthy lifestyle choices. Community leaders, health care professionals, various school district representatives and business leaders met together in what Wilson hopes is the initial move in making Lubbock the healthiest city in Texas.

Prevention is an important component of education and health, Wilson noted. “This is about us being leaders in terms of health, and not just illness. My concern is to sustain the momentum with a measurable outcome.”

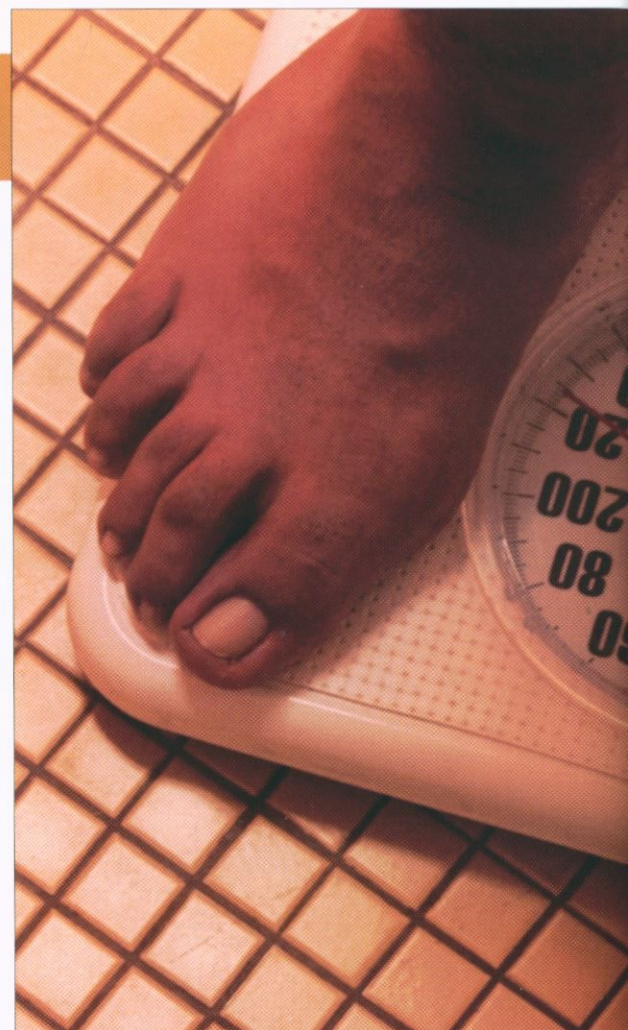
Rosie Saenz, R.D., L.D., a nutritionist at the health sciences center, agreed that Americans must begin to change their eating habits. “The keys are in reinforcing weight control and changing to healthy eating habits. But the essential element is that individuals must have family support to control their disease.”

Often, parents deny that their child has an obesity problem. “Unfortunately, many people will not change their habits until a problem already exists,” Saenz said. “Many patients who are seen by health care professionals are sent to nutritionists for a reason. Many times, parents refuse to accept that their child has a weight problem or to take measures to change things in the home. It goes back to parenting.”

“Parents control what they bring into their household. They must take ownership of their home and realize that their kids are their responsibility. Parents need to be parents, not allowing kids to dictate what foods they want to have and when. A 7-year-old is not responsible enough to make many of these decisions. We have to set an example for our children,” Saenz said.

