

# GSBS NEWS

The University of Texas  
GRADUATE SCHOOL of BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES *at Houston*

*GSBS Students are everywhere!*



**UT MD Anderson  
Cancer Center**

**UTHealth Medical School**

**Mitchell Basic Sciences  
Research Building**

**UTHealth Institute of  
Molecular Medicine**

**UTHealth School of  
Biomedical Informatics**

**UTHealth School of  
Public Health**

**South Campus**

**UT MD Anderson Research Building  
NEW UTHealth Dental Branch (2012)  
UT Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Building**

# Benefactor News

## First Discovery Fellows Named!

Largest individual benefactors to The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) at Houston to date, Diana and Russell Hawkins, are shown here, center, with Jacy Crosby, left, and Rajesha Rupaimoole, right. Crosby (Advisor, Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D.) and Rupaimoole (Advisor, Anil Sood, M.D.) are recipients of the very first Discovery Fellowships, entitled The Russell and Diana Hawkins Family Foundation Discovery Fellows.



The Hawkins' \$260,000 current use gift over five years will support biomarker research for its first emerging area. Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins were excited by Dean Stancel's concept to develop highly interactive teams of creative, innovative faculty members and students. As envisioned, these will work together in emerging areas likely to be at the leading edge of biomedical research and will utilize outstanding graduate students supported with GSBS philanthropic funds. These Discovery Fellows will generate new data and breakthroughs that better position the teams' research to be highly competitive for significant National Institutes of Health and other extramural funding within a relatively short time-frame.

Biomarkers are a tremendously important aid to drug design and development because they provide a means of early assessment of a drug's likely effectiveness and they may be critical to quickly determine drug safety. Crosby's research project focuses biomarkerson a particular kind of infant diabetes with recent findings that may also lead to help for autism. Rupaimoole is dedicated to investigating biomarkers that delineate effects on ovarian cancer. The difference the Hawkins' gift makes through the first Discovery Fellowships not only impacts these individual students, but more rapidly derives important research knowledge even as it increases institutional standing in the scientific community.

Thank you Diana and Russell Hawkins for your generosity and dramatic choice to fund Discovery Fellowships!



## The Power of Planning

The first charitable gift annuity in The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and only the second in The University of Texas Health Science Center history was established with a gift of \$50,000 by Mrs. Fadine Jackson Roquemore through The University of Texas Foundation.

Fadine Jackson Roquemore

Please see page 19.

## FRONT COVER

This aerial view of the Texas Medical Center shows each building where the Graduate School's students work in laboratories, and illustrates the breadth and depth of resources available to GSBS Students.

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## BACK COVER

**Message to the Alumni:**  
Jackie Peltier Horn, Ph.D.  
President 2010-2011  
GSBS Alumni Association



Last September the National Research Council (NRC) released its rankings of doctoral programs in the U.S. for nine broad categories of biomedical sciences based upon an assessment of faculty publications, awards, and grants; student body composition, qualifications, and performance; and facilities, benefits, and activities for students. These NRC results (see <http://www.nap.edu/rdp>) are thus based on quantifiable, objective measures in contrast to most other rankings that are results of opinion surveys that are easier to conduct but often problematic to assess.

The results for a given program are presented as a range of overlapping values with others in a given discipline rather than a simple numerical ranking, and several sets of ranges are provided based upon how the 20 parameters were weighted in the final calculations so analysis can be complicated. Evaluating complex quantitative data impartially is difficult for a non-statistician such as I – so I thought about ways I might consider the NRC rankings in a simplified yet meaningful manner. Since we often think of ourselves in the context of others who are similar, I thought it might be instructive to simply view the institutions

immediately above and below our GSBS Programs in the overall NRC listings in the various categories. Here are the results for five of our Programs and our other five participating ones were also generally well-ranked among those at other quality institutions. People may debate the best way to present and interpret statistical data, but there is absolutely no doubt about the quality of the institutions we find ourselves among. The schools in the table are all outstanding institutions with well-deserved reputations in education and research, and we can all be proud that GSBS is grouped among them.

These findings are a tribute to our faculty members, students, alumni and staff because the NRC assessments are based upon their efforts and those of many others throughout MD Anderson, UTHealth, and the community who have supported GSBS in numerous ways. These rankings are one of the most gratifying events I have experienced as dean of GSBS. I want to express my personal appreciation to all of you who helped make this achievement possible – “Thank You!”

*George*

Cancer Biology	Microbiology & Molecular Genetics	Genes & Development	Human & Molecular Genetics	Interdisciplinary Biology
MIT	Illinois	Washington U.	Ohio State	Stanford
Harvard	Emory	Baylor	Chicago	Washington
GSBS	GSBS	GSBS	GSBS	GSBS
Stanford	North Carolina	Johns Hopkins	Cornell	Johns Hopkins
Johns Hopkins	Wisconsin	NYU	Emory	Baylor

# A Tribute to Tom Matney

## A Few Matney Stories

Find these reminiscences and more soon to be mounted at <http://utgsbsalumni.org>



It is with great sadness I inform you that Dr. Thomas Stull Matney passed away on Sunday, November 28, 2010. Tom was a faculty member in the department of biology at MD Anderson and the first associate dean of GSBS when the school was formed in 1963. In this capacity he played a leadership role in developing the broad-based curriculum and interdisciplinary programs of the Graduate School that remain key characteristics of the institution. While increasingly mainstream today these were very novel, creative ideas at the time. He served as a regular member of the GSBS Faculty until 2003 at which point he became a Professor Emeritus and a Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Sciences; those of us who knew Tom know that he never retired intellectually.” **George M. Stancel, Ph.D., Dean, GSBS**

“ I have many happy memories. Mildred Hopper introduced us when I was first a student on the 4th floor. Mildred and I and possibly a dozen other hungry folks would pile into his huge carpooling van and go to lunch at John’s BBQ way up Main Street, north of downtown. The parking lot was full of plumbers’ and other construction trucks and police cars (one reason I felt safe in that neighborhood). He was always fun-loving and interested in other people. He will be greatly missed.” **Kay Kimball, Ph.D., UT-SPH faculty**

“ Tom Matney had been at MDAH for a year when I arrived in 1963. The Texan in him (confirmed by his bolo tie) welcomed the Yankee and initiated him in the lifestyle of the area. I believed that “finger licking guide” was a colloquial expression of his rather than an advertiser’s logo. He took me and my son to central Texas for dove hunting and for dominos. Tom decided that I needed a second car and he took me shopping for second-hand vehicles. He drove a Mercedes 220 and I ended up with a rebuilt Mercedes 210 of his choice. I learned a lot about living here from Tom.

On the professional side, Tom and Joan Suit moved from the Section of Genetics to my Section of Molecular Biology when the new research wing was completed. As the GSBS blossomed, he became a key player in the instruction of our students and in the development of the Core Program. While doing this, he maintained an active research program in E. coli genetics which he continued when he moved full time to the Graduate School of Biomedical Science.” **Manley Mandel, Ph.D.; retired GSBS faculty**

“ The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (UTMDACC) and The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston are indebted to Dr. Thomas S. Matney for his leadership during the founding of the carcinogenesis research program, located in the Lost Pines Forest near Smithville, i.e. the Science Park-Research Division (SP-RD). Dr. Matney was a charter member of the Carcinogenesis Study Section (1975), an advisory body charged to design a new multidisciplinary research program focused on cancer cause and prevention. During the gestation (1976-1977) and birth

(1977-1980) of the SP-RD Dr. Matney served as Chair of its Internal Advisory Committee, and in that capacity he was involved in faculty recruitment and the search for a permanent director. He also supported actions to facilitate graduate education at the SP-RD. Dr. Matney’s contributions to the early development of the SP-RD are documented in *The Science Park – Dream to Reality: The First Twenty Years* (2009), authored by Dr. Earl F. Walborg, Jr. and available at the Medical Research Library of UTMDACC.

