


PULSE



SUMMER 2006 | A PUBLICATION *for* ALUMNI & FRIENDS *of* TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



YOUR TOWN
CITY LIMIT
POP. UNKNOWN



small town
BIG LIFE

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

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SUMMER 2006 • VOL. 17, NO. 1

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's location in West Texas offers an opportunity to provide service to rural and other medically underserved areas. Under the leadership of Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H., the Office of Rural and Community Health has taken a leadership role in this regard.

As part of its mission, TTUHSC works diligently to improve the health of West Texans. In that lies a responsibility to identify barriers preventing West Texans from achieving the highest possible health status and investigating solutions to combat these barriers. What we discover can have a broader impact by affecting rural health care across America.

Thanks to a generous gift by Marie Hall of Big Spring, the advancements we've made to date have culminated in the establishment of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health. This recent gift will build upon a strong foundation and further our ambitious initiative to study health care and its associated challenges in rural areas. Such generous support, as demonstrated by Ms. Hall, is critical in leveraging state and federal funding to build programs of excellence and national recognition.

TTUHSC has made many advancements in recent years for which it can be proud. I challenge each of you with a tie to this university to keep the momentum in order to improve health care for all West Texans.

M. ROY WILSON, M.D., M.S.

SMALL TOWN, BIG LIFE

Rural physicians say small communities may lack the glitz and glimmer of their urban counterparts, but they've got a certain charm that more than compensates.



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GROWING OUR OWN

TTUHSC's pipeline program encourages students to pursue health careers and supports their endeavors.



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RESEARCHING RURAL POPULATIONS

Multidisciplinary studies investigate challenges of delivering health care to residents in remote locations.



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LASTING IMPRESSION

Memories of her father's compassionate care inspire Marie Hall's gifts to improve rural health.



PAGE 10

ON THE COVER TTUHSC's initiative focuses on bringing quality health care to rural West Texas communities. Illustration by ASHLEY C. ELLIS

ABOVE LEFT & BACK COVER Two images from a photojournalism archive depicting West Texas landscapes captured by photographers SANDY FORTENBERRY, ED.D., and MARGARET VUGRIN, M.S., as part of an EXPORT research project.

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NEAL HINKLE

Manon Childers, M.D.

SMALL TOWN

BIG LIFE

SHANNON KIRKLAND & DANETTE BAKER

Manon Childers, M.D., doesn't have a typical workday except for the average number of patients he sees – about 15 in the morning and 25 in the afternoon in his office in Perryton, Texas. One morning this small-town doctor may deliver a baby by Caesarean section and then see scheduled patients the rest of the day. On other days those patients may wait while he tends a farm-accident injury across the street at the Ochiltree County Hospital emergency room.



An elderly woman may greet Childers at church on Sunday and tell him how much better her knees are, or someone will stop him in the grocery store to report that the medicine he prescribed has done the job. Knowing that his fellow townspeople trust him enough to tell him their problems directly gives this doctor a lot of satisfaction. "That comes from a closeness that develops between patients and physicians in a small town," Childers says. "You don't necessarily see it, but it's there."

There is continuity to rural practice – taking care of people and their children and their parents. That was exactly what I wanted.

Jenny McGaughy, D.O.

To live and work in a small town is to know your patients' children and watch them grow, to go to ball games and church together, and to help families through life's joys and sorrows.

But try describing how good it is to practice medicine in rural America to someone unfamiliar with it and you'll get a shake of the head and a puzzled look, followed by, "Why would anyone want to do that?"

Childers is momentarily at a loss for words when asked what makes rural practice unique and why it brought him home 20 years ago. He grew up in Perryton, a community of 7,800 people in the northern Texas Panhandle, but then moved away to attend school. He graduated with a medical degree in 1983 from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Medicine. Then he completed a residency at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. All along he anticipated returning to the rural life he had known.

IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

"The beauty of rural life and rural practice is in the relationships," says Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H., vice president of Rural and Community Health at TTUHSC and a native of Hale Center. "Relationships within the community can keep a physician or a nurse practicing, but it also takes relationships that go beyond the city limits to sustain rural health care across the region."

Since it began in 1997, TTUHSC's Office of Rural and Community Health has had a goal to develop relationships that link rural communities to the university and each other. The office serves as the liaison between educators, researchers and community-based health care professionals to address

the challenges of health care in rural West Texas. In February, the office became the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health, thanks to a generous gift from Marie Hall of Big Spring. Patterson was named director of the new institute.

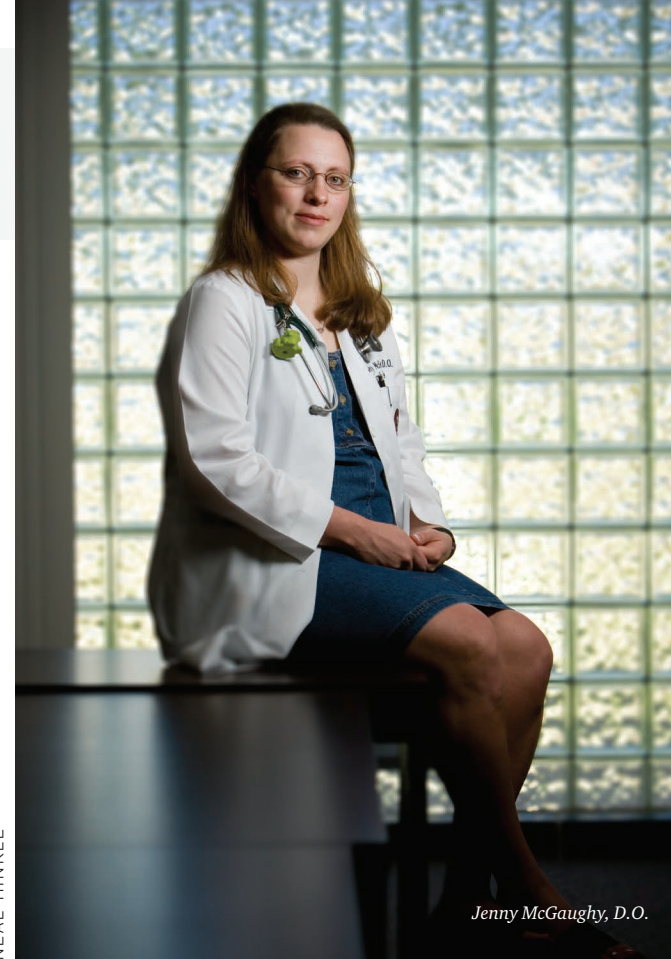
BUILDING THE TEAM

TTUHSC has been instrumental in helping Perryton build its health care team. Later this summer, the town will welcome Jenny McGaughy, D.O. McGaughy, who fulfilled her residency at TTUHSC, is completing a fellowship in high-risk and operative obstetrics at the School of Medicine at Amarillo.

"I've always wanted to be a small-town doctor," says McGaughy, the daughter of a rural family physician. "Actually, I probably should have run from it; I can remember times when my dad was rarely home. But there is continuity to rural practice – taking care of people and their children and their parents. You can be very involved in the community as you care for families and watch them grow. That was exactly what I wanted."

McGaughy was looking for a rural practice when she met Wally Boyd, administrator for Ochiltree County Hospital in Perryton, at HealthMATCH. The F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health and one of its programs, the West Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC), host HealthMATCH events on each TTUHSC campus. These events bring communities and health professions students together to network about practice opportunities.

"Without HealthMATCH, I would still be looking for a physician," says Boyd. He was looking specifically for a family physician who



Jenny McGaughy, D.O.

would also provide obstetrics and gynecological care. "I found a quality physician who understands rural practice, and I can offer her a practice opportunity that is much broader in scope than anything an urban area offers."

WIDE OPEN SPACES

Rural communities face many challenges in providing health care for residents. A lack of providers is one of the biggest, says Patterson. West Texas' vast geography can be an obstacle. Some rural residents must drive up to four hours to the nearest health care provider. In TTUHSC's 108-county service region, 10 counties are without a physician or mid-level health care professional, and 32 counties don't have a hospital. For many health care providers, the isolation and limited resources that come with a rural practice are no match for urban areas.

THE CHALLENGE


The institute is all about building relationships and providing experiences for students to offset the perceived disadvantages of rural health care. Marie Hall's first gift – an endowed chair in Rural and Community Health – leveraged state and federal funding and led to the development of a major initiative at TTUHSC. Ms. Hall's gift in February to establish the institute will enable TTUHSC to establish a nationally significant rural health research, education, and service program.

In 2001, the Texas Legislature placed an increased priority on rural health issues, appropriating \$1 million in annual state funding to support TTUHSC's efforts. The following year, the West Texas AHEC Program was established with the opening of the AHEC of the Plains in Plainview. Since then the institute

has obtained a \$2.3 million federal grant to open three additional centers in Abilene, Amarillo and Midland.

In 2004, rural-focused initiatives received another boost. Funding from the National Institutes of Health allowed TTUHSC to establish the West Texas Rural EXPORT Center to research rural-focused health disparities.

All of these efforts require an extensive network of relationships with communities and their leaders, health care professionals, hospitals and other health care organizations, educators, community colleges and universities and health professions training programs.

"This coordination is already taking place," Patterson says. "We are seeing successes that are only the beginning of what will be accomplished in rural health." 

The beauty of rural life and rural practice is in the relationships.

Patti Patterson, M.D., M.P.H.

