



Forum in Focus

FALL 2004

President's Letter

Dear Forum Members,

The Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research has long been a part of my life. My father, **Albert Steves IV**, was Director of Development at SFBR for many years, and I have, in a sense, grown up hearing about the amazing research projects at the Foundation.

Knowing the scientists' dedication to improving human health, I am proud to be a member of an organization such as the Forum, whose mission is to support an internationally renowned biomedical research institution. I am truly honored to serve as the 2004-2005 Forum President and along with the Board and our membership we will continue that support. I am blessed to also have my sister-in-law, **Tricia Steves**, on the Board and my mother, **Martha Steves**, as one of my advisors.

As SFBR has been a part of my past, I am honored to be a part of the Southwest Foundation Forum's present and future. It is truly a privilege to serve on the Forum Board with the other energetic and very talented ladies, some of whom have already been busy working during the summer months.

The Treasurer's committee recently met to establish and discuss the budget for the coming year. **Allison Zeller** is diligently working on this process and we are very thankful for her efforts. Also hard at work this summer is the Forum in Focus team of **Heather Hunter**



Francie Calgaard

and **Lisa Clingman**. Their creativity has surpassed expectations and we again anticipate fabulous newsletters during my term! **Terry Gouger** and **Jenifer Brown** have been working on our yearbook – look for yours to arrive soon!

We kicked the fall off with a spectacular event, "Fashionliscious," at Julian Gold. Chairs **Sandi Taylor** and **Lacey Dorn** helped plan this festive evening for our membership and invited guests with proceeds benefiting the Forum. Thank you to Julian Gold for such a fantastic event to begin our new year! If you were not able to attend this year's event, you missed a great time and a review is included in this newsletter. We expect this to be an annual event, so we hope you can attend next year.

The Fall Lecture Luncheon will be held Wednesday, November 17 at The Argyle. **Kathryn Dehlinger** and her assistant, **Nancy Barnes**, have invited

Dr. Frank Ledford, Jr. as our special guest and honoree. This is sure to be an informative discussion, so mark your calendar and plan to be a part of this wonderful event!

Once again we begin our Science Education Awards process. This exciting opportunity for area high schools to be eligible for grant dollars will be organized by **Joy Fuhrmann** and **Suzanne Marlax, M.D.** The winning schools will be announced at our Spring Lecture Luncheon on Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

Our 2005 Gala Team, Chairman **Karen Heydenreich**, Co-Chair **Phyllis Viola**, Gala Assistant, **Jenny Gibson** and their committee, is diligently planning another magical evening. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14, 2005, and watch for exciting details to be divulged in the coming newsletters of what is sure to be "knight" to remember!

Jane VandeBerg and **Caroline Schupbach** are organizing this year's Foundation Student Tours and I encourage each of you to call our chairmen and volunteer as a Forum hostess. It is truly a rewarding experience and one that will make you realize the importance of the Forum's mission and the work we do.

Melinda Young has also begun planning the Foundation Evening Tour that is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2005. This event provides us with an opportunity to learn of the

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Dr. Ledford Leaves Long-Lasting Legacy

For those of you who don't already know, **Frank F. Ledford Jr., MD**, who has served as president of Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) since 1992, will retire at the end of the year.

"I'll be turning 70 in April, and I'm looking forward to spending more time with my family, traveling and just having – finally – the opportunity to do a few things on my own schedule," he said. "I've had two wonderful careers – first with the United States Army and second with the Foundation. They have both been fulfilling and I feel like I've been able to make strong contributions to each institution.

"I'm very proud of our scientific staff here at the Foundation, and especially of their productivity. Because of their outstanding efforts and the quality of their research, I saw the Foundation's annual grant and contract income rise from \$14.6 million the year before I came to SFBR to \$42.6 million in 2003," Ledford said. "It has been an honor for me to help this institution grow in size and in reputation. Most important for me as a physician has been the opportunity to watch our

scientists consistently produce extraordinary research results which are benefiting people around the world. That's what an institution like SFBR exists to do."

SFBR Board Chairman **John Kerr** said, "Dr. Ledford has been an excellent leader for the Foundation, overseeing during his tenure tremendous growth in the biomedical research conducted here as well as a large increase in the number of scientific personnel and other employees, and a capital campaign that has raised \$50 million for improvements to this institution." Dr. Ledford has positioned the Foundation to make even greater strides in the future.

On behalf of the Southwest Foundation Forum, thank you, Dr. Ledford, for your incredible leadership and vision. You have been an inspiration to us all and we wish you and Marilyn the very best.

SFBR Receives Record Grant for Southwest National Primate Research Center

Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research was recently awarded a five-year, \$27.9 million grant renewal from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for its Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC). This is the largest grant ever received by the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research and will enable the development of new scientific resources at the center and enhance its ability to serve as a national resource.

