

## BAYLOR MAKES US ALL BETTER

*Campaign 2015*

### Employees lead the way: *Campaign 2015*

**M**ANY Baylor Health Care System employees have come together to demonstrate their belief in the Baylor mission by supporting the annual **Employee Giving Campaign**. In a message to employees, **Joel Allison**, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System, said, "Through your gifts, you send a message to our patients, donors and community that you believe in Baylor. I am honored to work alongside so many dedicated people who exemplify this devotion to the important work that we do."

# GIVE

BAYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Employees and board members not only join in the Baylor spirit by giving back, but also have an opportunity to be a part of **Campaign 2015: Baylor Makes Us All Better**. With the help of philanthropic support, Baylor is translating research discoveries into solutions, delivering quality care to patients, building new facilities and training physicians and nurses who will advance medical care for years to come.

The Baylor community's tradition of loyal generosity begins on day one and continues through many years of service. Since 2003, Baylor Health Care System Foundation has facilitated an annual employee giving campaign. The campaign is conducted simultaneously across all Baylor campuses during a five-week period in the spring and provides significant support to programs that benefit the communities Baylor serves. As the campaign continues, results have been impressive as Baylor employees are moved to give back.

Employees were asked to share what inspired them to make a gift and the reasons were collected

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### Bold vision for Department of Surgery

**J**AMES FLESHMAN, M.D., chief of surgery for Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, presides over a department whose origins date back more than 100 years. Since that time, the Department of Surgery has been fortunate to receive investments from forward-thinking donors, which have made it possible for the department to build on the solid foundation of safety, quality, strong leadership and clinically advanced bedside care for which Baylor is known.

The generosity of the late **Mr. and Mrs. Wirt Davis** is a landmark example of the impact philanthropy can have. Over the span of 20 years, Mr. and Mrs. Davis made several significant endowed gifts to the Department of Surgery that made possible advancements in education, research and patient care. The Seeger Surgical Simulation Center – named in memory of Mrs. Davis' father, **Dr. Stanley Joseph Seeger**, a surgeon – provides Baylor Dallas general surgery residents the opportunity to hone their surgical skill set in a simulated environment.

While the department's reputation for safe, quality care is well established, Dr. Fleshman's plans for the future include a dynamic vision: to



Surgical trainees learn technique

elevate the Department of Surgery to a Top 5 ranking in the United States. He sees an opportunity for Baylor Dallas to be regarded as the preferred hospital for surgery in the region and beyond.

His plan to achieve this goal involves a strategic and comprehensive approach. The first element is to attract and retain distinguished surgeons in specialties, such as oncology, transplantation, gastrointestinal, trauma, vascular, and minimally invasive and robotic surgery. Additional expertise in these fields will provide advanced patient care. By developing the skill sets

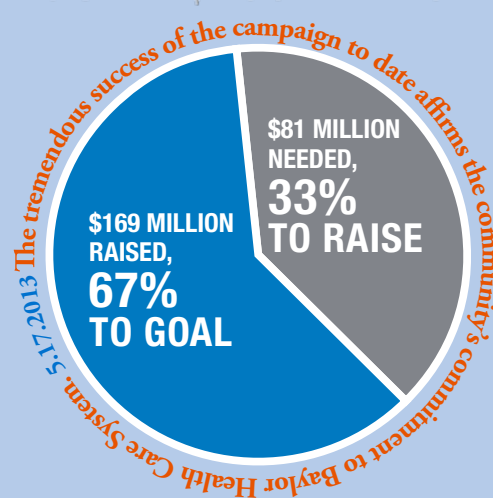
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#### CAMPAIGN 2015 UPDATE

**C**AMPAIGN 2015: Baylor Makes Us All Better. This simple phrase was the impetus for a bold vision – take Baylor Health Care System to national pre-eminence in areas of health care that have the power to transform individual lives and the communities we serve. Baylor Health Care System Foundation has set forth to achieve this vision by launching the first comprehensive campaign in Baylor's history. Sixty-seven percent of our \$250 million goal has already been raised. However, the need for support remains.

This comprehensive campaign is designed to strengthen every aspect of Baylor, from patient-centered programs and capital needs to innovative research and medical education. Campaign 2015 offers significant opportunity for our friends in North Texas to join in support of a treasure this community has relied on for more than a century. 🕯

GOAL: \$250 MILLION



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## Baylor Dallas collaborates to bring Parkinson's research project to Texas

**B**AYLOR UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS is on the verge of bringing an innovative research project to patients with Parkinson's disease in the North Texas region thanks to the efforts and philanthropic support of **Darlene Cass**, a longtime member of the Baylor community. Darlene was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 15 years ago and has experienced first-hand what living with the syndrome is like. After receiving the devastating diagnosis, her symptoms were minimal until approximately two years ago when she experienced a significant decrease in energy, loss of balance and slowness of movement.

"I was at an all-time low; the only thing my doctor could suggest as a treatment was brain surgery and that scared me," Darlene said.

A short time later, a friend came across an article about a research project underway at the University of Wisconsin – Madison's Tactile Communication and Neurorehabilitation Lab (UW) that focused on the improvement of motor symptoms. The scientists at UW were studying the use of a small device, called a Portable Neuromodulation Stimulator (PoNS), which is placed in the patient's mouth and stimulates nerves in the tongue that are connected to the brain. This type of stimulation is called neuromodulation.