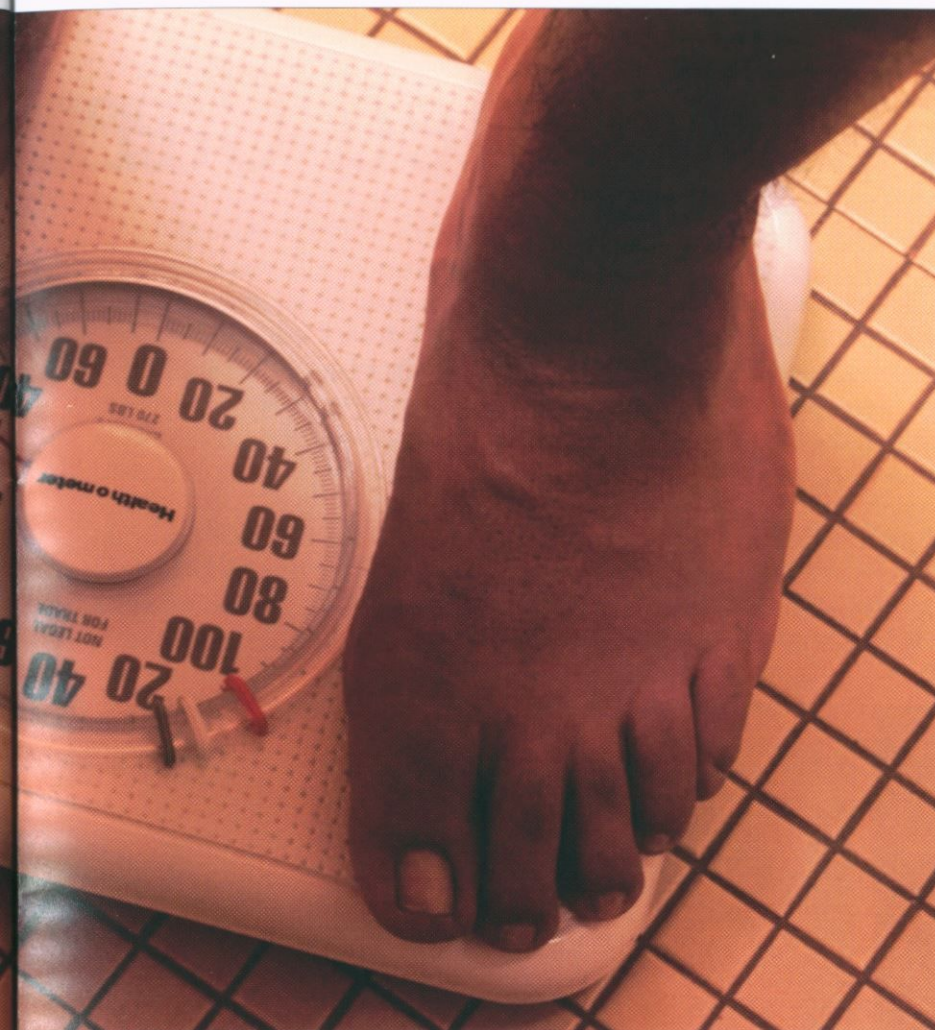
Varma agreed that with the issue of obesity, ultimately the accountability for maintaining healthy eating habits should be a family issue. “We must educate parents on nutrition and exercise to avoid problems for our children and the entire family.”

In Texas, Patterson noted, 40 percent of fourth graders already are overweight or obese. Nationally, more than 300,000 people die each year because of obesity-related causes. “We know the obvious, simple answer to tell people to exercise more and eat less, but that