Tom Matney. We became friends during my food radiation activities in the early 1980’s. After I retired in 1983, he and I saw each other occasionally. In 2003, He was Teaching Genetics and invited me to speak on food radiation. At that time I quit driving on my 90th Birthday. Thereafter he would drive me to the office 2 - 3 days a week and during our drive I would review the news in the morning, and he discussed the news in the evening, and I always fell asleep. He joked about it that, he listened to me in the morning, but I wouldn’t listen to him in the evening. He was a great friend.”

**Dr. James H. Steele, DMV; Professor Emeritus, SPH**

“ I just heard that a special friend of the HTMC died on Sunday, November 28, 2010, after a prolonged illness. Dr. Matney purchased the Steinway Concert Grand Piano and donated it to Emerson Unitarian Church in Memory of his first wife. I had the singular honor of introducing Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Nancy Matney as Dorothy and my special guests at an HTMC Club meeting earlier this year. Several of HTMC’s piano recitalists gave testimony to the quality of the “Matney” piano on that Occasion.” **William J. Cameron, C.I.C., Emeritus**

“ This is a story about Dr. Matney and his involvement with the train preservation program he worked on in Houston. He had a love of all things old concerning trains. As a result of his efforts an old retired Pullman car was restored and maintained on the tracks of the downtown Houston railroad station. It had been beautifully restored. In the late 1960s I had a grad student who was getting married. The student’s name is Lawrence “Joe” Allred; he desired to do something a bit different for their rehearsal dinner and party. Tom suggested having his affair catered aboard this Pullman car. At the same time Joe asked my youngest son, Rhett Humphrey, who was 5 years old at the time, if he would be the ring bearer. Rhett wasn’t too excited about this at first, but when he found out about the train part he said OK. Following the rehearsal we gathered at the station and had our dinner. Joe presented Rhett with a present, which was a pop-up book. Rhett told us later that it was the best evening he had ever had because of the train car and his present. This is a favorite story in our family and it all happened because of an interaction between a GSBS graduate student and Tom Matney’s love of old trains and their preservation.” **Ron Humphrey, Ph.D.; retired GSBS faculty**

“ Dr. Tom Matney, for many of us, was a major reason for our success, he believed in us before we believed in ourselves. Dr. Matney aspired to inspire as a scientist, dean, and adoptable father. We are proof that he did that well.” **Tom Goka, Ph.D., GSBS, Assistant Dean for Outreach and Minority Affairs**

# Distinguished Alumna

**Cathy Wicklund, M.S., C.G.C.** (1993/ Hecht)

Nominated by Sarah Noblin, M.S., C.G.C.



Thank you Sarah for that wonderful introduction. And I would also like to thank Dean Stancel and the Alumni Steering Committee; it is truly an honor to be nominated and selected to be a member of this prestigious group of Distinguished Alumni. When I thought about what I wanted to say tonight, I realized how difficult it was going to be to summarize my experiences from Graduate School until this point in time. My main thought was how incredibly fortunate I have been to have interacted with so many intelligent and inspirational colleagues and it was going to be a challenge to make sure I acknowledge all of the people who have played a role in the evolution of my career. Going through this process also forced me to think about how and why I chose the path I did. When I reflect on the direction of my career path, so much of it has to do with the position I was in, the relationships I developed and simply being open to the opportunities that exist for all of us on a daily basis. And if I ever felt like there was a time when opportunities did not exist I thought of ways to make them happen.

I stumbled across genetic counseling as a career by sheer accident. One of my professors in college had just seen a genetic counselor to discuss her age-related risk for having a child with a chromosome abnormality and suggested genetic counseling as a career option. I contacted her genetic counselor and was fortunate to secure an internship over the summer, which solidified my desire to pursue genetic counseling as a career. When I applied to graduate schools it was before the time of the national acceptance date, where you get notified on one day of all of the programs in which you got accepted. I had interviewed and been accepted into the Texas program before I even got my next call to go on another interview at a different school. I distinctly remember getting the call while I was at work. They offered me a slot and I immediately said yes. No discussion, no further deliberation; Jerry [my husband] and I had already discussed it and I just knew that this was right and I felt lucky to have been accepted. So Jerry and I packed up the U-Haul and dragged our bright yellow Ford Festiva from Wisconsin to Texas....in August of 1991.

The two years in graduate school was a whirlwind of coursework, clinical rotations and research. The course that immediately comes to my mind when I think about graduate school is probably a course we all know and love, Genetics and Human Disease. You may recognize these two evil, I mean extraordinarily intelligent gentlemen, Dr. Craig Hanis and Dr. Eric Boerwinkle. I don't think I will ever be able to forget taking their oral exam...but it worked, I learned about heritability, segregation analysis, Hardy Weinberg and my favorite, linkage analysis.

It's amazing when you think about everything that you learn in graduate school...the structure of genes, chromosomes....different technology to visualize chromosomes...

And of course not only did I learn about genetics, but also about Genetic Counseling and the importance of communication: For instance, when you are speaking on the phone to a patient, if they don't understand you, speaking the same words, just louder, will not help their level of comprehension.

Role Plays were also very instructive: For example, yelling with surprise after a patient says something to you is not the ideal response and this strategy should not be implemented in a genetic counseling session.

For my thesis, I learned everything there is to know about Hereditary Multiple Exostosis and then some...Jacqui Hecht gets a medal for being one of the most persistent thesis advisors I know: She was adamant, and I agreed, that I should publish my thesis after I graduated. Let's not forget that this was the time before we could send documents back and forth by email. So I would work on a draft of the publication, finally fax it to her and get it off of my desk, and about one hour later I would hear that darn fax machine and then a few minutes later one of my coworkers would walk into my office with a smile on her face and hand me the latest version I just faxed that now had corrections and changes throughout. But it did pay off and my research was published and subsequently cited in Smith. I try not to mention this too much, since there are some faculty members, in particular Michael Gambello, who get upset that they aren't cited in Smith. But I keep telling him that if he works hard enough then he too can be in Smith [textbook].

And I think we can all agree that we learn so much more in graduate school than just your specialty and area of interest. I also learned some other extremely valuable nuggets as well.

For instance, I learned that high heel shoes are bad to wear in clinic. I learned that Texas is not a good place to go sledding. I learned that you should not stay really late at a wedding shower if the hostess, Hope Northrup, is pregnant and close to her delivery date.

I learned that over time a bright yellow Ford Festiva will eventually turn a lovely butter color due to the intensity of the Texas sun. And I learned from Barbara, Jacqui and Hope that humidity is good for your skin.

But even though I had a great experience in graduate school and knew I had received an excellent education, Jerry and I couldn't quite overlook the obvious difference between living in Texas and living in a northern state.

Slide: Sun and heat.

When I graduated I had two job offers, one here in Houston in the Department of Ob/Gyn and another in Camden, New Jersey. We decided to leave Texas and move to the East Coast and experience a new culture and state, New Jersey.