Darlene Cass

UW scientists have significant data to show that the device, along with the prescribed physical, occupational and cognitive exercises, encourages the brain to recover normal function whether the reason for the disruption is traumatic, neurodegenerative or developmental. Each exercise corresponds with different patterns of tongue stimulation, which, in turn, coax the brain to form new neural pathways. These pathways remain active even after the stimulation has been removed, meaning the therapy can have lasting effects.

After many "phone calls, emails and some tears," Darlene learned that a participant had dropped out of the UW study and that there was a space available. She traveled to Madison for a 10-day trial, combining use of the PoNS device with prescribed exercises. "Within three days my balance was better – I could walk on a treadmill at three miles per hour and didn't have to hold on to steady myself." She was so encouraged by her experience and her results during the trial that she immediately began to explore ways to bring this emerging treatment option to other patients in her situation. "Baylor is such a well respected hospital; I knew it would help to facilitate this device getting approval by the FDA if Baylor's researchers were involved."

As a result of her efforts, Baylor Dallas and UW have agreed to collaborate to build a research study, led by **Elmyra Encarnación, M.D.**, using

the PoNS device at Baylor. While the researchers at UW have done significant work on the use of this device on multiple sclerosis patients, Baylor will take the lead in studying this therapy in patients with Parkinson's disease.

"There are hundreds of patients afflicted with Parkinson's disease in the Dallas area. Between the promise of helping these patients and the growing evidence and science that support the study of this device, the Baylor team has taken the initiative to further our knowledge on neuromodulation right in our own backyard," Dr. Encarnación said.

The research project aims to restore the functions lost to Parkinson's disease by improving the brain's ability to reorganize its activity and allow the patient to regain muscle control. Dr. Encarnación describes the function of the PoNS device, which "stimulates nerves under the tongue that are connected to the brain stem, a particular brain area that plays a significant role in the pathology of Parkinson's disease." She went on to say, "Even though our primary aim in the study is to help the symptoms, we are hoping that positive results may encourage further studies to see if the device can actually modify the disease process."

Ultimately, more knowledge about this new form of intervention may have implications for patients suffering from traumatic brain injury, stroke, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis. As Darlene said, "My main goal is giving hope to others dealing with neurological disorders to have a better quality of life."

For more information about Baylor's neuroscience initiatives, contact Tim Moore at 214.820.7877 or [Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu).

*"There are hundreds of patients afflicted with Parkinson's disease in the Dallas area. Between the promise of helping these patients and the growing evidence and science that support the study of this device, the Baylor team has taken the initiative to further our knowledge on neuromodulation right in our own backyard,"*

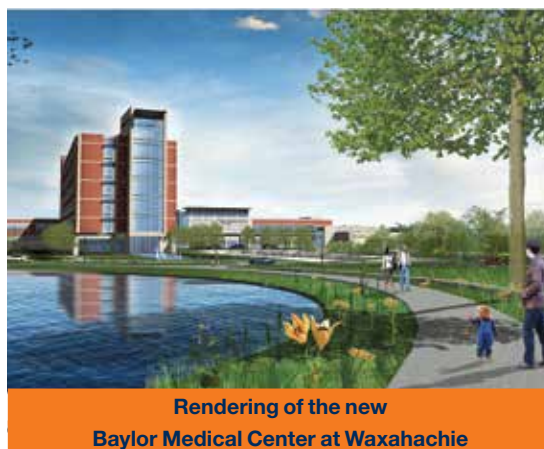
– DR. ELMYRA ENCARNACIÓN

## Baylor Waxahachie breaks ground on new hospital

**O**N APRIL 10, Baylor Health Care System broke ground on the new 299,000-square-foot location for Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie. Many community members and supporters were in attendance at the celebration of this new chapter in this history of Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie.

The new campus will be located on 52 acres at the intersection of I-35E and Highway 287. The first phase of the estimated \$175.5 million hospital project, a 75,000-square-foot medical office building housing physicians and health care related programs, is slated to open in December 2013. The larger campus project is expected to open in November 2014, the 100th anniversary of Baylor Waxahachie's grand opening. A comprehensive fundraising initiative has been launched in support of the new facility.

Baylor's leaders recognized the rapid population growth in the area and the need for expanded patient services in a variety of medical specialties. The new campus will also be the home to Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center at Waxahachie, allowing patients to receive cancer



Rendering of the new  
Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie

treatment close to home. Additionally, the increased space will accommodate expanded service lines such as Women's Services, which will include Labor and Delivery. "There is a high level of enthusiasm and excitement about this endeavor across the Baylor community, and we've been fortunate that the City of Waxahachie has shared in and supported our vision," said **Jay Fox**, president of Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie.

The new hospital is initially designed to accommodate 129 beds with future growth

capabilities and will include a 6-story hospital bed tower. Jay explained, "We want the new space to be lean, flexible and efficient, so that we can continue to use this facility effectively for many years." The new buildings will provide additional inpatient beds, operating rooms, and emergency and ICU space.

The new campus will be constructed in accordance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification guidelines. Baylor's collaborators in developing the new hospital and property are HKS Architects, CB Richard Ellis and MEDCO Construction.

As the hospital embarks on its second century of service, it looks to continue its strong role in the community. This new facility ensures that Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie can continue providing quality care to Ellis County and its neighbors far into the future.

For more information about supporting Baylor Waxahachie, contact Melissa Dalton at 214.820.2705 or [Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu).



