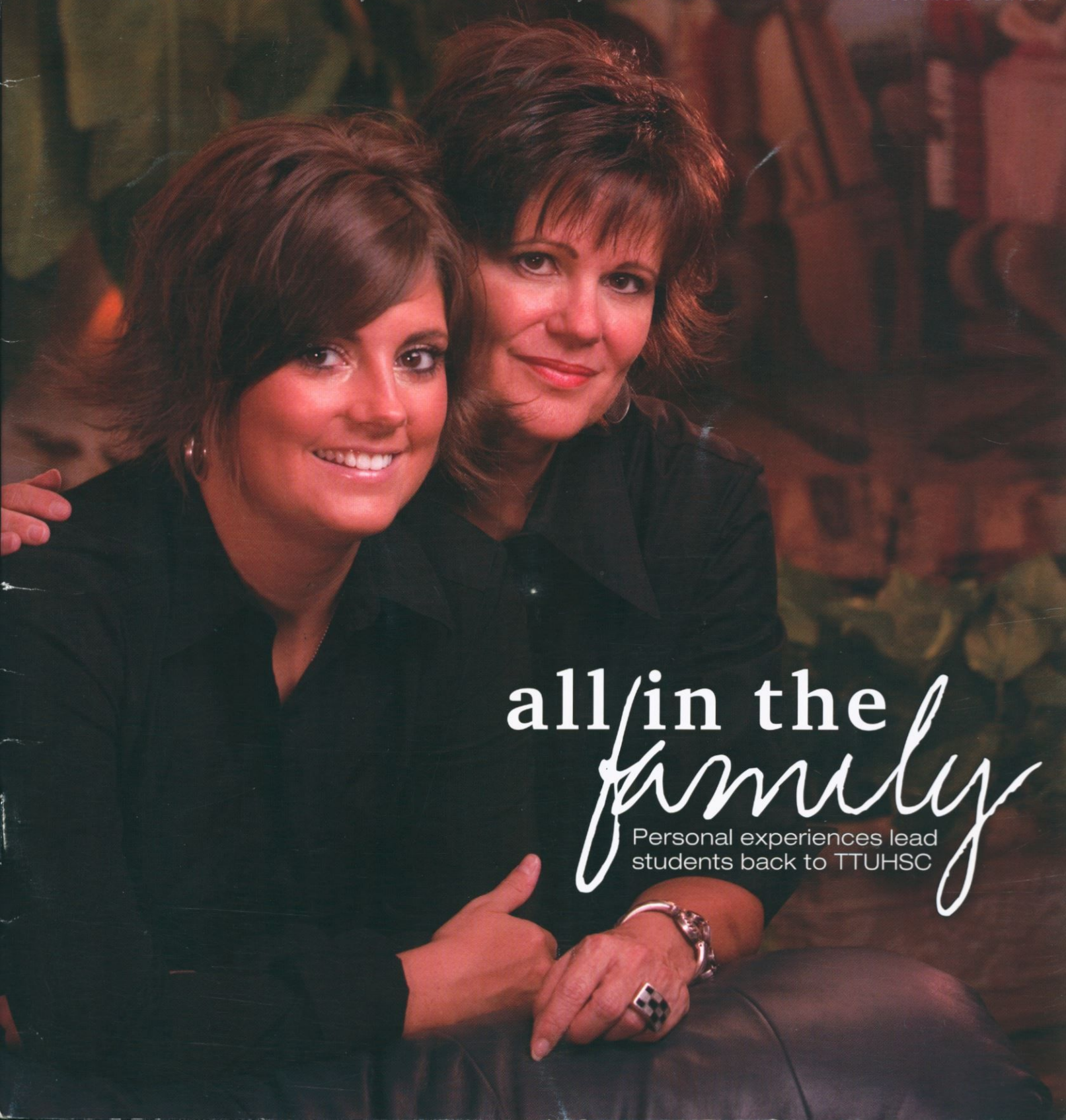


# PULSE



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



all in the  
*family*

Personal experiences lead  
students back to TTUHSC



# PULSE

## CREATING POSSIBILITIES

A nurse's role has evolved during the past 25 years from bedside helper to health care leader.



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## ESTABLISHING OPEN COMMUNICATION

TTUHSC's efforts lead to stronger support for South Plains families that have children with autism.



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Second-generation students choose parents' alma mater for convenience and commitment to quality education.



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## IMPRESSING BENEFACTORS

Embarking on its second decade, the School of Pharmacy accepts an invitation from Abilene investors to join their community.



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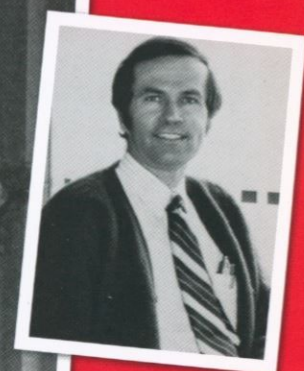
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## Guess WHO

Beginning with this issue of Pulse, we'll introduce you to people who were around in the 'good old days.' We hope this new feature will bring a few laughs and fond memories.

This member of the "Honolulu Honey's" has been on the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine faculty for 32 years. He has received recognition for his teaching services 18 times throughout the years. The popular doc is well-known for his involvement with students. Can you identify this honey?



To find out the answer, see page 2.



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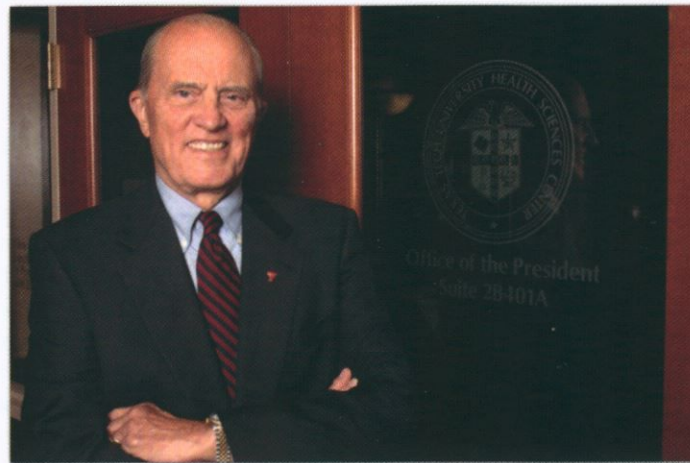
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## NO TIME TO TREAD WATER

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as the interim president of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, my favorite institution. Oftentimes, one serving in an interim position may feel obliged simply to maintain the status quo. I view my charge quite differently. This is not the time for treading water or resting.

This university has established itself as a regional and state leader in health care education and patient care. These accomplishments not only bring pride and recognition to TTUHSC, but also great responsibility.

Among these responsibilities is the completion of the four-year El Paso School of Medicine. There also exists a need to develop and further expand the programs at our regional academic health centers in Amarillo and the Permian Basin.

On the Lubbock campus, our next steps are to construct a state-of-the-art clinical simulation center, which will allow us to better train all of our students in clinical diagnosis and physical examinations. Of equal importance, a research facility must also become a reality to progress in our research and discovery endeavors.

Institution wide, we must focus on telemedicine and telehealth to enhance a vital part of our education and service missions. We also must strengthen relationships with the community and county hospitals with whom we partner, and we must continue to evaluate construction needs for our various educational programs.

With the support of students, faculty, friends, alumni and staff, we have an immediate opportunity to position ourselves in a way that outwardly reflects the excitement, vibrancy and potential within this growing university. It is of utmost importance that we each strive for excellence in whatever we do so that we, as an institution, position ourselves to attract the best candidate we can to serve as our next president.

BERNHARD T. MITTEMAYER, M.D.  
INTERIM PRESIDENT



# grand

ROUNDS



NEAL HINKLE

**HALL TAKES HELM OF SGA** :: When you consider her past accomplishments, Tracilyn Hall's selection as president of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Student Government Association should come as no surprise. From her

high school days at James E. Taylor High School in Katy, Texas, to her years as an undergraduate at Texas Tech University, Hall has served numerous organizations in leadership positions.

She first served on TTUHSC's SGA last year as senator, representing first-year medical students. Her infectious smile and ability to converse easily both with peers and the administration are among the qualities that earned her the presidential position, says Margret Duran, managing director of Student Services and SGA adviser. "Traci proved to not only be a good listener, but also a good communicator, and she is good at analyzing the big picture," Duran says.

Those traits, Hall says, were built around the family dinner table. Her parents were notorious for engaging Hall and her older brother in intel-

lectual conversations about current events and their careers.

"I guess I turned out to be the black sheep," she says, jokingly. "My dad and brother are engineers and my mom is an educator."

Hall says a career in medicine is something she's had her heart set on since she was a child. During high school summer breaks, she worked as a pre-medical student intern at OB/GYN Affiliates of Katy.

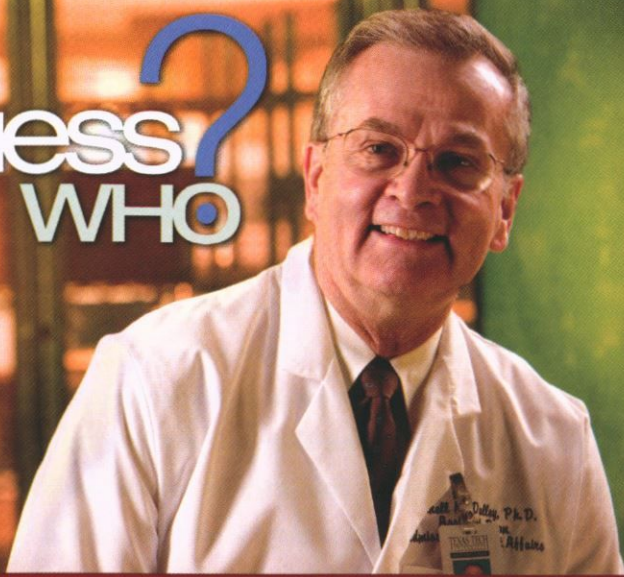
"I thought I wanted to go into pediatrics, but discovered I like the (obstetrics/gynecology field) because it gives you the chance to build long-term relationships with patients," she said.

For now, Hall works at balancing her studies and SGA responsibilities.

"I want to create more unity among the schools and among the students within each of those schools. When we have a unified voice, we have a stronger one."

—Danette Baker

## Guess WHO



NEAL HINKLE

**HONOLULU HONEY** :: Bernell K. Dalley, PH.D., was a member of the group known as the Honolulu Honeys, which performed during talent shows in the 1980s. Dalley joined Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in 1974. He likes to

reminisce about teaching anatomy in the remodeled kitchen of Drane Hall. Originally located on the Texas Tech campus in a converted dormitory, the School of Medicine had limited space and the kitchen was the only room with ventilation to allow for anatomy classes.

