

Campus Connection Friday, September 5, 2008

Your biweekly source of news on UNTHSC people, plans and progress.

UNTHSC shatters records in 2008

By President Scott Ransom

It's been a great year! First of all, I'd like to say thanks again to the entire Health Science Center family for your hard work and dedication over the past year. Without you, we wouldn't be where we are today. And thank you all for taking part in Employee Appreciation Day last week. We all had a great time.

Michael Phelps wasn't the only one breaking records in 2008. We've come a long way and I am extremely excited about the organizational records we've set in just the past several years.

Here's a look at what we've accomplished:

People growth:

- Increased from just over 1,000 to over 1,200 students in two years
- Grew faculty from just over 200 to nearly 400 in two years
- Achieved the nation's highest COMLEX scores three years running

UNT Health growth:

- Increased patient encounters from 225,000 to 600,000 in the past two years
- Grew clinical revenue 2.5 times in just 2 years
- Built highest profitability in the practice plan's history, allowing us to provide the largest-ever UNT Health bonus pool
- Increased practice plan cash reserves from just over 1 week to 9.5 weeks in the past two years.

Fundraising growth:

- Grew alumni donations from just 9 participating alumni to an institution record of 580 alumni contributors
- Raised more than \$6 million, up from just over \$1 million three years ago
- Increased number of employees contributing to the HSC, now over 800 – a new record!

Growth in financial stability:

- Built more than 11 weeks of cash reserve for the institution, up five-fold from two years ago.

Growth in partnerships:

- Formalized collaboration with Cook Children's Medical Network
- Increased existing relationship with JPS Health Network
- Developed a new Institute for Cancer and Blood Disorders with The Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders

Research growth:

- Grew to more than \$30 million of extramural funding, a three-fold increase over the last decade

New program growth:

- Created new department of physical therapy: classes expected to begin in the fall 2010
- Instituted new master's degree programs in health administration and laboratory sciences
- Established PhD programs in biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences

Powerful as these results are, they're only the beginning. Five years from now, our greater capacity will allow us to reach entirely new levels of success. We've created a five-year plan to guide us along the way. It was developed through a collaborative effort that included the entire campus family, as well as alumni and community leaders.

Here are some of our plans for the next five years:

- Double the number of students and faculty members in each school for a total of 2000 students and 600 faculty
- Complete Phase 1 of the Master Facility Plan and starting with the 112,000 square foot Building A this fall
- Triple private fundraising revenue
- Become a new destination point for the Forth Worth Cultural District
- Become a national leader in primary care academics, delivery and research
- Be the undisputed home for groundbreaking Alzheimer's treatment and research
- Be Tarrant County's preferred multi-specialty healthcare provider

Our five-year plan was presented to and approved by the Board of Regents on August 21. [Download the full Five-Year Strategy Plan here.](#)

As we build the capacity to excel, we're also building momentum to redefine the future of health care in our community through excellence in academics, research and clinical care.

I believe we can accomplish these things. We cannot put a limit on anything. The more we dream, the farther we get. So I hope you will join me in dreaming BIG. And watch as our results match our dreams!

Dr. Yorio named Provost

Thomas Yorio, PhD, executive vice president for Academic Affairs and Research, has been named provost of the UNT Health Science Center. Dr. Yorio will serve as chief academic officer for the Health Science Center and will provide overall direction for all academic programs and research.

As provost, Dr. Yorio will also promote the coordination of schools, key programs and initiatives across campus and will foster effective communication to ensure that academic and research initiatives fully support the Health Science Center's strategic plan.

Since joining the Health Science Center in 1977, Dr. Yorio has held several positions including professor of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, founding dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and interim dean of the School of Public Health.

New faculty join SPH

Six new faculty members joined the School of Public Health this summer to support its growing programs and research. Among the additions are four senior members who will serve in administrative and teaching roles. Along with experience, the new faculty members bring strong existing research that will support the Health Science Center's research areas, especially with regard to the reduction of health disparities among minority groups.