KEYS TO IMPROVING RURAL HEALTH

Building relationships is one priority for the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health, but there are others. The institute is also strengthening the future health care work force, researching rural health disparities and using technology to reduce the impact of distance and isolation on rural communities. Here are a few ways the center is working toward those priorities:

- Provide telemedicine consultations to the Hart Independent School District, Alpine hospital, colonias near El Paso and other sites.
- Created the West Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program in June 2002. The center recruits students into health care careers and supports existing providers.
- Established the first telepharmacy site in Texas in September 2004.
- Provide a coordinated child health curriculum (CATCH) to rural school districts to combat childhood obesity. This program has impacted more than 25,000 elementary students in 59 school districts since 2003.
- Annually award more than \$100,000 in scholarships to undergrads at Texas Tech University and health professions students at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.
- In 2005, established the West Texas Rural EXPORT Center to research rural health disparities.
- Initiated the regional HealthMATCH program in 2005 connecting rural communities with medical students.
- Provide rural health information to community leaders through newsletters, publications and other means.



Seminole Elementary School students learn the importance of eating healthy and exercising through the CATCH program.

getting to know... PATTI PATTERSON, M.D., M.P.H.



Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H., was the first in her family to go to college and medical school. She was also the first woman to serve as interim state commissioner of health. Patterson adds another first to the list as she steps into her role as director of the newly created F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health.

A native of Hale Center, Texas, Patterson values the uniqueness of rural communities. Her firsthand understanding of rural health care and a passion to serve fellow West Texans is a common bond she shares with Marie

Hall, whose generous gift established the institute.

West Texas has some of the greatest rural health challenges in the country. Patterson's philosophy is to improve rural health through collaborative efforts between the university and the community – working together to improve the health status of our rural neighbors across West Texas and beyond.

Rural Health Initiative

BRINGS FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

FOLD

THE

INTO

by SHANNON KIRKLAND

In rural Texas we grow gardens and field crops. We know what it takes to harvest a bumper cotton crop. The seasons and processes of planting, watering, weeding, fertilizing and harvesting are familiar.

We understand growing.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is applying the same concept to health care professionals for rural Texas. Growing our own.



NEAL HINKLE

It starts by first planting the seed of an idea about a health career in a young person's mind, followed by helping them successfully transition into education beyond high school and then enter into health professions training programs. Finally, the students are encouraged to return to the rural communities to establish their own practice.

The F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural Health and Community Health was established in February 2006 through a generous gift from Marie Hall of Big Spring. The institute has developed programs that impact young people at several points along their path toward entering the work force.



NEAL HINKLE

Denver City High School students participate in the Junior Volunteer program at the local hospital.



Rural health scholarship recipient Adan Gonzalez, a third-year medical student in El Paso.



The Denver City Junior Volunteers Program (above) and the West Texas AHEC summer camps (below) provide opportunities for high school students to explore health careers.



“The pipeline really begins with the West Texas AHEC (Area Health Education Center),” says Pam Danner, program director and director of rural health. “AHEC staff work with primary and secondary educators and directly with K-12 students, telling them about the career opportunities available in health care. We’ve found that, lots of times, kids think their only options are to be a doctor or a nurse. And if those careers don’t interest the students, then they’ve tuned out health care as an option.”

“Once they find out that there are more than 90 different career options and that there are many different educational options available, their interest is piqued.”

The AHEC also helps students establish and meet their education and career goals. Each center hosts health careers summer camps for high school students. In addition, the West Texas AHEC regional centers are working with rural community hospitals and schools to establish health care-oriented Junior Volunteers Programs.

Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor saw an opportunity to put legs under his “grow our own” vision when AHEC of the Plains approached him about establishing a Junior Volunteers Program.

“It afforded us a tangible way to give high school students a valuable experience for their future,” he says.


This spring, 15 high school students participated in the hospital-based program, learning about radiology, the lab and medical records. They also assisted with nursing care. Students learned firsthand how multiple disciplines work together in a hospital to treat the patient.

“The Junior Volunteers Programs and summer camps are excellent avenues to develop young people’s interest in health careers and in returning home to work,” Danner says. “We feel this is a vital component to rural communities being able to maintain their health care infrastructure.”

The F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health provides about \$150,000 annually for scholarships for undergrad pre-health profession students at Texas Tech University and to current TTUHSC students who are committed to practicing in a rural area. Texas Tech students interested in rural health issues can also enhance their rural-focused professional development through the Texas Tech Student Rural Health Organization.

The institute and the West Texas AHEC also help place health professions students with professionals practicing in rural communities. This provides the students an opportunity to acquire hands-on clinical education. These community-based experiences are made possible through the combined efforts of the West Texas AHEC, health professions training programs and community health professionals and leaders willing to host students.

“These community-based experiences provide significant benefits to both the student and the rural community,” says Danner. “There have even been several instances where the training experience has turned into a practice opportunity for the student following graduation.”

Just like growing plants, the process of growing professionals to meet the health care needs of rural Texas doesn’t happen overnight. It takes time and focused effort for successful results. 

by james speer, PH.D.

RESEARCHING RURAL POPULATIONS

Sam Hooper, PH.D., and John Garcia, M.D.

EXPORT STUDIES FOCUS ON RURAL HISPANICS

Why are health outcomes different for various rural populations in West Texas? The West Texas Rural EXPORT Center is sponsoring projects to find out. In this region, differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality and burden of disease are associated with complex economic, geographic and social factors. The center is a research program of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health.

Funded by a three-year, \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, the EXPORT Center (Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach, Research on

Health Disparities and Training) emphasizes multidisciplinary approaches to research on health disparities in rural populations.

“To better understand these problems, especially in rural communities and among ethnic minority populations, we need the tools, perspectives and creativity of experts from many fields,” says Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H. She is vice president of Rural and Community Health for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the program’s principal investigator.

One area of focus for the center is that of health disparities among Hispanics, especially those living in rural and isolated communities.

“In our region, the Spanish-speaking population is diverse,” Patterson says. “We need better ways to collect and evaluate information on the best ways not only to communicate with patients in our clinics, but to also communicate health information to the public.”


John Garcia, M.D., and Sam Hooper, PH.D., from the Department of Family Medicine at the Permian Basin, are developing a team approach to improve how populations here are characterized and assessed. The team will gather insights from place of origin, mastery of English and degree of acculturation, and also income and employment security to help explain variations in access to health care and outcomes.

“Like many of our early-stage projects, the work by Drs. Garcia and Hooper is leading to a proposal for external funding on a large scale,” Patterson says. “Their

work will provide useful context for several other EXPORT projects currently underway in El Paso.”

Those particular projects deal with two of the most serious health threats facing Hispanics. W. Lee Hand, M.D., from the Department of Internal Medicine at El Paso, is tracking differences in the frequency of diabetes among diverse Hispanic sub-populations. His research focuses on metabolic, genetic and clinical factors that may explain differences in rates of the disease observed among Cuban-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and patients from countries in Central and South America.

By contrast, Theresa Byrd, PH.D., from the University of Texas School of Public Health-Houston Health Science Center at El Paso, has received a seed grant from the EXPORT Center to investigate system variables in colorectal cancer screening. Her research calls attention to the critical roles of culture and communication in public health, which ties in to a project being planned at Texas Tech University’s College of Mass Communications.

Led by Mass Communications faculty Todd Chambers, PH.D., and Alex Ortiz, PH.D., the multidisciplinary team is being assembled for work across a broad front: resources necessary for culturally competent outreach materials, appropriate Spanish-to-English and English-to-Spanish translations, health literacy challenges facing rural elderly, and innovative survey research techniques. 

EXPORT Projects

The West Texas Rural EXPORT Center is currently sponsoring a portfolio of more than 30 studies investigating a broad spectrum of health issues in the region. Some of these studies focus on:

- Understanding trends in student health through statistical analysis of height and weight information collected for 20 years on more than 85,000 students in the Lubbock Independent School District.
- Using assistive technology to better accommodate aging residents’ care needs and allow them to remain longer in their homes.
- Improving safety, outcomes measures and prescription practices in rural long-term care facilities.
- Addressing the issues of substance abuse in rural West Texas.

Lasting Impression

MARIE HALL CREDITS FATHER'S CAREER FOR HER SUPPORT OF RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE



by Shannon Kirkland

From the back seat of her father's car, Marie Hall formed some of her earliest memories of her father's work. An only child, she remembers riding along as he made evening house calls to the residents in the rural areas around Big Spring. Ms. Hall's father, G.T. Hall, M.D., was a rural primary care physician and surgeon in Big Spring. Armed with a stethoscope and a black medical bag, his most important medical tool was a compassionate heart.

This compassion, and a personal understanding of the challenges that residents of rural communities face in accessing health care, instilled a vision in Ms. Hall—improving rural health. Many years passed before the vision took shape. After high school, Ms. Hall left Big Spring to attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She graduated with degrees in English and French.

"I didn't know how to do anything," says Ms. Hall, "so I went to the Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School in New York City. Oh, that was a wonderful time."

Years later, an accomplished business woman and philanthropist, Ms. Hall developed a passion for rural health.

"Marie understands rural health, because she is from here. She knows what it means to a community when its only doctor moves away," says Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H., vice president of Rural and Community Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Patterson also is director of the newly created F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health. "She wanted to create a venue that linked communities and students together through education and research in a way that meets real needs."

Ms. Hall's vision led her to TTUHSC 10 years ago, where she says a synergy took place between her vision of a premier program that prepares health care professionals to deliver care as a team, and that of David R. Smith, M.D., then TTUHSC president. Smith's vision was exemplary rural health care. Since then, TTUHSC has benefited from Ms. Hall's generosity with the establishment of an endowed chair for rural health in 1998 and the 2002 opening of the synergistic center, a recreational and leisure facility for students.

The advances in rural health made by the TTUHSC during the last decade culminated with the establishment of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural Health in February 2006. Ms. Hall's gift is one of the most significant private donations in the university's history.