Dalley has held many positions at TTUHSC. He currently serves as associate dean of Admissions and Minority Affairs for the School of Medicine and associate professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. He continues to teach anatomy classes; however, his classes now service students in four of the TTUHSC schools.

When asked about the School of Medicine's growth Dalley says, "It's been exciting to have been a part of it, but with the increase in students it saddens to me that I can no longer easily learn names and become personally acquainted with all of the students."

There are joys with the growth and age of the school however. "One of the most gratifying things about my job is that I am now seeing an increasing number of my former students' children coming to medical school here," he says. —Rebecca Hardin



# JUST the facts...

8,859

number of active alumni  
for all schools

\$29 million

amount of loans taken out by  
students in fiscal year 2005

\$1.9 million

amount of scholarships given  
in fiscal year 2005

50

percent of medical school  
graduates who remain in Texas  
for their postgraduate training

499

number of medical residents

15

number of years Plexus,  
TTUHSC yearbook, was printed

\$55.7 million

amount of construction  
completed on HSC campuses  
since 2002

1990

first telemedicine consult  
conducted

\$24  
million

donations received  
in fiscal year 2006



## STUDENTS' TRAINING IN GERIATRICS ENHANCED BY GRANT

**BY GRANT** :: The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has awarded the School of Medicine nearly \$2 million to support geriatrics training at all levels for students, residents, faculty and community physicians in our region. The grant was one of ten training grants the foundation awarded this year.

"We plan a comprehensive training program to bring state-of-the-art skills to physician care for our healthy and frail elderly," says Lynn Bickley, M.D., associate dean for curriculum at TTUHSC and director of the project. School of Medicine Dean Steven L. Berk, M.D., and Stephanie Leeper, M.D., associate regional dean for faculty development at Amarillo, serve as co-investigators of the project.

"The Reynolds Foundation grant places the Health Sciences Center School of Medicine at the cutting edge of training in geriatrics," says Berk. "We are committed to provide greatly needed new training experiences in geriatrics, which will not only benefit our medical students, residents and faculty but also our patients."

Grant training activities also include several other innovations including a new integrated geriatrics practice for internal medicine, family medicine, and neuropsychiatry students and residents; new "Podcasting for Seniors" training modules; and a Geriatrics Faculty Development Program featuring new training formats for faculty and practicing physicians.

—Rebecca Hardin

# grand

ROUNDS



JEROD FOSTER

Mike Capt, third-year medical student; Ruth Wells, a resident at the Mildred and Shirley L. Garrison Geriatric Education and Care Center; and Devona Martin, fourth-year medical student



LUBBOCK—**Mel Crozier** died Sept. 10, 2006, in Lubbock. He served as financial aid director for the School of Medicine where he was fondly known as "Uncle Mel." He also served as a member of the Red Raider

Club for many years. Memorials may be made to the School of Medicine Student Emergency Fund.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—**David McConnell Mills**, M.D., died Sept. 18, 2006, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He served as associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Rheumatology Division, from 1975 until 1984. Mills then went into private practice in Lubbock until he retired in 1988. He moved to Monument, Colo., in 2001.



LUBBOCK—**Lana Kay Rolfe** died Sept. 29, 2006, in Shallowater. She worked for the School of Medicine from 1977 to 1989 and served as transplant coordinator for University Medical Center from 1989 to

1998. Her husband, Rial Rolfe, PH.D., is associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

*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 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Stop 6238, Lubbock, Texas 79430.*

in memoriam



# Shift in SERVICE



Throughout the past 25 years, the role of nursing in health care continues to evolve

At 8 a.m. on a warm June morning, family nurse practitioner Robert Martinez, R.N., M.S.N., C.W.S., pulls a patient file from a metal shelf.

Paper files, he says, soon will become a distant memory as the clinic he works for, Freedom Square Community Health Center in Lubbock, prepares to go paperless. That's just one of many changes Martinez has witnessed since June 1984 when he graduated from the School of Nursing. He was one of two men in the school's second graduating class.

"In the past, nurses were looked at as lower on the totem pole in the delivery of health care," Martinez says. "I think nursing now is looked at as more of a health leadership role."

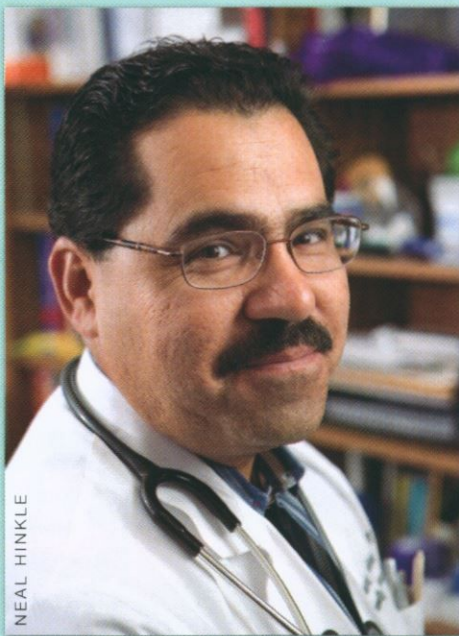
When Martinez began his career, he was one of only a handful of male nurses at University Medical Center. But that's changed, too. According to a 2004 survey by *Male Nurse Magazine*, 6 percent to 7 percent of the

nation's 2.5 million nurses are men, twice as many as there were in 1982. A recent article in the magazine reveals that lucrative salaries and meaningful employment make the career more attractive to men.

Throughout his career, Martinez continued his training to become a nurse practitioner. In that role, he prescribes medication and diagnoses illnesses with a doctor's oversight. Martinez also provides education to his patients on the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Nursing as a profession has evolved in many ways since the School of Nursing began 25 years ago. Nurses today serve on the front lines of health care delivery more than ever. It's a reality that School of Nursing Dean Alexia Green, Ph.D, is challenged with daily.

"Because of the knowledge explosion, we teach nursing much differently than we did when I started teaching," Green says. "Technology probably has had the biggest impact on the nursing education and health care



NEAL HINKLE

Robert Martinez, R.N., M.S.N., C.W.S.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
TEACHING CLINIC  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

THOMPSON  
HALL

by JOHN DAVIS &  
CHRISTY MERIWETHER



delivery, but genomics will have an even greater impact in the future. Nurses will be called upon more and more to help patients and their families understand genetic relationships for chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease and the prevention strategies.”

Nurses also are expected to communicate at a much higher level than ever before. With the baby boomer population reaching 55-plus, nurses must be prepared to communicate with this educated generation. Baby boomers possess a high acuity for medical conditions and treatment options and expect to be closely involved in and apprised of all phases of their treatment plan, Green says.

Today the nurse plays an integral role in the patient’s recovery and in the treatment of chronic illness. Nurses are seen as part of a care team, which may include a physician, nurse, social worker, physical therapist or dietitian. Because nurses are on the front line, they often provide leadership in determining the health education resources needed by the patient.

“As nurses’ roles are changing, the field is also faced with an aging work force,” says Green. Currently, 60 percent of the 136,600 nurses in Texas are between the ages of 40-59. Likewise, the population is also aging. The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) reports that while the overall population will increase 18

percent between 2000 and 2020, those 65 and older is projected to increase 54 percent during this time. HRSA also estimates that by the year 2010 there will be a projected shortage of 41,900 registered nurses needed to take care of this aging population.

“Nursing shortages have always cycled through the profession but this time around demographers predict an even graver outcome if more nurses aren’t trained immediately to meet the work force needs,” Green says.

Getting qualified students is not as much of a challenge as finding qualified teachers, she adds. The school has increased its full-time faculty equivalents from 38 to 68 in the last six years to meet the influx of students applying to its programs. However, in 2006, the school turned away 319 qualified applicants, largely due to lack of funding for additional faculty positions.

The role of the nurse is rapidly changing, and it is the educational component that ensures there will always be competent nurses in the work force,” Green says. “At TTUHSC School of Nursing we are dedicated to producing compassionate and technically skilled competent nurses. We have been doing so for the past 25 years!”

---

School of Nursing 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Event: January 26-27



## Teddy Jones, R.N., C.S., PH.D., F.N.P. 1981-1991, Founding Dean

From the beginning, the School of Nursing emphasized a strong clinical component in its programs. Even before the BSN program started, the school was developing opportunities for practicing nurses through its Continuing Nurse Education program. "We spent quite a bit of time finding clinical practices for faculty in existing health care settings and creating others such as through the Wellness Center and the collaborations with community hospitals," says Teddy Jones.

The school also took an innovative approach in creating the undergraduate program by crafting a multiple-entry feature. Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing were credited with previous nursing education, so students entered either as freshmen with no previous nursing experience or as

licensed vocational nurses or as registered nurses with a diploma or associate's degree.

"We were unique in the state in having clinical courses for students in each of the four years of the program rather than only in the upper division, which was the more common pattern. This was to provide long-term exposure to clinical learning for those with no previous nursing education," says Jones. "This model fit with our intention that no graduate would feel the need to apologize for lack of clinical background because they had graduated from a collegiate nursing program."

Also under Jones, the school expanded the undergraduate program to Odessa, developed the graduate program, and collaborated with University of Texas at San Antonio for students to receive a PH.D., which gave students many paths to expand their careers.



KIPPERA HOPPER

## Pat Yoder-Wise, R.N., C, ED.D., CNAA, FAAN 1991-1993, Interim Dean; 1993-2003, Dean

The school was founded on the belief that nursing, as a practice discipline, needed experts such as faculty providing care and managing clinical work. Faculty members continue with the practice plan today because they see the relevance of "practicing what they are teaching."

By the time Patricia Yoder-Wise became dean, the school was recognized as being a pioneer in practice plan development.

At the same time, the United States faced a nursing shortage so the school began focusing efforts on expanding the undergraduate program by adding additional faculty and increasing enrollment in order to train more nurses for the work force.

"We were successful in creating a strong Dean's Council made up of community leaders to advise us

on potential donors who could assist with funding needs so that the school could do more innovative things," says Yoder-Wise.

Under Yoder-Wise, the school also broadened its regional borders. The University of Texas at Tyler requested to collaborate with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing to expand the graduate program's nurse practitioner education, which would benefit rural East Texas students and citizens.

"This was exciting in that two schools were serving rural communities to meet health care needs," says Yoder-Wise. "I enjoyed the challenges of building the infrastructure to educate more nurses and sharing our expertise with other schools."



CHILDRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Alexia Green, R.N., PH.D., FAAN 2000-present, Dean

With major nursing shortages on the horizon, the School of Nursing concentrated its efforts on providing a diverse range of educational programs to meet work force needs. In addition, the school and its faculty have been challenged to identify "out of the box solutions" to address the huge demand for nursing education. The creation of the Center for Innovation in Nursing Education (CINE) is an example of one strategy by the school to explore new ways to educate and train the future nursing work force says Dean Alexia Green.

