

Maroon Medicine

Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine

Winter 2012

White Coat 2011

Largest Class of Med Students Welcomed



The Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) College of Medicine welcomed 198 new medical students of the Class of 2015 at the 14th annual White Coat Ceremony on July 25, 2011 at Rudder Auditorium on the Texas A&M University campus.

This, the college's 35th class of medical students, is also its largest to date.

Sam Shomaker, M.D., J.D., the Jean and Thomas McMullin Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President for Clinical Affairs for the TAMHSC, served as emcee to more than 700 attendees.

Richard Box, D.D.S., Chairman of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, brought greetings and congratulations from the regents and thanked the class for embracing a journey of service.

"The white coat is a tangible expression of the life of selfless service expected of physicians," Dr. Shomaker said. "By wearing it, our students commit themselves to improving the health of their patients in communities across Texas, and we are excited to welcome them to the College of Medicine to begin their life long journey in medicine."

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Howdy, Fellow Aggie Physicians and College of Medicine Alumni!

I would love to speak personally to each of you about the Alumni Association of the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, but that is proving to be a challenge. Our busy schedules and diverse geographic locations can make it difficult to stay in touch, but I am confident that with a little hard work and persistence we can accomplish great things for the College of Medicine.

Through this alumni newsletter I am hopeful that I can reach each of you alternatively to encourage your membership in the Alumni Association as we move into our second year of existence.

Membership has grown greatly this first year, by 100 percent—a substantial feat considering

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Dr. Barhorst visits with students at Reunion 2011.

Diaz Appointed Assistant Dean of Admissions and Diversity

T. Sam Shomaker, M.D., J.D., Dean of the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of



Medicine, announces the appointment of Ms. Leila E. Diaz, as the College of Medicine's first assistant dean of admissions and diversity.

Diaz began her new role on June 1, and will oversee

programs for prospective and current students, faculty and staff that support the college's strategy for promoting and developing diversity as a pathway to excellence.

"As one of the College of Medicine's core values, diversity of all types is vital to our success as a medical school for Texas," said Dr. Shomaker.

"As assistant dean of admissions and diversity, Ms. Diaz will oversee efforts throughout the college that promote diversity of thought and diversity of background in our students, staff and faculty."

Diaz is based out of the TAMHSC College of Medicine's Temple campus.

Going the Distance: Goolsby '05 Cares for WNBA Liberty

Originally from Texas, Marci (Ernsberger) Goolsby, M.D. '05, went to California for college, came back to Texas for medical school in 2001 and...ended up nearly 3,000 miles across the country in New York as a team physician for the WNBA's New York Liberty. Now that's what we call *traveling*.



With four years of playing on the UC San Diego women's basketball team under her belt, Goolsby brings a unique perspective to her current role.

"As a college basketball player myself, I was always interested in sports, so I chose to specialize in primary care-sports medicine," said Dr. Goolsby via phone in September. "The opportunity to serve as team physician for the Liberty came as part of a job offer from the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, so I'm returning to the sport I love."

"I can really identify with the athletes' injuries and what they're feeling emotionally," Goolsby said.

After graduating from the College of Medicine in 2005, Goolsby completed her residency in family medicine at UCLA where she served as chief resident. She went on to complete a primary care sports medicine fellowship at UCLA as well.

Along the way Goolsby served as team physician for UCLA's men's and women's athletic teams, medical team captain for the Pasadena and Los Angeles marathons, and medical team volunteer for the World Figure Skating Championships. So what's up next?

"This is my first year of practice, and since I landed my dream job right out of training, I don't plan on going anywhere soon!" she said. "There are endless opportunities here," she continued. "At the Hospital for Special Surgery, we just developed a division for primary care-sports medicine which is really unique and started a fellowship for primary care in sports medicine. There are a lot of positive things going on."

"I loved my class," she said. "We were really close. I had a great time being a class president, and I still stay in touch with some of my classmates."

*Alumni and former students, we love to hear from you!
Share your own stories at medicine.tamhsc.edu/update-info*

Alumni Take Action on Diversity

On October 8, 2011, the first Alumni Committee on Diversity in Medical Education met in Bryan to discuss challenges and opportunities for student recruitment, diversity in the curriculum and student development. Their next meeting will be on May 6 as part of Reunion 2012. Please contact Brenda Long at bklong@medicine.tamhsc.edu if you would like to attend.