# ON THE BOARD

CURTIS C. FARMER

**C**URTIS C. “CURT” FARMER is vice chairman of the retail bank and wealth management divisions of Comerica Bank and has been a member of the Baylor Health Care System Foundation board since 2010. In his role at Comerica, Curt has oversight of multiple businesses in the wealth management division. He is also responsible for personal banking and business banking in the retail bank division as well as corporate marketing and communications.

Curt joined Comerica in October of 2008 from Wachovia Bank where he most recently held the positions of executive vice president and wealth management director for the Southeast. Curt was affiliated with Wachovia for more than 20 years, and served in key leadership roles in retail banking, business banking and wealth management.

Curt is a native of Winston Salem, North Carolina, and earned both his undergraduate and M.B.A. degrees from Wake Forest University. He

considers his parents to be his heroes and credits his father’s great influence as a “role model in giving back to others and to the community overall.” He currently serves on the boards of Wake Forest University, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Boy Scouts of America, Circle 10 Council.



Curt Farmer

He is honored to serve on the Foundation board and recognizes the importance of involving community leaders with Baylor, emphasizing that it is critical to continue to attract the best candidates to serve on the board.

**What is a special story that you have about an experience with Baylor?**

Machelle Davenport has been a wonderful resource for our family, especially given that we are fairly new to Dallas. When our daughter, **Katie**, contracted a kidney infection, we flew her home from college in South Carolina for care at Baylor. She arrived at 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning and thanks to the great support of Machelle, she was under the care of an urologist on the Baylor

medical staff by 10 a.m.

The quality of the Baylor staff at all levels is excellent; they are obviously well trained, but beyond that, they truly care. When caring for Katie the entire team was very responsive and compassionate, and we were fortunate that she made a quick recovery.

**Why are you passionate about our cause?**

I like the blending of advanced medical capabilities with a faith-based organization that is committed to the highest level of care for all people. The needs of our community are so great and Baylor is uniquely positioned to combine leading edge research and compassionate patient care.

**To what do you attribute your success?**

Commitment, determination and integrity

**Describe your family:**

Marrying my wife, **Alice**, was the best idea I ever had. We’ll celebrate 28 years of marriage on our next anniversary and have three wonderful children.

**Katie** is a senior at College of Charleston; **Allison** is a freshman at Wake Forest University; and **Jack** is a freshman at Episcopal School of Dallas.

**What are your hobbies or interests?**

I enjoy golf, camping and snow skiing. ♡

## FOCUS ON RESEARCH

### Heart of the matter – Research by Dr. Robert Stoler

**C**ARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE is the number one cause of death, killing more than 600,000 Americans each year. According to the American Heart Association, more than 5 million Americans are diagnosed with heart valve disease each year; approximately 5 percent of the population. Diseases of the aortic and mitral valves are the most common and up to 1.5 million people in the United States suffer from aortic stenosis (AS). The aortic valve consists of three tightly fitting, triangular-shaped flaps of tissue called leaflets and is positioned between the left ventricle of the heart and the aorta. The aorta is the largest artery in the body and carries the entire output of blood. Severe aortic stenosis occurs when the aortic valve does not open or close properly, forcing the heart to work harder to pump blood through the body.

Approximately 500,000 aortic stenosis patients are considered severe cases with half presenting symptoms. The most common symptom of the condition is chronic shortness of breath; however, patients may also experience chest pains or dizziness. Research shows that left untreated, severe aortic stenosis has a 50 percent mortality rate at two years – perhaps surprisingly, this is a survival rate below that of certain metastatic cancers.

**Robert Stoler, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I.**, medical director of the Cardiac Catheterization

Lab at Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital (BHVH) and co-medical director, Division of Cardiology, is leading Baylor’s participation in an exciting clinical trial to research a new treatment option for AS patients. Baylor Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital is



Dr. Robert Stoler

one of 45 national sites researching the use of the Medtronic CoreValve® transcatheter aortic valve replacement system as a treatment alternative to open heart surgery. “Every research division in the country would like to have this study – we’re proud that we can offer this opportunity to our patients,” said Dr. Stoler.

Traditionally, the most effective treatment option has been replacing the aortic valve through open heart surgery, an invasive procedure that carries many risks. Unfortunately, approximately one-third of severe aortic stenosis patients are not candi-

dates for open heart surgery due to age or other conditions like lung, vascular and kidney disease, which leaves these patients with limited treatment options.

Earlier phases of the CoreValve trial evaluated whether the system was effective for patients at high risk, or ineligible, for open heart surgery. Baylor was recently awarded a new study, called SURTAVI, which looks at use of the valve in intermediate-risk patients as compared with the outcomes from traditional open heart surgery.

According to Dr. Stoler, “Because our data and the quality of the work taking place in the BHVH Cardiac Catheterization Lab is exemplary, we have a number of partners who are interested in bringing studies here, and we’re fortunate that we can offer our patients the opportunity to participate.”

The procedure, which is minimally invasive, takes approximately two hours to complete. It is performed by making an incision in the femoral artery and delivering the new aortic valve via a catheter threaded up to the heart. The artificial valve is made of natural tissue with “leaflets” that control the flow of blood secured to a flexible, self-expanding frame for support.

