TTUHSC ESTABLISHES CHAIR FOR ADDICTION MEDICINE :: TTUHSC has made addiction medicine a focus in the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences by creating the Giles C. McCrary Endowed Chair in Addiction Medicine.

Gregory W. Schrimsher, PH.D., assistant professor in the department was named as the Endowed Chair in Addiction Medicine.

One focus of his work will be to assess the substance use treatment needs in the area including rural counties. His major area of research interest is the relation between alcohol and substance use and its short- and long-term impact on cognitive abilities and functioning.

“This endowed chair will allow us to examine the cognitive effects of substance use and how these effects impact our treatment efforts. Also, we will examine whether the effects can be reversed or whether they place people at risk for future problems such as dementia,” Schrimsher says.

COMBEST CENTER RECEIVES FEDERAL SUPPORT :: Thanks to a $1.1 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, health care services provided to the community through the Larry Combest Community Health & Wellness Center will continue.

The center is dedicated to the improvement of primary care services and chronic disease management programs for obesity, hypertension, diabetes and asthma in an underserved community. The timely grant will continue funding for the next three years after the original five-year funding ended on June 30.

School of Nursing Dean Alexia Green, PH.D., says the grant will help sustain the center’s mission. “We are thrilled to be able to enhance the programs of the Combest Center that reach this underserved population.”

Christina Esperat, PH.D., director of the project, says the funding will enhance research opportunities, as well.

“We will be working on formally evaluating the outcomes of our chronic disease management programs, focusing on the established parameters for tracking our performance,” Esperat said. “This will not only result in better care for patients, it will mean more cost-effective care in the long run.”

The Combest Center is located at 301 40th St., next to Harwell Elementary School. Nurse practitioners from the School of Nursing staff the center, supported by physicians from the Health Sciences Center School of Medicine.

STEPHANIE SINCLAIR was among the junior and senior School of Nursing students who helped raise more than $20,000 in baby items and monetary donations at the school’s annual Stork’s Nest Baby Shower. Students have hosted the event for the past four years raising more than $55,850. The Stork’s Nest is a non-profit organization that provides baby items as incentives for pregnant women to seek prenatal care.