

# Gifts

## FROM ABILENE COMMUNITY WILL PROVIDE FOR NEW NURSING SCHOOL FACILITY

TTUHSC's School of Nursing will soon have a storefront for its educational offerings in Abilene. In April, President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., announced that gifts from the community will be used to build a new nursing facility, which will enhance educational opportunities and provide for multidisciplinary learning.

Community leaders were instrumental in securing and constructing the School of Pharmacy in 2007, and once again are showing strong support in this latest endeavor. TTUHSC has secured enough funding to begin construction and will continue to raise the remaining amount needed for completion of the project. Hendrick Health System will help construct the building, which will attach to the existing School of Pharmacy, and then donate the facility to TTUHSC.

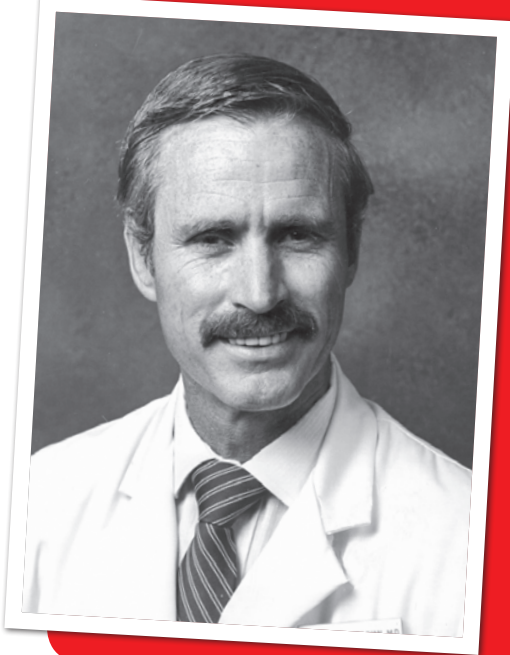
The school and hospital began a partnership in 2008 establishing a web-based post-baccalaureate program, the Second Degree BSN. Since then, the school has expanded its traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing to the region. Students have completed course work in community-based agencies and clinics and at Hendrick Medical Center. Other programs available to Abilene and area residents are the online RN to BSN program and several graduate programs.

"This new facility will enable the School of Nursing at Abilene to grow to its full potential," said Pearl Merritt, Ed.D., R.N., the school's regional dean at Abilene, "which in turn will help to alleviate the nursing shortage statewide."

There are currently 56 students in the School of Nursing in Abilene, but school officials would like to increase enrollment to more than 100 by 2015.



## Guess WHO?



<<< This El Paso faculty member was down on his luck, but then found his way into medicine via an agriculture economics course at Kansas State. Can you guess who? **see story on page 10**

## Laura W. Bush

INSTITUTE for WOMEN'S HEALTH  
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

### JOINING THE BATTLE AGAINST BREAST CANCER

A new program launched this spring from the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health is helping women access services and information related to breast health.

Access to Breast Care for West Texas, ABC4WT, will help women find resources for prevention and screening as well as help pay for mammograms and other diagnostic testing for women who qualify.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas awarded researchers at the LWBIWH a three-year, \$1.67 million grant to work with organizations and agencies in the Panhandle and South Plains of Texas who are already serving minority and underserved women.

➤ To learn more, visit [www.abc4wt.org](http://www.abc4wt.org).

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Sara Jezierski's Amarillo apartment is a breeding ground for some of the creepiest, cleanest microorganisms that ever graced the inside of a petri dish.

It started in January 2010, when the TTUHSC campus at Amarillo was closed for a couple of days due to snow. Jezierski had just finished a semester of immunology when she got the idea to shape a bar of soap like a Petri dish filled with microbes such as E. Coli, Salmonella, Legionella and a host of others that glow in every neon color.

She felt sure someone else had already thought of the idea, but this time "too-good-to-be-true" wasn't. Within days, Jezierski, who just completed her second year in the School of Pharmacy, was learning how to make soap and exploring the possibilities of morphing her idea into a marketable product. Within the month, she came up with a name, Cleaner Science—and had set up shop in the virtual marketplace.

Today, Cleaner Science's product line features 20 different Petri dish soaps in a variety of colors and scents as well as breath mint-sized versions of red blood cells, available in 17 fragrances.

"Cleaner Science gives me a good outlet to express my creativity, to switch on that right side of my brain, so to speak, when I have been maxing out my left side all day," said Jezierski. "The nice thing is that most of those things don't have an exact time they need to be done ... The only time constraint is to make it to the post office before they close for the day."

## CLEANEST germs in town



Check out Jezierski's  
complete story at  
[www.CleanerScience.com](http://www.CleanerScience.com).



## JUST *the facts...*



# 95

percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) was posted for the first time by students in the Traditional Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. The NCLEX is required to receive professional licensure in the field of nursing.