Elena B. Bastida, PhD, associate dean for research, and professor and interim chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Prior to joining the UNT Health Science Center, Dr. Bastida was professor and former chair of sociology at the University of Texas Pan American at Edinburg, Texas, where she led its National Institutes of Health SCORE Program and its Center on Aging and Health. She has recently received a \$2.3 million grant from the National Center for Health Disparities and Minority Health to reduce the prevalence of diabetes among Hispanics in the Texas border region. She also has held teaching and research positions at Wichita State University at Wichita, Kan., the University of Kansas at Lawrence, the University of Missouri at Kansas City and Kansas State University at Manhattan, Kan. She holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

Christine A. Moranetz, PhD, associate dean for curricular enhancement and associate professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Moranetz comes to the Health Science Center from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, in Kansas City and Wichita, Kan., where she served as adjunct associate professor of family medicine and preventive medicine and public health, and director of special projects. She also served on the university's advisory board for the Community Health Project – a public health internship program for health professions students -- and co-directed an HIV/AIDS prevention program. She earned her PhD in education/exercise physiology and nutrition from the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

David A. Sterling, PhD, chair of Environmental and Occupational Health and professor of Environmental and Occupational Health

As professor and division director of Environmental and Occupational Health at Saint Louis University School of Public Health in St. Louis, Mo., Dr. Sterling earned a reputation as a principal investigator on projects related to air quality and disease. He also served as co-investigator of the Centers for Disease Control-funded Controlling Asthma in American Cities project in St. Louis, a \$4.5 million investigation of asthma prevention in St. Louis children. In addition, Dr. Sterling is a lead investigator studying the effects of lead mining on the health of residents in Peru's mountainous regions.

Carlos Reyes-Ortiz, MD, PhD, associate professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Reyes-Ortiz served as researcher at the Sealy Center on Aging and as assistant professor of Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Prior to that he was assistant professor of Family Medicine at Valle University in Cali, Colombia, and served as geriatrician and physician in various locations in Columbia. Dr. Reyes-Ortiz earned his MD from Valle University at Cali, Colombia, and his PhD in Preventive Medicine and Community Health from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Subhash Aryal, PhD, assistant professor of Biostatistics

Dr. Aryal has served as instructor and research assistant of Biostatistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he also earned his PhD in Biostatistics. At the conclusion of his studies, he was selected as the outstanding student in Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Illinois School of Public Health.

Hsueh-Fen Chen, PhD, assistant professor of Health Management and Policy

Dr. Chen comes to UNT Health Science Center after serving as an instructor and research assistant at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., where she earned her PhD in health administration. Her research focused on how hospital finances affect quality of care.

TCOM named top school for Hispanic students

For the third time in four years, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) has been named a top medical school for Hispanic students by *Hispanic Business Magazine*. TCOM ranked 12th out of the 155 MD and DO schools in the nation. The magazine ranks medical schools annually based on the quality of its academic programs, its commitment to diversity and the success of its graduates. To see the list, visit the [Hispanic Business Magazine](#) online.

Parking FAQs

Parking on campus has been a hot topic lately. In fact, Dr. Ransom received several questions about parking prior to last week's Town Hall meetings and addressed the issue with staff and faculty. If you missed the Town Halls, here are some frequently asked questions and answers about parking on campus.

Why has the East Parking Garage been so crowded lately?

- We're growing! Our faculty population has doubled over the past couple of years and our student population continues to increase.
- We've had lots of new students on campus for orientation. Once the new students settle into their regular schedules, more spaces in the East Garage should be available.
- Since Lot B was closed for demolition at the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas (OMCT) site, more people are using the East Garage.

Why are the gates sometimes up in the East Parking Garage?

- Parking regulations are enforced from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.
- The gates are usually left open until 8:30 am to accommodate the volume of traffic without causing a backup into the street.
- Occasionally the gate arms are up due to maintenance or card reading issues.
- The East Garage is also occasionally left open to accommodate overflow visitor parking during campus events.

Do the HSC Police give tickets for parking in the garage without a permit?

- Parking enforcement is up dramatically. However, HSC Police try to keep our campus open and “user friendly” to welcome visitors.

Where can I park when the East Garage is full?

- Several lots around campus are reserved for general parking. For the full list of parking lots, check the [HSC Police Web site](#) or [this parking map](#).
- There are 250 spaces available for general parking in Lot M at Haskell and Mattison Streets. There are always more than enough open spaces there, and it's only one block from campus.

When will the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas (OMCT) parking garage at Montgomery and Mattison Streets open?

- The garage first needs improvements to bring it up to code. It will open when construction of Building A is complete, probably in January 2010. When the garage opens, about 200 more spaces will be available.

More questions about parking? Visit the parking section of the [HSC Police Department Web site](#).

NEWS BRIEFS

Reminder: White Coat next week

New Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) and Physician Assistant Studies students will be welcomed into the medical profession at TCOM's annual White Coat Ceremony next week. The event will be held Friday, Sept. 12, at 2 pm at Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium. Dr. Kathleen Forbes, president of UNT Health and executive vice president for Clinical Affairs and Business Development, will present the keynote address. Amir Barzin, TCOM Class of '12 president, will give remarks on behalf of the new students. This year the Health Science Center also will present two of its most prestigious awards. Dr. Mark Baker, president of North Texas Radiology (TCOM '76), will receive the TCOM Founders' Medal. Dr. T. Eugene Zachary, emeritus

TCOM dean and professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, will receive the Mary E. Luibel Distinguished Service Award.