Patients who have received the system report an immediate improvement in their ability to breathe deeply and typical recovery time is between four and seven days. Dr. Stoler has high hopes that the CoreValve clinical trial will result in FDA approval for use in high-risk or inoperable patients within the next one or two years. He also anticipates that a successful trial will lead to new generations of valves from Medtronic and other device companies coming to trial as advances in the understanding of this treatment continue. Dr. Stoler believes that bringing clinical trials to Baylor benefits everyone. “Patients have access to innovative technology, we’re expanding scientific knowledge, and Baylor is recognized for leading the way in the field,” he said.

For more information about Baylor’s heart and vascular initiatives, contact Elizabeth Denton at 214.820.4070 or [Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu). ♡

*“Every research division in the country would like to have this study – we’re proud that we can offer this opportunity to our patients,”*

– DR. ROBERT STOLER

## A CLOSER LOOK: SURGERY

## A love story for the ages

**I**N OCTOBER 2011, **Sandy Brennan** received a gift from her daughter, **Michelle Brennan Hall**, but it didn't arrive in a brightly colored package or tied up in a ribbon. It was the gift of a life-saving kidney.

Sandy had been diagnosed with early-stage kidney failure 13 years earlier and as time went by, her kidney function declined and her symptoms worsened. Her creatinine levels – an important indicator of renal health – began to rise. The toxins in Sandy's blood stream were slowing her down and although she tried to continue on with life as usual, her husband, **David**, and children began to notice that she wasn't her usual self; that her "light had gone out." As Sandy described it, "I turned into an old woman at age 72," but wouldn't admit to herself that her condition was deteriorating.

In early 2011, she was placed on the kidney transplant list, but was told that the wait would likely be two or three years. Even though she was "300 percent" opposed to dialysis, Sandy's doctor recommended that she begin treatment. The Brennans realized that without it she would not survive long enough to receive a transplant.

At that point Sandy and David's four children, Michelle, **David Jr.**, **Darren** and **Debra**, decided to be screened for donor compatibility. The compatibility test checks six cells for a match – the closer the match, the lower the likelihood of



Michelle Brennan Hall and Sandy Brennan

rejection. Michelle's results were a five out of six and after careful consideration, she and Sandy decided to proceed with the transplant. Sandy remembered Michelle saying that she wasn't ready to let her mother go.

The day of the transplant, both Sandy and Michelle were apprehensive, but hopeful. Sandy said she felt a palpable "spirit of well-being" as they entered the Baylor Annette C. and Harold

*"A friend of mine described it so well; she said 'Your daughter giving a kidney is a love story for the ages.' Even today, I'm still in awe."*

— SANDY BRENNAN

C. Simmons Transplant Institute and knew they were in "the best hands possible." They also knew that people all across the United States were praying, including a Baylor employee Sandy called "an angel in our midst," who offered to bless them before the surgery.

They both came through the procedure beautifully and within the first few days Sandy began to feel her head clear and her energy return. Michelle's recovery was slower, but also went smoothly. Sandy said, "It was the most wonderful, positive experience" and that at times "I can't quite believe it's real." She continued, "Anytime we have the opportunity to do something for transplant patients we will."

With that sentiment in mind, on the first anniversary of the transplant surgery, the Brennans decided to give a generous gift to support Baylor's living kidney donor program. Instead of seeking recognition for themselves, they asked that Baylor honor Michelle's generous sacrifice by naming a transplant training room in her honor. Sandy's gratitude for her daughter's selfless act is clear: "A friend of mine described it so well; she said 'Your daughter giving a kidney is a love story for the ages.' Even today, I'm still in awe."

For more information about Baylor's transplantation programs, contact Melissa Dalton at 214.820.2705 or [Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu). ☺

## New strategy for training surgeons

**B**AYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM has a long tradition of educating the next generation of doctors and caregivers as part of its mission to provide safe, quality care to its patients. In 1909, Baylor graduated its first class of medical residents. Today, more than 200 physicians participate in Baylor's graduate medical education program with 160 residents and 51 fellows.

**Thomas Cox, Psy.D.**, faculty development specialist in the Department of Surgery, is focused on shaping the educational process within the surgical residency program. Dr. Cox's goal is to effectively prepare young surgeons for the challenging situations they will face during their medical practice and ensure that their residency training is engaging and consistently provides new learning opportunities. "The surgical faculty at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas is a group of highly motivated educators, and it is an honor to work with them on advanced educational innovations and methodologies," he said.

The Department of Surgery has 49 general surgical residents and 50 attending surgeons who comprise the core teaching faculty. Residents experience five different teaching environments – large group conferences (lectures), small group conferences (discussions), clinical care settings, surgical procedures and simulation lab time. The complexity of the material, differing learning styles of the residents and variations in teaching



Surgery simulation

technique create a challenging learning environment for faculty and residents.

Dr. Cox's background is uniquely suited to the task based on past experiences that include 12 years as a professor of psychology at Southern Methodist University and eight years as a physician's assistant in cardiac surgery. Through his understanding of surgery and teaching techniques, Dr. Cox is able to implement best teaching practices to assist both the teachers and students to optimize instruction time.

To that end, Dr. Cox has written a teaching manual which provides the physician faculty with resources and methodologies to create an engaging learning environment. The targeted audience includes multiple disciplines of critical care physicians, trauma specialists, pharmacists, pulmonologists, general surgeons and occupational therapists. He also recommended a shift to the

Just-In-Time Teaching (JITT) method for both large and small group conferences. JITT is a teaching method that encourages active learning by students, generates interactive response to questions and provides opportunities for discussion. Dr. Cox is also offering classes to faculty and chief residents on learning theory, learning styles and teaching technique that will satisfy teaching education requirements for Texas A&M clinical faculty at Baylor Dallas.