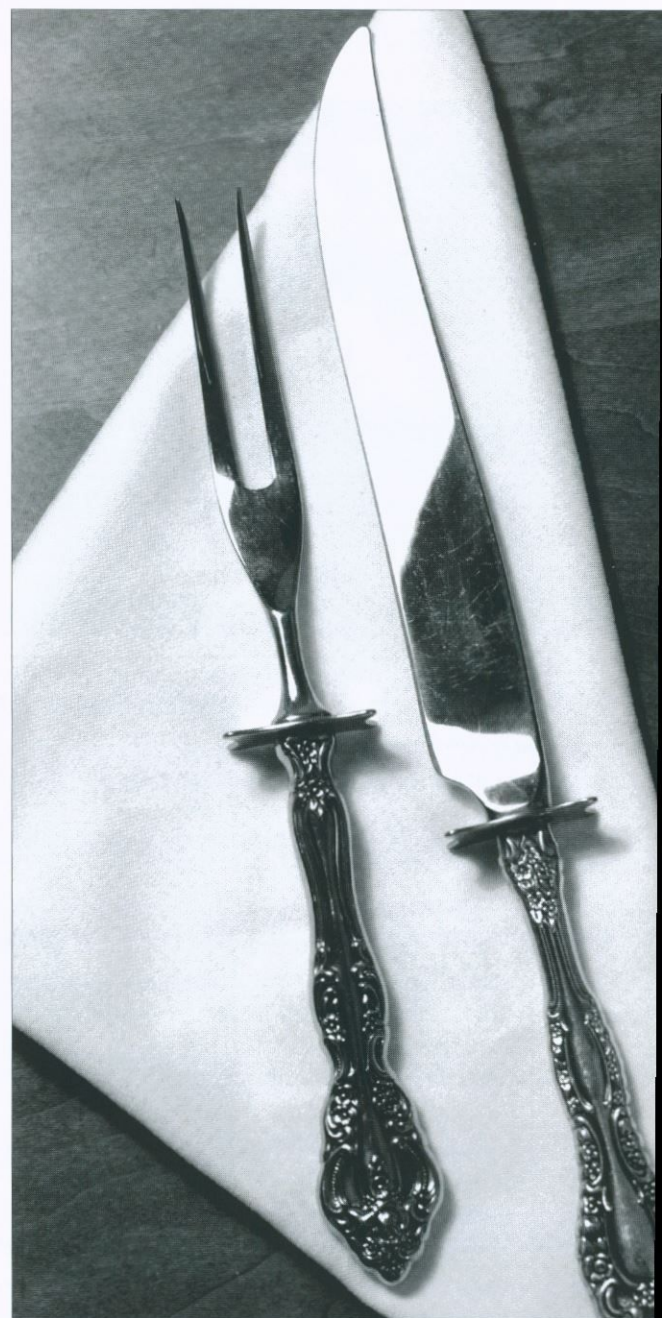


**“Parents need to be parents, not allowing kids to dictate what foods they want to have and when.”**





The CDC estimates that the total annual cost for dealing with the consequences of obesity and overweight individuals will reach \$117 billion. Obese individuals incur medical expenditures annually that are \$395 higher than individuals of normal weight.



answer has not worked," Patterson explained. "Most importantly, Americans must have a culture change, and that will require an emphasis on healthy foods, and not using foods as a reward and making exercise safe and fun."

"This is something each and every one of us should care about whether we have children or not," Patterson said. The CDC estimates that the total annual cost for dealing with the consequences of obesity and overweight individuals will reach \$117 billion. Obese individuals incur medical expenditures annually that are \$395 higher than individuals of normal weight. One-third of all children who are born in the year 2000 are likely to become diabetic. Nearly one-half of Hispanic and black children who were born in 2000 are likely to become diabetic.

"It is not just about the cost and numbers, but we should care because these are our children," Patterson said. "We still have many unanswered questions, but starting to address obesity with our children is a strong beginning for the future of our country's health."

For Manuel and Josie, weight is a family issue. Obesity and its onslaught of health problems that go along with being overweight is a serious problem, one that health care providers say can be remedied, but only over generations.



# Three Distinguished Care

■ by Kippra D. Hopper

Returning twice to Vietnam since serving his tour of duty there, retired Army MSC Col. James P. Laible has found closure with the fighting that took place in 1967-68 while he was in country. Vietnam veteran and former Texas Tech University System Chancellor John T. Montford asked Laible to join him as part of a Texas Tech delegation from the Texas Tech Vietnam Center. Upon his return to the states after his time in the war, Laible wanted to forget his experiences, in which he served as the medical operations officer for the 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Infantry Division in the Central Highlands. After his first delegation visit, he wanted to return a second time, and on this trip, he took Margot, his wife of 40 years, where she too found closure with the war.



*All My  
Love To  
you*

*See you  
when you come back - Pearl*



In his job as assistant administrator at Walter Reed Medical Center, Laible met some fairly famous faces — including Bob Hope, Pearl Bailey, Diana Ross and the Supremes.



"My reaction to going back to Vietnam was that it brought closure to a bad experience 35 years ago," Laible recalls. Since that time in his life, Laible has had three long and distinguished careers, now retiring after 10 years as the vice president for health care systems and hospital relations for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. His retirement does not mean an end to Laible's many contributions to Texas Tech, as he will continue to serve part-time as a special assistant to M. Roy Wilson, M.D., new president of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center.