"We recognized that we have to provide creative options for students to gain access into nursing school," she says.

An accelerated baccalaureate program model was developed in 2005. These students already possess a bachelor's degree in another discipline, and after 12 months of intensive study the student can earn a bachelor's in nursing. "We strive to assure that we

have cutting edge programs, driven by innovative and engaged faculty," Green says.

Preparing nurses for expanded leadership and advanced practice roles is another area of great need. During the last six years, the school has added three nurse practitioner education tracts and a research management tract. The school is currently engaged in developing a doctorate in nursing practice program, meeting the demands for even better prepared nurses in a rapidly changing health care environment.

"Two key words have framed the work of the school under my leadership: growth and innovation," Green says. "I have been fortunate to have an innovative and committed faculty, and together we have continued to build on the strong foundation laid by the previous deans. Even though Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Nursing is only 25 years old, it is already a nationally recognized leader."



TONJA HAGY



# “What is it?”

**T**hat question plagued Kay Cash for more than five years as she consulted doctor after doctor, eight in all, to define *it* – the reason for the decline in her mother’s mental abilities.

Early in 2005, Randolph Schiffer, M.D., chair of the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, diagnosed Kay’s mother with Lewy Body Dementia, believed to be the second most common form of dementia after Alzheimer’s disease. Don Cash, Kay’s husband, encountered dementia with his father, who suffered from Alzheimer’s.

To honor Schiffer and in recognition of the work being done at the Garrison Institute on Aging, the Cashes chose to establish the Don-Kay-Clay Cash Foundation Regents Endowed Chair in Alzheimer’s Research. Their support will assist the Garrison Institute on Aging in building a team of world-class researchers who will identify early stages of Alzheimer’s disease, develop prevention strategies and work to discover new treatments.

“Dementia is a mind thief,” says Kay. “Our hope is that by funding this research, TTUHSC can provide answers for early diagnosis, prevention and a cure.”



## Inspired?

For information regarding financial support for TTUHSC, please contact:

*The Office of Institutional Advancement*  
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
3601 4<sup>th</sup> Street Stop 6238 | Lubbock, TX 79430  
806.743.2786





# HELPING 1 Hannah

BY DANETTE BAKER

**H**annah Arland's doe-brown eyes peer back from the photograph her mother has taken off the refrigerator and laid on the wooden kitchen table. "This is Hannah," says Leslie Arland, as a way of introducing her daughter who is at day care.

At first glance, Hannah looks like any other 6-year-old, which somewhat concerns her mother. Arland runs her fingers through her cropped blond hair as she explains that while her daughter looks 6, developmentally she's only about 3 or 4. That's because Hannah has autism, a neurological disorder that affects the normal functions of the brain, impacting one's developmental socialization and communication skills.

As an infant, Hannah met or exceeded the average developmental stages. At 11 months, however, she began to have chronic ear infections that lasted for almost three years. When Hannah's speech began to deteriorate, Arland connected it to her not hearing well because of the infections and thought Hannah's speech would come back once the infections cleared. Instead, it got worse.

"Then she just pretty much stopped communicating altogether," Arland says. "When they diagnosed Hannah with autism, it was actually a relief. It could have been worse ... like cancer or some other life-threatening disease."

Just before Hannah's fourth birthday, the psychologist confirmed the diagnosis. Arland says she immediately began reading everything she could find about autism spectrum disorders. She flooded her home with books and sought professional help through diagnosticians at her daughter's school and from private psychologists.

"Now that I knew the problem, I was ready to fight back," Arland says. "I felt like we were prepared to meet Hannah's needs. Then one day the thought hit me: 'What if something happens to me?' Who will take care of her? What if she can't work, how will she live?"

Arland found answers to those and other questions at the South Plains Autism

Network, a support group of parents, care givers, physicians, therapists and teachers who have and/or work with children who have autism. Since 2002, SPAN meets monthly throughout the school year at the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Arland learned about the support group through the clinic, where Hannah has received speech therapy for the past three years.

"The topics discussed at SPAN range from toilet training to going to college and are presented by professionals and families," says Sherry Sancibrian, M.S., CCC-SLP, (SOAHS '78) director of the Speech-Language Pathology program. Sancibrian is one of SPAN's co-founders along with Karen Rogers, M.D., (SOM '97) a developmental pediatrician, and Michael Ratheal, ED.D., an educational psychologist.

"We had seen so many children in the clinic that it became clear the families did not have the information they wanted about autism and choices for intervention," Sancibrian says.

"Autism is not something that's going to go away as we are seeing the number of cases increase annually," says Rogers, who sees



patients at TTUHSC's Pediatric Clinic as well as in her private practice. "Specifically, we wanted to help people wade through the information and offer some expertise behind understanding what was out there."

These experts relied heavily on the expertise of four moms, who were in the midst of raising children with autism, to determine how to structure the group.

Joy Gorsuch has the oldest child of the group. Her son, David, was 15 when SPAN began. He is now 19, a high school graduate, and has a part-time job at a movie rental store. Gorsuch says there was virtually no information or support for families when David was diagnosed at age 4.

"We didn't know anything about autism; hadn't even heard about it. Back then, even the doctors were hesitant to say it was autism so we thought he was strong-willed or just slower to develop," she says. "Sherry was the one who pointed us in the direction we needed to find the resources and help."

Ratheal, who has worked with autistic children in her private practice for about 10 years, says before SPAN there were limited resources for families of children with autism. "There was a traditional support group that existed for some time, but the uniqueness of SPAN is evident in the way that the education and communication specialists are coming together to create the best environment for the kids and their families," she says.

The exceptionality, Ratheal says, lies in the efforts put forth by Sancibrian. "This community has been given such a gift in Sherry. She has dedicated her expertise to the children and their families."

Sancibrian coordinates group activities for the children while their parents attend SPAN meetings. TTUHSC faculty and graduate students in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences work with the children who have autism, while their siblings attend Sibshop. Students in Texas Tech's College of Education host the sibling meetings as part of the services offered through TTU's Jim and Jere Lynn Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research.

Ratheal and Rogers say the children's programs are a key in the success of SPAN because childcare is one of the greatest challenges families face. SPAN also organizes a list of speech-language pathology students who will provide babysitting for the families.

"This gives the students another opportunity to work with children who have the disorder and the families say they feel more comfortable with a sitter who is familiar with children who have autism," says Kayla McCurrin, a second-year graduate student in Speech-Language Pathology.

Utilizing the students is a win-win situation, Sancibrian says.

"It's a sort of laboratory for executing everything that we learn in the classroom," explains Shaunda

South Plains Autism Network, a support group for parents of children with autism, was the brainchild of professionals and parents, from left, Michael Ratheal, Ed.D., Karen Rogers, M.D., Stacy Poteet, and Sherry Sancibrian, M.S., CCC-SLP.




JEROD FOSTER



JEROD FOSTER

Camp Tech Tykes, hosted by the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences in the School of Allied Health Sciences, provides opportunities for children with autism to build communication and socialization skills. TTUHSC students in the department serve as camp counselors.

Eady, a 2006 Speech Language Pathology graduate. "The opportunity to work with SPAN opens doors to serve the people of Lubbock, and it gave me the opportunity to gain experience that has already been invaluable to me in clinical practice."

Sancibrian says the efforts of SPAN, the Burkhart Center and TTUHSC complement each other in the quest to better understand autism. "The end goal is to send better educated and better prepared students into the work force and to help parents feel empowered to raise their sons and daughters." 

# About Autism

## SIGNS

→ Difficulties with social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors or narrow, obsessive interests – all ranging from mild to disabling



## CAUSE

→ Largely remains unknown, although many researchers believe that it is the result of a combination of genetics and environmental triggers

→ In 2005, the National Institutes of Health spent \$99 million on research compared to \$22 million in 1997

## INCIDENCE RATE

→ Experts estimate that three to six children out of every 1,000 will have autism

→ Males are four times more likely to have autism than females

→ Last year 167 cases diagnosed in Lubbock county; approximately 10 per county in the outlying regions

## FAMOUS FACES

→ Temple Grandin, Ph.D., New York Times Best-Seller author and designer of livestock handling facilities

→ Albert Einstein

→ Leonardo Da Vinci

→ Thomas Jefferson

→ John Lennon

## INTERVENTION

→ Outcomes for children are better when intervention occurs before age 4

→ 90 percent of costs are in adult services

Sources: Autism Society of America, National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke



Family ties



# Two P.A.s in a Pod

by REBECCA HARDIN

**G**ina Farrell, PA, (SOAHS '01) spent much of her last pregnancy in the Preston Smith Library of Health Sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center doing research to understand the condition with which her son would be born. She wanted to be prepared for whatever the future might hold. The knowledge Farrell gained eventually saved her son's life and forever changed hers.

While pregnant, doctors diagnosed Farrell with a rare RHE antibody. The condition caused Farrell's blood to enter the placenta, eating up the baby's blood cells and causing the newborn to become anemic.

"It was hard at first," said Farrell, "I used the medical dictionary all the time because the words were so unfamiliar to me."

At five weeks, the newborn developed extremely low hemoglobin levels and needed an emergency transfusion. At home following the transfusion Farrell was concerned with her son's swelling legs and feet and rapid breathing. She rushed the baby to the hospital and later learned that a complication from the transfusion had sent her son into congestive heart failure.

"If it hadn't been for my trips to the library at TTUHSC, I would have never known that my child needed medical attention that day," says Farrell. "I decided to go back to school, begin a career in medicine and provide the best health care I could."

The mother of four became a student at night attending nursing school. In 1996 Farrell graduated cum laude as a registered nurse and received the clinical excellence award at commencement. She began working in a telemetry unit while taking continuing education courses to further her career. When Farrell learned that TTUHSC at the Permian Basin was to begin accepting students for the inaugural class in the Physician Assistant program she jumped at the opportunity to enter a new level of health care.

Although doubtful of her chances at acceptance, Farrell drove from Odessa to Lubbock for an interview. Leaving little to chance, she told the interview committee that she refused to take no for an answer. When asked if she would reapply if not accepted, Farrell answered simply, "My time is now."

Her dedication paid off in more ways than one. Farrell was accepted and 10 years after her journey began in the Preston Smith Library, she was among the first graduates of the Physician Assistant program.

The commitment and care she provides as a physician assistant has influenced her daughter's career choice.