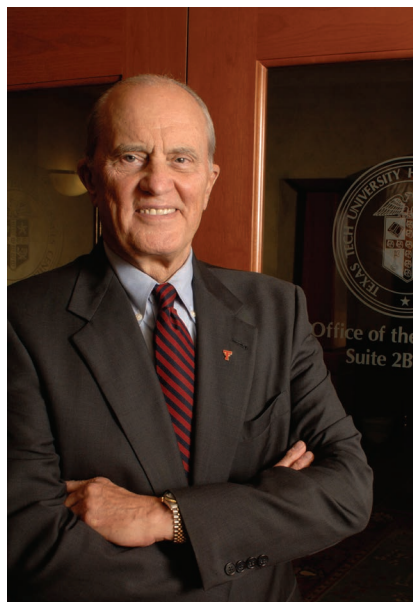
The institute will build upon the current rural health projects and resources, adding new components such as student service learning, community-based research and a visiting scholars program.

TTUHSC has long been recognized as a leader in rural health issues, and the creation of the institute elevates this recognition to a national and international level, says Patterson.

"Some of the greatest rural health challenges in the country are here in West Texas," she says. "The Health Sciences Center is perfectly situated to study these issues and develop real world, workable solutions." □



Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H., and Marie Hall



MITTEMEYER NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT :: On July 1, Bernhard T. Mittemeyer, M.D., will begin duties as interim president of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He will serve until a replacement for M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., can be found. Texas Tech University System Board of Regents and Interim Chancellor Donald R. Haragan, PH.D., will develop a search process in the near future to select a new president for TTUHSC.

Wilson will leave the university June 30 to become chancellor of the newly consolidated University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.

"I am honored to have been asked to serve as the interim president and am excited to work with the talented faculty and staff at our campuses in Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock and the Permian Basin," said Mittemeyer on his appointment.

For several years, Mittemeyer, as a professor of urological surgery, provided significant contributions to educational and research activities of the medical school. Since July 2005, he has served as interim dean for the medical school. He has also served as executive vice president and provost of TTUHSC from 1986 to 1996. In 1996, the university established the \$1 million Bernhard T. Mittemeyer Endowed Chair in Community Medicine in his honor.

Prior to coming to TTUHSC, Mittemeyer served 28 years in the U.S. Army earning numerous awards and decorations. He served as surgeon general of the Army from 1981 until his retirement in 1985 and also served as commanding general of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2006 :: After giving family and friends an affectionate round of applause for their support, 761 students representing five schools received their degrees May 20 at the United Spirit Arena. Among the degrees conferred, one was presented posthumously to the family of Shannon Leigh Sabbar. She passed away Aug. 20, 2005, during her third year of medical school.

Hooding and student awards were presented at individual convocations held prior to the commencement ceremony. Awards presented were: **Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences** Outstanding Graduate Student, Alamdar Hussain, PH.D.; Highest Grade Point Average, Anne Vinal Denison, M.S.

School of Medicine Gold-Headed Cane, Brianna Leigh Kirk, M.D.; Dean's Highest Academic Achievement Award, Thomas Joseph Lambert, M.D.

School of Nursing Award for Excellence in Nursing, Rhonda Kay Greco, R.N., M.S.N., and Julie Landry, B.S.N.

School of Allied Health Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence, Shaunda Kaye Eady, M.S., and Erica Lynn Maskell, B.S.

School of Pharmacy Bowl of Hygieia, Alisia Diane Baker, PHARM.D.; Highest Grade Point Average, Sarah Beth Dehoney, PHARM.D.



Giles and Louise McCrary of Post were honored recently for their longtime support of Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The McCrarys have contributed personally and through the Ershel A. Franklin Charitable Trust to establish more than a dozen endowments for scholarships, research and chairs.



REGENTS SELECT HARAGAN AS INTERIM CHANCELLOR :: Texas Tech University Board of Regents in February named Donald R. Haragan, PH.D., as interim chancellor. He will serve for an indefinite term until regents select a replacement for Chancellor David R. Smith, M.D., who resigned in January.

Haragan's history with Texas Tech University spans more than three decades. Most recently he served as the university's president from 1996 to 2000. He also has served as executive vice president and provost, vice president for academic affairs and research, associate dean and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chair of the Department of Geosciences and as a professor.

The board has formed a Chancellor Search Committee and selected Regent J. Frank Miller III as chair. Other committee members are Regents Bob Black and Windy Sitton and two members of the Texas Tech Foundation Board of Directors, Jerry Turner and Robert Brown.



ABILENE – Shannon Holloway, M.D., PH.D., died April 21, 2006, in Abilene. He joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1973. Holloway taught and attended medical school, graduating in 1976. He also completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery in 1980, as the first orthopaedic resident. Memorials in his honor may be made to the Shannon Holloway Resident Research Award in Orthopaedic Surgery.



LUBBOCK – Robert Woodson died Nov. 28, 2005, in Granby, Mass. Woodson was a former member of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center President's Office. He worked at the Health Sciences Center from 1997 until 2004.



LUBBOCK – Kathy Adams died Nov. 29, 2005, in Lubbock. Adams worked in Orthopedics from 1995 to 1999 and in Anatomic Pathology from 2003 until her death.



LUBBOCK – Leonard Morgan, M.D., died March 3, 2006, in Desoto. He served as regional chairman for the Department of Family Medicine in Odessa from March 1993 to August 2000, and was interim regional dean from March 1997 to September 1998.



LUBBOCK – Mildred Garrison died May 19, 2006, in Lubbock. Mildred and her husband, Shirley, have been strong advocates of TTUHSC's aging initiative. Memorials in her honor may be made to the Garrison Institute on Aging.

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

in memoriam

TIME FOR ANNUAL PHONATHON ::

When you get the call, answer yes to the request!

Representatives from the Texas Tech University Call Center will make calls to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center alumni in October for the annual Phonathon campaign. Following your donation, students from TTUHSC will place a call to "thank you" for your support.

The Phonathon raises money for the Student Endowed Scholarship Fund at TTUHSC. In 2006, the event brought in more than \$50,000 in scholarships for 58 students.

MATCH DAY REVEALS NEXT STEPS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS ::

The annual Match Day ceremony March 16 brought champagne toasts, robust cheers and sighs of relief to fourth-year medical students on Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center campuses in Amarillo, Lubbock and El Paso. A rip of the envelopes at 11 a.m. revealed the locations where students will spend the next several years in residency training. Half of the students will remain in Texas; 43 percent of the students will enter primary care residencies.



Surgery Resident David Mokhtee, M.D., congratulates Hoang Le on his match.



Sonya Brock and Tahrin Siddiqua exchange hugs.



Armita Atashband proudly holds the result of her match.



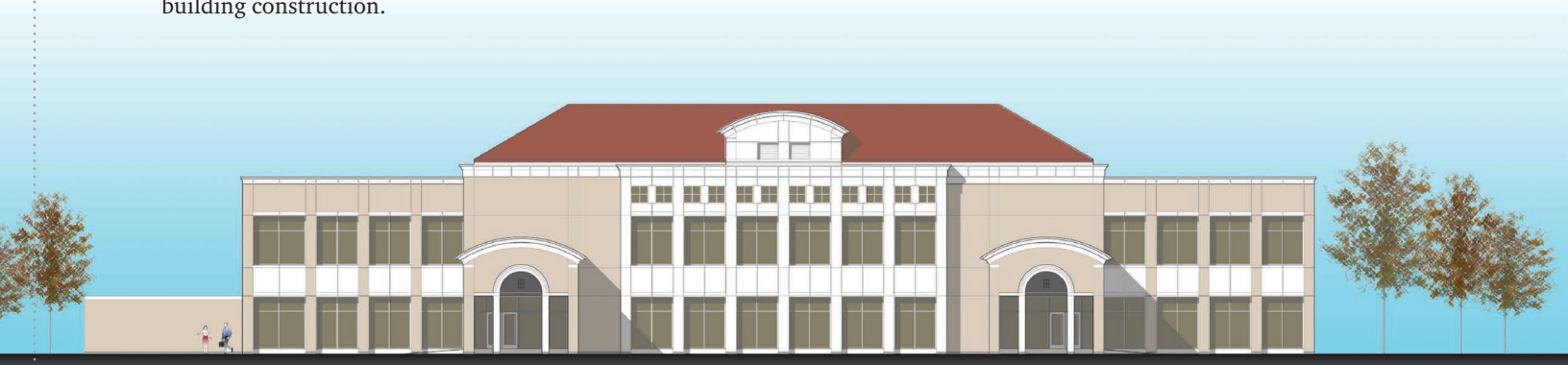
School of Pharmacy Dean Arthur Nelson Jr., PH.D., Abilene Mayor Norm Archibald, and TTUHSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY EXPANDS PROGRAM INTO ABILENE :: The School of Pharmacy will expand its class size from 90 to 130 starting in August 2007 with the completion of a school in Abilene.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's plan in January, and construction of a 36,000 square-foot facility began May 10 on the grounds of the Hendrick Medical Center campus.

Abilene will join Dallas-Fort Worth and Lubbock as a satellite site to the main School of Pharmacy campus in Amarillo, but will offer all four years of the Pharm.D. program. Currently, the Dallas-Fort Worth and Lubbock sites provide training for students in their third and fourth years.

A group of Abilene community leaders approached TTUHSC in the fall of 2004 about the possibility of expanding the pharmacy program to their city. The group includes the city of Abilene, the Economic Development Corporation of Abilene, Hendrick Health System, Sears Methodist Retirement System and the Dodge Jones Foundation, the Dian Graves Owen Foundation and the Shelton Family Foundation. Funds have been pledged that will subsidize the program through FY 2011 and will pay for the land and building construction.



RAEHL TO LEAD PHARMACY ASSOCIATION :: Cynthia Raehl, PHARM.D., will begin a three-year term in July with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

She will begin her term as president-elect and then move into the president position in July 2007; she will serve her remaining year on the board as immediate past president.

Raehl is a professor and chair for clinical research and development in the School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmacy Practice. She served as president for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in 1994-1995 and is one of a select few who has been elected president of two national organizations.

MARSH LECTURE SERIES BRINGS NATIONAL EXPERT TO CAMPUS ::

R. Adron Harris, PH.D., was the featured speaker March 21 at the 9th annual Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology and Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction held at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo.