In his first career, Laible served as a health care administrator with the Army Medical Department for more than 25 years. After his return home from Vietnam, one of Laible's first jobs was to work as the assistant administrator at Walter Reed Medical Center, where he met some fairly famous faces — including Bob Hope, Pearl Bailey, Diana Ross and the Supremes. Laible was responsible for negotiating contracts with local nightclubs to arrange for the entertainers to appear at Walter Reed Army Hospital. He also worked with VIPs including Mamie Eisenhower, Henry Kissinger, Strom Thurman and others who sought care at Walter Reed. Some of Laible's later key assignments included senior administrative positions in the Surgeon General's Office, Health Services Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. His last position was at the Academy of Health Sciences, where he served as director of training, education and doctrine development. Retiring in 1987, Laible worked in his second career as a chief executive officer for several "for profit" hospital systems as he built, opened and administered specialty hospitals. Before joining the health sciences center, he was a

consultant, assisting clients in developing special units, purchasing health care facilities, such as hospitals and clinics, developing financial proformas, recruiting physicians, managing their practices and establishing managed care networks.

When Laible announced his intentions to step down at the end of the year at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, he was honored by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Board and the Board of the Managed Correctional Health Care system. Under his leadership and more than 40 years of experience in health care administration, Laible grew the correctional health care system in West Texas from supporting six facilities and 8,000 lives, to its current support of 26 facilities, including three hospitals, supporting more than 32,000 lives. Through Laible's direction and a partnership with local West Texas medical facilities, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center has a \$74 million contract with TDCJ, and has brought more than 1,200 medical jobs to West Texas.

In his capacity as a vice president with the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Laible has been responsible for developing and administering the managed health care programs and delivery systems, including correctional managed health care, the operation of two health maintenance organizations and nearly \$100 million in managed care contracts and an extensive telemedicine network. He also has been responsible for the administration of three hospitals for the state, managing an ambulatory care center and the health sciences center's relationship with its four teaching hospitals. Additionally, he has served as the executive director of the Texas Tech Physician Associates, the medical school's multi-specialty practice plan of approximately 500 physicians.

"Mr. Laible has been a part of the

TDCJ Correctional Managed Health Care Program from its inception until now. He has played an integral part in the overall success of the initiative," said M. Roy Wilson, M.D., president of the health sciences center.

"We also are highly appreciative of his contributions to the health care delivery systems." David R. Smith, M.D., chancellor of the Texas Tech University System added, "Mr. Laible has been the consummate gentleman and a person of impeccable integrity and character. He without a doubt has been instrumental in taking the health sciences center to a higher level of excellence and is a valued member of our team."

The health sciences center began providing care in correctional facilities in 1989. Offenders, including juvenile offenders, incarcerated in West Texas correctional facilities are served by Texas Tech. The Fiscal Year 2004 agreement for health services to TDCJ offenders includes the operation of health clinics at 26 correctional facilities, of a 104-bed Acute Care Regional Medical Facility, a 550-bed psychiatric hospital, a 450-bed program for aggressive mentally ill offenders and a telemedicine system in 16 correctional facilities.

"I think my ability to develop a correctional health care system that blended community facilities with the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center provides excellent care to the offenders and possibly even saved some rural hospitals from closing," Laible comments. "I hope that what I've done for the last 10 years will continue and flourish.

Hopefully, I helped to lay the groundwork for Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and West Texas health care facilities to develop an outstanding correctional medical delivery system."



# Alumni news

## 1977

■ **Gail J. Demmler, M.D.**, will serve as president of the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR) for 2003-2004.

## 1980

■ **David M. Turner, M.D.**, is the 2003-2004 vice president of the Texas Society of Plastic Surgery

## 1987

■ **Michael Moon, B.S.N.**, was re-elected to the director position on the National Emergency Nurses Association Board of Directors

## 1994

■ **Nick D. Manitzas, M.D.**, is working in Waco at Hillcrest Baptist for Central Texas Anesthesiology Associates for the past two years. He is in the process of adopting three children.

## 1996

■ **Lori (Dreyer) DeWalt, B.S.O.T.**, and husband Scott welcomed their second daughter, Amy Elizabeth,

## 1997

■ **Gowri Balachandar, M.D.**, is currently in private practice in gastroenterology in Plano.

■ **Tammy (Perry) Huntsinger, B.S.N.**, is a family nurse practitioner practicing in a rural health clinic in Early.