# 60

ranking the School of Allied Health Sciences received from the U.S. News & World Report for its master's level Speech-Language Pathology program compared to the 262 programs nationwide. The school's Rehabilitation Counseling Program ranked 56 of 96.

# 3-2-1

New fellowships have been accredited at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education granted a three-year fellowship in cardiovascular disease, a two-year fellowship in rheumatology, and a one-year fellowship in sports medicine.

# 740

number of high school students from rural West Texas that have participated in summer camps, mentoring programs and other initiatives offered by the West Texas Area Health Education Centers. The centers, which operate within the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health, encourage youth throughout the region to consider health care as a potential career.



# 5

siblings from the Attaya family are now TTUHSC alumni. Hosam Attaya, M.D., the youngest, earned his medical degree from the School of Medicine in May. His siblings are former student regent Ebtesam Attaya Islam, M.D., Ph.D., (SOM '10, GSBS '05); Eman N. Attaya, M.D., (SOM '05); Hesham N. Attaya, M.D., (SOM '08); Mohamed N. Attaya, M.D., (SOM '10). Congratulations!

## there's no place like home

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, School of Medicine at the Permian Basin is one of seven in the nation recognized by the American Association of Medical Colleges as having successfully integrated the medical home concept into the educational setting.

In its report, *Moving the Medical Home Forward: Innovations in Primary Care Training and Delivery*, the AAMC notes the changes the department has implemented during the past four years, which includes evidenced-based clinical care, a patient tracking system and safety initiatives. As part of their daily responsibilities, medical residents learn about resources at the local, state and national level available to help indigent populations.

The department has served as a model to other departments on campus, and a clinic in Midland also has adopted the medical home model for its organizational structure. Read more about the department's transformation in an excerpt from the AAMC report in *PULSE* online.

## New deans for Nursing and Biomedical Sciences

### STOCCO NAMED DEAN OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Douglas M. Stocco, Ph.D., has been named dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He began duties July 1. Stocco currently serves as TTUHSC's executive vice president for research, and will continue in that position as well.

He joined TTUHSC in 1974 as a researcher in the Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry. His focus on the mechanisms involved in steroid hormone synthesis has received several honors and has been funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1984.

Most notable was his identification and characterization of a novel protein, which his research team named the Steroidogenic Acute Regulatory protein. The protein has been used in the early diagnosis of a potentially fatal congenital disease.

Stocco has published more than 200 peer-reviewed, original scientific articles, book chapters and review articles, gaining national and international recognition and has earned several honors from the NIH.

He received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Windsor, in Canada, and his doctorate from the University of Toronto. Additionally he completed two years of postdoctoral research at UCLA.

Throughout his career at TTUHSC, he has served as vice dean for research for the School of Medicine and as the interim dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He has received prestigious recognition from TTUHSC including being named as a Grover E. Murray Distinguished Professor and a University Distinguished Professor. Stocco also holds the Robert A. Welch Endowed Chair in Biochemistry and is a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He succeeds Luis Reuss, M.D., who now serves as director of TTUHSC's Center for Membrane Protein Research.



### MICHAEL EVANS TO LEAD NURSING SCHOOL

The School of Nursing welcomes Michael Evans, Ph.D., R.N., as its fourth dean.

Evans comes to TTUHSC from the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College in St. Louis. There, he served as professor, Maxine Clark and Bob Fox dean, and CEO of the 650-student school. Under his leadership, the school experienced growth in research, increased the number and

quality of graduates, and achieved two successful re-accreditations. Additionally, Evans was instrumental in transitioning two historic nursing schools—the Jewish College of Nursing and Barnes College of Nursing—into the current institution, which offers innovative programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

His experience also includes vice president and chief learning officer for Texas Health Resources, a 13-hospital health care system with 18,000 employees. There, he oversaw educational activities and created a corporate university model for health care education. Evans has been an adjunct professor in several Texas nursing schools including the University of Texas System. In addition, he has served as chief nursing officer at several Texas hospitals including Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas and St. David's Medical Center in Austin.

Evans, a graduate of TTU, earned his nursing diploma from Northwest Texas Hospital School of Nursing in Amarillo; his bachelor's in nursing came from West Texas State University School of Nursing in Canyon, Texas; and his master's from the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing at Houston. He received his Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin.

He will join the TTUHSC administration in January, succeeding Alexia Green, Ph.D., R.N.