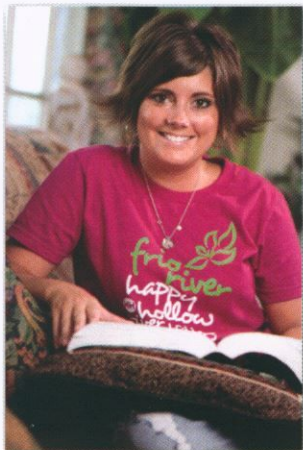


As a nursing student, Farrell honed her skills with her favorite 'patient,' her 9-year-old daughter Ashley Browning. Browning mimicked her mother playing nurse with her younger brothers and sisters.

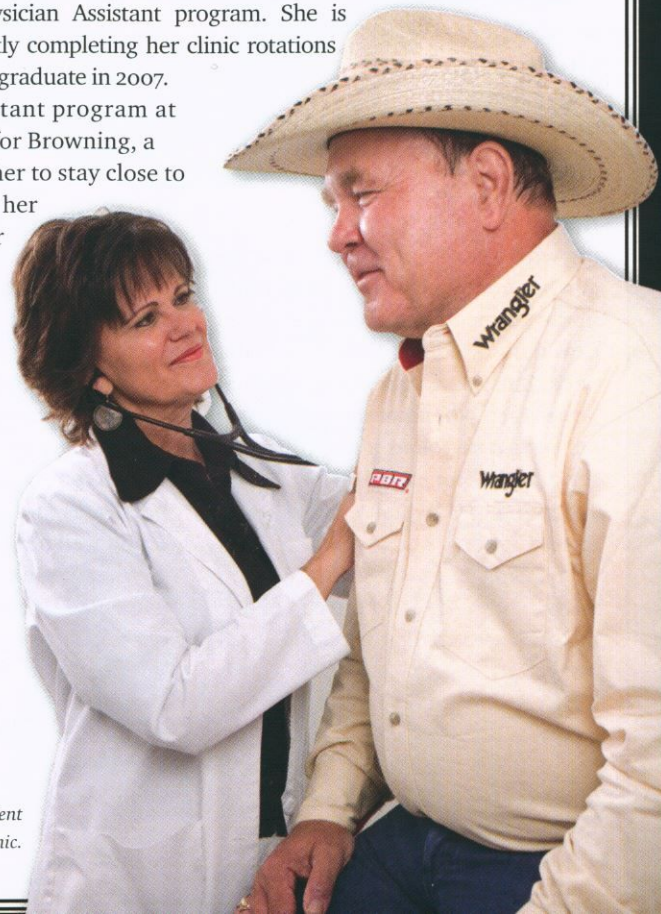
After graduating from high school, Browning entered college planning to go to medical school. She began working in her mother's clinic in Monahans, a rural community of 6,000 located about 30 miles from Odessa. Last year, the clinic served 25,000 patients. The need for health care providers in rural areas led Browning to change her career course from medical school to the

Physician Assistant program. She is currently completing her clinic rotations and plans to graduate in 2007.

The Physician Assistant program at TTUHSC worked well for Browning, a single mom, allowing her to stay close to her family and work in her mother's clinic. Mother and daughter have provided much needed care in the community of Monahans.



Ashley Browning



Gina Farrell, P.A., with a patient in her Monahans clinic.



# I'll See You in ICU!

by DANETTE BAKER

Sitting at the kitchen table in her mother's south Lubbock home, Ashley Maberry, R.N., B.S.N., (SON '06) explains how, ironically, she and her mother, Karen Carson, R.N., B.S.N., C.C.R.N., (SON '04) ended up at the same school pursuing similar career paths. Before much of the conversation passes, it's clear that the mother and daughter share more than the genetic traits obvious to the eye. There is an unspoken bond between them – a mutual respect and admiration, a mother's pride in a child who has succeeded in her goals and vice versa.

Maberry graduated in August from the School of Nursing with a bachelor's degree and began her nursing career in September in the surgical intensive care unit at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. She was a college freshman at Texas Tech when her mother traded her part-time job as a medical transcriptionist for nursing school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

"I was at the point in life where I wanted to have a full-time career and nursing seemed like a natural next step," Carson says.

She explained how during her late husband's illness she admired the care given by the nurses to him, and how their compassion extended to the entire family.

"I wanted to find a way to give back to others like they had given to us," she says.

After graduating from the School of Nursing, Carson joined the nursing staff at Covenant Medical Center where she works in the medical intensive care unit.

"One of the reasons I chose TTUHSC was because it was here, and I wanted a college degree over anything," Carson said. "I didn't want to move my family, but I felt there was a better opportunity for me to advance in this career with a bachelor's degree over a certificate. The Health Sciences Center offered that. But I think an even greater influence was what I had seen and heard about their programs. Because of my relationships with people in the medical profession, I knew the school had a good reputation with their pass rates and with students doing well on the boards."

When her daughter began entertaining the idea of switching majors from business to nursing, Carson hoped Maberry would choose TTUHSC.

"I knew if she decided to come to the Health Sciences Center, it would be

a good decision for her, but I tried not to influence her because I wanted it to be her decision."

Ironically, Carson was a major factor in her daughter's decision to attend TTUHSC School of Nursing.

"As I watched mom go through nursing school, I kept thinking that what she was doing looked like what I wanted to do," Maberry said. "I talked about being a nurse all through high school, but never thought about pursuing it because I never really liked science."

Instead she declared a business major when she entered Texas Tech, but after one economics class changed her mind. "After that class, I decided to enroll in anatomy my second semester and everything just came easy to me. Most of all, I enjoyed what I was learning."

A die-hard Texas Tech fan, Maberry says TTUHSC's nursing school was attractive to her because it offered three things: a chance to earn a degree as a Red Raider, she could remain at home, and she thought her mom's reputation might give her an academic edge.

Two out of three isn't bad.

"She was a good student so I thought it couldn't hurt to play that up," Maberry says, giving her mom a sheepish grin. "At least I got her textbooks that were already highlighted."



Ashley Maberry, R.N.,  
B.S.N., and Karen Carson  
R.N., B.S.N., C.C.R.N.





# The Scalpel Doesn't Fall Far from the Table

by REBECCA HARDIN



Robert Schutt, M.D. & Rob Schutt

Don't look for Rob Schutt, a second-year medical student, in the local coffee shop with his study group before a big exam. Instead he's more apt to be in the basement doing homework with his dad.

Robert Schutt, M.D., (SOM '77) spent time tutoring Rob and his sister, Alison Schutt, M.D., (SOM '06) in the gross anatomy lab last year.

"One night, I'm happy to say that I did a better dissection than my dad," says Alison, jokingly.

Schutt came to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 1974 after serving in the Air Force. The School of Medicine offered him a full scholarship and the chance to finish school in 3 years through the GI Bill. A small-town boy himself, Schutt says he chose TTUHSC because of the close-knit community.

Following graduation, Schutt settled in Colorado Springs, Colo. While his children were young, Schutt says he encouraged them to pursue other career avenues. Ironically, what used to be a family joke, has now become reality as the Schutt siblings follow in their father's footsteps.

His daughter, Alison, earned a degree in biology from Colorado College in 2001 and began applying for jobs in biochemistry labs throughout the West.

"I wish I had some exciting reason why I chose Texas Tech, like 'I've bled red and black all my life,' but I didn't," she says.

Instead, Alison says the people and research work are what caught her

attention. Lorenz Lutherer, M.D., (SOM '77) TTUHSC professor and one of Schutt's classmates, was on hand to help when Alison came for a job interview. She says his West Texas hospitality and the research taking place in the Cell Biology and Biochemistry lab of Clint MacDonald, Ph.D., associate professor, intrigued her.

After a year working as a research assistant in MacDonald's lab Alison decided to follow her life-long dream of being a doctor and was accepted to medical school at TTUHSC in 2002.

A year later, Schutt and his wife returned to Lubbock where he assumed the director's position of TTUHSC's new Division of Pediatric Orthopaedics.

"The opportunity to develop a full-time children's orthopaedic practice in an underserved area, as well as give back to the school (of medicine) were the main reasons for moving," says Schutt.

Alison graduated in May and began her residency in Ophthalmology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her fiancé, Jeff Smith M.D., also a May School of Medicine graduate, is doing his residency at Case Western as well.

Rob, the oldest sibling, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., and was working on his doctorate when he decided to change careers.

"I wanted to be able to meet people and make a positive

impact on their lives. It was interesting to find that medicine was my calling," says Rob. "I can't think of anything better than to learn your profession from your father."


He was accepted to TTUHSC School of Medicine in 2004, along with his fiancé, Amy Klavin. They were married this summer.

"I chose Texas Tech because I wanted to be here," says Rob. "I hope that it will become a family tradition."



Rob, Alison and Chris Schutt

And indeed it may. Chris, the youngest of the siblings, was recently accepted to the Class of 2011. He is a biology major at Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. Chris says there were several reasons he chose to apply to TTUHSC's medical school.

"I want to be close to my family, and I love the community," he says. "My sister has really encouraged me to go that route because of the great educational opportunities she had." 



Alison Schutt, M.D.



# TEN YEARS & GROWING

Abilene benefactors welcome SOP to town



BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT) Sharon McDonald, Greathouse Foundation; Ron Butler, First Financial Bank, Abilene; Tucker Bridwell, Dian Graves Owen Foundation; Larry Gill, Dodge Jones Foundation; Laura Moore, Hendrick Medical Center FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT) Scott Dueser, Texas Tech Regent and President/CEO of First Financial Bankshares; School of Pharmacy Dean Arthur A. Nelson Jr., PH.D.

by Cory Chandler

The gears started turning – as they often do in West Texas – over football.

Joe Canon and Larry Gill weren't talking touchdowns; where other fans might spend a game hashing out pass completions and play calling, the two men had their minds on an entirely different subject: the nation's growing pharmacist shortage.

Aware that the deficiency is an increasing concern in West Texas and of Abilene's role as a regional medical hub, Canon and Gill, both with the Dodge Jones Foundation, had begun exploring the idea of establishing a new pharmacy school in their community. Given the number of off-campus programs the Texas Tech University System had already established in Abilene, the men discussed approaching the Health Sciences Center with the concept.

The opportunity presented itself during a 2004 Red Raiders game, where Gill was watching with Norm Archibald, who is now Abilene's mayor. They met former TTUHSC President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., who suggested they present their idea to School of Pharmacy Dean Arthur A. Nelson Jr., PH.D.

Nelson, Gill recalls, handed them a business card and suggested they set up a meeting.

"He took the bull by the horns and said, 'Let's make this work,'" says Gill, vice president and grants administrator for the Dodge Jones Foundation. "Once Dr. Nelson gets an idea, he's very tenacious."

Now, as the SOP celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since successfully opening the nation's first public pharmacy school in 50 years, a group of Big Country benefactors have amassed more than \$13 million to help the school expand its pharmacy education even further.