By varying the approach and segmenting material in smaller sections the surgical faculty can create lively discussion, overcome inhibitions residents might feel about asking questions and engage learners of all styles. Dr. Cox's vision for education at Baylor is to continue to train and educate faculty across all services and specialties through a formalized certification program and to create opportunities for physicians to complete advanced degree programs in education. The future of the system's educational mission consists of highly qualified educators with advanced degrees in education, at all levels of the faculty. "Ultimately, the goal of the department is a modern approach. Educating the faculty to educate the residents will go a long way to facilitating this process," said Dr. Cox. As requirements and expectations for residency and fellowship training outcomes set by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education continue to evolve, Baylor is on the leading edge. ☺

*A Closer Look examines new and exciting topics within a service area at Baylor Health Care System. For more information about Baylor's surgery programs, contact Tim Moore at 214.820.7877 or [Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu).*



# PHYSICIAN PROFILE

HAL MARTIN, D.O.

**H**AL MARTIN, D.O., is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine with a particular focus on diagnosing and treating hip conditions. Dr. Martin serves as medical and research director of the Hip Preservation Center at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, joining the medical staff in 2012. He was director of the Hip Clinic with Oklahoma Sports Science and Orthopaedics in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Martin is a native of Oklahoma City and earned his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University (OSU) where he was a member of the track team and served as varsity captain during his senior year. He went on to earn his D.O. degree from OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at Doctor's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He continued his education with the Ilizarov Fellowship in Milan, Italy, and a one-year fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh in sports medicine and hip pathology.

Dr. Martin is a current member of the American Osteopathic Association of Orthopedics and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He has published or co-written 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and contributed more than a dozen chapters to medical textbooks.

## What excites you about practicing medicine at Baylor?

It's important to me that the patients in our region have access to excellent care, and I think Baylor's commitment to education, teaching and research is moving the field of orthopedics in the

right direction. I'm thrilled to be a part of an organization like Baylor that is a leading orthopedic institution with a lineage and tradition of excellence.

## What differentiates Baylor from other institutions?

My faith is important to me, and I can tell that the commitment to the mission at Baylor is sincere from the top down.

## Are there any research projects you're working on?

I'm currently working on a follow-up to an earlier paper I wrote that describes the function of the six ligaments of the hip. We know a lot about how other joints like the

shoulder and the knee function, but medical knowledge about the structure and function of the hip is still very limited.

## What are some memorable moments in your career?

When I was invited to present at the Harvard Medical School's "Annual Advances in Arthroplasty" course in 2012 and at the Charnley Centennial Meeting in Wigan, England, in 2011.

## Describe your family:

I've been married to my wife, **Michelle**, for 33 years and we have two great daughters, **Courtney** 24, who lives in Atlanta, and **Cara**, 22, who is about to graduate from college.

## What are your hobbies or interests?

My main priorities over the last 30 years have been family, church and orthopedics. But when I have time I like to sail, and I still go running. I also really love to read and some of my favorites are by Thomas Merton. ☺



Dr. Hal Martin

# Bold vision for surgery

*continued from page 1*

of the Baylor surgical staff and promoting experienced faculty into leadership roles, the department can continue to increase the expertise of its surgeons.

Both current physicians on the medical staff at Baylor and physician trainees report that a thriving medical education program is an appealing recruitment and retention tool. A vibrant program's benefits are two-fold. Residents and fellows are attracted by the opportunity to work with the renowned physicians on Baylor's medical staff. Additionally, physicians characterize their experience as a rewarding way to pass along their knowledge to the next generation while keeping their skills sharp and their familiarity with new technology current. As a result, enhanced educational programs for physician trainees are a key aspect of achieving Dr. Fleshman's goals.

A robust research program is also an essential element, allowing investigators to advance medical knowledge and best practices. Dr. Fleshman views participation in clinical research as a

core competency and will seek to promote increased resident participation, as well as to provide avenues to bring innovation to clinical practice.

The laudable goals set by Dr. Fleshman for the Department of Surgery mirror the bold vision articulated by **Campaign 2015: Baylor Makes Us All Better**. This multi-

faceted approach will require significant philanthropic support for endowed chairs honoring experienced physicians, funding for resident and fellowship positions, seed-capital for research projects, and investment in technology and equipment. Support from the community will ensure that these lofty goals are met. ☺



Texas Memorial Sanatorium's Operating Theater in 1909



# From the President

*"A person first starts to live when he can live outside of himself."*

— Albert Einstein

The "AND THEN SOME" Principle

**O**ur annual **Employee Giving Campaign** highlights outstanding examples of the spirit of giving. We asked our employees why they give. Here's one of the responses that struck me:

"I give because I want to be part of something bigger. Something that stretches me. Something that opens my eyes. And then some."

The difference between average people and great people can be explained in three words: AND ... THEN ... SOME.

They are considerate and thoughtful of others, AND THEN SOME.

They meet their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely, AND THEN SOME.

They are good friends, AND THEN SOME.

They can be counted on in an emergency, AND THEN SOME.

This employee embodies the spirit of Baylor. The Baylor team is a group of passionate individuals who tend to live outside of ourselves ... AND THEN SOME.