## 1998

■ **Tamesha Nichole Underwood, B.S.C.D., M.S.C.D.**, received a doctor of audiology degree (Au.D.) from the University of Florida on Aug. 9, 2003. She works as an audiologist for Arizona Hearing and Balance Center in Phoenix.

## 2002

■ **Cameron (Bell) Boyle, B.S.N.**, is a registered nurse at the University of Colorado hospital burn and trauma intensive care unit. She recently married Tom Boyle of Lubbock.



Please send us your good news, address updates, births, marriages etc. for the Class Notes section of the magazine. E-mail seems to be the easiest way to get in touch with everyone these days, so please update your e-mail address as soon as possible! We can be reached by e-mail at [alumni@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:alumni@ttuhsc.edu) or you can update your information on our Web site. Just go to [www.ttuhsc.edu/pages/alumni/home.html](http://www.ttuhsc.edu/pages/alumni/home.html) and click on 'Update Contact Information' or 'Send Us News.'

We look forward to hearing from you!



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 2003



**Raymond B. Runyan, Ph.D.,** graduated from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1983. He is a professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at the University of Arizona. He is also an associate scientist for the Saver Heart Center at the university and an investigator for the Center for Toxicology. Runyan has retained NIH funding for more than 15 years and has published more than 40 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. He is also a member of the Steele Memorial Children's Center and the Arizona Cancer Center.



**Aurora Chaides Hernandez, R.N., B.S.N., B.S., J.D.,** received her bachelor of science in nursing in 1988. She graduated from the Texas Tech School of Law in 1993 and is currently licensed to practice nursing and law in the state of Texas. She has served as Lubbock county Precinct 3 justice of the peace since 1994. Hernandez has served as a member of the American Nurses Association,

Lubbock Hispanic Nurses Association, School of Nursing Research and Practice Advisory Committee and adviser to the School of Nursing Wellness Center. She has also served as a member of the Texas, Lubbock County and Mexican-American Bar associations and the Lubbock County Young Lawyers and Lubbock Women Lawyers associations.



**Michael F. Owen, M.D.,** graduated in 1977 from the School of Medicine and is currently in private practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Lubbock. He is a member of the Lubbock, Crosby, Garza Medical Society, Texas Medical Association, American Medical Association and the Christian Medical/Dental Society. He also received the Distinguished Dean's Service Award in 2000.



**Traci L. Metting, Pharm.D.,** graduated from the School of Pharmacy in 2000. She is the clinical manager and assistant director of the

Medical Center of Mesquite where she is responsible for design and implementation of clinical programs as well as administrative responsibilities. She is the president-elect designee for the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. She will serve as president-elect in 2004-2005 and will then serve as president from 2005-2006. She is also a member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Phi Lambda Sigma leadership society and the School of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Council.



**Sherry Sancibrian, M.S.,** received her degree in speech pathology and audiology in 1978. She is an associate professor and program director for speech-language pathology in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. While teaching at the health sciences center, she has received the Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa Outstanding Faculty Member award, the President's Excellence in Teaching award, four health sciences center Student Senate teaching awards and the YWCA Women of Excellence award.

*(Each recipient is pictured with the dean of their respective area.)*



# Scrub Camp 2003



The School of Medicine Class of 2007 enjoyed an evening with friends, family and faculty at Scrub Camp 2003 in August. The incoming students were presented with their first pair of scrubs — this serves as the “ceremonial” welcome to medical school.

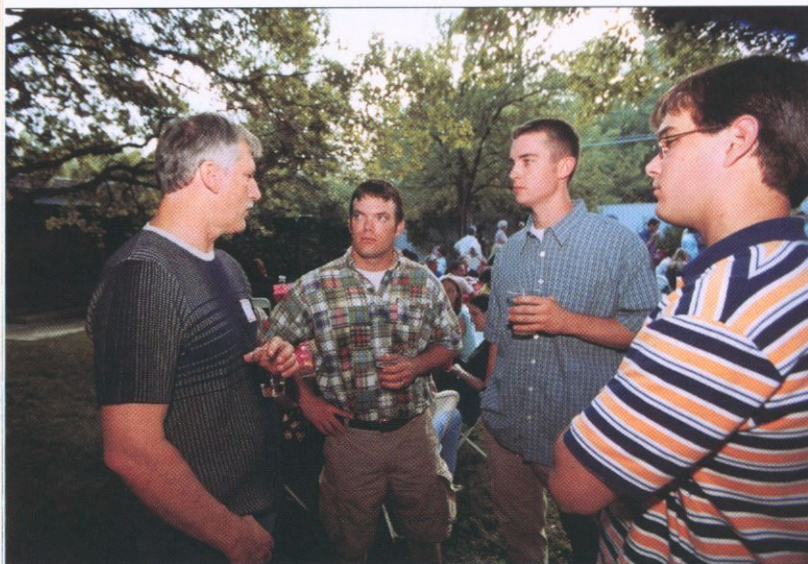
The annual event to welcome incoming medical students took place at the home of Brad Snodgrass, M.D. and Priscilla Carter-Snodgrass, M.D. Brad and Priscilla have graciously hosted this event for the past several years.