My first job was at Cooper Hospital in Camden and was primarily focused on clinical care. As you may remember, this was before Cancer was a specialty so the majority of genetic counseling jobs were either in prenatal, pediatric or encompassed both. My job at Cooper Hospital was a great combination of prenatal, pediatrics and specialty clinics in neurocutaneous disorders, skeletal dysplasias, cleft lip and palate and we had just begun to start offering cancer

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counseling. As I mentioned, Cooper Hospital was located in Camden and in this setting it was impossible not to further appreciate the impact of poverty and insurance issues on access to services. We had several outreach clinics throughout the New Jersey area in hopes to increase access to genetic counseling services and this was a model that I appreciated early on in my clinical practice. It was also during my time in New Jersey that I started to get involved in my professional association, the National Society of Genetic Counseling, NSGC.

After two years in New Jersey, I was contacted by Patti Furman here at UT and offered the same position I had been offered upon graduation. At my current position, we had begun to provide clinical supervision to the Sarah Lawrence genetic counseling students and I realized how much I enjoyed teaching and clinical supervision. As you all know, educating students can be one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences. The thought of returning to Houston, taking what I learned from my experience at Cooper Hospital, being able to work with Patti, Joan and Manju in the Department of OB/GYN and work directly with Jacqui and Hope and the genetic counseling graduate students was really exciting. Jerry and I had also learned that there was more to life than weather and we decided we were willing to accept the heat and humidity. Two years after we left, we were back in Texas. As my friend Ken says, a native Houstonian, whenever anyone moves away from Texas, "They'll be back, they always come back."

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**Texas: As you can see I did learn to further appreciate all of the things Texas has to offer. The good, the bad and the ugly.**

In Houston my clinical work focused primarily on prenatal and I was again fortunate to be working with a group of individuals who prioritized patient care and access to services. It was during my time at UT that I feel my career really began to evolve and develop. I eventually became the Director of Genetic Counseling Services in the Department of Ob/Gyn. And as Director I had the opportunity to work even more closely with Dr. Joan Mastrobattista, head of Genetics and Ultrasound, Dr. Suman Ramin, head of the Division, Dr. Larry Gilstrap who was the Chair of the Department of OB/GYN and Jorge Zambra, the Director of Management Operations. Dr. Gilstrap was committed to providing access to services outside of the medical center and over the ten years I was at UT several different prenatal satellite clinics had been established in the Houston area that served an incredibly diverse patient population.

It was also here at UT where I evolved from a clinical supervisor, lecturer, course director, course developer, thesis advisor and researcher, to Assistant Program Director and then Co-director of the Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling. Being a part of the Graduate Program was one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. It was exciting to have influence in curriculum development, clinical rotations, research and the overall direction of the program. The faculty of the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program were the some of the most enthusiastic, collaborative and passionate colleagues I have ever worked with. Helping to run a graduate program was constantly challenging, but being a part of a student's education and professional development made it worth every minute. It was also during my time in Houston that I became more seriously involved in NSGC.

My initial involvement in NSGC was on a small scale, but I quickly

became more active and soon was chairing various committees of our annual education conferences, sitting on the board of directors, and advancing to the role of President of the organization. I can truly say that I would not be where I am today without my involvement and experiences in NSGC. The unique skills I developed by being a leader and my exposure to advocacy and public policy shaped my career and led me down a new path.



This experience also led me to Northwestern University. Through my work in NSGC I met Kelly Ormond, who was the Director of the Northwestern Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling. It was Kelly who called me and asked me to apply to the Associate Program Director position available at Northwestern. While I still enjoyed my clinical work, I felt Northwestern would provide an environment where I could focus more on education and further develop my research interests. I went on my first interview and came back to UT not at all sure what I wanted to do. I remember in particular talking to two people about going back for a second interview....Michael Gambello and Manju Monga, both of whom encouraged me to go back. You may often hear Michael say, it was either his fault or to his credit (depending on how you look at it!) that I moved to Chicago. Accepting the position at Northwestern was really a difficult decision for both me and my husband, Jerry. We were both happy in Texas, had great jobs and colleagues, wonderful friends and it was hard to think about leaving that all behind. But, after considerable thought and deliberation, I accepted the offer from Northwestern and moved to Chicago in February of 2006. I began my job as Associate Director and the plan when I was hired was that I would move into a Co-Director position of the Northwestern Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling. Little did I know that this would happen much quicker than I anticipated, and shortly after I arrived, Kelly moved to San Francisco to start a new program at Stanford University. Clearly it did not take me long to drive her off and I became the Director of the program in 2007.

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## Chicago

As you can see from this slide we had to reacquaint ourselves with the Northern climate and again adapt to a new culture. There are still a lot of similarities with my job at UT, but the time spent on each component has changed significantly. I continue to see patients one morning a week and the remaining 90% of my time is divided between overall administration of the program, teaching and curriculum development, national and regional involvement and research. My involvement in NSGC definitely had an impact on my research interests. Shortly after I arrived at Northwestern, I was awarded two grants from the Illinois Department of Public Health to work on increasing access to services by researching issues around billing and reimbursement for genetic services in Illinois. I had become fairly knowledgeable about this topic while I was President of NSGC and had spent a considerable amount of time in Washington DC advocating for increasing access to genetic services by improving billing and

# Distinguished Alumna

reimbursement. Being president of NSGC truly had a huge impact on my career path. I don't think I appreciated how many opportunities I would have just because of that experience. Not only did I develop connections and relationships that would further my career, but it also made me a better leader, advocate, teacher, mentor, clinician and director. One of the most challenging aspects of being a director of a graduate program is being able to anticipate what the future will bring and how genetic counselors will fit into this future. Being involved in discussions about the future of genomic medicine on the national level has really been useful in trying to anticipate the future needs. It has been exciting and challenging to translate these experiences back into the graduate program.

It was my involvement with NSGC that also led to other national roles with groups such as AHRQ, the Agency for Healthcare, Research and Quality, the CDC Public Health Genomics branch, HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau and most importantly my appointment as a member of the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Translating Genomic-Based Research for Health. The purpose of the Roundtable is to convene thought-leaders from diverse groups and backgrounds such as industry, insurance companies, governmental agencies, healthcare providers, public health and advocacy to work together to address the topic of personalized medicine and how to move more rapidly down the translational highway. As the only genetic counselor on this Roundtable I feel it is my responsibility not only to represent my profession and the consumers of genetic services, but to listen, learn and bring back knowledge and insight to NSGC that will help guide our decisions as an organization and shape the future of the genetic counseling profession.

Most recently I was invited to attend the HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau strategic planning process. I couldn't be more proud to continue to represent my profession at a national level. And not only am I representing my profession, but I am also representing the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences as an alumni and my current institution, Northwestern University.

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## Total career path

At the beginning of my career I could never have imagined that I would be where I am today. With genomic technology and personalized medicine continuing to advance, I know our profession will evolve and there will be new opportunities and experiences that will shape my future.

When I was contacted by Linda and was told I had been selected to be the Distinguished Alumna, I was speechless; I am the first Masters level recipient. My immediate thought was that I needed to call my husband, my family and Jacqui to tell them the good news. I wouldn't be standing here today if I did not have the support from my family, friends and colleagues. If I had to choose the most important factor in career development, I would say that it is having good mentors.

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## Mentors

In the architecture of opportunities, mentors serve as the foundation. I learned how important it is to listen and learn from those around

me. Sometimes it is those around you that realize what you can do and who you can become before you realize it.