The lectureship is an annual event featuring speakers of the highest national reputation. The endowment was funded by the Marshes in 1997 to give the School of Pharmacy national recognition in the pharmacological area of substance abuse and the neurochemistry that precipitates this type of addictive behavior.

Harris has served since 1998 as director of the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research at the University of Texas at Austin. He also is a professor of neurobiology. Harris and his research team investigate, at the molecular level, mechanisms responsible for alcohol and drug actions, including those responsible for tolerance and dependence as well as those responsible for the unconsciousness and amnesia produced by anesthetic drugs.

Harris is on the Board of Directors of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism and previously served as president of the Research Society on Alcoholism. He has received numerous awards for his research on alcoholism including the Veterans Administration Alcoholism Research Award.

DONATION ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL OF PHARMACY ::

Thanks to a gift from the Sybil B. Harrington Living Trust, students in the School of Pharmacy will benefit from the new Sybil B. Harrington Scholarship program. This scholarship fund was established in 2005 for students who demonstrate merit and financial need, and the first awards will be presented to students in fall 2006. The program is designed to provide \$2,000 to 20 students each year.

Mrs. Harrington's support of the School of Pharmacy began in 1994 with a personal gift of \$350,000 and a grant of \$350,000 from the Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation for the construction of the school in Amarillo.

An Amarillo native, Mrs. Harrington and her husband, Donald D. Harrington, have donated more than \$400 million to various medical, educational and art institutions throughout the country through personal gifts and grants awarded through the Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation.



SOP INVESTIGATORS RECEIVE CANCER RESEARCH FUNDING ::

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has awarded \$3 million in extramural grant funding to School of Pharmacy faculty members Quentin Smith, PH.D., and Paul Lockman, PH.D., as part of a 2006 DOD Breast Cancer Center of Excellence Research award.

Smith, professor and chair of the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Lockman, assistant professor, will work with a team of scientists from eight other universities under the direction of the National Cancer Institute.

The Center of Excellence brings together highly qualified investigators to develop novel drug strategies to treat brain metastases of breast cancer. Smith and Lockman are part of the center.

The award was the only one of 38 applications funded this year by the DOD. Smith's and Lockman's labs will each receive approximately \$1.5 million over the next five years.



FACULTY MEMBER APPOINTED AS INTERIM REGIONAL DEAN :: J. Rush Pierce, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., has been named the interim regional dean for the School of Medicine at Amarillo. He is scheduled to begin his term in August 2006, to fill the vacancy left by Steven Berk, M.D., who was named dean for the School of Medicine.

"Dr. Pierce is one of our most outstanding teachers, an excellent physician and an individual who is highly respected in the community," said Berk.

Pierce is associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Amarillo and serves as chief of the Division for Preventive Medicine on the Amarillo campus. He has served as the local health authority for the Amarillo Bi-City County Health District since 1995. In 1997, he received the James E. Peavy Memorial Award from the Texas Public Health Association for distinguished contributions to public health in Texas.

Berk said a committee will be appointed to conduct a national search to recruit a new regional dean.

LEFT TO RIGHT Rep. Paul Moreno (seated), Assistant Dean for Research Frank Talamantes, Ph.D., Texas Tech Foundation President Jerry Turner, Rep. "Chente" Quintanilla, El Paso Public Art Committee Chairwoman Ginger Francis, TTU System Board of Regents Chairman Rick Francis, Regional Dean Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., TTHUSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., Executive Vice President Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, and Rep. Norma Chavez



LEFT TO RIGHT El Paso Public Art Committee Chairwoman Ginger Francis, TTU System Board of Regents Chairman Rick Francis, Regional Dean Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., and TTHUSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., cut the symbolic ribbon.



RIBBON CUTTING MARKS MONUMENTAL MILESTONE :: On January 31, supporters of the El Paso School of Medicine gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of the Medical Science Building I – the first of three buildings comprising the four-year medical school. After the ceremony, guests toured the facility and were introduced to the new face of medical technology, science and research.

ROGERS GIVE MEDICAL SCHOOL \$1.5 MILLION ENDOWMENT ::

Patricia and Jonathan Rogers, center, receive a commemorative plaque to acknowledge their \$1.5 million donation to the El Paso School of Medicine for an Endowed Chair in Physiology. Presenting the plaque are Director of Development Kelly Overley, Regional Dean Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., and TTU System Board of Regents Chairman Rick Francis.



LEFT TO RIGHT TTUHSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., TTU System Board of Regents Chairman Rick Francis, County Judge Dolores Briones, Rep. Joe Pickett, City Council Representative Alexandro Lozano, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., Regional Dean Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., Assistant Dean for Medical Education Manuel Schydlower, M.D., Assistant Dean for Research Frank Talamantes, Ph.D., and Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs Hoi Ho, M.D.



GROUNDBREAKING MARKS BEGINNING OF FOUR-YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL'S EDUCATION BUILDING :: A groundbreaking ceremony was held Dec. 1 for the Medical Education Building of the four-year El Paso School of Medicine on land donated by J.O. and Marlene Stewart.

The four-story, 125,000 square-foot facility includes a student services area, a courtyard, food services area, classrooms, library, small group rooms, a clinical skills area, a simulation room, basic sciences labs and a gross anatomy lab. Administrative office areas are also included in the design. The cost for the building is about \$45 million. Construction is expected to be complete May 2008.



PORRAS NAMED TO AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ::

David Porras Jr. was recently named to the American Heart Association

Texas Affiliate State Advocacy Committee. Porras, managing director of Administrative Services for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso, began his term in February. Thomas Tenner Jr., Ph.D., interim associate dean for Faculty Affairs and Development at TTUHSC in Lubbock, was also selected to serve on the committee.

The American Heart Association board approved the creation of this committee with the goal of having a structured group of volunteers that can help craft their legislative message and engage elected officials with the mission of the American Heart Association.

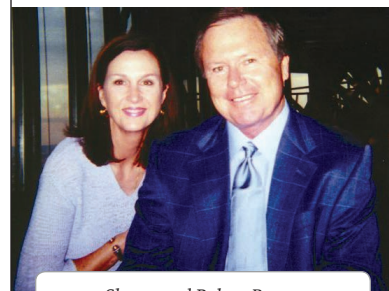
BROWN GIFT TO FUND EL PASO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE REGENTS ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP :: El Pasoans Robert and Sherry Brown have funded a Regent's Endowed Professorship for the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso School of Medicine. The gift will subsidize the salary of the professorship holder, who will have a major academic research interest in the area of border health.

"This (the four-year medical school) is the most significant event to happen in the El Paso region in the last 50 years," said Robert Brown. "Our area is significantly below the state average on doctors per 100,000 population. With the addition of the four-year medical school we will see these numbers improve as well as the overall health care provided for this area."

"The economic impact from the new school will not only boost our economy with the addition of jobs associated with the school but also with related research firms that will locate in El Paso," he added.

Brown is president and chairman of Desert Eagle Distributing, which is the distributor for Anheuser-Busch products for El Paso, Alpine and Roswell, N.M. He serves on the President's Council of Texas Tech University and is a member of the Chancellor Search Committee. He also is past chairman of the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents. Brown is a 1968 TTU graduate, where he studied business administration and marketing. He received his doctor of jurisprudence from St. Mary's University in 1971.

The Brown's have three children, Preston, Reagan and Ashley.



Sherry and Robert Brown



Don Cash, Garrison Institute on Aging Executive Director Paula Grammas, Ph.D., Pam Carrothers and her father, Shirley L. Garrison, TTUHSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.

GARRISON INSTITUTE ON AGING OPENS NEW FACILITY ::

A project born from a debilitating disease faced by a South Plains ranching and farming family began a new chapter in May with the ribbon-cutting of the new facilities for the Garrison Institute on Aging. The facility is named in honor of its benefactors, Mildred and Shirley L. Garrison.

In its new location at South Loop 289 and Quaker Avenue, the institute leads innovative programs in research, education and health care services to help seniors today and impact future generations.

"Aging is personal to all of us," said Garrison, whose wife, Mildred, passed away recently after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. "We are confident that with support such as this, the Garrison Institute on Aging will lead the way in developing new strategies to prevent this disease and to play a role in improving the lives of patients and their families afflicted with this terrible disease. Mildred and I have been blessed in many ways and this is a way for us to express our gratitude."

"The Garrisons and the numerous other donors are making an impact on how we will treat aging issues in the future," said Paula Grammas, Ph.D., the institute's executive director. "Their dedication to this institute will be felt for generations."

SURGERY RESIDENCY CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENTS ::

The School of Medicine's General Surgery Residency Program continues its success in placing graduating chief residents into some of the most sought-after fellowship positions in the country.

Three recent graduates from the program received their first choices for advanced training. Barnard Barragan, M.D., was accepted at Loyola University for a hand surgery fellowship; Sharmila Dissanaik, M.D., received a trauma-critical care fellowship at the University of Washington, Seattle; and David Stapenhorst, M.D., matched at the University of Texas in Houston for plastic surgery.

Ari Halldorsson, M.D., program director, said the residents' successes can be attributed to their individual achievements and the excellent reputation of previous graduates. These recent accomplishments reflect the increasing national reputation of the General Surgery Program in Lubbock and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in general.



TTU System Regent and LISD Board President Mark Griffin, Sharon Combest, Larry Combest, former TTU System Chancellor David R. Smith, M.D.; TTUHSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.; School of Nursing Dean Alexia Green, Ph.D.; and School of Nursing Associate Dean Christina Esperat, Ph.D.

SELENIUM COATING FOR CONTACTS UNDER TESTING ::

An Australian university is testing technology developed in part by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center researchers that could banish bacteria from contact lenses.