The February public launch of **Campaign 2015: Baylor Makes Us All Better** at the Wyly Theatre captured the essence of Baylor in an entertaining and meaningful way.

We announced that we are currently more than two-thirds toward our campaign goal of \$250 million!

I remember a few years ago when I shared this goal with my Foundation leadership and staff. I said, "If we aim at the moon – we may hit a star." The Foundation team has gone further and faster than anyone thought was possible. We have great momentum; we're heading toward the "moon." Sincere thanks to all the teammates and patrons who have made this possible. ☺

Rowland K. Robinson  
President

Baylor Health Care System Foundation  
Robinson@BaylorHealth.edu



## Chairman supports Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute

**B**RENDA JACKSON has been involved with the Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute (DHWI) at Juanita J. Craft Recreation Center since its earliest days. DHWI is a community-based health care facility located in the Frazier neighborhood of southern Dallas that seeks to improve the health and wellness of area residents. As soon as she heard the proposed plan, Brenda was intrigued, and nearly five years later she continues to be actively involved with DHWI. She initially served as a member of the board and was named chairman in November 2012.

The Institute, an affiliate of Baylor Health Care System and a joint effort with the City of Dallas, offers a clinic staffed by physicians, nurses and care coordinators to assist patients diagnosed with diabetes in managing their condition. DHWI also provides programs facilitated by education specialists, such as cooking and exercise classes, as well as a farmers' market selling fresh ingredients, which can help prevent individuals at high-risk from developing the disease.

Brenda recognized the forward-thinking nature of the DHWI concept and the way it could



Brenda Jackson

address the health needs of the community.

In her words, "I like the approach of working with the whole person."

Inspired by the care and compassion that physicians on the medical staff at Baylor provided her late mother, **Annie Marie Ellison Jackson**, who suffered from diabetes, Brenda recently decided to give a generous gift to support the Institute. To recognize her support, an exam room in the Institute has been named in memory of Marie, and Brenda hopes "in some small way that my gift would allow others to get the kind of care my mother received."

Due to her condition, Marie was periodically admitted to Baylor's emergency room for treatment, and Brenda had the opportunity to observe the way the physicians cared for her. Whether they knew her mother well or were seeing her for the first time, Brenda said, "I see a theme with Baylor doctors – they work with patients because they have a calling."

As the number of diabetes patients continues to grow – nationwide an estimated 35 percent of adults age 20 and older have pre-diabetes – so will the need for innovative prevention and care solutions like DHWI. In Brenda's view, Baylor leaders have shown a strong commitment to ensuring that the Institute remains an active part of the community, an essential component in building relationships. Of Baylor's support for the Institute she said, "This is a health care institution that lives its mission and chooses leaders who have that mission as part of their DNA." When Baylor's leaders talk about the work happening at DHWI "they do it with a great deal of pride."

For more information about supporting DHWI, contact Amy McNabb at 214.820.4771 or [Amy.McNabb@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Amy.McNabb@BaylorHealth.edu). ☺

## NFL lineman goes on the offense for Celebrating Women

**A**N ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP of *Celebrating Women* committee members gathered together in April at the annual Kick-Off Coffee to await the announcement of this year's keynote speaker. The event was held at the home of **Debbie Oates**, who will serve as the 2013 Celebrating Women chairman. **Christie Carter** and **Susan McSherry** are also serving as 2013 Underwriting Chairmen.

Debbie stood next to a draped easel, which covered a photo of this year's speaker. She

first described some of the speaker's career highlights – member of the College Football Hall of Fame and a 10-year veteran in the NFL, including four Pro Bowls as linebacker for the Detroit Lions. She also explained that the speaker's family had been touched by breast cancer and inspired his mission to raise money for breast cancer. After detailing his efforts to discover a cure, Debbie revealed a picture of ESPN broadcaster, **Chris Spielman**.

Celebrating Women, presented for the ninth consecutive year by **Tom Thumb**, will be held on

October 23 at the Hilton Anatole hotel in Dallas. Over the past 13 years, the event has raised more than \$19 million to support expanded technology, community outreach, innovative clinical research, education and programmatic needs throughout Baylor Health Care System.

For more information about Celebrating Women, call 214.820.4500, email [CelebratingWomen@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:CelebratingWomen@BaylorHealth.edu) or visit [BaylorHealth.com/CelebratingWomen](http://BaylorHealth.com/CelebratingWomen). ☺



Former Celebrating Women chairmen



Nancy Chapman and Margo Goodwin



Debbie Oates and Joel Allison



Sarah Losinger, Debbie Oates and Barbara Stuart



Mary Clare Finney, Nancy Carter and Pam Perella



Susan McSherry, Debbie Oates and Christie Carter



## Graves Foundation supports Baylor's humanitarian mission

**T**HANKS TO A GENEROUS GRANT from **The Graves Foundation**, medical professionals at Baylor Health Care System, in collaboration with **Mercy Ships**, can bring Baylor's humanitarian mission to poor and underserved communities in West Africa. **Gordon Graves**, founder and benefactor of the Graves Foundation, describes the gift as a "very exciting way to combine the efforts of two innovative charitable organizations."

Baylor's Faith In Action Initiatives (FIAI) program was established through the Mission and Ministry Office to provide resources and medical volunteers to grassroots organizations locally and abroad. The grant from the Graves Foundation provides scholarships to Baylor physicians, nurses and other health care providers so that they may serve through FIAI as a part of the medical staff onboard Mercy Ships.

