

Our Town



As you'll quickly note, Our Town deviates somewhat from those that have appeared in previous issues of *Impact*. Because there was no predominant theme for the last Town Meeting (such as scenario planning, the budget or the campus master plan) and because several people presented, this Our Town will highlight the various presentations and, where appropriate, refer readers to "sidebar" stories for additional details.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

September's Town Meeting began with a comprehensive look at the Office of Community Outreach. As Vice President Ben Raimer noted, we established the department a year ago to better address the ever-present need to preserve and strengthen our relationships with the communities we serve and to improve the health status of the people living in these communities. The department comprises several programs that share a related mission. From Area Health Education Centers that provide health education and training programs to more than 14 million people—to a Telehealth Center that's addressing the needs of patients on oil rigs and cruise ships and schools in medically underserved areas alike—to summer science camps designed to spark students' interest in math and science early on—to a Continuing Medical Education program that last year awarded more than 19,000 credit hours to almost 1,800 registrants—to career promotion—to innovative partnerships with area businesses. Each one is "taking care of Texans." (For more details, see "Reaching out to the far corners" on page 8).

JCAHO

Jan Feldman, chief operating officer and director of patient care services, brought us up to speed on the then-pending site visit by the JCAHO. In all, six surveyors

carefully evaluated every area of the clinical enterprise, with a focus on health safety. They arrived on campus Oct. 16 and concluded their visit Oct. 20. We'll have and will share information about their findings shortly. In the meantime, there's no question that everybody involved in preparing for the site visit deserves our appreciation for an extraordinary commitment of time and energy on behalf of the institution.

DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Susan Coulter, vice president for university advancement, previewed UTMB's first Founders Day Weekend, which took place Oct. 13-14. One of the highlights of the event was the redesignation of the Medical Research Building in honor of the university's first president, Dr. Truman Graves Blocker Jr. (For more details, see "Initiating a tradition" on pages 6-7.) The vice president also reported on recent gifts received in support of several outstanding research and clinical programs at UTMB. Equally gratifying, she noted that UTMB has experienced a 40 percent increase in cash giving over the past two years, which she attributed to partnerships, collaborations and the increased involvement of the UTMB Development Board. (See "UTMB reaps windfall in fund raising for 2000" on page 9.) I believe this fund-raising success represents more than the financial wherewithal to continue investing in exciting programs. It also represents an increasingly broad-based vote of confidence in the excellent work we do.

BUDGET

In that same vein, I was pleased to report that, at the close of the fiscal year, we found that we'd not only navigated financially challenging times successfully but had actually completed the year with some monies to invest in our academic missions. Think back to a year ago. Two years ago,

And the fact that we were facing a two-year shortfall that topped \$80 million. Our success is not only essential to our ability to survive and thrive in the future but a tremendous tribute to the determination, commitment and vision of everybody who pulled together to tackle our financial challenges head on.

OHRP

Equally impressive was the work of those involved in responding to the restrictions the Office of Human Research Protections placed on federally supported research involving human subjects (including prisoners) at UTMB. Within two weeks of the OHRP's September site visit, the IRB office submitted a comprehensive action plan to address the agency's concerns about our documentation procedures—a plan the OHRP quickly approved. We are now in the process of re-reviewing the clinical trials affected (approximately one-fifth of our total clinical research projects) and establishing two institutional review boards (with two prisoner advocates each) to better address the volume of studies (particularly those approved for prisoner inclusion) at UTMB.

NEW ARRIVALS



Stanberry

I announced two new arrivals. Our new and long-awaited Department of Pediatrics chair, Dr. Larry Stanberry, is an expert in pediatric infectious diseases and vaccine development.

In fact, he was recently quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* (see page 12). Having trained at UT-Southwestern and worked at Parkland Hospital,

See OHRP on page 8

Our Town, from page 5

Stanberry is no stranger to Texas. His pledge is to enhance the department's clinical and academic programs.

Also, a new blood bank donor coach that can accommodate 12 to 14 donors at a time was dedicated in mid-September and, by the end of the month, had already made eight site visits.

EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A newly formed External Advisory Committee was also on campus last month. The group, comprising five representatives from academic medicine (each one a recognized leader in his or her field), spent two days meeting with faculty from all four schools. The value of having visitors such as this is the objective perspective they contribute. Their "debrief" focused on the need to more fully integrate all four schools in the clinical care mission, to do a better job of explaining funds flow, and to focus on faculty retention and development—recommendations we intend to take to heart.

TREATY OAK

In the meantime, I'd like to close with a reminder that the UTMB State Employee Charitable Campaign is under way. We were number one for two years running and last year received the first-ever Treaty Oak Award. Our goal this year is to raise \$450,000 and reach 40 percent participation, and I encourage each of you to take advantage of this opportunity to give back to the community by supporting your charitable cause of choice (www2.utmb.edu/secc). Every contribution makes a difference.

John D. Stobo, President

QUESTION AND ANSWER

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

'Reaching out to the far corners'

Over the past year, some departments have moved under the umbrella of the Office of Community Outreach. What has been the effect of these moves?

The vision of the Office of Community Outreach (OCO) is to improve the health status of Texas, community by community. Dr. Stobo's foresight to bring together all areas of UTMB involved in outreach to communities has allowed us to strengthen and better coordinate our efforts. From the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) to the Center for Telehealth and Distance Education, UTMB is reaching out to the far corners of Texas and the world to bring health care, health education and scientific innovation.

As a combined force under OCO, UTMB's programs of outreach, education, partnerships and assistance to communities and individuals are maximizing efforts, eliminating duplication and further enhancing our strongest outreach programs. Collectively, OCO has facilitated over \$7 million in grant funding to help fulfill its mission.

We have much work to do in OCO, but look forward to a bright future working with our fellow employees to promote UTMB's community presence through the application of the university's core values of education, service, innovation and diversity. We anticipate being able to assist in the development of methods to address Galveston County's indigent health care, to provide revenue-generating telemedicine programs, to implement new Web-based initiatives, and to expand UTMB's county contracts and educational outreach programs.

Through its telemedicine program, UTMB is extending its presence in rural areas. Could you outline the scope of the program?

UTMB is the world's number one provider of telemedicine services. With more than 36,000 telemedicine visits and counting, UTMB health care providers see more patients via telemedicine in a single month than our closest competitors can see in a year. The creation earlier this year of the Center for Telehealth and Distance Education was the first significant step realizing the university's vision for telehealth and distance education—a vision limited only by our imagination and resources.

Since its beginning in 1994, UTMB's telemedicine and distance education program has grown tremendously. UTMB:

- Provides telehealth care services to 105,000 Texas inmates and has saved Texas more than \$600 million in the process
- Provides telemedicine access to 34 UTMB medical and surgical specialty services
- Successfully responded within 3.5 minutes to incoming calls to the trauma enter via UTMB's 24/7 Center

- Is seeking patents for the development of BOB (big orange box) and Geri, portable telemedicine units that provide easy access to high-quality medical care from anywhere in the world
- Contracted with offshore drilling rigs to provide telehealth services to sick or injured workers
- Is in the process of providing medical consultation services to high-risk, underserved expectant mothers in coastal and east Texas using advanced technology in the form of fetal ultrasound, medical records and telehealth consultations; other targeted populations include remote patients with asthma, diabetes and developmental disabilities
- Connected school nurses in districts near and far to UTMB consultation services and assessment teams for children with developmental disorders and chronic illness
- Established a corporate health telemedicine services to care for employees of American National Insurance Company
- Is in negotiation to provide telemedicine to crew and/or passengers of Holland America and Carnival Cruise Lines
- Has ongoing telemedicine business development discussions under way in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Brazil and England, and with Lockheed Martin, Western Geophysical, Conoco and other industrial leaders
- Has successfully woven teletechnology into the curriculum of all four UTMB schools, and is a leader in providing advance nursing and allied health sciences degrees via distance education
- Has established distance education linkages with Stephen F. Austin State University, Lamar University, Wharton County Junior College, McLennan Community College and UT-Pan American
- Provides an increasing number of continuing medical education opportunities for practicing physician via telecommunications and Internet-based applications

How do you envision the telemedicine program in 10 years?

The future of telemedicine and distance education services is extremely bright. We are in the process of hiring a director for the Center for Telehealth and Distance Education who would help UTMB remain a leader in these applications and lead the university into uncharted waters in these fields. Our vision is to enhance revenue streams to the university with these technologies by using them to improve service, ease confusion, increase efficiency and enhance access.