The technology – a selenium coating for contact lenses that blocks bacterial attachment – is undergoing clinical trials through the Institute for Eye Research at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Ted Reid, Ph.D., professor, and Steven Mathews, O.D., Ph.D., associate professor, in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, working with Julian Spallholz, Ph.D., professor in the College of Human Sciences at Texas Tech University, have developed the coating.

More than 250 patients are expected to participate in the clinical trials, which will test daily wear and extended wear buildup of bacteria, film and deposits on the lenses during extended wear.

Bacterial colonization is the main danger of wearing contact lenses for extended periods of time. Blocking the bacteria would eliminate adverse reactions, risk of infection and discomfort for the lens wearer.

SCHOOL OF NURSING OPENS NEW HEALTH CENTER IN EAST LUBBOCK ::

A ribbon cutting in January for the newly constructed Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center marked the official opening of the center, which provides expanded health care services to a medically underserved area of Lubbock.

"We are pleased to be able to offer these health services to the community, as well as pay tribute to Mr. Combest who has been such an ally of our school and its programs," said School of Nursing Dean Alexia Green, Ph.D. The facility, a service of the school, is staffed by its nurse practitioners and supported by physicians from the School of Medicine. "The new building will give our patients, nurse practitioners and staff a larger facility and more capacity to serve the citizens of East Lubbock."

The center, located at 301 40th St. in Lubbock, was named for Combest, a former U.S. Congressman who was instrumental in securing funding for the center. Since 1999, the center has provided health care to residents of East Lubbock and beyond. Prior to that, there were no clinics available to the medically underserved residents of the community.

The nonprofit primary care clinic offers a full range of health care services for the entire family. Services include the Texas Health Steps program, which provides care

to children from birth to age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid, well woman exams, immunizations, minor injury treatment, onsite laboratory, nutritional education, diabetes education, cardiology and social services.



Larry and Sharon Combest greet community members at the opening of the Larry Combest Community Health & Wellness Center.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOUNDING FACULTY MEMBER RETIRES ::

In November, Anthony B. Way, M.D., retired from a 33-year career as professor at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine.

Way held numerous positions within the school and established many of the programs now in place. These include preventive health care education, poison control education and the Dean's Grand Rounds program.

Way and his wife, Barbara Way, M.D., were founding faculty members of the School of Medicine. They arrived in Lubbock in 1972, a month before the first medical students arrived at the new Texas Tech University School of Medicine.

Way's career at the School of Medicine began as a professor with the Department of Environmental Health and Zoological Medicine. He was chairman and professor of the Department of Occupational and Preventive Medicine, which would later merge with the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Way also was the founding residency director of General Preventive Medicine and assistant dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Medical Education. He has served as director of Public Health for the Lubbock City Health Department, medical director of the Preventive Medicine Center at University Medical Center, graduate faculty of the Department of Anthropology at Texas Tech University, and has held numerous other positions.

Upon retirement, the Ways moved to Dallas to help care for their three grandchildren. The couple's children, Matthew and Sarah, are physicians in emergency medicine.



School of Medicine Interim Dean Bernhard T. Mitemeyer, M.D., J. Ted Hartman, M.D., Anthony B. Way, M.D., and his wife, Barbara Way, M.D.

COLLEAGUES RECOGNIZE NUGENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH LAUREATE AWARD ::

The Texas Academy of Internal Medicine, Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians recently honored Kenneth Nugent, M.D., with its Laureate Award.

The award honors fellows and masters of the American College of Physicians who have demonstrated an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, as well as service to their community and the college.

Nugent is a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and serves as program director for the Internal Medicine residency program.



STAR AWARDS RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING SERVICE :: The School of Nursing in February recognized Shirley L. Garrison, Tim Howell and Nancy Neal for their outstanding service to the school.

These individuals were presented Star Awards during the School of Nursing annual Advisory Committee meeting.

Garrison and his wife, Mildred, have provided substantial support to research by creating an Endowed Professorship of Geriatric Nursing. The professorship was established to foster innovation in nursing research and education for elderly populations. The Garrisons have a distinguished history of supporting aging initiatives.

Howell, an alumnus, serves as an adjunct faculty in the School of Nursing and is chairman of the Graduate and Undergraduate Program Advisory Subcommittee. He is also a member of the Continuing Education Advisory Committee. Howell was instrumental in supporting a \$2.9 million grant application to the Department of Labor for recruitment of nursing students and promotion of nursing education.

Neal, also an alumna, was a member of the Lubbock Independent School District's Board of Trustees and was appointed by Gov. Perry in 2004 to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. She serves on the Graduate and Undergraduate Program Advisory Subcommittee and supports nursing education through the Nancy Neal Presidential Scholarship fund.





BERK MOVES FROM AMARILLO TO LEAD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE :: School of Medicine Regional Dean Steven Lee Berk, M.D., considers the medical school a partner in the work of the community. His success in Amarillo was made evident in a March Amarillo Globe-News editorial lauding Berks' efforts.

Berk said he looks forward to building on the existing relationship between the School of Medicine and the Lubbock community. He was named dean in March replacing Richard V. Homan, M.D., who resigned in August to serve in the administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Penn.

Berk begins his new position July 1. He will be responsible for the academic and clinical administration for the main School of Medicine in Lubbock and supervisory responsibilities for the schools located at Amarillo, El Paso and the Permian Basin.

"I look forward to working with all campuses to continue to build our reputation in medical student education and patient care and to develop excellence in clinical and basic research," Berk said.

The long-time academician emphasized his high interest in medical student teaching – particularly bedside teaching and clinical skills. He has helped write several textbooks for students, including an infectious disease handbook, an internal medicine review book for students during the clerkship, and a guide for third-year students about the resident match.

Berk entered academic medicine in 1982 as chief of medicine at the newly established East Tennessee University College of Medicine. He served as chairman of medicine from 1988 to 1999 before coming to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 1999. Berk has practiced medicine as a geriatrician and infectious disease physician, and his research and writings have focused primarily on infections in the elderly.



USDA GRANT TO FUND RESEARCH ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY :: The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a \$1.5 million grant to an interdisciplinary team of researchers at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to fund a project aimed at preventing and controlling childhood obesity in West Texas.

The goal of the project, Transformacion Para Salud (transformation for health), is to promote a community-based approach to the prevention and control of excess weight and obesity among young children in West Texas. The target population is children in kindergarten through

third grade at selected independent school districts in Lubbock and El Paso.

"This grant will greatly enhance our rural health and health disparities research initiatives," said project director Christina Esperat, R.N., Ph.D., associate dean in the School of Nursing. "This is a true example of community-based participatory research."

Darryl Williams, M.D., executive director of rural health for TTUHSC at El Paso, will serve as co-director for the El Paso component of the project. The research team will be under the direction of principal investigators Du Feng, Ph.D., in Lubbock, and Arthur Islas, M.D., in El Paso and will involve researchers from Texas Tech University colleges of Human Sciences, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering.

FIRST CLASS GRADUATES FROM SCHOOL OF NURSING'S SECOND DEGREE PROGRAM :: The School of Nursing Second Degree Program graduated its first class of students in December. The nine students earning Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees were: from left, April Walker, Molly McCoy, Misty Criswell, Casey Randolph, Jessica Baenen, Julie Landry, Alyssa Lord, and not pictured, Lela Tatum and Dawn Pardue.

The School of Nursing received funding in August 2004 for the program, which allows students with baccalaureate degrees in any area of study to earn their BSN following an intensive 12 months of study. The program admitted 34 students in January as its second class.



TENNER NAMED TO AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ::

Thomas Tenner Jr., Ph.D., was recently named to the American Heart Association Texas Affiliate State Advocacy Committee. Tenner, interim associate dean for Faculty Affairs and Development at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, began his term in February. David Porras Jr., managing director of Administrative Services for TTUHSC in El Paso was also selected to serve on the committee.

The American Heart Association board approved the creation of this committee with the goal of having a structured group of volunteers that can help craft their legislative message and engage elected officials with the mission of the American Heart Association.

CODE RED

THE CRITICAL CONDITION OF HEALTH IN TEXAS

TTUHSC PART OF STATEWIDE INSURANCE TASK FORCE ::

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center was one of 10 state academic health institutions participating in a statewide insurance task force to study issues and develop recommendations regarding those lacking adequate health insurance.

Results of the *Task Force on Access to Health Care in Texas: Challenges of the Uninsured and Underinsured* indicate a need to revamp the current county-based system of care for uninsured residents. The task force recommends a statewide system of regional multi-county health districts that offer Texas' uninsured residents access to adequate levels of health care.

Twenty-five percent of the state's population is without health insurance; the national average of uninsured is 14.7 percent.

"The lack of insurance is particularly problematic in many of the areas served by the Health Sciences Center, such as some of the rural communities of West Texas and the border region surrounding El Paso," said TTUHSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S. "The majority of the uninsured simply cannot afford health insurance."

Other universities participating in the study were Baylor College of Medicine, Texas A&M Health Science Center, University of North Texas Health Science Center and the six health institutions of the University of Texas System. The task force also included employees of small and large businesses, health providers, insurers and consumers. The report was subject to outside peer review but the sponsoring institutions had no control over its contents. The complete report is available online at <http://www.utsystem.edu/hea/codered/>.

TTUHSC LAUNCHES PROJECT TO IMPROVE HEALTH OF MEDICARE PATIENTS ::

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center launched the Texas Senior Trails project in April with almost half of the eligible participants enrolled.

Texas Senior Trails is a three-year demonstration project designed to improve the quality of life for Medicare beneficiaries while cutting medical expenses and reducing Medicare program costs. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services selected TTUHSC as one of six organizations nationwide to participate. Other members of the project include Texas Tech Physician Associates and TrailBlazer Health Enterprises LLC.

"One of the primary goals of this project is to improve patient outcomes and quality of life," said TTUHSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S. "That makes this a much different project than previous attempts such as managed care, where the focus was simply decreasing Medicare costs."