I can't even begin to recognize all of the people who have been influential in my life. As you can see from this slide there are multiple people from my time here at UT who have supported, encouraged and mentored me along the way. I have learned something different from each one of them.

I must first start with Jacqui Hecht, who has evolved from being my Program Director, mentor, and colleague to friend. For all of your advice and support, I thank you. In graduate school I was so fortunate to have such good examples of successful strong women. Hope Northrup, Barbara Dominguez and Patti Furman all played pivotal roles in my education and professional development. Fred Elder was also an amazing teacher, mentor and friend. When I returned to UT my circle of mentors just kept growing. Joan Mastrobattista and Manju Monga were great to work with and also supported my clinical work and my work in the graduate program, which was not really a part of my job description. I also had two of the best administrators that I have ever worked with: Joannie Miller and Jorge Zambra. I also had a new colleague arrive who quickly became a mentor and friend: Michael Gambello—who taught me everything about Down syndrome and saved me from a Hurricane. And as an added bonus I had a good friend, Connie Atkins, who listened to me almost every day while we rode the exercise bikes on the top floor of the medical school. And, how rewarding is it to have students who you helped train, become your colleagues? I am not sure if they realize how much we learn from them and how their enthusiasm and passion continues to keep our enthusiasm and passion ignited. I was also very fortunate to know Claire Singletary from my involvement in NSGC and know that when I left UT, the program was in excellent hands.



I also have to thank one of my biggest supporters, my husband, Jerry. He has been mired in genetic counseling for a long time and probably knows half of NSGC by now. His patience and understanding has been illustrated by him moving across country four times for my education and career, by putting up with our genetic counseling happy hours that usually resulted in several of us ending up at our house until midnight, by washing the dishes after each academic dinner and holding down the fort when I am continually traveling to Washington DC. Thank you.

I have one last thought: For the past two years at NSGC I had the privilege of watching two of my own graduates, Sarah Noblin and Jennifer Hoskovec, receive national awards for their exceptional contribution and leadership in the field. And while receiving an award oneself is very exciting and quite an honor, it does not compare to the feeling of having encouraged, supported and mentored a student and watch them receive their own award. Thank you.

# Alumni Reunion 2010

Manju Monga  
Jerry Kerrigan  
Patti Furman



Victoria Bobst  
Magalie Leduc  
Sol Bobst



Viju Bhadkamkar



Tamara Solomon  
Cathy Wicklund  
Molly Daniels



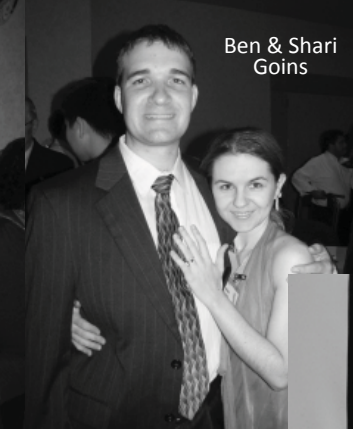
Shana O'Heron



Alicia Carlson  
Rebecca Carter



Ben & Shari Goins



Bin Liu  
Jason Liu



Michael Leslie  
Chad & Pamela Wayne



Joy Marshall  
Jackie Peltier Horn



Marty & Milton Marshall  
Tom Goka



Connie Atkins  
Mary Stancel



Linda Carter



Hui Gao  
Evan Cohen



Rena D'Souza  
Nicole Pinaire  
Evan Cohen  
Hui Gao  
Tamara Solomon  
Hannah Wingate



Janina Hurlbert



BethLynn Maxwell



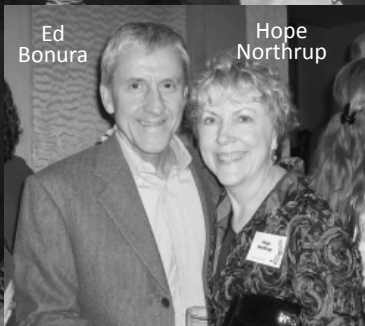
Potu & Raji Rao



George Stancel



Ed Bonura  
Hope Northrup



Ale Klauer

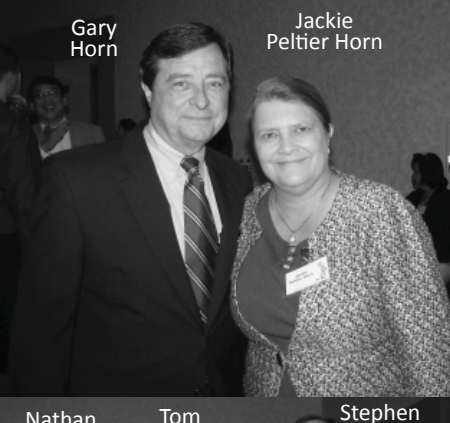
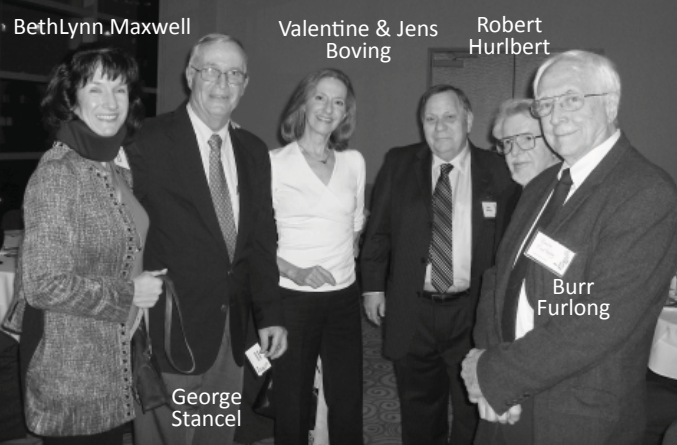


Liem Phan





# Alumni Reunion 2010





Dr. Varsha Gandhi  
GSBS Faculty President  
2010-2011

MEMBERS REAPPOINTED  
WITH COMMENDATION

Jeffrey K. Actor  
Menashe Bar-Eli  
Donald A. Berry  
Joya Chandra  
Peter J. Christie  
Richard B. Clark  
Jennifer L. Czerwinski  
Pramod Dash  
David S. Loose  
Osama Mawlawi  
Bradley W. McIntyre  
Henry W. Strobel

MEMBERS REAPPOINTED  
WITH HIGHEST COMMENDATION

Michelle C. Barton  
Dianna M. Milewicz  
Sarah Jane Noblin  
Ambro van Hoof

MEMBER REAPPOINTED WITH  
VERY HIGHEST COMMENDATION

Gary E. Gallick

NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

**Shane R. Cunha**

Assistant Professor  
Integrative Biology and Pharmacology  
UTHealth Medical School  
Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2002  
Research interests: protein targeting; membrane excitability; excitation/contraction coupling in cardiomyocytes; cardiac arrhythmia (long QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome)

**Michael A. Davies**

Assistant Professor  
Melanoma Medical Oncology and Systems Biology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
M.D., UTHealth Medical School, 2001  
Ph.D., UTHealth/MDACC GSBS, 2001  
Research interests: melanoma; targeted therapy; signal transduction; mutations

**Don L. Gibbons**

Assistant Professor  
Thoracic, Head/Neck Medical Oncology & Molecular and Cellular Oncology

MD Anderson Cancer Center  
M.D., Ph.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 2004