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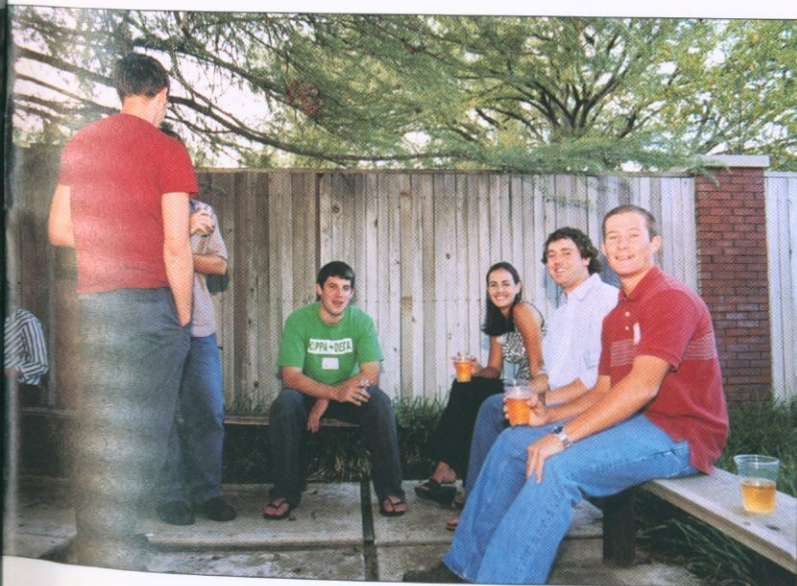
- Drs. Priscilla Carter and Brad Snodgrass, hosts of the event, and Cynthia Jumper, M.D., from the class of '88.
- Medical school faculty member Herb Janssen talks with incoming medical students.

*Last two photographs this page and following page.*

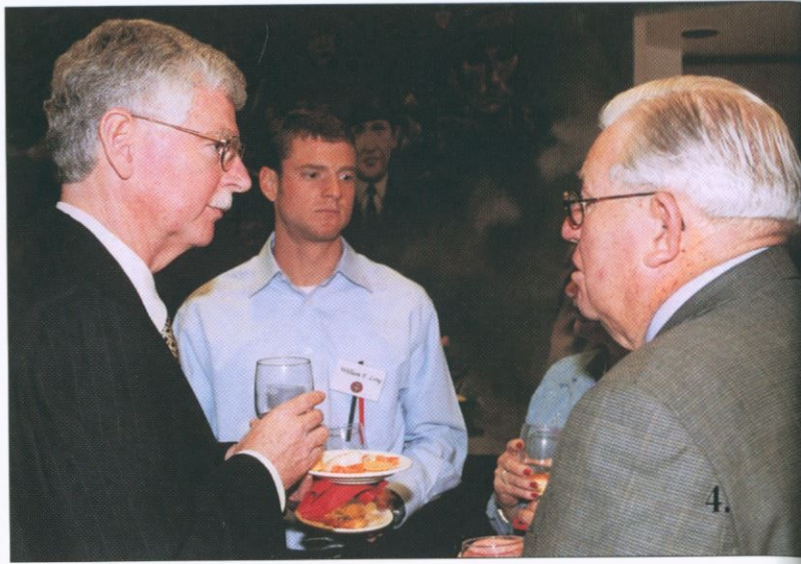
- Future classmates get to know each other before medical school classes begin.