Students Learn from Rural Patients

On a Tuesday evening in September, families and students from the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine gather at an elementary school in an unpaved lot at the corner of Crockett and Hackberry Streets in Holland, Texas.

Geographically, the first-year medical students haven't traveled far, only about 15 miles from the College of Medicine campus in Temple, but tonight they enter a different world. Tonight they meet a few of Holland's citizens, people whose needs often go beyond just basic health care.

"The families' stories are just incredible," says Dr. Ruth Bush, associate dean for education at the TAMHSC College of Medicine Temple Campus. "By simply meeting with the families, we are answering their questions about health care, developing treatment plans and breaking down the barriers to care."

The idea is simple: match first-year medical students who need clinical experience with families in rural areas who might not otherwise have access to basic medical care.

In September 2010, armed with a grant for an outreach program to rural communities, Dr. Catherine McNeal, associate professor of internal medicine at the Temple campus, solicited several nearby communities to participate. Cynthia Gunn, superintendent of Holland ISD, stepped up and offered her school for the pilot program.

Together they identified five families in Holland (population 1,100) with special health care needs. For instance, in one blended family, a grandmother with guardianship of her adopted grandchildren came with questions and misconceptions about eligibility for health care coverage. Another family wanted to learn more about well-child check-ups. Another, how to best manage a chronic condition.

Under the guidance of Bush and McNeal, 15 medical students began meeting monthly with each family in groups of two or three at the Holland elementary school.

They were joined by faculty members and mentors including a geriatrician, internist, internal medicine hospitalist, hospital chaplain, pediatrician, the Holland school nurse, and a pediatric social worker with more than 35 years of experience.

The medical students reviewed the families' medical histories, asked questions and interacted with the children. Then faculty and mentors met regularly with the students for debriefings to discuss what took place and introduce new topics and ways to talk to the families.

"To have this experience as a first-year medical student is a privilege, and I appreciate the opportunity to spend time outside of the school library to practice communication skills and problem-solving strategies," says first-year medical student Alison La. "I appreciate the trust that 'our' families have for us, regardless of the fact that we are first-year students."

Now in its second year, the rural health rotation continues to attract families and medical students thanks to help from faculty members, Holland ISD and more than a dozen volunteers. Ultimately, the TAMHSC College of Medicine hopes to make this rural rotation part of the longitudinal curriculum, allowing students to continue shadowing "their" families throughout all four years of medical school.

Howdy from Mark Barhorst *continued from pg 1*

the total number of members remains underwhelming when compared to the list of more than 1,600 former students and alumni. We need to reach much higher membership levels if we hope to make any significant impact on our goal of assisting the College of Medicine in its quest for excellence any time soon.

The College of Medicine has served each of us well in our professional lives. Please make the effort to join us in support of the college through membership in the Alumni Association. I promise to continue to urge your support until you do.

Also, I encourage each of you to take the time to come back to your medical roots and see what the excitement is all about. Contact me personally for a guided tour if you like. I feel certain you will find we are making great strides.

Regards,

Mark D. Barhorst, M.D. '88
Alumni Association President

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 25
Community Health Hullabaloo
Bryan

March 29
Magnolia Tea
College Station

May 4-6
Reunion 2012
Bryan & College Station

Join the College of Medicine Alumni Association Today!

Why Join?

The Alumni Association exists to serve and sustain the College of Medicine alumni network. We're here for all alumni, providing programs and services that are supported by membership dues.

Your ability to connect with your alumni network is your most valuable asset—right up there with your College of Medicine degree. Alumni Association membership brings you a variety of exclusive programs designed to keep you connected and gives you the power of the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine network.

Join your fellow alumni and become a member today!

BENEFITS

- ◆ Lifetime email account through the College of Medicine
- ◆ Library services and upgraded access to specialized journals (for a nominal fee)
- ◆ Reconnect with your classmates through our online community and directory Net Community Grow
- ◆ Access to all College of Medicine CME courses means lifelong learning at a discount!
- ◆ Invitations to all alumni events and reunions and access to all College of Medicine publications

First Name: _____ Class of: _____

Last Name: _____ Maiden: _____

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Enclosed is my check for \$50 made payable to "College of Medicine Alumni Association."

Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$50.