The funds will subsidize the start-up of a 40,000 square-foot school on the Hendrick Health System campus in Abilene. The first 40 students should begin in August 2007 and a projected 160 students will fill classrooms within three years after that, making



a contribution to filling the shortfall of pharmacists in the United States.

By some measures, approximately 7 percent of U.S. pharmacist vacancies already go unfilled; the Pharmacy Manpower Project predicts that the country will be short some 157,000 pharmacists by 2020.

TTUHSC made its first inroads into this shortage in 1996, when it began offering Doctor of Pharmacy degrees through the School of Pharmacy at Amarillo. The school has expanded the third and fourth years of its program into Lubbock and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Now, lured by the promise of cutting-edge technology, small classes and nearly 200 scholarship opportunities, more than 350 students and residents are training to eventually fill pharmacy jobs in West Texas and elsewhere.

"We have been a major force in helping relieve the pharmacist shortage in northern West Texas by training local people and attracting students from other regions of the state to stay in West Texas once they graduate," Nelson says. This is also true in the Metroplex, where Nelson says 75 percent

of the school's graduates remain in the area.


"We have always been the smallest of the four pharmacy schools in Texas," he says, "but our graduates practice in-state at a very high rate."

Nelson expects the expansion into Abilene will further alleviate the shortage of pharmacists in West Texas, allowing Big Country students to complete all four years of the program in Abilene while remaining closer to home. The projected 40 graduates per year by 2011 will fill openings left by retiring practitioners and take new jobs created by the medical demands of a graying population.

Abilene itself will benefit from the school, Mayor Archibald says, pointing out that cities strive for gains in economic development, health care and higher education.



"Every city wants these things," he says. "We are answering them all with this new facility."

Land for the new school has been donated by Hendrick Health System and funding has been raised by the City of Abilene, the Development Corporation of Abilene, Sears Methodist Retirement Centers, the Dodge Jones Foundation, the Dian Graves Owen Foundation, Greathouse Foundation and the Shelton Family Foundation. 

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



*Will Snead, son of alumni Charlie ('00) and Jennifer Snead ('00)*

*David Watson, assistant dean of finance, and his family, Janet and Julie*



*Shawna King ('05) and SOP faculty Stephanie Anderson with son, Eli, and Raneé Lenz-Basse with her son, Ryan.*



*While their parents visit, the girls look for prizes with Raleane Trudeau, a fourth-year student. From left, Melissa Lason and Carolyn Lason, daughters of Scott Lason, CVS manager, and Hannah Jaramillo, daughter of Jeanie Jaramillo ('01).*



**S**tacking Lincoln Logs, tinkering with Tinker Toys; such are the pastimes of children seemingly destined to become architects. And, in fact, School of Pharmacy Dean Arthur A. Nelson, Jr., Ph.D., claims more than a passing fancy for the occupation.

"If I wasn't a pharmacist, I'd probably be an architect," says Nelson. "I like the creative process involved in building things."

So it isn't surprising that, when faced with pharmacy career options, Nelson chose a path that allowed him to build educational institutions. That is exactly what he has done. Since his first administrative position, at the University of South Carolina, where he developed a graduate program for the College of Pharmacy, Nelson has gone on to reinvigorate or grow programs from Nebraska to Idaho.

Still, Nelson admits he hesitated when asked to establish a new pharmacy school in Amarillo for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, fearing that the campus' distance from Lubbock might crimp its growth.

He said his fears were eased when he visited Amarillo and found a host of business and civic leaders at the airport ready to woo him.


"It took me about 15 minutes to realize that Amarillo was serious about having a strong program," he quips.

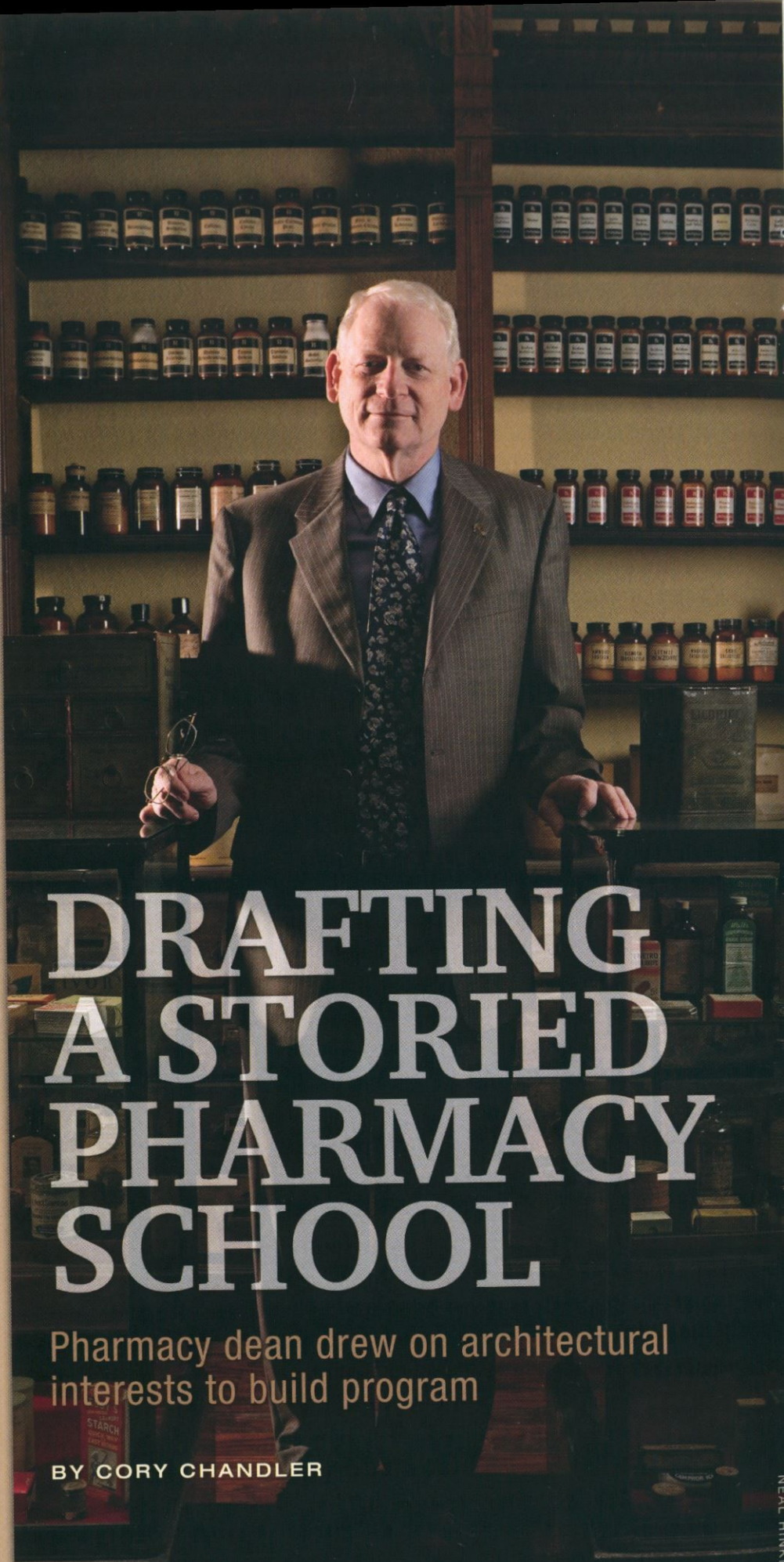
The latent architect took over, and Nelson spent two years developing the program before the School of Pharmacy's doors opened in 1996.

As the school's only dean, Nelson has overseen its rise from a fledgling campus with 65 students to what is now a thriving institution with a growing presence throughout the state.

This growth has come even as pharmacy education faces a shortage of qualified faculty, establishing the School of Pharmacy as a national model for start-up pharmacy schools.

But Nelson is quick to share the credit.

"One of the real keys to the school's success has been its ability to recruit visionary leaders and keep them together, working toward this shared goal," he says. 

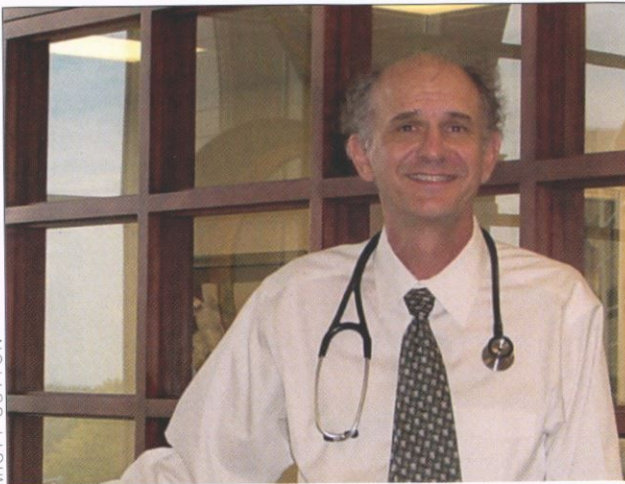


# DRAFTING A STORIED PHARMACY SCHOOL

Pharmacy dean drew on architectural interests to build program

BY CORY CHANDLER





MISTY SUTTON

### PATIENT HELPS TO ESTABLISH DR. STEVE URBAN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

During a routine patient exam Steve Urban, M.D., was presented a lottery-winning situation. Urban's patient asked the doctor what he would do if he had the funding.

Urban, associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, replied that he would make a donation to the School of Medicine at Amarillo, investing in the expansion of teaching clinical skills to the students. His response planted the seed for the Dr. Steve Urban Endowed Professorship.

The patient Urban saw that day contacted Christen Scivally Woodburn, Amarillo School of Medicine director of development, and made a substantial donation, citing how Urban exceeds the expected service in patient care. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave examples such as calling patients at home to check on them.

Urban, a former residency program director and now the student clerkship director, is known for being well-liked by the medical students, residents and patients, evidenced by the numerous awards he's received.

The donation to establish a professorship bearing his name demonstrates how Urban's "personal touch" has made a difference, Woodburn says. "An endowed professorship made in one's name reflects the recipient's worthy accomplishments and dedication to a particular area of interest. This endowed professorship will be used so the chair holder can give the highest priority to teaching the very practices spearheaded by Dr. Urban."

The Dr. Steve Urban Endowed Professorship moved even closer to its fundraising goals when School of Medicine Dean Steve Berk, M.D., designated funds for a matching gift from the School of Medicine at Amarillo. The fund now needs \$200,000 to establish the endowed chair.