Dr. Ben Raimer is Vice President for Community Outreach.

Raimer served as a community-based pediatrician in Galveston County from 1977 until 1993, when he joined UTMB as medical director for the Primary Care Outpatient Clinics.

He served as chief of staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Galveston, and as president of the Galveston County Medical Society. In 1997, he became the chief physician executive for UT-MED.

In 1997, he was appointed chair of the Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council. This year, Raimer was appointed to chair the Texas Correctional Managed Health Care Committee.

He received his B.A. from East Texas Baptist College in 1969, and an M.A. from the UTMB Graduate School in 1970. He is a 1974 graduate of UTMB's SOM and completed his residency at UTMB Hospitals in 1977.

Initiating a tradition



Truman Graves Blocker Jr.

ON TRUMAN GRAVES BLOCKER JR.

"In 1947, 'the Chief' as we called him, had the horrific opportunity to practice what he'd learned during the war. In the aftermath of the Texas City Disaster, the largest industrial accident in U.S. history, Truman brought the military practice of triage to bear in a civilian environment. It was a first."

Dr. Sam A. Nixon, UTMB alumnus and Development Board member



"I learned how keen he was at gathering talent around him....He told me one time, 'Fernando, where there is talent, get it, get it to come and work with you.'"

Dr. Fernando Ortiz-Monasterio, Professor Emeritus of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the National Independent University of Mexico

Beginning with the Blocker Redesignation on Friday, Oct. 13, continuing with the Founders Dinner that night and concluding with the Heritage Council Breakfast, an awards luncheon and Micro Mini Medical School sessions on Saturday, it was a weekend that brought pride to those associated with UTMB

By Joanna Bremer

With its first Founders Day Weekend celebration on Oct. 13 and 14, UTMB initiated a tradition that will extend far beyond any of us. This series of events will always remind the faculty, staff and students of why they are here and why UTMB is the great institution it is.

Beginning with a procession into Levin Hall to the accompaniment of bagpipes for the redesignation of the Truman Graves Blocker, Jr. Medical Research Building and ending with Micro Mini Medical School sessions, this was a weekend that made many hearts swell with pride.

At the redesignation ceremony, every speaker related a personal recollection of Blocker, our first president. The featured video brought to life the qualities that endeared him to his family, his students, his colleagues and his community—even today.

Likewise, Friday evening's Founders Dinner brought to life the tales of the women and men who laid the foundation on which UTMB is built or, in one person's words: "those who dreamed, who dared to fail, and who dreamed again." Descendants of those first founders were recognized and thanked with certificates acknowledging their ancestors' contributions to Texas' first medical school.

Saturday morning, a number of those descendants joined other supporters of UTMB at the Heritage Council Breakfast. New members of the Heritage Council received certificates of appreciation at the event in the Caduceus Room. (Photos at right.)



Guests of honor at the redesignation of the Truman Graves Blocker, Jr. Medical Research Building were three generations of the Blocker family, from left Truman G. Blocker III, Gordon Blocker and his daughter Bonnie, Dr. Virginia Blocker and Anne Blocker.

School of Medicine scholarship recipients were united with many of their benefactors at the Founders Day scholarship luncheon at Levin Hall. A new feature of the event was the Class of 1947 Award for Excellence in Preclinical Education. (Photos at far right.)

Many who attended these programs have said not only how much they learned about the history of UTMB and its people, but also how much more they appreciate the accomplishments we have made, coming from our humble roots. In other words, they are proud to be associated with UTMB.



Accepting certificates of recognition for John, Rebecca and George Sealy, whose commitment to safeguarding the health of Texans helped make UTMB possible, were Charles Worthen, chairman of the board of the Sealy & Smith Foundation, left, and William Pinckard, the official Sealy family representative. President Stobo presented the awards.



Mrs. Edward R. "Nonie" Thompson, left, was the official family representative for the descendants of Mrs. Aaron (Cecile) Blum, who served on the first Board of Lady Managers for the John Sealy Hospital Training School for Nurses.