Code of Ethics training now online

Employees can now complete required [Code of Ethics training online](#). You can find the “Code of Ethics 2008” link on the UNTHSC Intranet under “Online Training.” All faculty and staff are asked to complete the training by the Oct. 15, 2008 deadline. If you don’t have access to a computer, contact Human Resource Services or the Institutional Compliance Office. For more information, contact Vanessa Williams in Institutional Compliance at ext. 0131.

Chalk and Talk seminar features Dr. Uht

The Office of Research’s next Chalk and Talk seminar and social is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 4:30 to 6 pm in EAD 706. Dr. Rosalie Uht, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, will present her research into understanding the molecular mechanisms by which steroid hormones influence stress responses. Dr. Uht is also helping establish UNTHSC’s brain bank to collect and study brain tissue. A social will follow Dr. Uht’s seminar. RSVP for Chalk and Talk to [Bonnie Smith](#) in the Office of Research.

Registration open for 2008 DO Dash

The annual DO Dash 5k and 1k walk/run and Health Fair is set for 8 am on Saturday, Oct. 25 at UNTHSC. Register online at the [Fort Worth Running Company Web site](#) or at 7 am on the day of the race. The event features a carb-loading dinner on Friday, Oct. 24, and a health fair and Halloween carnival on the day of the race. The race is organized by the TCOM Class of 2011 and benefits the [Cancer Education and Research Foundation of Texas](#). Get all the details at the [DO Dash 2008 Web site](#) or contact dodash@hsc.unt.edu.

UNTHSC logo wear available online

A new site, sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs, offers a variety of UNTHSC logo gear to support student scholarships. Visit the [Public Identity site](#) for UNTHSC t-shirts, caps and polos. All items ship straight to you, and all proceeds benefit scholarships for UNTHSC students.

Patient education seminar on diabetes next week

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is hosting a patient education seminar on Monday, Sept. 8 at 6 pm in Everett Hall. The event is part of a monthly seminar series, which focuses on diseases affecting the community and how to manage those diseases. This month’s topic: “Type 2 diabetes: What else can you do?” For more information on the seminars contact [Amaya De La Garza](#), TCOM ’11.

IN THE NEWS

President presents Five-Year Strategy

[The Fort Worth Business Press](#) featured President Scott Ransom’s presentation of the UNT Health Science Center’s five-year strategy to the UNT System Board of Regents, noting plans to

grow the institution's student numbers, grant funding and facilities. The article included a chart of the Health Science Center's projected growth in the next five years, outlining total student numbers for each school as well as the percentage increase in enrollment.

Brenner speaks on health in Newsweek

Dr. Harvey Brenner, professor of social and behavioral sciences in the School of Public Health, was quoted in an August [Newsweek](#) article focused on the effect of today's weak economy on the nation's health. Dr. Brenner stated that the 1 percent increase in unemployment could lead to serious health repercussions in the U.S., including an increase in the number of deaths and heart attacks. He noted that if unemployment continues to increase, so will the number of deaths, including suicides and heart attacks, as well as other health issues.

Cowtown/Health Science Center announce partnership

[Runner Triathlete News](#) and the *Star-Telegram* published an announcement that the Health Science Center is now the title sponsor of the annual Cowtown marathon. The new partnership begins this year and solidly links the Cowtown with the place where it got its start in 1979 when Dr. Bob Kaman, associate dean and director of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at UNTHSC, founded the event.

Physicians challenged to deal with their own problems

The [Fort Worth Business Press](#) examined the stress of life as a physician, and the Health Science Center's Dr. Alan Podawiltz, chair of Psychiatry, commented on the sources of stress for physicians as well as tools to help doctors cope.

TECH Fort Worth featured by NBIA

The *National Business Incubator Association Review* included a profile of TECH Fort Worth's Acceleration Lab, housed here on the Health Science Center campus. The NBIA also announced that TECH Fort Worth will be featured in the upcoming revised book, "Incubator Best Practices," due for release in a few months. Five of TECH Fort Worth's practices will be featured in the book.

HR UPDATE

New background check procedure

To increase the reliability and scope of the criminal background checks that are required for security-sensitive positions, Human Resource Services (HRS) has established a contract with an outside vendor that specializes in conducting background checks. The new background check process conducted by vendor [Infomart](#) should improve the security and safety of our campus community and improve compliance with legal hiring requirements.