For more information or to make a contribution to the Dr. Steve Urban Endowed Professorship, contact Christen Scivally Woodburn at (806) 354-5546 or mail contributions to TTUHSC, School of Medicine, Development Department, 1400 Coulter, Amarillo, Texas 79106. —Cinda Courtney

**CHAMPION OF HOPE** :: The Panhandle Division of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society presented its 2006 MS Hope Award to School of Medicine Dean Steven Berk, M.D., during the organization's annual Dinner of Champions held in September. Friends and colleagues were on hand to congratulate Berk, including state Rep. David Swinford. The Hope Award recognizes individuals and corporations that make a difference in communities throughout the nation. Berk's contributions to the Amarillo community include expansion of the School of Medicine at Amarillo and its collaborative efforts. He also has served on several community boards and foundations.



**C**hef La La, a.k.a. Laura Diaz Brown, a certified nutritionist and nationally known celebrity chef, was the keynote speaker at the second annual "Hablando de la Salud de la Mujer," or Speaking of Women's Health event held in September. The sold-out crowd of 525 reveled in a pampered environment while learning about timely health care issues. Event sponsors were TTUHSC Women's Health Research Institute of Amarillo, TTUHSC offices of the President and Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Northwest Texas Healthcare System and national and local supporters.





## FOUNDING DEAN NAMED FOR SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT EL PASO ::

Robert M. Suskind, M.D., has been appointed founding dean of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso School of Medicine. He began his duties on Oct. 16.

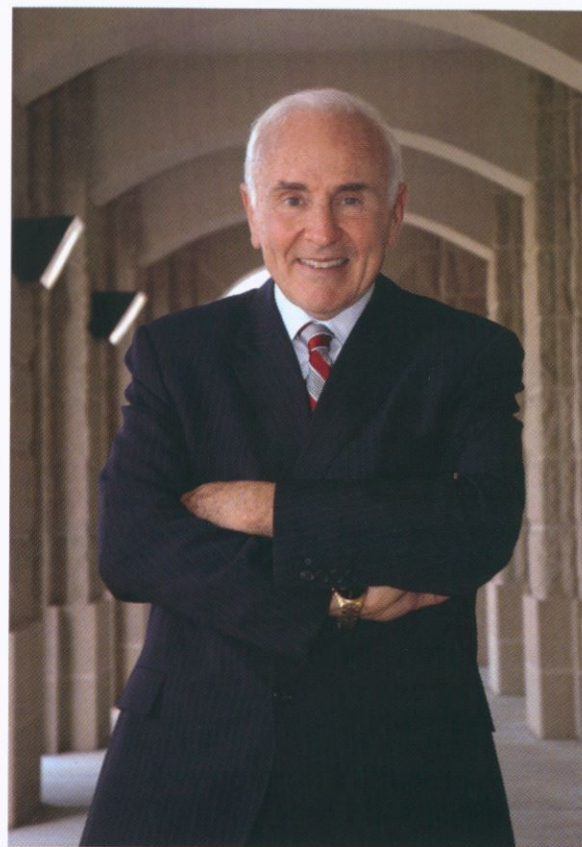
His responsibilities will include developing a four-year accredited medical school from the present two-year regional school. Suskind will also oversee development of a new and innovative medical curriculum, research centers of excellence, recruitment of additional departmental chairs, and a teaching and research faculty.

"Suskind will serve a vital role in establishing the first four-year medical school on the U.S.-Mexico border. His medical education background as well as his past leadership at prestigious schools in this country will help lead us to the next phase of growth," said TTUHSC Interim President Bernhard T. Mitemeyer, M.D.

Previously, Suskind served as a tenured professor of pediatrics at Chicago Medical School. He has also served as dean of the school. Suskind is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed his pediatric training at Johns Hopkins Medicine. He also has a postdoctoral degree in tropical medicine from the University of Dakar, Africa.

Suskind said he is honored and excited to have this opportunity. "The need for more good medical care, which is true throughout our country, is even greater in West Texas and for the Mexican border communities that the El Paso campus serves," Suskind says. "With the completion of the new (four-year) medical school, we can give future medical students the opportunity to become qualified physicians for this community."

Suskind and his wife, Leslie, have four children.



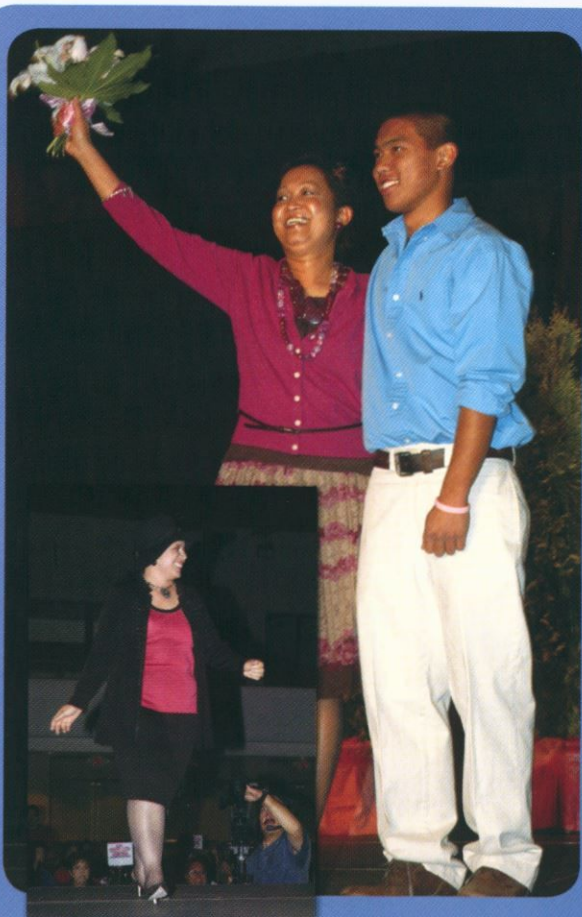
NATI PEREZ



*Chris Powers, M.D., and Chris and Cindy Mott enjoy pregame festivities at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso before the Texas Tech vs. University of Texas at El Paso game on Sept. 9. Powers (SOM '98) is a faculty member at TTUHSC at El Paso and chair of the Medical Gifts Team for the Infinity Campaign. Chris Mott serves as chair of the TTU Alumni Team for the Infinity Campaign.*

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso's University Breast Care Center (UBCC) recently raised more than \$200,000 at its annual Celebrate Life luncheon and fashion show. Breast cancer survivors Chona Macatangay, shown with her son, Matt, and Sandra Dominguez, were among those modeling fashions. Edward Saltzstein, M.D., professor of surgery at TTUHSC at El Paso and medical director of the UBCC since its inception in 1994, was the guest speaker.

The UBCC provides evaluation and treatment of breast disease, health education and continuing research to eradicate breast disease. The Mobile Mammography Van takes screening to schools and community centers. The UBCC diagnoses and treats more than one-third of all breast cancer patients in El Paso. The target population of the UBCC is the medically underserved women of El Paso.



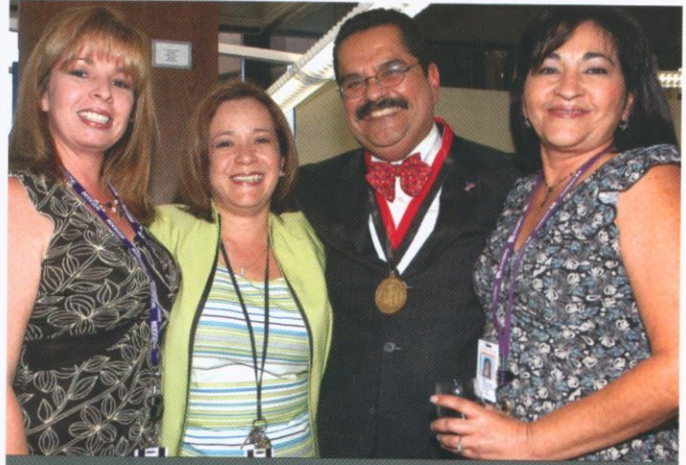




Texas Rural Health Association recognizes Jim Hastings, center, for his contributions in rural health. Pictured with Hastings are his daughter, Emily Hastings and TRHA board member Jerry Carbajal.

**HASTINGS HONORED FOR RURAL HEALTH WORK ::** The Texas Rural Health Association recently presented its 2006 Marion Zetzman Award to Jim Hastings, associate director of the Office of Border Health.

Hastings was recognized for his work with border and rural communities in development of emergency care infrastructure, continuing education opportunities for rural health professionals and assistance with development of community health worker programs.



**F**aculty, staff and community members were on hand at a reception held in October to acknowledge El Paso School of Medicine Regional Dean Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., for 10 years of dedicated service. Pictured with de la Rosa are Debbie Davila, Patty Martinez and Margie Martinez.

**CAMPAIGN UPDATE ::** Rallied



around the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the El Paso community

has raised more than \$16 million for the Infinity Campaign in support of the El Paso School of Medicine. The school would be the first four-year medical school along the U.S.–Mexico border and is expected to improve the local economy by \$1.31 billion in the next 10 years.

A four-year medical school at El Paso will also fill a niche in border and Hispanic health by leading research that will have a huge impact on the nation by contributing to literature dealing with Hispanics and diseases that affect the El Paso area – diabetes, obesity and depression.

*Signing the final beams to be put in place on the Medical Education Building I marks a pivotal stage in construction of the second building for the El Paso School of Medicine. Manuel Schydlower, M.D., assistant dean for medical education, was among the TTUHSC administrators and community and state leaders to add his signature.*







Mary McCrary, Gregory W. Schrimsher, PH.D., and Giles McCrary Jr.

**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.

**S**tephanie 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.



**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 40<sup>th</sup> 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.



## DEAN GREEN APPOINTED TO STATE HEALTH COUNCIL ::



School of Nursing  
Dean Alexia Green, PH.D., has been appointed to serve on the Texas Health Care Policy Council.

The council, composed of designees from various state agencies and systems of higher education, advises state leaders on flaws, gaps, inefficiencies or problems in the Texas health care system. Green is the only nurse on the council.

Green says she plans to advocate for strategies that focus on health promotion, health maintenance and disease prevention.



Houston-area School of Medicine alumni hosted a reception Sept. 12 at the Parador for applicants to the school. Alumni, School of Medicine Dean Steve Berk, M.D., and Bernell Dalley, PH.D., associate dean, Admissions and Student Affairs, were on hand to answer questions and provide information about the school and the admissions process. Alumni in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex sponsored a reception on Oct. 19 at the Four Seasons for applicants in that area.



First-year medical student Doug Ruhl gets a good look at his new scrubs with help from his wife, Sara Ruhl, at the annual Scrub Party. The event, hosted by School of Medicine alumni, Brad Snodgrass, M.D., (SOM '88) and Priscilla Carter-Snodgrass, M.D., (SOM '88) culminates a week-long orientation for first-year medical students. Approximately 200 people attended, including alumni, faculty, students and their families.