# Alumni Weekend 2003



1. School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Michael Owen, M.D. (*back center*) and family.

2. Department of Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences Chair Rajinder Keul, Ph.D. and his wife, Rubini.

3. Kerry Stallworth, Pharm.D, '00 and Lynn Bickley, M.D.

4 - 10. Activities scheduled for Alumni Weekend 2003 were based at the International Cultural Center on the campus of Texas Tech University. In addition to visiting with friends and colleagues, alumni were presented with this interesting facility to examine.



By M. Roy Wilson, M.D., president  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

## Educating a Generation

**H**e knew at the age of 8 that he wanted to become governor. And he said that it was as early as 1949 that he envisioned a medical school for West Texas. Former Gov. Preston Earnest Smith was a man of great vision. It was his hard work to make it a reality that made him one of the most influential and successful men in our great state of Texas. Texas and Texas Tech lost a dear friend. Gov. Smith died on Oct. 18, 2003.

It was a day that so many of his friends, colleagues, family members and even those who had not had the opportunity to meet him, all remembered him with great respect.

He was born March 8, 1923, on a farm in Williamson County near Austin and was one of 13 children. Many years later he would move to Lubbock to attend Texas Tech. While a student at Texas Tech, he and a friend started a service station and ran rooming houses for students. Smith, who received his degree in business administration, decided to branch out into movie theaters. Then came a political career that would shape West Texas and state education as we know it today.

During his political career, Smith established more new state universities and medical and dental training facilities than any other governor. He created the Texas Education Code, advanced the state minimum wage law, started the Texas Early Childhood Development Program, initiated the state's first comprehensive drug abuse program. It was Smith who pushed for Texans to "Drive Friendly."

Smith was committed to making a greater Texas Tech. An inscription on a statue honoring Preston Smith may say it best, "Look around you and see the results of legislation authorized and supported by Preston Smith which made this campus what it is today." This holds true for both the university and the health sciences center.

Smith saw a need to provide more education for future medical professionals in this region. Since 1972, the health sciences center has cared for West Texans while graduating more than 2,000 physicians, more than 1,300 nurses, more than 1,500 allied health professionals, more than 50 pharmacists, 149 graduate students and completing the training of some 2,000 medical residents.

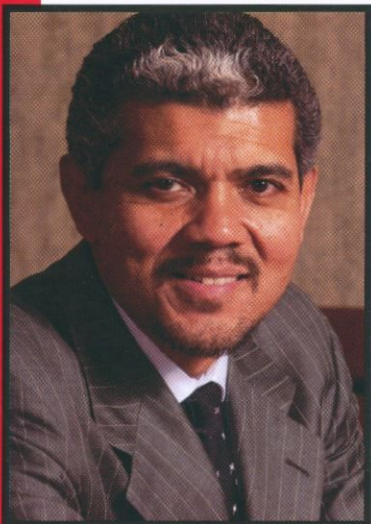
The health sciences center serves the health education needs of more than 2.5 million residents of West Texas. More than 500,000 patient visits are made to Texas Tech campuses in Lubbock, Amarillo, El Paso and the Permian Basin each year. Preston Smith's vision has educated students and healed West Texans now for more than 25 years.

It's probably not easy for many lifelong Texans to realize or appreciate the legend that surrounds this state's political figures and its history of leadership. For those of us who become Texans by choice, the political culture and heritage of this state is one of the many things that make Texas so attractive. To learn about Texas politics is a pleasure, to meet one of the state's legends is an honor and a privilege.

Preston Smith provided all of us in West Texas an opportunity to know firsthand a Texas political legend. Gov. Smith walked the halls of Texas Tech up until his death.

He was a humble man who spent his entire life giving back to the state that helped raise him, educate him and provide him a good life. For Preston, giving back was important. His legacy will be his contribution to education, health care and to this region.