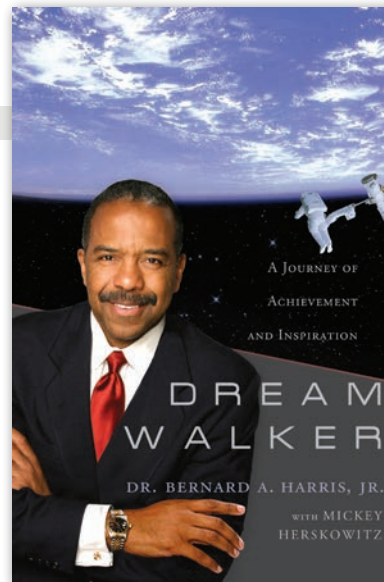


The first class for the innovative Family Medicine Accelerated Track (FMAT) program has been selected. These students will complete their medical degrees in three years at about half the cost of the standard degree program. The students, are: back row—Clay Buchanan, Seth Wilhelm, Robert Cooper, Emily Dosier, Amanda Hartman, and Charles Willnauer; front row: Eileen Dee, Keeley Bramblett and Tiffany Bunag. They are joined by Ronald Cook, D.O., chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, TTU System Chancellor Kent Hance, TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., and Steven Berk, M.D., TTUHSC executive vice president, provost and School of Medicine dean. The FMAT program was featured in the Summer 2010 issue of *PULSE*.

## MULTIMEDIA



Benches linked through imagery as well as their positive and negative marble components have been added outside of the Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion in Lubbock as part of the TTU System Public Art Collection. Jim Hirschfield and Sonya Ishii from Chapel Hill, N.C., are the artists.



*Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration* | By Bernard Harris, M.D., (SOM '82) 216 pp. Greenleaf Book Group Press, Austin, Texas. \$23.95

*"My dream to venture into space began July 20, 1969, when I watched the black-and-white television*

*set in our living room, transfixed as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped onto the surface of the moon."*

In *Dream Walker, A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration*, Bernard Harris, M.D., (SOM '82) tells the story of a young boy who refused to give up on a dream. His story takes the reader on a journey through his childhood living on a Navajo reservation to the suburbs of San Antonio, where Harris finished high school. He speaks of those who strongly influenced his paths, which eventually led to medical school, and then into space. Today, Harris is the CEO of a venture capital firm and founder and president of The Harris Foundation, a nonprofit that supports young people as they pursue their dreams.

Harris' story concludes with an introspective look at a man on a mission and a desire that his dream serves as an inspiration to others.

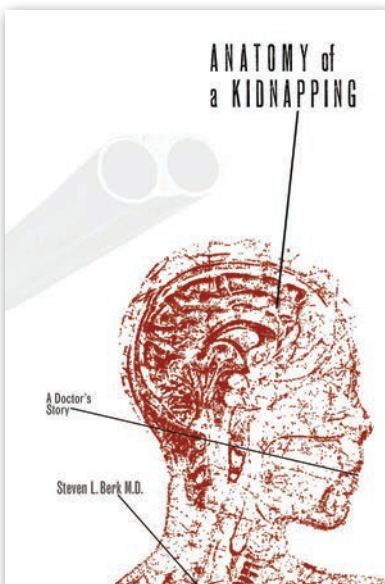
## KUDOS

The University of Texas at San Antonio School of Medicine honored **EVERARDO COBOS, M.D.**, associate dean and division chief for oncology/hematology in the School of Medicine at Lubbock, with its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a 1981 alumnus of the school. The Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute honored **TTU SYSTEM CHANCELLOR KENT HANCE** with its 2011 Luminary Award, recognizing his efforts to further the development of the life sciences industry in Texas. The institute is an advocacy group whose mission is to research, develop and advocate policies statewide that promote biomedical science, biotechnology, agriculture and medical device innovations. UMC Health System recently honored two School of Medicine faculty with endowed chairs. **VASUM PEIRIS, M.D.**, received the Joon Park, M.D., Endowed Chair in Medical Excellence. Peiris is an assistant professor of pediatrics and internal medicine in the School of Medicine at Lubbock and a pediatric cardiologist at UMC. **RICHARD WINN, M.D.**, chief of infectious disease and professor of internal medicine, was named as the James P. Courtney Endowed Chair in Medical Excellence. The chair positions are supported by UMC Health System in Lubbock to fund TTUHSC medical programs and research. Congratulations to **QUENTIN SMITH SR., PH.D.**, and a team of collaborating faculty investigators and basic scientists from the schools of Pharmacy and Medicine at Amarillo. They have received a \$1 million grant from the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas to purchase a confocal/multiphoton laser-scanning microscope. This piece of equipment will allow the researchers to view images of drugs and cancer cells in the tissues of living organisms. It can also be used to explore the mechanisms associated with cell signaling and cell invasion within the body so that new therapeutic drugs can be tested. **VALERIE ROBINSON, M.D.**, assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine at Lubbock, is serving on the state Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, which develops recommendations for preferred drug lists adopted by the U.S. Health and Human Services Commission. Gov. Rick Perry appointed Robinson to the committee, composed of six physicians and five pharmacists that participate in the Medicaid program. An article by members of the **TTUHSC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CANCER CENTER**, published last fall in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, has been ranked by the Faculty of 1000 (<http://frooo.com>) as being in the top 2 percent of published articles in biology and medicine. The article focused on the phase III Children's Oncology Group trial adding antibody therapy + cytokines to 13-cis-retinoic acid for therapy of high-risk neuroblastoma.