Research interests: lung cancer; metastasis; microRNA; mouse models; cell polarity

**Hongzhen Hu**

Assistant Professor  
Integrative Biology and Pharmacology  
UTHealth Medical School  
Ph.D., Ohio State University, 2004  
Research interests: neurogenic inflammation; pain; sensory neurobiology; transient receptor potential channels; thermal sensitivity; dorsal root ganglion; enteric nervous system; visceral pain; ion channels

**Han Liang**

Assistant Professor  
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Princeton University, 2006  
Research interests: next-generation sequencing; microRNA regulation; regulatory network; evolutionary genomics

**Xiongbin Lu**

Assistant Professor  
Cancer Biology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry, 1998  
Research interests: DNA damage signaling pathways; microRNA biogenesis, p53 tumor suppressor, protein phosphatases and deubiquitinases

**Li Ma**

Assistant Professor  
Experimental Radiation Oncology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Cornell University, 2006  
Research interests: microRNA; metastasis; epithelial-mesenchymal transition

**Jae-il Park**

Assistant Professor  
Experimental Radiation Oncology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., UTHealth/MDACC GSBS, 2006  
Research interests: telomerase dynamics; telomerase regulation; cells of origin in cancer and stem cells; Wnt pathway in cancer and stem cell regulation

**Irina Serysheva**

Associate Professor  
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
UTHealth Medical School  
Ph.D., Institute of Biochemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, 1984  
Research interests: ion channels; 3D structure; electron microscopy; image processing and 3D reconstruction

**Wenyi Wang**

Assistant Professor  
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 2007  
Research interests: statistical methods in  
bioinformatics; microarrays; next-generation  
sequencing; cancer risk prediction

**Ying Xia**

Professor  
Neurosurgery  
UTHealth Medical School  
M.D., Ph.D., Shanghai Medical University, 1987  
Research interests: neuroscience; integrative  
medicine; neuroprotection; hypoxia; ischemia;  
epilepsy; electrophysiology; molecular biology;  
transgenic approach

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Kumadha Balakrishnan**

Assistant Professor  
Experimental Therapeutics  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Madras University, 2001  
Research interests: chronic lymphocytic  
leukemia; Mcl-1; microenvironment; apoptosis

**Aman U. Buzdar**

Professor  
Clinical Research/Breast Medical Oncology  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
M.D., Nishtar Medical College, 1967  
Research interests: adjuvant chemotherapy;  
hormonal antineoplastic agents; biologics

**Nathan Carlin**

Assistant Professor  
John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Humanities  
and Ethics  
UTHealth Medical School  
Ph.D., Rice University, 2009  
Research interests: psychology of religion;  
pastoral theology

**Rebecca D. Carter**

Genetic Counselor/Clinical Instructor  
Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive  
Sciences  
UTHealth Medical School  
M.S., UTHealth/MDACC GSBS, 2009  
Research interests: genetic counseling

**Thomas R. Cole**

Professor  
John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Humanities  
and Ethics  
UTHealth Medical School  
Ph.D., University of Rochester, 1981

Research interests: medical humanities; ethics;  
professionalism; humanistic gerontology

**Laurence E. Court**

Assistant Professor  
Radiation Physics  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University College London, 1995  
Research interests: radiation oncology;  
image-guided radiation therapy; adaptive  
radiation therapy; motion management

**Michael E. Kupferman**

Assistant Professor  
Head and Neck Surgery  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
M.D., University of Pennsylvania School of  
Medicine, 1999  
Research interests: chemotherapy resistance;  
TrkB; metastasis; tumor microenvironment

**Falk Poenisch**

Assistant Professor  
Radiation Physics  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., University of Technology, 2003  
Research interests: proton therapy; Monte Carlo  
simulation; range uncertainty

**Jeffrey P. Spike**

Professor  
John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Humanities  
and Ethics  
UTHealth Medical School  
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 1987  
Research interests: ethics; bioethics; research  
ethics; clinical ethics

**Phillip J. Taddei**

Assistant Professor  
Radiation Physics  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Ph.D., Colorado State University, 2005  
Research interests: proton radiotherapy; dose  
reconstruction in patients; pediatric  
radiotherapy; radiation carcinogenesis;  
microdosimetry; radiation detection and  
measurement; Monte Carlo simulations of  
radiation transport



Faculty president, Dr. Varsha  
Gandhi stands with immediate  
past president, Dr. Michael  
Blackburn and president-elect,  
Dr. Kevin Morano.

# Faculty News

**Michael Blackburn, Ph.D.**, has been awarded the Paul Darlington, Ph.D. Faculty Mentor Award for 2010-2011. The award was presented by Dean Stancel at the February 10, 2011 Faculty Meeting.



**Herbert DuPont, M.D.**, has been given the 2010 Alexander Flemings Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Infectious Diseases Society of America, recognizing his discoveries in the field of infectious diseases in the past 33 years.

**Gary Gallick, Ph.D.**, was honored with the Distinguished Research Faculty Mentor Award given by MD Anderson in September 2010.

**Millicent Goldschmidt, Ph.D.**, has been awarded the Evan Ferguson Service Award by the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society for her long service to the Rice University-Texas Medical Center Chapter. In addition, Dr. Goldschmidt has been selected to receive the 2011 American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Founders Distinguished Service Award. **Mien-Chie Hung, Ph.D.**, and **Guillermina Lozano, Ph.D.**, have been inducted as fellows in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), making them two of the 11 AAAS members at MD Anderson.

**Claudio Soto, Ph.D.**, has received a \$200,000, three-year grant from the Alzheimer's Association to develop an early diagnosis test for people who are in the process of developing Alzheimer's disease.

**Karen Storthz, Ph.D.**, was recently awarded Professor Emeritastatus at the UTHealth Dental Branch.

**Eric Wagner, Ph.D.**, has received the T. C. Hsu Research Award for 2010-2011.

Margaret Hsu, in a model of "giving back to society," has committed to funding a new annual research award of approximately \$10,000 for 10 years in memory of her father, noted researcher T. C. Hsu, Ph.D., and an unnamed early mentor who helped their family. The intention of this gift is to honor and support an exceptional junior faculty member on tenure track but not yet tenured who has the rank of assistant professor at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, and whose research is in the area of genetics or cell biology.



## Cozzarelli Prize

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) has announced the Cozzarelli Prize recipients for 2010. **Cheryl Walker, Ph.D.**, **Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D.**, and student **Angela Alexander** co-authored a paper that has been recognized for outstanding scientific excellence and originality. Their paper, entitled, "ATM signals to TSC2 in the cytoplasm to regulate mTORC1 in response to ROS", was awarded best paper in the Biological Science category published in the Proceedings during 2010. The prizes are given to the top paper in six categories out of more than 3,700 studies published by the journal each year.



**Richard Lane, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus of Radiation Physics at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and GSBS Faculty member from 1999-2007, passed away on February 12, 2011 after an extended illness. At MD Anderson, Dr. Lane provided leadership to the clinical physics oncology residency program which was later accredited by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Throughout his life and career, Dr. Lane was known for his hard work, kindness, generosity and compassion.