Those eligible for the Texas Senior Trails project include individuals in the 48 counties located in the Texas Panhandle and the South Plains area who qualify for Medicare benefits and are identified as 'high cost' or 'high risk.' Lorri Velten, project administrator, says 5,117 patients in the Lubbock and Amarillo area meet the criteria.

"We are proud to have been chosen as a demonstration site in which to offer cost-effective quality care as well as provide leadership for testing methods to transform care and implement more cost-effective care at a national level," Velten said.



JOHNSTON, STOCOCO HONORED WITH CHANCELLOR'S COUNCIL AWARDS ::

Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards were presented in December to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center faculty Barbara Johnston, R.N., Ph.D., and Douglas Stocco, Ph.D., respectively.

In its fifth year, the Chancellor's Council awards are presented to faculty members who exemplify the education and research missions of Texas Tech University System.

Johnston, professor and associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Nursing, has done much to advance the education of nursing students since her



arrival at TTUHSC in 1998. She was instrumental in initiating online graduate courses and for garnering much of the national recognition that has come to the school as a result. The graduate program was the only TTUHSC program to receive a national ranking by the U.S. News and World Report.

Stocco, professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry, has received national and international awards for his research on the StAR protein. This protein is key in the conversion of cholesterol to bioactive hormones that are necessary for the body's reproduction and maintenance of carbohydrate and salt balance. Stocco holds the Robert A. Welch Endowed Chair in Biochemistry and is a University Distinguished Professor.



Kae Hentges, Texas Senior Trails project participant, Shantelle Greenwood, R.N., B.S.N., nurse case manager, and Dona Campillo, also project participant.



Texas Senior Trails Administrator Lorri Velten, M.B.A.; Department of Family and Community Medicine Chair Mike Ragain, M.D.; TrailBlazer Health Enterprises LLC Director of Data Analysis Sheila White-Stewart, B.S.N., M.B.A.; and Vice President for Program Integrity Barbara Harvey



MARK STERKEL, ODESSA AMERICAN

Nurse Practitioner Nancy Johnson counsels a patient about family planning at the TTUHSC rural clinic in Monahans.

NURSE PRACTITIONER QUALIFIES FOR NATIONAL SPIRIT OF WOMEN AWARDS :: Medical Center Hospital in Odessa selected nurse practitioner Nancy Johnson as winner of the Spirit of Women Award in the health care provider category.

Johnson, R.N., C., M.S.N., W.H.N.P., is director of rural health for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin. She also is an alumna of the School of Nursing.

The Spirit of Women is a national network comprised of hospitals, physicians, nurses, therapists and corporate partners working together to find innovative ways to educate and inspire women and their families to better health. The awards program seeks to recognize women who do extraordinary things for their communities, but who have received little or no public recognition for their contributions.

For more than 20 years, Johnson has worked for TTUHSC in rural West Texas, dividing her time between the clinics in Monahans, Kermit, McCamey and Stanton. She offers prenatal care and family planning given with preventive care to about 60 patients a week. In addition, Johnson makes herself available anytime by pager and phone.



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM, STUDENTS AMONG BEST IN NATION :: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's Physician Assistant Program ranked in the top 10 percent among all 143 programs participating in the 2005 Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.

Heidi Jeffreys, a TTUHSC graduate, was ranked as one of the top 10 students among the more than 5,300 who took the national exam. Nine other TTUHSC students ranked in the top 15 percent of all students testing in 2005.

The TTUHSC Physician Assistant Program is the only one of its kind in West Texas and the only free standing program in the United States. The program was established in 1999 with a mission of providing quality medical education, while providing access to care to underserved rural regions in West Texas and beyond. Since its inception, the program has graduated more than 100 students.

Located in Midland, Texas, the TTUHSC Physician Assistant Program is housed on the Midland College campus. The entry-level graduate program awards a master of physician assistant studies following 27 months of intensive academic and clinical training.



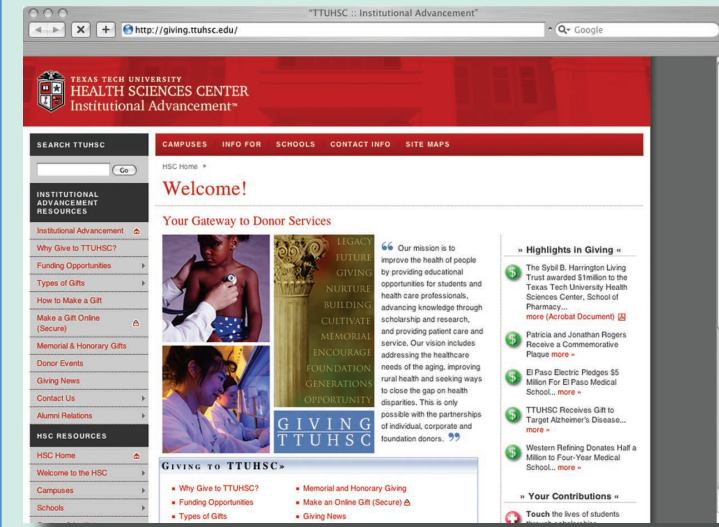
PERMIAN BASIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER NAMED TO TEXAS TECH FOUNDATION ::

Bill Ritter was recently named to the Texas Tech Foundation Inc. Board of Directors.

A long-time member of the advisory council for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin, Ritter will serve as chairman of the foundation's TTUHSC subcommittee.

Ritter is the chairman and principal in several medical ventures including surgery centers, nursing agencies and a medical supply firm. He also serves on the Odessa Chamber of Commerce board.

The foundation was established to support and promote all colleges, schools, programs and campuses of the Texas Tech University System. Ritter's term will end in 2009.



GIVING MADE EASY.
With the new Institutional Advancement website, supporting education, research and patient care initiatives at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is just a click away. Our new online giving site provides a secure, convenient way for you to learn about funding opportunities, make donations and keep abreast of news and events.

Come find out how your donation can make a difference.
<http://giving.ttuhscc.edu>

JOIN US FOR THE 2006 Alumni Reception

Each year the Office of Alumni Relations hosts an all-school reunion. Based on your suggestions, we have decided to take this reunion on the road.

In 2006, we will hold an all-school reception at Hackberry Creek Country Club in Dallas. TTUHSC faculty and deans will attend the reception to reconnect with graduates of the program. The reunion will return to Lubbock in 2007.

We encourage all alumni to plan on a weekend getaway to Dallas this September. For questions or more details, please visit our website at <http://www.ttuhscc.edu/alumni>.



5:30 PM · SEPTEMBER 23, 2006
Hackberry Creek Country Club
DALLAS, TEXAS



Shannon Holloway, M.D., PH.D., left, and Regent Scott Dueser of Abilene with award established in Holloway's honor

ORTHOPAEDICS CREATES AWARD TO HONOR ALUMNUS :: The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery recognized Shannon Holloway, M.D., PH.D., in January with the establishment of an award in his honor.

Holloway, (SOM '76 and Resident '80), the first orthopaedic resident at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, had his research published in more than 25 scientific publications while at TTUHSC. He continued to contribute to scientific literature while serving as an orthopaedic surgeon in Abilene for the past 25 years. In addition, Holloway served as oral examiner for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery for 10 years. Holloway passed away in April.

The Dr. Shannon Holloway Resident Research Award in Orthopaedic Surgery will be presented annually at graduation to the resident whose research efforts are judged most outstanding by faculty.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI RECOGNIZED FOR DEDICATION TO STUDENTS

:: The Texas Academy of Internal Medicine, Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians recently recognized the efforts of two School of Medicine alumni for their service as preceptors.



ROBERTSON



MANIA

Michael Robertson, M.D., and William M. Mania, M.D., M.P.H., were among the 11 recipients of the academy's first-ever General Internal Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program Decade of Service Awards. The awards were established to honor preceptors who have taught medical students in their practices for the past 10 years.

Robertson (SOM '82) completed his residency at the Health Sciences Center in 1985. He has served as team physician for all Texas Tech University sports and as chief of staff and medical director of pharmacy for Covenant Medical Systems. Robertson has taught 11 students in the past decade. He also serves on the board of directors for the Health Sciences Center Medical Alumni Association.

Mania (SOM '81) did his residency in Morristown, N.J. He has practiced in Richardson for 18 years and served as a mentor to 14 students.



MEDICATION ERRORS TOPIC OF HICKS PUBLICATION

:: Rodney Hicks, research coordinator for the Center for the Advancement of Patient Safety at U.S. Pharmacopeia, recently published an article

on the characteristics of medication errors made by nursing students in the administrative phase.

Hicks, M.S.N., M.P.A., A.R.N.P., (SON '87, '93, '98) was the 2005 recipient of the distinguished alumni award for the School of Nursing for Leadership and Health Care.

ALUMNUS OFFERING ADVANCEMENTS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY TREATMENTS

:: Rick Stepp, P.T., is making great strides in the physical therapy business.

Stepp (SOAHS '93) co-owns Physical Therapy Today, which recently opened its third facility in Lubbock. The company offers one-of-a-kind fitness option at its 82nd Street location with the Underwater Treadmill Exercise Center, one of the largest of its kind nationwide.

The center allows people with back or joint pain to recover faster and get fit without the painful effects of a land-based workout. The company has decided to take this advancement one step further by opening this facility to the public, a move many physical therapy outlets have not made, Stepp said.

"The benefits of aquatic workouts are remarkable," he said. "People with conditions that prohibited them from traditional exercises because of painful joints or pain in lower extremities now have the opportunity to work out."



Rick Stepp, co-owner of Physical Therapy Today, in The Underwater Treadmill Exercise Center at the company's 82nd Street location



Registered nurse Tim Howell on duty in Kuwait.

HOWELL RETURNS FROM MILITARY SERVICE IN KUWAIT :: Howell (SON '99) returned from Kuwait in November after 11 months of active military duty. He says he is thankful to be returning home to his family.