George L. Morris, left, grandnephew of the one of the first University of Texas Medical Department's faculty members, Seth Mabry Morris, visits with Dr. W. Tom Arnold, member emeritus of the UTMB Development Board.



Vandy Anderson, grandson of Dr. William Gammon, who received his medical degree from UTMB in 1893 as member of the second graduating class, was master of ceremonies for the Founders Dinner program.

HERITAGE COUNCIL BREAKFAST

At the Heritage Council Breakfast, UTMB thanked the men and women who have established planned gifts—through trusts, bequests or annuities—or who have contributed in a substantial way to endowments. Members new to the council in the last year received certificates of recognition from President Stobo.



Dr. David Niessel, left, vice dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and new faculty representative on the Development Board, and his wife, Janet, were

honored for their commitment to training the next generation of biomedical scientists.



Drs. John Craig, left, and Toni Funicella made a generous contribution to the Blocker Scholars Initiative, of which she is co-chair. Both are UTMB alumni. Funicella also is a member of the UTMB

Development Board. In the background is Dr. Sam Nixon, UTMB alumnus, Development Board and Heritage Council member, and emcee of the morning's activities.



Dr. Peter Thompson, left, chair of the Houston regional committee of the Blocker Scholars Initiative, also made a leadership gift to the Blocker campaign. Thompson also was recognized as one of the descendants of UTMB's original

founders, whose families were special guests at the breakfast.

Video: Videotapes of the Truman Graves Blocker, Jr. Medical Research Building redesignation ceremony are available from the Office of University Advancement, suite

SOM AWARDS

The Excellence in Preclinical Education Awards are funded by an endowment established by the School of Medicine Class of 1947. The Top Doc Awards recognize community doctors for their commitment to medical education. Recipients are chosen by a UTMB panel on the basis of student recommendations. (For a list of student scholarships, see Page 11.)



From left, Dr. J.L. Jinkins, Dr. Richard Carroll and Vice President for Education Dr. George Bernier



From left, Dr. J.L. Jinkins, Dr. Randall Given and Vice President for Education Dr. George Bernier

Class of 1947 Award for Excellence in Preclinical Education

Dr. Judith Aronson, Dr. Richard Carroll, Dr. Randall L. Given, Dr. Marjorie Grafe

Nominees

Anatomy/Radiology
Dr. Brian T. Miller
Dr. Faustino C. Guinto, Jr.
Dr. Melvyn H. Schreiber

Cardiovascular/Pulmonary
Dr. Sharon O. Nelson
Dr. Akhil Bidani
Dr. Roberto Logrono
Dr. R. David Baker
Dr. Joseph Zwischenberger

Derm/Heme/Musculoskeletal
Dr. S. David Hudnall
Dr. Miriam M. Brysk

Endocrine/Reproduction
Dr. Kevin McKinney
Dr. Vicki J. Schnadig

Great Syndromes
Dr. William R. Fleischmann Jr.

Molecules/Cells/Tissues
Dr. Jeffrey P. Rabek
Dr. Gregg T. Nagle

Neuroscience/Human Behavior
Dr. William D. Willis Jr.
Dr. John R. Calverly
Dr. Susan M. Carlton
Dr. Sally S. Robinson
Dr. Ernest S. Barratt

Pathobiology/Host Defenses
Dr. Michael McGinnis
Dr. Ashok K. Chopra
Dr. Smita Vaidya
Dr. Robert E. Shope
Dr. Robert B. Tesh
Dr. Abida K. Haque

Practice of Medicine
Dr. Gary Kesling
Dr. William J. Winslade
Dr. Bernard Karnath

Renal/Fluid/Electrolyte
Dr. David W. Good
Dr. Alok Kalia
Dr. Robert E. Beach
Dr. Ashok K. Chopra

TOP DOC AWARDS

Dr. Stephen Benold (Georgetown), Dr. Paul Bunnell (Port Lavaca), Dr. Abraham Delgado (Austin), Dr. Rick David Kelley (Cleveland), Dr. Abdul Moosa (LaPorte), Dr. John Oglesbee (San Augustine), Dr. Paul Pitts (Tyler), Dr. Jo Ann Rogers (Houston)

136 in the Sealy and Smith Professional Building. For information, call ext. 22618.

On the Web: <http://www2.utmb.edu/foundersday/>