Mercy Ships, a Christian organization also based in Texas, was established in 1978 and currently operates the *Africa Mercy*, the largest non-governmental hospital ship in the world. For the past 22 years, Mercy Ships has conducted 33 field service visits in 10 countries along the West African coast. All donations to Mercy Ships are directed to patient care needs, so volunteers on the ship pay for their own expenses and travel costs. The financial investment can be a deterrent for otherwise willing volunteers and Gordon's hope for the gift to Baylor is that "we've discovered a way to remove a financial barrier that prevents doctors and nurses from volunteering to serve."

**Scott Temple, R.N.**, a Baylor operating room nurse, has worked with Mercy Ships on two separate occasions – first in 2011 and again in 2012. During his first trip, he spent 4 weeks serving onboard the ship during a port call in the country of Sierra Leone. In describing his experience he tells a story about a moment that he continues to carry with him. When the crew arrives on board each

member is screened for blood type and essentially functions as a "walking blood bank." During the trip a need arose for Scott's particular blood type – the patient was a 12-year-old boy. As the boy's parents looked on, Scott says that the expression of gratitude he saw in their eyes is "something that still makes me emotional."

In many developing countries, even basic medical care is out of reach; and in Africa, nearly 50 percent of the people have no access to a hospital or doctor. An advance team works with local communities and churches, makes radio

announcements and distributes fliers before a port call to alert the public to the upcoming visit. The team also begins screening prospective patients, often using local soccer stadiums, to triage the cases. Mercy Ships' medical services include cleft lip and palate repair, cataract removal, orthopedic procedures, maxillo-facial reconstruction and plastic surgery, obstetric fistula repair and dental care.

Many of the patients have suffered from these conditions for years without the necessary medical attention and are often ostracized from their communities because of their appearance or the unappealing nature of their condition. Mr. Graves expresses the simple, but profound, goal of the collaboration between Baylor and Mercy Ships, "to provide medical attention to people in need, and through that care begin to change their lives." Mercy Ships volunteers also seek to address the training needs of local medical professionals to advance knowledge and expertise in their specialty.

Scott plans to return for a third mission this fall when the *Africa Mercy* docks in The Republic of the Congo in September 2013. According to Scott, "There is such joy in seeing a patient restored physically, emotionally and spiritually – to lift them up again."

For more information about Baylor's mission and ministry initiatives, contact Elizabeth Denton at 214.820.4070 or [Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu).



*Africa Mercy, the world's largest hospital ship*



### From the Chairman

**"I**t was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Dickens' words from long ago seem to have application for our world today. We are beset by increasing discord between nations; indiscriminate, sectarian bloodshed; and the growth of terrorist acts throughout the world.

The recent bombing in Boston shocked us all, and reminded us of our vulnerability. It is hard to understand the inhumanity of the event, and we are left with an anguish that persists. We might reasonably feel that it is the worst of times.

But, out of tragic events also come exceptional acts of heroism, bravery, sacrifice and caring. It is reassuring to witness the remarkable responses of individuals and organizations that go to almost any extent to bind up wounds and to reach out to aid our fellow man. We are reminded again of the inherent goodness of the vast majority of mankind, and we know that it is also the best of times.

Here at Baylor Health Care System, we are surrounded by examples of caring and compassion that proceed from the operation of one of the finest health care organizations in the country. This issue of *the torch* includes stories on innovative heart and vascular clinical trials, our patient-centered organ transplant program and our Baylor employees who are willing to travel across the world to bring care and healing to those without access.

The story of **Sandy Brennan** and **Michelle Brennan Hall** reminds us that in all that we do, especially when we give of ourselves, it is the ultimate impact on people that really matters. Examples of generosity, such as the Brennan family's, are repeated many times over every day throughout the Baylor system, and we can be very proud of that.

Clearly at Baylor, it is the best of times – in every aspect, the System is distinguished and getting better. We are in the midst of a critically important capital campaign. The elements of that campaign will help the System go beyond excellence in a number of areas. There is the opportunity for everyone to be a part of this campaign, and I ask that you commit yourself to do what you can. You will feel the gratitude that comes from knowing that you helped to advance this great institution dedicated to health and healing, and you will be part of the best of times at Baylor.

Erle Nye  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Baylor Health Care System Foundation

**L**AURA MESSERSMITH joined Baylor Health Care System Foundation in October 2012 as a senior officer.

Laura relocated to Dallas with her husband, **Mike**, three years ago. They have since adopted a golden retriever, **Maddie**, become taco joint regulars and learned to use "y'all" correctly.

Laura spent seven years working for Massachusetts General Hospital where she gained experience in operations, planned giving, and prospect research. After two years in higher education, she is pleased to be back in the health care field. Laura earned her bachelor's degree in communication from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

**What differentiates Baylor from other health care organizations?**

The role that faith plays in the way that Baylor caregivers and staff approach their jobs is unique. I love that I can be part of a health care organization that places an emphasis on treating our patients physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

**What are your hobbies or interests?**

I like to bake, read a good book or take the dog for long walks. I also love to visit our friends and

### MEET THE STAFF



Laura Messersmith

family around the country.

**Is there a book that changed your perspective on life?**

I'm continually amazed at the wisdom contained in Scripture which often changes my perspective.

**What are your goals in life?**

My relationships are the most important part of my life – I want to look back and know that I've been a loving spouse, daughter, sister and friend.