"It's a very rewarding experience to be able to take care of our troops," said Howell, vice president for patient care services at University Medical Center. "But it is a different world overseas."

As a commander for the U.S. Navy Reserve, Howell served as director for nursing services of a mobile tent hospital.

ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE LAUNCHES E-NEWSLETTERS

In the hustle and bustle of the real world it is often easy to lose touch with the past. The mission of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's Office of Alumni Relations is to keep you connected with the university and its people.

To do so, the alumni relations office has created electronic bi-annual newsletters for the schools of Nursing, Medicine, Allied Health Sciences and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. School of Pharmacy alumni receive From the Dean's Desk, the school's newsletter.

During the past few months, the office has received numerous nominations for naming the newsletters, and the selections are as follows:

- TechSoN
School of Nursing
- The Alumni Heartbeat
School of Medicine
- The Allied Health Connection
School of Allied Health Sciences
- GSBS Graduate
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

The first issues of the newsletters were published this spring, and the next publications should arrive in the fall. If you do not currently receive a newsletter but would like to, please send an e-mail to TTUHSCAlumni@ttuhsc.edu.

NORTON RECEIVES INAUGURAL LIFE-LONG MENTOR AWARD :: Darlene Norton, R.N., M.S.N., C.F.N.P., received the first Life-Long Mentor Award in March during the Nurse Practitioner Alumni Dinner. More than 50 alumni, preceptors, faculty and staff, were in attendance.

Norton received the award for her dedication to teaching and mentoring students.

She was an associate professor in the School of Nursing for 13 years before retiring and was instrumental in establishing the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the Health Sciences Center in 1988. Norton continues to work for the school on a contract basis.

Emily Merrill, R.N., C.S., M.S.N., F.N.P., director of nurse practitioner programs for the school, said Norton was infamous for her long-term relationships with her students and alumni. According to Merrill, Norton's mantra was, "Learning takes place best within the context of a meaningful relationship."

Family nurse practitioners Terry Curran, Ann Henneman and Naomi Warren were also recognized for their service as preceptors.



Darlene Norton, family nurse practitioner, and Emily Merrill, director of the family nurse practitioner program

PLUGGED IN

The new and improved alumni relations website is up and running. Alumni are now able to update their contact information via our website. Users will also have the ability to provide us with any new and exciting happenings in your life. Using the new website you can access information on upcoming events, register online, read school newsletters and Pulse, and most importantly, stay connected. We hope that you will find the time to visit us at www.ttuhsc.edu/alumni.



planned gifts

ensure opportunities continue

RICK COVIN, M.D., loves the challenges nature presents. He carefully plans his adventures to make sure he has right gear to safely take on the great outdoors. Covin also knew the importance of a quality education when preparing for a career in ophthalmology. That's why he chose Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Among the most competitive of residencies, ophthalmology programs are very selective, but Covin believes TTUHSC looked beyond the paperwork of his application and saw his potential. In return, Covin wants to ensure the university carries on with its history of selecting quality faculty, staff and students. That's why he has pledged 10 percent of his estate to TTUHSC through planned giving to benefit the Department of Ophthalmology and its various programs.

For information regarding financial support for TTUHSC through planned giving, please contact:

THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
3601 4TH STREET STOP 6238, LUBBOCK, TX 79340
806.743.2786

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

There was a time when **JOANN LISTER, F.N.P.C.**, felt she had done all she could in the local hospital where she worked. Lister had reached the administrative level of health care as interim hospital administrator and director of development in the early '90s. She didn't envision ending her career in that role.

Lister dreamed of returning to the promotion of patient health and caring for those who were sick. In order to make the transition, however, she needed a school with vision and innovation.

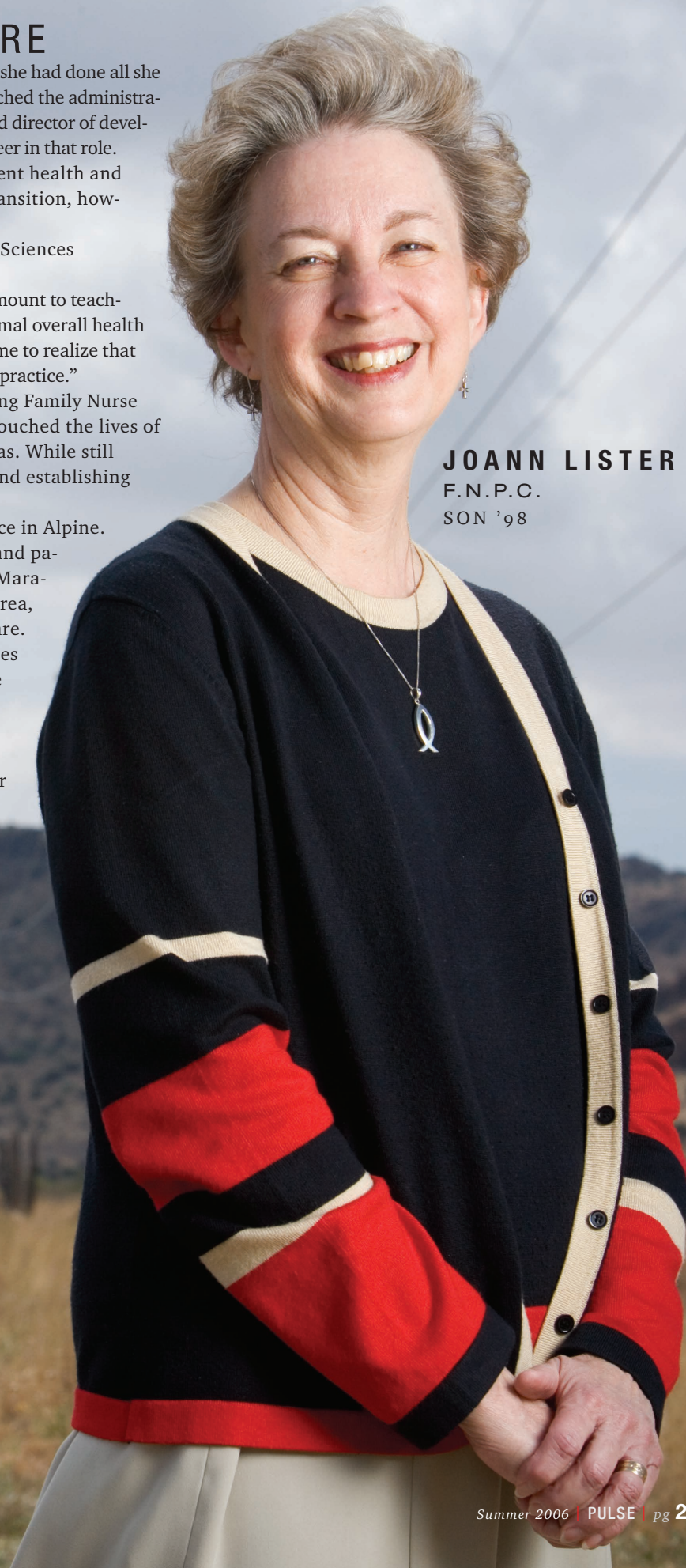
That's when she found Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing.

"The high standards and ethics of the faculty were paramount to teaching me the value and role of the nurse practitioner for optimal overall health care for the patient," says Lister. "TTUHSC faculty helped me to realize that holistic care isn't just an ideal, but a real, integral part of a practice."

Lister graduated from the Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in 1998. Since that time she has touched the lives of hundreds of patients across the Big Bend region of Texas. While still attending TTUHSC, Joann was integral in organizing and establishing a rural health clinic in Marathon.

Now Lister and two partners operate a private practice in Alpine. The Alpine community has lost three doctors recently and patients are abundant. In addition, she still works in the Marathon clinic two days a week seeing patients from that area, as well as some who travel 80-plus miles for medical care.

Lister also uses her nursing skills to serve communities in the Big Bend. She is one of two Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in the region. SANE nurses provide timely, comprehensive and compassionate care to pediatric and adult victims of sexual assault. In addition, Lister teaches CPR classes, volunteers for Family Crisis Center programs and provides health programs for the Marathon community. *Rebecca Hardin*



JOANN LISTER
F.N.P.C.
SON '98

HOMETOWN HEALER

GARY MANGOLD, M.D., is seeing his fourth generation of patients at the W.J. Mangold Memorial Hospital, which is something he didn't envision when he came to Lockney 27 years ago. After completing a residency at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Mangold returned to his hometown in 1979 to practice with his father, W.J. Mangold, M.D., for whom the hospital was named. When Mangold arrived, his father had worked in Lockney for almost 40 years.

Mangold and his wife, Brenda, had planned to spend only a short time in this farming community, located about 60 miles northeast of Lubbock before settling in the Hill Country in Central Texas. Instead they've made West Texas their home. Until 1987, the father and son team were the only physicians at the Lockney hospital, which also serves residents from the surrounding farm communities of Silverton, Turkey and Petersburg. Since then, two other School of Medicine alumni have joined them: Kevin Stennett, M.D., and Sherry Arend-Moore, M.D.

As a junior at Texas Tech University, Mangold knew college wasn't only preparing him for an undergraduate degree but also for the fulfillment of a dream he'd had since he was 6: to become a doctor. Mangold says he is proud to be a graduate of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine and feels a sense of loyalty to TTUHSC for the career opportunities he has realized because of the education he received. *Leigh McPhaul & Judy Tiner*

GARY MANGOLD
M.D.
SOM '76

ANNE DENISON
R.N., B.S.N.
GSBS '05

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

Timing was everything for **ANNE DENISON, R.N., B.S.N.** In her 12 years at the Amarillo Department of Public Health as a tuberculosis and communicable disease nurse, Denison gathered significant data but didn't have the statistical background to fully interpret and analyze it.

However, the department began working extensively with James Rohrer, Ph.D., then department chair for Health Services Research and Management at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo. Denison says Rohrer and his team had a profound effect on the way the health department evaluated public health problems.

