



Alumni Honored for Work in Nursing Profession

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing announced its 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients at a dinner

event on Nov. 10. The award is the highest honor the school bestows upon its alumni. Interim Dean Yondell Masten, RN, PhD, said, "These recipients have captured the respect and admiration of their peers and school leaders for their persistent and outstanding work in the nursing profession."

Tamara Bavousett, DNP, RN, C-PNP, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Advocacy, received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 2001, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in 2004 and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in 2010.

After completing her DNP,

Bavousett established Compass Pediatrics, a pediatrics primary clinic in Odessa, Texas. In 2007, she developed the Ronald McDonald House Charities

Care Mobile Pediatric Clinic and served as the nurse practitioner and department director until 2010.

Bavousett also joined the West Texas Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (WTxHITREC) in 2010 as board

member to facilitate and promote electronic health records throughout the Permian Basin. The WTxHITREC is focused on providing education, outreach and technical assistance to help clinical providers transition from a paper-based practice to one that successfully uses electronic health records. Bavousett recently was recognized by WTxHITREC as one of its Champions based on her leadership in the national transition toward electronic health records.



Left to Right: Dr. Tamara Bavousett, Jeff Watson, Hillery Quintanilla

In 2011, Bavousett was named Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women.

She is active in her community through the Advanced Practice Nurses of the Permian Basin, Reagan Magnet PTA, Crossroads Fellowship Children's Ministry and numerous health fairs and speaking engagements on pertinent children's health topics. At the state level, Bavousett is a member of Texas Nurse Practitioners. Nationally, she is a member of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Nursing Honor Society Sigma Theta Tau, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and the National Association of Professional Women.

Jeff Watson, MSN, RN, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Leadership in Health Care, earned his MSN in 2010. He received a BSN in 2008 from Lubbock Christian University and additional nurse training came from South Plains College, Christ For the Nations Institute and Covenant School of Nursing. Watson is the director of a medical-surgical unit at UMC Health System in Lubbock, Texas.



His daily practice focuses on supporting nursing staff to provide high quality, evidence-based care for all patients.

Watson pioneered a program at the hospital to incorporate arts through the benefit of music therapy for patients in need of the healing power of music. He also is improving his nursing unit's patient safety record through the use of patient safety "tracers" in areas such as medication administration, hand washing, patient handoff and the identification of a "Patient Safety Hero" within his department.

Watson is president of Texas Nurses Association District 18 and has also served as first vice president and program chair for the organization.

Hillery Quintanilla, RN, BSN, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Clinical Care, received her BSN in 1998. She currently has two positions with UMC Health System in Lubbock, Texas, serving as the director for nursing education and the approved provider unit director of nursing education applications.

In addition, Quintanilla serves as training center coordinator for the American Heart Association.

During her tenure with UMC she also has been the charge nurse for the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. She has served as faculty associate for the TTUHSC School of Nursing where she assisted with teaching clinical skills to undergraduate students.

Quintanilla has received the UMC's Career Ladder Level 4 award three consecutive years, 2008-2010, and has been recognized by pediatric residents as a UMC Allstar, Nurse of the Unit and Nurse of the Year.