# MED ED PROFILE

ALICIA BRANDON SWINK, M.D.

**A**LICIA BRANDON SWINK is a fourth-year medical student at Texas A&M College of Medicine with the class of 2013 and is currently completing a rotation at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. She was recently accepted as an intern with the Department of Internal Medicine at Baylor Dallas and will begin her residency in July 2013. Alicia studied engineering at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, before transferring to Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas as a sophomore. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering in 2008.

Alicia is a native of Borger, located in the Panhandle of Texas, and describes an idyllic childhood in a close-knit community. Alicia attributes her faith in God, strong work ethic, interest in people and thirst for knowledge to her parents. She learned at a young age to care for her own horse, to seek answers to her questions in the family set of encyclopedias and to warmly welcome visitors. Alicia describes God's grace as "the cornerstone of my life" and lives out the foundational values of her life in her decision to become a physician.

## What is the highlight of your career?

The highlight of my fledgling career is being chosen by the internal medicine residency program at Baylor for my internship. I hold the people in this

program in such great esteem, and it is truly an honor to be counted among them.

## What impresses you about Baylor?

The people that make up Baylor are incredible at every pay grade and job description. They are intelligent, competent, compassionate, and excited to come to work. The high quality of employees makes Baylor what it is – an exemplary hospital where patients receive wonderful care on every level.

## To what do you attribute your success?

I am who I am because of a thousand people and experiences, but truly my success (such as it is) is all God's doing. He gave me amazing parents who fostered in me a love of learning and people, and He has led me on a

path to serving others and in so doing, fulfilling my life.

## What are your hobbies?

My husband, **Eric**, and I enjoy gardening, exploring our neighborhood, and spending time with our 13-month-old son, **Sawyer**. We enjoy reading, cooking, traveling, and just being together. For a few months out of the year, we are also Fantasy Football fiends.

## What are you most proud of?

My marriage and my son are God's greatest gifts in my life, and my pride in them reflects God's glory, for certainly their goodness is not of myself. ☺



Dr. Alicia Brandon Swink

# GIVE

BAYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

## BAYLOR EMPLOYEE REASONS FOR GIVING

To contribute to the Baylor family. **Baylor has done so much for our patients and the community. I just want us to continue with our quality of care** • To help fellow employees. • I want to help others before helping myself as God teaches us!

**I want to share the blessings I have received.** • To help in the mission of Baylor. • Because it is for a good cause. • Just because. • I gave because I like to help other people in need. • **I am getting more from Baylor than I am giving.**

Pay it forward • To help those in need who have no other resources. • I've been with HTPN for 16 years and have been blessed over and over - this is my way to pay it forward.

Someone has always been there to help me when needed, so I want to do the same.

**Baylor is awesome, and I like that I can be a part of their philanthropic mission!** • "It is better to give than to receive"

because giving glorifies God. • To put others first. Baylor is one big family and family sticks together. • For the patient that needs to be assured through faith that everything will turn

out the way it should. • To help others in need, and I never know when I will need help.

**"I have not gold or silver, but what I have, I give to you."** • Baylor

provides exceptional service to our community - I am happy to be a part of that mission.

**I gave because I am a cancer survivor.** • To give back to those who give so much to Baylor and to support worthwhile programs for our patients and their families. • I

am so blessed to have what I have and want to help people having hard times. • **I have**

**been blessed in so many ways.** • I want to support Baylor and our

patients so we can provide the best care. • I love to help Our Children's House because the kids need all the help and love we can give. • To provide support to our patients

and employees. • I'm a giver. • Because there are so many people in need everywhere!

**EGC is critical to our patient care and employees.** • To help others in

need. • A friend in my class received one of the RN scholarships. • Because I believe in

helping others less fortunate. • I give every year! • **In hopes of healing others.**

# SAVE THE DATE



## Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament

PRESENTED BY BANK OF TEXAS®

*Benefiting medical education*

**When:** Monday, October 7, 2013

**Where:** Northwood Club

**Contact:** Lindsay Nahoum, 214.820.7734,

Lindsay.Nahoum@BaylorHealth.edu

BaylorHealth.com/GrandRounds



## Celebrating Women Luncheon

PRESENTED BY TOM THUMB®

*Helping Baylor Health Care System fight breast cancer*

**When:** Wednesday, October 23, 2013

**Where:** Hilton Anatole

**Contact:** Angela Randall, 214.820.4776,

Angela.Randall@BaylorHealth.edu

BaylorHealth.com/CelebratingWomen



FUN WALK/5K RUN

## DHWI Fun Walk/5K Run

PRESENTED BY MEDASSETS®

*Helping Baylor Health Care System fight diabetes*

**When:** Saturday, October 26, 2013

**Where:** DHWI headquarters at

4500 Spring Avenue in Dallas

**Contact:** Courtney Brown, 214.820.6237,

Courtney.Brown@BaylorHealth.edu

## Baylor gives

*continued from page 1*

in a collage of quotes (see at left) that truly express the Baylor difference and spirit of generosity and servanthood that Baylor employees embody every day.

Joel expressed his admiration for the enthusiasm of Baylor employees, "I have often said how deeply moved I am by the generosity of our Baylor employees ... collectively you have shown time and again that your compassion for others is limitless." ☺

To learn more about any Baylor Health Care System Foundation initiative, contact the Foundation at 214.820.3136 or email [thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu). Write to us at 3600 Gaston Avenue, Barnett Tower Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75246-1800.