"Several of us really had a sea change in how we viewed public health after working with them a year or so," she said.

For Denison, that relationship solidified a decision she had been exploring for several years. "It was kind of serendipitous," she said. "I was ready for some additional education myself; my children were finally out of college, and now there was this opportunity to enroll in the Health Services Research program at (TTUHSC)."

For her thesis, Denison worked on a research project under Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., co-director of the Women's Health Research Institute and assistant professor of Internal Medicine. The research focused on the difference in risk factors for hip fractures in postmenopausal women living in urban areas of northwest Texas as compared to those in the area's rural counties. Denison continues with that research today on a part-time basis.

"I want to make sure that I keep my skills current and working part-time in the research environment gives me the opportunity to do that," she said.

Denison left the health department in 2003 to pursue her graduate degree and now works in education and infection control for the Amarillo VA Health Care System.

"Earning my degree gave me the tools I really needed to do the things that were frustrating me in my job," Denison says. "Having the Health Sciences Center and its teleconferencing options to the Lubbock campus made it the obvious choice for me." *Danette Baker*

PROVIDING THE RIGHT PRESCRIPTION

SUZANNE THOMPSON, PHARM.D., says the education she received at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center prepared her for a successful career in any pharmacy setting. But after graduating, what she really wanted to do was to continue working at Oswalt Pharmacy, the local drugstore in Seminole.

“(TTUHSC) offers a well-rounded curriculum that gives students a comprehensive view of the pharmacy industry,” Thompson says. “They prepare you well – whether you’re looking to go into clinical or retail in a large city or small.”

For years Thompson wanted to pursue a career as a pharmacist, but the closest schools – one was in Austin and the other in Weatherford, Okla. – were too far to commute from Seminole, where she and her family have lived since 1989. When TTUHSC opened its School of Pharmacy in 1993, Thompson saw her opportunity.

Although the 200-mile commute from Seminole to Amarillo presented challenges for the mother of three, Thompson submitted her application and was accepted. For two years, she lived in a camper while attending school, driving home on the weekends. Thompson completed the final two years of the program in Lubbock, making the 80-mile commute daily from Seminole. When she wasn’t in school, she worked at Oswalt Pharmacy, helping owner Gary Dugger, who was short-handed for four years after the store’s second pharmacist moved to the Dallas area. Dugger, who serves as a preceptor for the School of Pharmacy’s rural health rotation, held the position open until Thompson finished her education.

That’s why she says missing countless school activities – including her youngest child’s first day of kindergarten because it was also Thompson’s first day of class – proved worthwhile in the end.

“Being a pharmacist in a small town is about more than just the medicines, it’s about helping people – mostly people you know on a first-name basis,” she says. “Your customers and the other health care providers are your neighbors. You go to church together, see each other at school functions and sit next to each other at the restaurant.

“Had this happened at another time and place in my life, I may have considered moving to a big city, but probably not,” Thompson says. “I was raised in a small town, and this is where I want to be. I’d recommend it to anyone.” *Danette Baker*

CARYLON FRERICH

PA
SOAHS '94, '01

PERFECT FIT

CARYLON FRERICH, PA, never considered being anything other than a Red Raider. At a very young age Frerich fell in love with Texas Tech University, and when she decided to study clinical lab sciences, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center was a perfect fit.

After graduating in 1994, Frerich went to work in Midland as a general medical technologist. Changes in her life soon led her to Big Spring, where she was promoted to microbiology supervisor. She loved being a microbiologist, but her outgoing, nurturing personality craved more patient contact. And as a resident of a medically underserved area, Frerich felt called to provide more quality health care to the community.

When Frerich learned that the TTUHSC was to begin a physician assistant program in 1999, she applied and was accepted to the inaugural class. Since graduating from the program, she has continued to work in Big Spring. She is a surgical physician assistant and works in obstetrics and gynecology.

“I couldn’t ask for a more rewarding practice,” Frerich says. She enjoys all aspects of her work, from preventive medicine to being a first-assistant in surgery and then seeing a patient recover.

A first-class education from TTUHSC is one of the many tools that Frerich says contributed to her success. She keeps in touch with many of her instructors from both programs, which she says is a direct result of the individual attention she received at TTUHSC. *Rebecca Hardin*

SUZANNE THOMPSON

PHARM.D.
SOP '04

Living A Passion

BY PATTI J. PATTERSON, M.D., M.P.H.

I've heard Marie Hall say, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire is fulfilled it is a tree of life." Marie's desire is lived out every day in her service to others. Her passion for the people of West Texas and for education is a tree of life to everyone who has been touched in some way by her vision.

Marie has given West Texas an unprecedented opportunity to connect tools and resources


to address the significant issues facing rural and underserved communities through a very generous gift. The gift will endow an institute in rural and community health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center named in her honor. Through this gift, TTUHSC can leverage our circumstances — geographic isolation, the frontier culture of the region — along with the strengths, resources and creativity of communities and partners to develop a legacy in West Texas that will impact the nation.

Marie brings the key ingredients of experience, vision, passion, integrity and trust to form an institute that seeks to make a significant difference in the lives of people. She has the ability to see in-depth not only current reality, but what *can be* if people begin to think differently and work together in new ways. Marie challenges us to no longer dwell on the obstacles, but to build on the strength and vitality of people living in rural areas and to assemble teams of people with diverse experiences and expertise to make a difference.

What *can be* if we have the vision to connect research to practical applications that improve community health?

What *can be* if we encourage our kids to dream big dreams — to go to college and return home to pursue career opportunities that make a difference?

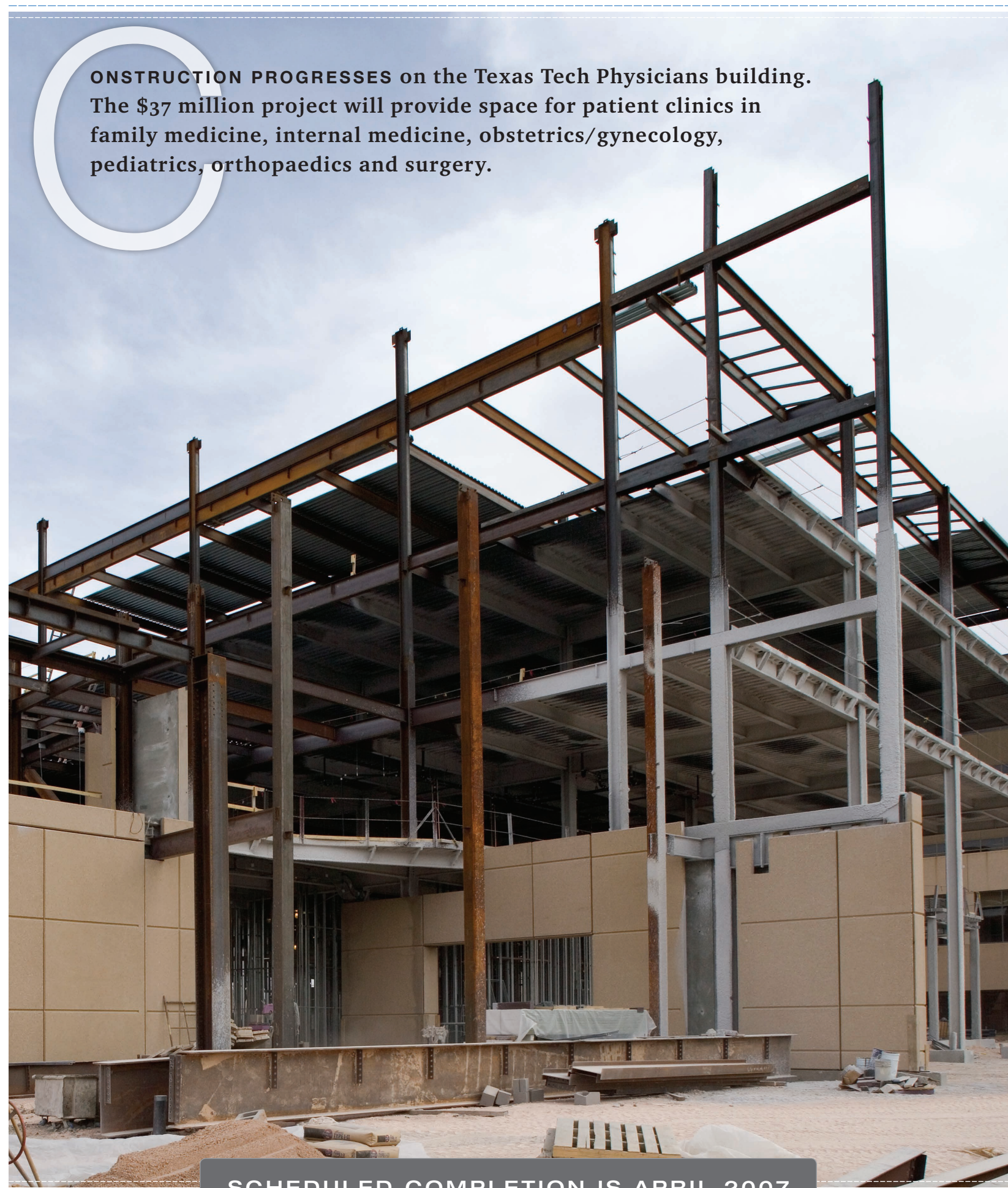
What *can be* if we foster in our students — our future community leaders — a passion for service and giving?

Marie's vision of what *can be* in West Texas is larger than the horizon. Her legacy at TTUHSC is that vision — to think beyond the obstacles, to build relationships that make a difference, and to serve with energy and passion. 



Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H.
and Marie Hall

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES on the Texas Tech Physicians building. The \$37 million project will provide space for patient clinics in family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, orthopaedics and surgery.



SCHEDULED COMPLETION IS APRIL 2007



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