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Billing ZIP Code: _____

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Mail to: TAMHSC College of Medicine, Attn: Brenda Long, 110 Reynolds Medical Building, College Station, Texas 77843-1114

Email: bklong@medicine.tamhsc.edu or fax to: 979-862-4940

medicine.tamhsc.edu/alumni

M3s Arrive in Dallas

The Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine and Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas (BUMC) on Dec. 8, 2011, welcomed the inaugural group of medical students to the newly established Clinical Training Program in Dallas.

The program brings together resources from both entities to offer clinical training opportunities to third- and fourth-year students from the College of Medicine.

“Given the close proximity and ties between BUMC and our own Baylor College of Dentistry, and the excellent medical education opportunities offered by the Baylor Health Care System, this truly is the right time and place for an expansion of our College of Medicine program in Dallas,” said Nancy W. Dickey, M.D., president of the Texas A&M Health Science Center and vice chancellor for health affairs for The Texas A&M University System.

Twenty-four third-year students entered the program in December. In 2012, a comparable number of new third-year students will arrive in Dallas to join the inaugural group as that group enters their fourth year of medical school.

Through the Clinical Training Program in Dallas, students will complete clinical rotations in surgery, internal medicine, family medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics and obstetrics/ gynecology at BUMC and other clinical affiliates.

“With approximately 1,200 physicians who care for more than 300,000 patients each year, BUMC offers an ideal environment for College of Medicine students to garner valuable clinical experiences in an urban health care setting,” said T. Samuel Shomaker, M.D., J.D., Dean of Medicine. “Additionally, BUMC’s multiple residency programs will offer our medical students increased options for residency training in the Dallas area.”

Cristie Columbus, M.D., who also serves as assistant director of medical education at BUMC, will lead the effort as College of Medicine vice dean for the Dallas site.



“We know that doctors who train here are likely to stay and practice here. So this is not only a wonderful opportunity for these students, but it is good news for the communities Baylor serves in North Texas,” Dr. Columbus said.

That evening, students and faculty were hosted by the College of Medicine Rapport Society at the home of chairpersons Dr. Jay '81 and Mrs. Ana Franklin. More than 70 students, family members, faculty and Rapport Society members attended.

CPRIT research grant awarded to TAMHSC

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) honored researchers at the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) for their work in cancer prevention efforts in the Brazos and Rio Grande valleys with an Oct. 14 research grant award.

Texas A&M Physician and assistant professor of family & community medicine Dr. David McClellan in the TAMHSC-College of Medicine and Dr. Jane Bolin in the TAMHSC-School of Rural Public Health were awarded \$2,748,008 as co-principal investigators for a project that will screen and educate low-income patients at risk for colon cancer while training family medicine residents in colorectal cancer screening procedures.

It is the largest-ever CPRIT prevention grant bestowed to a single entity.



CPRIT representatives joined John Sharp, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System; Dr. Richard A. Box, chairman of the A&M System Board of Regents; Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, TAMHSC president; and grant recipients Dr. McClellan and Dr. Bolin.



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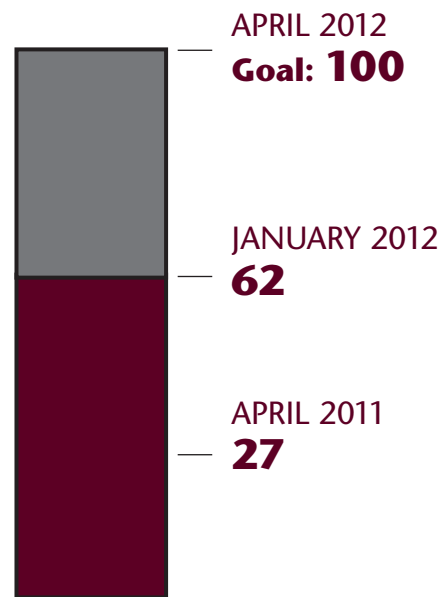
Celebrating
35 *years*
1977-2012

May 4-6, 2012

**College of Medicine
Homecoming
and
All-Class Reunion**

medicine.tamhsc.edu/reunion

College of Medicine Alumni Association Members



Since its launch in April 2011, the College of Medicine Alumni Association membership has more than doubled. Help us reach our goal of 100 members by the 35th Reunion in April 2012!