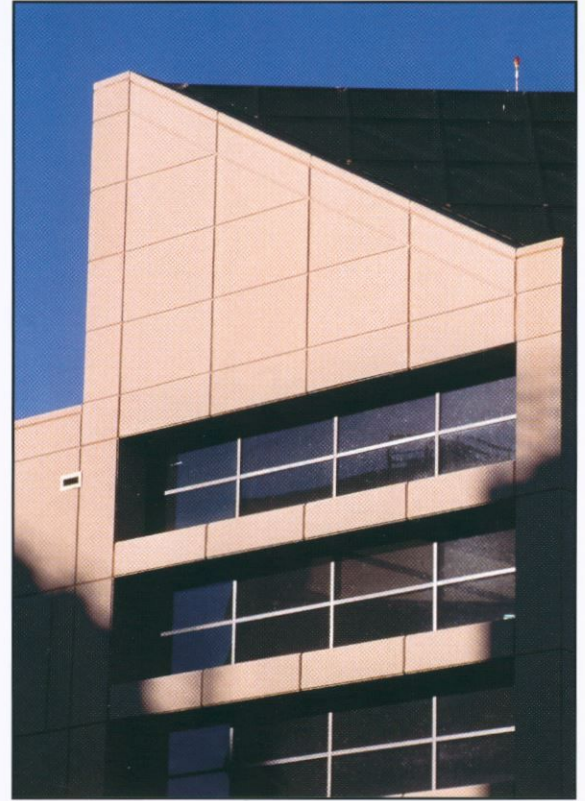
He also is responsible for helping develop a generation of leaders. Whether it is in medicine, education or politics, Preston Smith has left a legacy of educating a generation and many more to come.







*(Above) The Preston Smith statue in the courtyard of the Texas Tech campus administration building.*



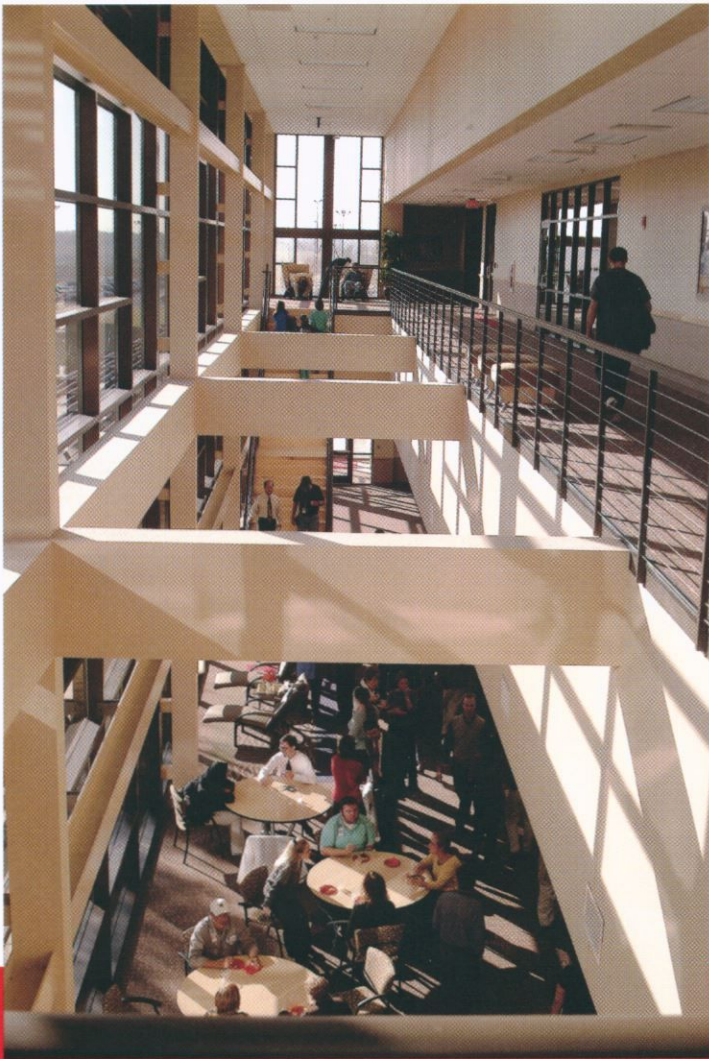
*(Right, top) A view of the Preston Smith Library on the TTUHSC campus.*



*(Right, bottom) The Preston Smith Library on the TTUHSC campus.*

*(Outside back cover) The recently completed Academic Classroom Building provides much-needed classroom space, lecture halls and meeting rooms for the health sciences center.*





# PULSE

**Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center**

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