Seven GSBS students were named during the annual Graduate Student Education Committee poster session Feb. 2 in the Medical School's Leather Lounge. With prizes ranging from \$200–400, entries were judged on content, presentation, and knowledge of the subject matter. The winners were:

	<b>Student</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
<b>1st Place</b>	Jacob Verghese	Dr. Kevin Morano
<b>2nd Place</b>	Ale Klauer	Dr. Ambro van Hoof
<b>2nd Place</b>	Mesias Pedroza	Dr. Michael Blackburn
<b>3rd Place</b>	Kedryn Baskin	Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier
<b>3rd Place</b>	Bryan Hansen	Dr. Valetin Dragoi
<b>3rd Place</b>	Audrey Nath	Dr. Michael Beauchamp
<b>3rd Place</b>	Kimberly Busiek	Dr. William Margolin

GSBS student **Jennifer Abrams** has been awarded a three-year, \$33,000 fellowship from the American Society for Microbiology to support her research into the molecular causes of protein misfolding diseases like Lou Gehrig's and Parkinson's. Abrams' advisor is Kevin Morano, Ph.D.

**Charles Darkoh** has been received the 2011 UNCF/Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowship from the United Negro College Fund and The Merck Company Foundation.

**Luke Hunter** has been named a Hertz Foundation In-School Fellow for another year. His fellowship began in 2008 for his research work in quantitative biology.

**John Kwon** has won the 2011 Research Scholar Award (RSA) from the Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation. The primary objective of the Foundation and this award is to recognize and support outstanding graduate students, and their institutions, who are actively involved in melanoma research.

**Kerry Welsh** has been selected as the recipient of the 2010-2011 Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). Dr. Thomas F. Burks was an outstanding researcher, an inspirational teacher, an academic leader and a friend to faculty and students.

**Christine Shiang** has received the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Pre-doctoral Traineeship Award, 2010-2013. The Predoctoral Traineeship Award supports the training of promising graduate students studying breast cancer under the guidance of a designated mentor to prepare them for successful careers in breast cancer research. Her advisor is Lajos Pusztai, M.D., D.Phil.

## Alumni News

**Hussein Abbas, Ph.D.** (Lozano/2010) has published an article titled, "Mdm2 Is Required for Survival of Hematopoietic Stem Cells/Progenitors via Dampening of ROS-Induced p53 Activity" in *Cell Stem Cell* along with his advisor, **Guillermina Lozano, Ph.D.**

**Greg Aune, Ph.D.** (Siddik/2005) is now an Assistant Professor in the Pediatrics-Hematology-Oncology Department at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

**Valerie Stone Hawthorne, Ph.D.** (Yu/2006) has been highlighted for her blog, Mompertition, in *Time Healthland* in September 2010.

**Matthew Herynk, Ph.D.** (Gallick/2002) has joined the Cotton-O'Neil Cancer Center as oncology research and program development manager.

**Shreya Kant Kanodia, Ph.D.** (Molldrem/2005) has taken on the position of Grants Management Office Director at the University of Hawaii – Cancer Research Center of Hawaii in Honolulu.

**John Kopchick, Ph.D.** (Arlinghaus/1980) is one of the inventors of the growth hormone antagonist drug SOMAVERT® that was approved in 2003 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Partial royalty income rights to its license have been sold to a private equity firm to support new faculty and student research programs and university technology commercialization efforts at the University of Ohio. Dr. Kopchick is the Goll Ohio Professor of Molecular Biology in the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Edison Biotechnology Institute and 2006 GSBS Distinguished Alumnus.

**Karen Niederreither** (de Crombrugge/1993) is now an Associate Professor of Nutritional Sciences at the Dell Pediatric Research Institute within The University of Texas at Austin.

**Dunyaporn Trachootham** (Huang/2008) has been working as project manager at the Dental Innovation Foundation under the royal patronage of HM, King of Thailand.

Congratulations to **Danny Welch, Ph.D.** (Nicolson/1984) on his new position as professor and chair, department of cancer biology, at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS.

# Student Awards

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Since 1971 the American Legion Auxiliary has provided scholarships for GSBS students involved in cancer research. The money for this funding is raised through a wide range of Auxiliary activities. To date the Auxiliary has raised over \$1,150,000 to present over 80 renewable scholarships which currently are \$5,000 each. The recipients for 2010-2011 are:



<b>Student</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
Brandi Baird	Dr. Jonathan Kurie
Krithi Bindal	Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman
Jessica Chacon	Dr. Laszlo Radvanyi
Mylinh Duong	Dr. Khandan Keyomarsi
Hilary Gibbons	Dr. Laurence Cooper
Denise Kellar	Dr. Laurence Cooper

<b>Student</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
Tamara Laskowski	Dr. Brian Davis
Brian Pickering	Dr. Dihua Yu
Sumaiyah Rehman	Dr. Dihua Yu
Sarah Scarboro	Dr. Stephen Kry
Jillian Wise	Dr. Felipe Samaniego
Omid Tavana	Dr. Chengming Zhu
Teresa Yiu	Dr. Michelle Barton



## THE R. W. (BILL) BUTCHER AWARD

Established in 1997, the R. W. (Bill) Butcher Endowed Fund provides an annual award of \$2,500 for students who demonstrate excellence in research, have a commitment to a career in biomedical research, and make a professional contribution to the community or have faced a particular challenge. This year's recipient is:

<b>Student</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
FanLin Kong	Dr. David Yang



## THE CITY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Established in 2005, this \$2,500 scholarship rewards an exceptional GSBS student who is working in an area vital to the biomedical sciences and of particular current significance in that year's national research perspective. For 2010-2011 The City Federation of Women's Clubs Scholarship focus is biomedical imaging. This year's recipient is:

<b>Student</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
Audrey Nath	Dr. Michael Beauchamp



## THE CULLEN TRUST FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PHYSICIAN/SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The \$1.15 million grant from the Cullen Trust for Higher Education provides dramatic growth opportunities for M.D./Ph.D. students at UTHealth, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Baylor College of Medicine. The 2010-2011 recipients are:

- Pushan Dasgupta**, UTHealth
- Thomas Shum**, Baylor College of Medicine
- Prasanna Ramachandran**, Baylor College of Medicine
- Sarah Wu**, UTHealth

## ISAIAH J. FIDLER GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN CANCER METASTASIS

This Fellowship is provided by the graduate program in Cancer Metastasis Research: From Bench to Bedside. It provides a \$3,000 supplement to the GSBS graduate assistantship and may be renewed for up to 3 years. It is awarded to a pre-candidacy Ph.D. student whose research is related to cancer metastasis. The recipient for 2010-2011 is:



**Student**

Frank Lowery

**Advisor**

Dr. Dihua Yu

## GIGLI FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This \$1,000 endowed scholarship was created by Dr. Irma Gigli, GSBS faculty member and deputy director emeritus of The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine, to honor her parents. The scholarship is intended to help exceptional graduate students who are making excellent progress towards their degree, particularly those who are first generation in their family to enroll in graduate school. The recipient for 2010-2011 is:



**Student**

Natalia Rozas

**Advisor**

Dr. Pramod Dash

## FLOYD HAAR, M.D., ENDOWED MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD IN MEMORY OF FREDA HAAR

This \$1,500 Award is provided to recognize an exceptional GSBS degree student conducting critical research in stem cells. Research should be in the area of stem cells as it applies to leukemia or the study of stem cells and their use in treatment of human disease. The recipient for this year is:



**Student**

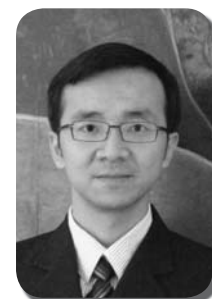
Tamara Laskowski

**Advisor**

Dr. Brian Davis

## THE T. C. HSU ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

To remember Dr. Hsu and his remarkable research, his daughter Margaret established this memorial scholarship in 2003. Early supporters included MD Anderson Cancer Center Foundation, colleagues, faculty, friends and former students of Dr. Hsu. The endowment is a living testimony and serves to acknowledge the stellar research accomplishments of graduate students focusing on Dr. Hsu's areas of research: genetics and cell biology. The 2010-2011 recipient is:



**Student**

Wei-Lei Yang

**Advisor**

Dr. Hui-Kuan Lin

## ROSALIE B. HITE FELLOWSHIP

In 1946 Houston citizen Rosalie B. Hite left her entire estate to establish a fellowship program for cancer research. In 2010-2011 this award is for \$28,400 and includes stipend, tuition and fees, plus a single travel allowance up to \$850 for each student to present his or her research at a national meeting. The recipients are:

**Student**

John Hui Kwon  
Brian Pickering  
Feng Wang  
Wei-Lei Yang

**Advisor**

Dr. Elizabeth Grimm  
Dr. Dihua Yu  
Dr. Peng Huang  
Dr. Hui-Kuan Lin

# Student Awards



## WILLIAM W. AND PEARL WALLIS KNOX FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2007, this is the fifth year to award a scholarship from the Knox Foundation, whose interests are research in the areas of AIDS and other infectious diseases in humans. This \$2,500 award is presented to:

**Student**  
Kerry Welsh

**Advisor**  
Dr. Jeffrey Actor



## MARILYN & FREDERICK R. LUMMIS, JR., M.D., FELLOWSHIP IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Dr. and Mrs. Lummis have made a generous gift to GSBS to create this award given for scientific excellence and innovation in any area of biomedical research. This \$25,000 stipend award given each year is intended to encourage novel research with a high potential to impact the particular field of study and ultimately human health. The 2010-2011 recipient:

**Student**  
Anthony D'Amelio

**Advisor**  
Dr. Carol Etzel



## THE RALPH H. AND RUTH J. MCCULLOUGH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Ralph H. and Ruth J. McCullough Foundation provided \$5,000 to support a student whose scientific excellence and novel research will have a high potential to impact biomedical science. The 2010-2011 recipient is:

**Student**  
Charles Darkoh

**Advisor**  
Dr. Herbert DuPont



## DEE S. & PATRICIA OSBORNE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE NEUROSCIENCES

Established by the Linda and Ronny Finger Foundation in 2001-2002, this endowed scholarship honors former University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Development Board president, Dee Osborne, and his wife Patricia. In 2006, the Ralph H. and Ruth J. McCullough Foundation made an additional generous gift in support of this award. Through the endowment an award of \$1,000 is provided to the winning presenter in the graduate student category at the Annual Neuroscience Scientific Poster Session, and an additional \$500 allotment is given for travel to a scientific meeting. This year the recipient is:

**Student**  
Bryan Hansen

**Advisor**  
Dr. Valentin Dragoi



## WILLIAM AND MADELINE WELDER SMITH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

This year, gifts through the William and Madeline Welder Smith Foundation of \$15,000 support an exceptional student whose interest is in the field of stem cell research that has the potential to ultimately impact human health in a significant way. The 2010-2011 scholar is:

**Student**  
Naima Hammoudi

**Advisor**  
Dr. Peng Huang



# Student Awards

## PRESIDENTS' RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Through generous funding from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston President Larry R. Kaiser, M.D., and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center President John Mendelsohn, M.D., recognition is given to advanced GSBS students who have demonstrated excellence in research. The applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of past, present and future presidents of the GSBS Faculty. This year's Presidents' Research Scholars each received a cash award of \$5,000 and are shown here, left to right:

### **Students**

Anu Rambhadran  
Rui Zhang  
Hoainam Nguyen-Jackson  
Wei-Lei Yang

### **Advisors**

Dr. Vasanthi Jayaraman  
Dr. Wayne Newhauser  
Dr. Stephanie Watowich  
Dr. Hui-Kuan Lin



## SAM TAUB AND BEATRICE BURTON FELLOWSHIP IN VISION DISEASE

Mary Wright and her sister, Joanna Ross, established this \$2,000 endowed fellowship in 2004. The Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Fellowship in Vision Disease honors their grandfather and great aunt and supports excellence in the research of eye and sight-related problems, and the potential therapies. The 2010-2011 recipient is:



### **Student**

Proleta Datta

### **Advisor**

Dr. Ruth Heidelberger

## TZU CHI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Tzu Chi Foundation provides this \$1,000 Scholarship to recognize and assist outstanding GSBS doctoral students. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate both excellence in academic achievement and persistent community involvement. Students must be in a Ph.D. program; in good academic standing in GSBS; and making timely progress toward completion of their degree. Current award recipients:



### **Student**

Mark Nolte  
Jacob Verghese  
Ale Klauer

### **Advisor**

Dr. Richard Behringer  
Dr. Kevin Morano  
Dr. Ambro van Hoof

## JAMES T. AND NANCY BEAMER WILLERSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS IN GENETIC COUNSELING

This is the second year the James T. and Nancy Beamer Willerson Endowed Scholarships have been awarded. These \$1,000 scholarships from the endowment provide one for an incoming student (Nancy Beamer Willerson Scholarship) and one for a second year student (James T. Willerson Scholarship). The recipients this year are:



### **Student**

Emily Gabitzsch  
Regina Nuccio

### **Advisor**

Dr. Michael Gambello  
Ms. Claire Singletary

## ROBERTA M. & JEAN M. WORSHAM ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE BEHAVIORAL AND NEUROSCIENCES

This endowed scholarship of \$1,500 fosters exceptional students working in the fields of the behavioral sciences or neurosciences particularly in the areas of addiction or obsessive/compulsive behavior. The recipient for 2010-2011 is:

### **Student**

Michelle Reith

### **Advisor**

Dr. Michael Gambello



## Placing Students and Faculty First

The administration of the Graduate School involves a small team of Dean's Office staff that oversees several important functions that help keep GSBS running smoothly. Essentially, these include the management of financial and human resources; student appointment processes; maintenance of facilities and classrooms; information technology and academic computing; and the management or oversight of business processes, databases and the school's institutional research and reporting requirements. While these essential functions have not changed significantly since GSBS was established nearly five decades ago, they have certainly expanded in scope and complexity as our two parent institutions have grown in their initiatives toward fulfilling their respective missions.

One thing that has not changed in the Graduate School's administration is its primary focus on service toward students and faculty. The history of GSBS provides a consistent demonstration of these values through many examples that we continue to follow today. The late Dr. Thomas Stull Matney was the first Associate Dean of GSBS (according to minutes from the GSBS Executive Committee, his actual title was Graduate Administrator, Associate Dean), who was appointed to this role in 1970 after serving as the Graduate Advisor for more than two years (he was also a member of the GSBS faculty). Among Dr. Matney's first initiatives as Associate Dean was the development of a student health plan through direct negotiations with Hermann Hospital and Kelsey-Seybold Clinic; working through the Graduate Council for the Biomedical Institutions (then a council of UT System) to grant in-state tuition rates for non-resident graduate students who held a half-time graduate assistantship; and development of the first GSBS undergraduate summer research program through a joint application to federal agencies.