Effective Sept. 1, all newly hired employees for security-sensitive positions are required to go through a background check before they will be processed onto payroll. In addition, current employees who have not had a background check completed within the past five years and are

being transferred, promoted or reclassified into security-sensitive positions must complete a background check before the new position will take effect. You can review the new [Personnel Policy 4.13 on Criminal Background Checks](#) on the HRS Web site.

Department heads and hiring managers will receive more information on the new background-check screening process, along with information on the cost of the service. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Perdue at ext. 0295, Meagan Lindsay at ext. 5462 or Misty Haskins at ext. 5458.

KUDOS

John C. Licciardone, DO, professor and executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center ... has been named associate dean for clinical research in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. As associate dean, his duties will include stimulating research, overseeing existing research and research collaborations inside and outside of the Health Science Center, and building research program growth and development. He also will continue his roles as professor, executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center and Osteopathic Clinical Research Chair for the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Department.

Damon Schranz, DO, assistant professor of Family and Community Medicine ... was elected chair of the UNTHSC Faculty Senate for a one-year term. The Senate will elect a new vice chair at its next meeting on Sept. 8.

New Health Promotions Committee members

Seven new members were elected to the Health Promotions Committee by UNTHSC employees last month. The Health Promotion Committee represents staff, faculty and students in matters of health education, health promotion and fitness-related activities. This year the committee plans to play a large role in the success of the [Cowtown Marathon](#) presented by the Health Science Center in February.

New members:

Blair Chappell

Crystal Ross

Dr. Carlos Reyes-Ortiz

Angie Owen

Mieshia Beamon

Kimberly Williams

Matt Garcia, TCOM student member

Existing members:

Natasha Cha

Shirley Green

Dr. Stephen Mathew
Nancy Tierney
Randy Sachs
Amber Ondricek, GSBS student member
Daniel Browne, SPH student member

Ex-officio:

Dr. Trisha Van Duser
Nicki McGee

Employee Benefit Action Committee elects new members

Eight UNTHSC employees are starting new terms on the EBAC. The EBAC represents employees in matters of benefits, and plans and sponsors several annual employee events. The committee also elected officials at their meeting this week.

EBAC Member starting new terms:

Hazel Dueboay, vice chair
Susan Bulgin, treasurer
Deborah Brashear, recording secretary
Lauren Lafleur, correspondence secretary
Jackie Hubbard
Janet Brandenburgh
Otholene Minton
Consuelo Torrez-Hall

Existing members:

Randy Thomas, chair
Pam Struve
Carolyne Rodgers
Sallie Spotanski
Misty Smethers
Shea Patterson
Charla Bradford

Heather Brandfellner, TCOM Class of '09, and
Matthew Maruska, TCOM Class of '10

... were selected to receive the Welch Scholars Grant for 2008 from the [American Osteopathic Foundation's](#) Board of Directors and the Committee on Educational Grants. The award is given annually by the AOF to medical students entering their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year at an American Osteopathic Association-approved school. Recipients are selected for their commitment to osteopathic medicine and their academic excellence.

Kyle Piwonka, TCOM Class of '09

... was one of eight medical students in Texas to receive the 2008 Memorial Scholarship from the Texas Medical Liability Trust. The scholarships recognize Texas medical students who are interested in finding creative ways to enhance patient safety.

SAVE THE DATE

September 10

Chalk and Talk Seminar and Social featuring Dr. Rosalie Uht

4:30 – 6 pm

EAD 706

September 12

White Coat Ceremony

2 pm

Will Rogers Auditorium

September 26 - 27

Alumni Reunion 2008

6 am – 9 pm

Atrium and Fort Worth Hilton

October 3

Campus Pride kick-off

8 – 9:30 am

Alumni Plaza

October 25

UNTHSC Annual Gala

Celebrating the 15-Year Anniversary of the GSBS

Renaissance Worthington Hotel

DO Dash 5k/1k

8 am

UNTHSC

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Campus Connection is published the first and third Fridays of each month by the Office of Marketing and Communications for UNT Health Science Center employees, students and friends. Please feel free to forward this e-newsletter to others and print it for those who don't have access to a computer.

Our goals are to:

- Keep you informed about the Health Science Center's strategic plan, priorities and goals.
- Promote the UNTHSC values of compassion, integrity, teamwork, innovation, pride and excellence.
- Demonstrate how the people and programs of the Health Science Center really do make a difference.
- Enable you to be a well-informed UNTHSC ambassador.

You're invited to contribute to the continuous improvement of this e-newsletter and other UNTHSC Family communications by sending story ideas, news, suggestions and questions to news@hsc.unt.edu.

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