KEN PORTER PHOTOGRAPHY



**M**embers from the Class of 2010 celebrate following the School of Medicine's annual White Coat Ceremony held in August. The event is to recognize the students' transition into the medical community and the responsibilities such a position holds. These students from the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex have been corresponding with each other since they were accepted to medical school.

BACK ROW Kevin Barnes, Jared Heathman, Jarod Roland; FRONT ROW Marianne Ebrahim, Jessica Baima, Amy Lay

**W**ith funding from the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, Sid O'Bryant, Ph.D., (pictured) will lead a multidisciplinary team from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to study aging in a rural setting, with a focus on Cochran County. As part of the grant, the team will also conduct outreach workshops for residents in that county. "Most studies that look at aging are done in urban areas; there is very little information available on the prevalence rates of Alzheimer's in rural America and the effects of environmental, biological and cultural variables that influence aging and cognitive thinking," says O'Bryant, associate professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.



## SOAHS STUDENTS ACHIEVE 100 PERCENT FIRST-TIME PASS RATE ON EXAM

**ALL** students in the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology programs taking the Praxis National Exam this spring passed on their first attempt. Students must pass the Praxis to acquire national certification and Texas licensure.

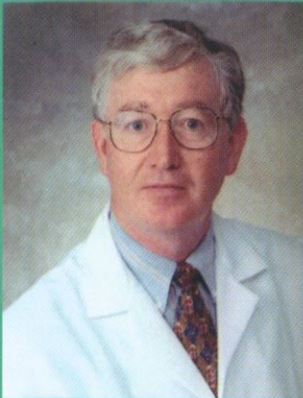
"While a 100 percent pass rate is standard for TTUHSC students, most years a handful will have to take the exam more than once to pass so we're very pleased that everyone in this class passed the first time," says Sherry Sancibrian, M.S., CCC-SLP, program director of Speech-Language Pathology.

The Audiology program boasts a 100 percent first-time pass rate four out of the past five years, says Candace Hicks, Ph.D., CCC-A, program director.

Also, TTUHSC students won, for the third time in six years, the College Bowl at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association's annual convention. The event is a competition among students in speech-language-hearing programs based on questions from previous Praxis exams.



## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NAMES NEW REGIONAL DEAN



John Christopher Jennings, M.D., has been named regional dean for the School of Medicine at the Permian Basin.

However, he is no stranger to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. From 1999 to 2002, Jennings served as professor, regional chair and residency program director for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in

the School of Medicine at Amarillo and was on staff at Northwest Texas Hospital and Baptist Saint Anthony.

"We are pleased that Dr. Jennings has joined us at the Permian Basin," says School of Medicine Dean Steven Berk, M.D. "He has great academic qualities and is well-respected by students and residents."

Jennings comes to TTUHSC from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he served as professor and residency program director for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Prior to entering academic medicine, Jennings had a successful private practice for 12 years and served as a General Medical Officer Security Service Command for the U.S. Air Force.

Jennings earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and completed his residency training in obstetrics and gynecology from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center at Memphis. He completed an internship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Jennings serves as the editorial chairman for Texas Medicine and is a fellow and vice chair of the Texas Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

### NEW CHAIR TO EXPAND PERMIAN BASIN OBSTETRICS/ GYNECOLOGY

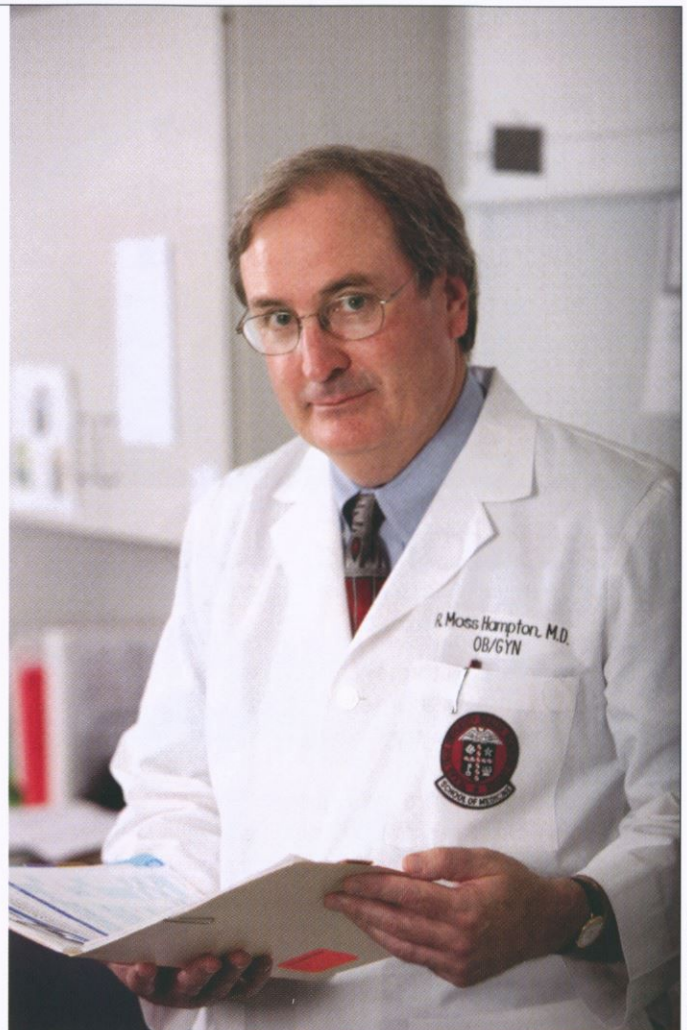
Although new to the Permian Basin, R. Moss Hampton, M.D., (SOM '80 and '84 completing resident) is no stranger to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The newly appointed chairman of the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology at the Permian Basin served on the Amarillo School of Medicine faculty for 10 years. His 22 years of experience in women's health and research will enrich this robust and growing department.

With an eye on the future, Hampton and the faculty at the Permian Basin have expanded their practices to Tanglewood, located in northeast Odessa. This area of Odessa is presently experiencing a high population growth rate, and the department saw a definite need for more services to the residents there. "We saw an opportunity to expand our clinic operations to reach out to our patients by being more accessible," said Hampton. In addition, the department has major clinical sites in Odessa and will be expanding in Midland later next year.

This proactive move will give patients easier access to the department's many services which include: high-risk pregnancy and genetic counseling; level III ultrasound; and infertility and gynecologic oncology. This expansion will also give faculty an opportunity to expand their patient practice.

Hampton and other faculty physicians began seeing patients at the new location Aug. 1. Administrative offices will remain at the TTUHSC at the Permian Basin campus and faculty will continue to supervise resident physicians.

"We will continue to provide a quality higher education to our residents, prepare our faculty to accommodate third- and fourth-year medical students, and we will be an integral piece in establishing and growing our patient practice with the upcoming Midland clinical expansion," says Hampton. —Linda Jones



NEAL HINKLE



# alumni

ROUNDS

## HBO DOCUMENTARY FEATURES FORMER ORTHOPAEDICS RESIDENT ::

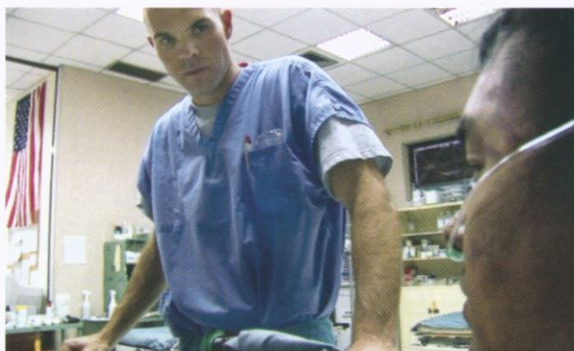
Merritt Pember, M.D., spent part of his 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday in a mortar shelter -- just another day on the job for a surgeon serving in Iraq. That was the focus of "Baghdad ER," a documentary that HBO aired in June featuring Pember and other health professionals at the 86<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital in the Green Zone of Baghdad. This documentary was released on DVD in August.

Pember, who completed his residency in orthopaedics at the School of Medicine in 2004, joined the Army in 1995 to help pay for medical school. Following the completion of his residency he was deployed to Iraq where he served six months as an orthopaedic surgeon in several hospitals around the country. HBO film crews spent two months at the hospital trying to best tell the story of the men and women saving lives there and the patients they treated.

"I'm proud to have served, and I'm extremely impressed with our soldiers' commitment -- it's a story that should be told," Pember says.

Although nothing could have completely prepared him for Iraq, Pember says the principles and skills he gained at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center were essential to treating the traumas of war.

Pember returned from Iraq in October 2005 and is currently serving at Fort Hood, where he treats the soldiers and their families stationed at the base as well as those soldiers returning from deployment. *—Rebecca Hardin*



St. Luke's Community Center at The Woodlands named Jorge Zeballos, M.D., Physician of the Year. Debbie Sukin, vice president and CEO presented the award to Zeballos (*SOM '98 and '01 completing resident*), an emergency department physician. Zeballos' father, R. Jorge Zeballos, M.D., MSc, is a retired faculty member of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso.



## Reunion 2006

**T**exas Tech University Health Sciences Center alumni joined Interim President Bernhard T. Mitemmeyer, M.D., and School of Nursing Dean Alexia Green, Ph.D., at the Hackberry Creek Country Club in Irving on September 23.

The diverse group from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the schools of Allied Health Sciences, Nursing and Pharmacy reminisced about their days at TTUHSC and enjoyed the company of fellow Red Raiders for the evening. Mitemmeyer shared news from the university with the graduates and encouraged them to join in the festivities in 2007 as the reunion returns to Lubbock.



## NEW LAB TO OFFER RESULTS ONLINE ::

Ann Kelly, M.S., M.T. (ASCP), CLS (MB), has opened her own molecular pathology lab, AK Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory, LLC, in

Waco, Texas. The lab will feature online access to test results, a service few labs offer, she says.

Molecular testing in Texas is primarily outsourced to other states and the turnaround time can be up to two weeks, Kelly says. The planned system in her lab will allow health care providers to access reports within minutes of verification of results.

Kelly (*SOAHS '03*) was chief of Molecular Pathology at Scott and White Memorial Hospital until June. Under her leadership, the lab was instrumental in the hospital's recognition by Navigant Consulting as one of the top five hospitals in the country. Kelly was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumni in 2005 for the School of Allied Health Sciences Department of Laboratory Sciences and Primary Care.

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**EDDIE MERCADO**  
PHARM D  
SOP '06

## KIDS, RX & THE ER

**EDDIE MERCADO, PHARM.D.**, has been hugging his 4-year-old son a little tighter each night since he started his job in June at Children's Medical Center in Dallas as an emergency room clinical pharmacist.