Dr. Paul Darlington, who served as GSBS' second Associate Dean from 1982-2007, continued the tradition of service to students and faculty and focused much of his efforts in serving as an advocate for GSBS, both locally on campus and in Austin. During the latter part of the 1980s and most of the 1990s, Dr. Darlington worked to provide equality for GSBS students in terms of a standard GSBS stipend and health benefits. As a result of Dr. Darlington's efforts, GSBS provides stipend supplements for students appointed to training grants (supplementing the difference between NIH stipend levels and the

standard GSBS stipend), all GSBS Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) receive the same health benefits and premium sharing options, and the tuition and fees for all GRAs are fully sponsored.

Many of these early initiatives live on at GSBS, although in a much more complex environment. (The annual operating budget overseen by Dr. Matney in 1972 was \$213,000 and today the GSBS budget is more than \$7.5 million; our student and faculty numbers have grown from 138 and 158 to over 600 each, respectively; there were three training grants supporting GSBS students in 1972 and today there are more than a dozen; the GSBS student stipend in 1972 ranged from \$2,400-\$3,600 and now provides a salary of \$26,000 with employee health benefits.

Today, much of the behind-the-scenes work related to GSBS administration also benefits students and faculty. The admissions, student, faculty and alumni databases that were initiated under Dr. Darlington's leadership continue to evolve and serve to support the business and academic processes across all of the Dean's offices. Tracking student progress, faculty effort and alumni through a sophisticated relational database helps GSBS to serve faculty (and students' training environment) in the development of training grant applications, and provides the data required for reporting to faculty standing committees, admissions reports, graduate program reviews, and fact books for our parent institutions in response to accrediting and oversight agencies, such as SACS and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. GSBS information technology and academic computing support covers everything from e-mail accounts and a computer lab for students, to classroom technology upgrades, video conferencing, and Blackboard support for faculty teaching GSBS courses. Even the seemingly simple processes of procurement and travel require GSBS to provide that support for students, faculty and programs at different institutions (not always as simple as it seems).

Thus, the spirit of service to students and faculty continues as part of the GSBS administrative philosophy and is shared by all our staff. Within the larger context of higher education, perhaps more so in academic medicine, this may indeed be an out-dated approach to school administration in this day and time – but, the rewards make the effort worthwhile.

**Eric Solberg**  
Associate Dean



**Gina Chappell** retired in August 2010 after 21 years of service to the Graduate School and 28 years with UTHealth. Gina was the domestic admissions coordinator for the Graduate School and helped recruit new students. She served on the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) and the Committee of the Status of Women during her time here. We are grateful for Gina's many years of outstanding service and will miss her, and wish her the very best .

**Jessica Maldonado** joined GSBS in November 2010 as an admissions coordinator for GSBS. Jessica has five years of experience working in higher education, some of the areas she has worked in are: recruitment, marketing, admissions, training/staff development and research-program coordination. She looks forward to all the new and exciting opportunities at GSBS.



# Special Thanks and Gratitude

September 1, 2010 - March 1, 2011

## Our Benefactors

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Danny Welch  
Eric Williams  
Mary Ruth and Thomas Williams  
Wei Yu

\*Advisory Council members



### All gifts at any scale and to any category:

- Will be acknowledged.
- Are tax deductible.
- May be accomplished through an estate plan or will.
- May be matched by a corporation to enhance the value of your gift.
- May be used for memorial gifts to honor a favorite faculty, family member or friend. A notice will be sent to inform the family of the honor (not the amount) of your gift, and you will be acknowledged individually.
- Consider a charitable gift annuity to increase your retirement earnings.

## Our Contributors

Greg Aune	Esther Guzman	Ted & Gabrielle Pate
Christopher Beachdel	Yasmine Haddad	Sen Pathak
Fariba Behbod	Karin Hahn	Arthur Pedersen
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Susan Byrne	Jeffrey Johnson	Jeffrey Safran
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Peter Dipietro	George & Marjorie Leventon	Douglas Stickle
Kimberly Dodge	Dorothy Lewis	Helen Stone
Lei Dong	Jan Liang	James Strong
Herbert DuPont	Karin Loftin	Hongmin Sun
Barbara Eckart	Kathryn Louie	Heinrich Taegtmeyer
Julie Ellerhorst	Karen Lu	Ba-Bie Teng
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Jennifer Fowler	Angabin Matin	Ah-Lim Tsai
Betsy Frantz	William Mattox	Chiyeko Tsuchitani
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E. Joe Grant	Steven Morris	Leonard Zwelling
Xiang-Yang Guo	Nora Papanicolaou	



## The Philanthropic Power of Planning

Fadine Jackson Roquemore, a retired school teacher, has for many years supported the Graduate School, first with gifts through the American Legion Auxiliary of Texas that continues to provide several scholarships to GSBS students yearly, then by creating an endowment, in partnership with the remaining members of the City Federation of Women's Clubs, when the group disbanded and their building was sold. The Federation was over one hundred years old, dating back to 1900 when it was started by several women's social groups in Houston for cultural enrichment and to support education.

Now Mrs. Roquemore, who consistently helped others with their education as she was helped as a young woman going through college and graduate school, has created her own plan for continuing to provide for education. The ultimate use of her annuity will benefit graduate students through The Fadine Jackson Roquemore Endowed Scholarship in the Biomedical Sciences. And, in the meantime, she plans to use the receipts from this annuity to annually support a scholarship at GSBS whose research area is designated by the Dean. What a gift! Thank you Mrs. Roquemore for a lifetime of visionary philanthropy!

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Deadline for news to be included in the next newsletter is July 1, 2011**

Greetings Alumni,

I want to thank you in advance for your support of the Alumni group during this coming year. We have several events in the coming months and we hope that you can join us.

A Graduation Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2011, 5-7 p.m., for the soon-to-be alumni and their families. It will be at GSBS in the 3rd floor Foyer.

The annual Career Day is being organized for a June 11th program. We will invite alumni and other friends of GSBS to talk with our students concerning various careers in science and to provide informal career guidance for those students attending the sessions. We may be asking for your help with this event. If you are interested, please feel free to volunteer.

And finally, we want to wish the Dean, George Stancel, all the best in his new post at UTHealth with an informal gathering for alumni only at the GSBS. It will be held at the 3rd floor Onstead Forum on Thursday, June 16th beginning at 5 pm. The Dean initiated the Alumni Association in 1999 and has helped us thrive ever since. We look forward to honoring Dr. Stancel at this Dean's Afternoon Club event.

The fall reunion honoring Distinguished Alumna Cathy Wicklund brought us a standing-room crowd for dinner and a presentation by Cathy. She represents GSBS very well as an outstanding role model in her field of Genetic Counseling. An article on her talk is inside this issue and a video of the evening presentation may be found at the Alumni website: <http://utgsbsalumni.org/>. Also, I want to congratulate Sol Bobst, Ph.D. (2003/Kellems), on his election as our new vice president. I appreciate his support and ideas as we plan this year's events.

While most of our focus is on the graduate students at GSBS, one of my goals as your president is to energize a wider group of area alumni, and to enlist out-of-town connections as well. To that end, we have added our first long-distance Alumni Steering Committee member, BethLynn Maxwell, Ph.D. (1980) from Austin to participate both in person when able, but monthly through Skype. I look forward to seeing the rest of you *in vivo* at one of our upcoming events.

Best regards,



Jackie Peltier Horn, Ph.D. (1981)  
GSBS Alumni Association President  
2010-2011