*The Match Day Song* | By Brian Weis, M.D.,  
associate professor, Department of Internal  
Medicine, School of Medicine at Amarillo,  
*YouTube video*



Most likely, he won't be cutting a single anytime soon, but Brian Weis, M.D., gave a memorable toast to the medical students at Amarillo with his original song about "the letter that came on Match Day." Annually, students nationwide learn of their residency placements in March. Visit *PULSE* online to view Weis' performance and to see where our students will be doing their residencies.



*Anatomy of a Kidnapping* | By Steven L. Berk, M.D. | 288 pp. Texas Tech University Press. \$27.95

*"Four hours. That was the amount of time between looking down the barrel of a gun and finding myself free along a silent highway ... I looked upon the situation just as I looked upon a medical emergency: I took a deep breath, hid my panic, and tried to solve the situation."*

In *Anatomy of a Kidnapping*, Steven L. Berk, M.D., TTUHSC executive vice president, provost, and School of Medicine dean, chronicles his account of being kidnapped from his home in Amarillo on March 6, 2005. Along with the story of his kidnapping, Berk describes numerous experiences with patients and lessons learned as a physician that ultimately helped prepare him for survival in the midst of incessant danger.

Berk refers to his fascination and understanding of William Osler's *aequanimitas*, which taught him the necessity of remaining calm and composed in the midst of any situation. As a physician faced with the task of treating patients in their times of dire need, Berk writes, *"In times of crisis, no matter the nature, a physician must do his best to promote calm, rational solutions to any problem."*

Insights such as this became ever so valuable, Berk says, the moment one seemingly ordinary Sunday morning became anything but ordinary.

*Anatomy of a Kidnapping* will be released in September by Texas Tech University Press.

## Third TTUHSC student to serve as TTU System regent

School of Medicine student Jill Fadal was selected in April by Gov. Rick Perry as the sixth student to serve on the TTU System Board of Regents.

Fadal, who began her one-year term on June 1, is a native of Austin. She is the president-elect of the Orthopedics Club and serves as vice president of the MD/MBA Association. Fadal received her bachelor's degree in general studies in 2009 from TTU, where she was involved in many student organizations and activities including Phi Beta Kappa and President's Select. She now is pursuing a dual-degree in medicine and business administration through a joint degree between TTUHSC and TTU.

She is the third student regent to come from TTUHSC since Gov. Perry appointed the first student regent in 2006. Student regents rotate among the TTU System universities and serve a one-year term.



## Guess WHO?

### WILLIAM SULLIVAN, M.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY  
PAUL L. FOSTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

By Danette Baker



Trying his hand as a rodeo cowboy left William Sullivan, M.D., dead broke after being bucked off a horse at a jackpot rodeo the summer he turned 17. Deciding he had better find a new career, Sullivan worked his way back home to Kansas and then to K-State to study agriculture economics. He became interested in science, "and the next thing I knew I lost my way and ended up in medical school."

There is a hint of humor and an inkling that somewhere behind his Marty Robbins grin there may be more to the story than Sullivan's Reader's Digest version, but once he settled on medicine, not much could throw Sullivan off course. He came to TTUHSC in 1976 for a second residency – this time in obstetrics and gynecology – and upon completion, the residency chair offered him a position.

"I realized after practicing family medicine for nine years that women were much better patients," Sullivan said, following his comment with a subdued laugh.

And the ones in El Paso, have held his heart ever since.

There is poverty, undoubtedly, and pathology that you'll not see anywhere else, but the patients are extremely loyal and appreciative of the care, Sullivan said.

Two lessons Sullivan now shares with residents who come to El Paso: "You have to learn Spanish, and you have to learn you never argue with grandma."

Two years in Panama City, serving in the Peace Corp, prepared him for the first. The latter, he says, with a laugh, "I learned the hard way."

His mix of genuineness and teasing is a trademark. "My students will tell you I'm a cross between Hippocrates, (William) Osler and W.C. Fields. I strongly suspect they see (in me) Fields' zest for life; Osler was the father of medicine, and Fields, a practical joker."

Case in point: his response to a question about changes in his specialty field. "Well, women are still having babies pretty much the same way they always did."

Medical students, he added, haven't changed much either.

"They are always the best of the brightest, the cream of the crop. And that's what's kept me going.

"I thoroughly enjoy watching their eagerness to learn and their inquisitiveness. They ask questions that I don't know the answer to, and so I continue to learn."