"Working with children is by far the most rewarding position I've been in," Mercado says. "In this environment you see everything from broken bones to heart attacks to open skulls. It makes you value the health of your own children that much more."

His role in making the lives of sick children better motivates Mercado to perform at his best. "The very young haven't yet been able to live their lives," he says. "I'm able to help them have a life."

At Children's, emergency room pharmacists play a critical role in treatment. Decisions on medications must be made cooperatively between physicians and pharmacists. This practice is rare among positions in the field, Mercado says.

He credits the School of Pharmacy and its faculty for helping him prepare for his job.

"I received great training from Texas Tech," Mercado says. "My professors were extremely dedicated professionals. They were very good at creating an academic environment that made me really want to learn more." *Michael Castellon*



**ROLAND RAMIREZ**  
MPT, MAT  
SOAHS '04, '05

## TRAINING THE TITANS

After a year as an athletic trainer for the Tennessee Titans, **ROLAND RAMIREZ**, MPT, MAT, is beginning to feel more at ease around the players. "The first day I walked into the training room I was like, 'Oh man, there's Keith Bullock and Steve McNair.' It was such a phenomenal experience and feeling; it was hard not to ask for an autograph.

"Now, it's amazing to think this is my normal job. I just feel very blessed to be part of this."

Ramirez says it's humbling to have the responsibility of caring for multimillion dollar players but rewarding to have his dream come true. A former Texas Tech Red Raider and an avid sports fan, Ramirez longed to work in a sports environment and somehow couple with a desire to pursue a career in physical therapy.

"Growing up playing ball, I was always intrigued by the trainers," he said. "If you got injured they were there to take care of you and get you back in the game."

Through a dual-degree master's program offered by the School of Allied Health Sciences, Ramirez says he was able to accomplish his dream.

"Texas Tech (University Health Sciences Center) has a top-notch program and one of the few if not the only one like it that offers what the university and professional level are looking for when hiring for their sports medicine programs," Ramirez says. "The trend among these organizations is to hire someone with dual credentials in physical therapy and athletic training because of the knowledge base for rehabilitation as well as on-site field evaluations."

Having the dual degree was vital to securing a job with the Titans, Ramirez says. "Because of my educational background, I came into this profession with some great credentials, and I've gained valuable skills through my association with the trainers here who have an incredible amount of experience." *Danette Baker*



**CHRIS POWERS**MD  
SOM '02**FROM COURTROOM TO DELIVERY ROOM**

**CHRIS POWERS, M.D.**, is living the American dream in its truest form, thanks to the support of his wife and children. An accomplished lawyer and partner in an El Paso law firm, Powers decided at 39 to relinquish his partnership and pursue a dream of becoming a doctor.

While continuing to practice law, Powers enrolled at the University of Texas at El Paso where he worked on the prerequisites he needed to apply for medical school. A non-traditional student in his late 30s, Powers still had many courses to complete at UTEP and had yet to take the MCAT, but was encouraged to apply for medical school by Jim Chappell, M.D., then dean of Student Affairs for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Powers took the MCAT, submitted his application, and was admitted to the Class of 1998. That summer he moved his family to Lubbock.

When it came time for residency, Powers had initially narrowed his choices to those programs with the shortest training times in an effort to ease complications for his family. As he began rotations, Powers, a father himself, discovered his love for life was best suited in the delivery room.

Peggy Powers once again supported her husband and the family moved to Connecticut for a four-year Ob/Gyn residency program. After a year, the family realized that TTUHSC at El Paso was the best place for them and returned there for Powers to finish residency. Powers is currently practicing medicine in El Paso.

"The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and Thomason Hospital are very special places to work," says Powers. "It is an unbelievably collegial atmosphere where virtually everybody gets along well with everybody else, united in the goal of providing great health care." *Rebecca Hardin*



**VICKI Y. JOHNSON**PHD, RN, CUCNS  
SON '84, '90**BEST OF BOTH WORLDS**

VICKI Y. JOHNSON, PH.D., R.N., CUCNS, says she is in a position that gives her the best of both worlds.

"I help to ensure the integrity and quality of nursing care through teaching and research, and I continue to advance my own knowledge and clinical expertise through education and service," she says. "I can't see myself ever not learning, and I enjoy taking care of people – that's something that never gets out of your system."

After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Nursing, Johnson continued her education earning her doctorate from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center School of Biomedical Sciences in San Antonio. Hers was the first doctoral degree conferred from a collaborative program between TTUHSC School of Nursing and UTHSC.

"The (Texas Tech University) Health Sciences Center was a great choice for me," says Johnson. "I was aware of the school's impressive reputation, and I knew many of the faculty and thought highly of them. I lived in Lubbock at the time, so convenience was a big factor, too."

Johnson served on TTUHSC School of Nursing faculty from 1991 to 1999, when she moved to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing. She now teaches Community Health Nursing at UAB and is continuing her education as a post-graduate student in the school's Adult Nurse Practitioner Program.

While at UAB, Johnson has helped invent several devices, including an intravaginal radiofrequency imaging device for which she, co-inventors and the UAB Research Foundation hold a patent. The device is designed to provide a 360-degree view of a patient's pelvic floor using MRI technology. Johnson also has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Nursing Research to study the function and structure of the pelvic floor muscles using the imaging device. **Scott Slemmons**



**REBIN TITUS**MS, MD  
GSBS '03**FULFILLING A NEED**

**REBIN TITUS**, M.S., M.D. moved more than 8,000 miles across the globe to attend graduate school.

Titus, a physician in Bombay, India, population 18 million, was looking for a place to obtain his master's degree in physiology. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences offered him a scholarship so he and his wife moved to Lubbock.

Titus completed his master's degree in 2003; two years later he passed the required Step Exams, obtained a license to practice medicine in the United States, and began a clinical residency at TTUHSC.

"Lubbock and Texas Tech are among the best things that have ever happened to me," Titus says. "People there are the best, the facilities and equipment are comparable to anywhere else in the country, and above all, our son was born there."

One of Titus' goals in life has now led him down a different path. He wants to incorporate basic science research into his clinical practice. Titus transferred in June to the University of South Carolina in Columbia to begin a residency in internal medicine where he hopes to obtain experience in the research and clinical aspects of a medical practice. He plans to continue his training by seeking a fellowship upon completion of his residency.

"I made many friends in Lubbock that have now become a part of my family," he says. "I will always cherish the time that I spent there. Who knows, maybe I will return someday." *Rebecca Hardin*



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# 20/20 Love

BY AVERY RUSH, M.D.



MISTY SUTTON

**M**y choice of a career in medicine holds no inspiring stories. Actually, I wanted to be a professional tennis player, but my parents weren't completely on board with that. So instead, I followed the lead of my best friend and tennis partner in college – and got accepted to medical school at Baylor College of Medicine. I went through medical school not particularly liking any part of it until I got to ophthalmology. Then it was love at first sight!

Twenty-six years ago, I moved home to Amarillo bringing with me my wife and three of our four children; we also have a daughter who was born after the move. During the past two decades, I've had the privilege to interface with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center both personally and professionally.

When each of the boys decided to attend medical school, I encouraged them to look at TTUHSC because I have seen firsthand the

caliber of students who train here. As an assistant clinical professor for the past 20 years, I've worked with about 100 residents from the School of Medicine. I'm proud that two of my sons, Jave and Ryan, received their medical degrees from TTUHSC, and their brother, Sloan, completed an internal medicine

residency at TTUHSC at Amarillo and is now in Lubbock for his ophthalmology residency.

TTUHSC has brought a significant level of influence to the Amarillo community as well as to the other communities in which we serve. From an economic standpoint, the institution provides jobs for various health professionals as well as opportunities for young doctors to train and establish practices. TTUHSC also fills a gap in health care services, particularly at the tertiary level providing sub-specialty care not available in the private community.

Future possibilities for TTUHSC exist to expand medical care and research, which will in turn bring more jobs, more interest in and more prestige to the school. The Women's Health Research Institute at Amarillo is a recent example. Developed under the leadership of former School of Medicine Regional Dean Steven Berk, M.D., the institute creates an opportunity to elevate TTUHSC at Amarillo in the area of women's health. Opportunities such as this exist in all schools on all campuses.

As a physician, a parent of two former students, and as a member of the Texas Tech Foundation Board, I feel a responsibility to advance TTUHSC – in allied health sciences, nursing, pharmacy, medicine and research. We have excellent teachers, excellent students and excellent health professionals. Now is the time to develop excellence in research. By doing so, we'll create an environment where we're not only teaching students based on research that someone's read about, but instead on advancements in knowledge that we have discovered. **P**

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*Avery Rush, M.D., serves on the Texas Tech Foundation Board. He is also co-founder of the Panhandle Eye Group in Amarillo.*



# award-winning collection

James Watkins' *Plays*, consisting of 36 ceramic tiles, and Elmer Schooley's oil painting *In the Gloaming* and *Summer Shimmer* are among the pieces in Texas Tech University Public Art Collection and Program selected as one of the top 10 university public art collections in the nation by Public Art Review, a national journal exploring public art.

Watkin's work hangs in the F. Marie Hall Synergistic Center, and Schooley's painting hang on the first and second floors in the Academic Classroom Building.



**IN THE GLOAMING  
BY ELMER SCHOOLEY**

In the spring, architectural art glass and a suspended sculpture, both by artist Shan Shan Sheng, will be added to the collection. The pieces, which are based on DNA strands, will be located in the Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion, currently under construction.

TTU's public art program was started by the Board of Regents in 1998 to enliven the campus environment. One percent of the estimated total cost of each new capital project of \$500,000 is set aside for artwork and for landscape.

To learn more about the collection, you can download a brochure at [www.fpc.ttu.edu/pub\\_files/upac\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.fpc.ttu.edu/pub_files/upac_brochure.pdf) or contact Cecilia Carter Browne, public art manager for the TTU System, at (806) 742-2116.



Early 20<sup>th</sup> century pharmacy bottles line shelves in the Texas Pharmacy Museum, located in the School of Pharmacy in Amarillo. There are more than 10,000 items in the museum representing the history of pharmacy since 1860. The museum, which specializes in the collection, preservation, research and exhibition of pharmacy history, is the first of its kind in Texas and has an integral part in the school's curriculum serving as a laboratory and classroom for pharmacy students. It opened in 1998 with a private collection donated by Billy Walker, a retired drug company representative and avid collector of pharmacy antiques. To date, more than \$800,000 worth of antiques from Texas to California have been donated from private collections to the five-room museum.

Guided tours take place between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays, or by appointment. Admission is free.

To learn more visit <http://www.ttuhsoc.edu/sop/prospective/visitors/museum.aspx>.



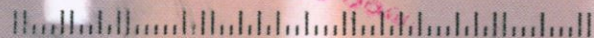
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