Among other new initiatives being funded by the grant, the center will now be able to develop a national

primate genomics database as well as primate research models for tuberculosis and metabolic syndrome, a precursor to cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity.

A \$9 million increase over the first five years of funding for the SNPRC, the grant renewal was recently awarded national primate research center and the first new primate center to be established since the original seven were created in the 1960s.

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— 2005 Gala —

Certain to be a Big Knight!

While we were soaking up the sun and flitting about this summer, the 2005 Gala Chairs were hard at work planning another spectacular event to benefit Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

Chair **Karen Heydenreich**, Co-Chair **Phyllis Viola** and Gala Assistant **Jenny Gibson** already have many of the details in place for “**A Medieval Knight.**” The 35th annual gala will be held at The Argyle on **Saturday, May 14, 2005**, so mark your calendars now and start thinking about what you can do to help.

At this time, committees are being formed and you’re invited to join the one that interests you most – Mailing, Prizes, Decorations, Table Sales, Corporate Sponsorship and Amusement Booth Sponsorship. Your input and ideas are wanted and welcome!

The **Kick-off Party** will be held at 10 am on **Wednesday, October 6** at **Terry Gouger’s** house. Come by to visit with old friends, make new ones, enjoy a delicious brunch and pick up your committee folder. We hope to see you there.

For more information about how you can be a part of the Forum’s 35th annual gala or to join a committee today, please call Phyllis Viola at 930.7100 or e-mail her at: phyllisviola@sbcglobal.net

Fall Lecture Luncheon Features SFBR President



On **Wednesday, November 17**, the Southwest Foundation Forum will host its Fall Lecture Luncheon at The Argyle. Serving as both guest speaker and honoree will be Dr. Frank Ledford Jr., president of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research,

who has announced plans to retire at the end of the year following 12 years at the helm of this outstanding biomedical research institution.

With the topic “Advancing the Vision,” Dr. Ledford’s presentation will chronicle 12 years of progress in fulfilling Tom Slick’s vision to improve people’s lives through scientific research.

Certainly, the Foundation’s achievements during Dr. Ledford’s tenure are numerous. For instance, in 1999, the National Institutes of Health established the Southwest National Primate Research Center at SFBR, enhancing the Foundation’s ability to serve as a national resource for biomedical research involving non-human primates. A year later, SFBR “went hot” with the nation’s only privately owned biosafety level 4, maximum containment laboratory. This has propelled the Foundation into a leadership role in research related to biodefense and emerging infectious diseases.

Before lending his leadership skills to SFBR, Dr. Ledford led an impressive 34-year career in the U.S. Army, where he started out as a young orthopedic surgeon and eventually rose to the post of Surgeon General.

Dr. Ledford’s presentation will begin at 11:00 a.m. with lunch immediately following. The cost is \$35 per person and seating is limited. For reservations, please contact **Kathryn Dehlinger** at 829.1257 or kathryndehlinger@sbcglobal.net.

Forum Rolled out the Red Carpet for SFBR Fundraiser

On May 1, 2004, the Southwest Foundation Forum celebrated its thirty-fourth Spring Gala, **Broadway Lights**, to support the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. The Argyle was transformed into a Broadway theatre with a cast of over 100 volunteers.

Paparazzi were waiting as celebrity guests walked the red carpet. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while listening to their favorite Broadway show tunes and, although we did not hand out any Tony Awards, there were fabulous prizes won by many who played poker, blackjack and other Broadway show themed games.

The guests then descended the stairs through the drawn curtains to enjoy a magnificent dinner and dessert and danced the night away to the music of "Big Time" under an elegant tent draped in red curtains and lit with beautiful chandeliers.

Attendance prizes were graciously donated by **Oriental Rug Gallery of Texas, James Avery Craftsmen, Langmore Photography, Tootsies, Ken Batchelor Saab and Waring General Store.**

The raffle drawing consisted of donations from **The Argyle, The Watermark Hotel, Southwest Airlines, Jon Hart Design, Dennis Jewelry, Bejeweled, The Rose Shop, C. Aaron Penaloza Jewelers and Alamo City Harley-Davidson.**

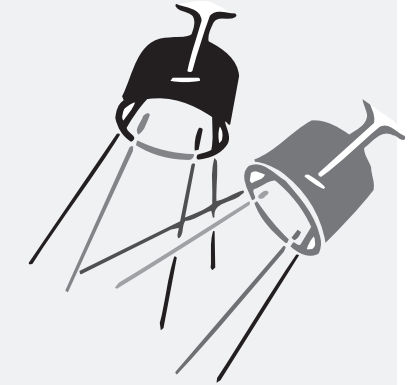
Lois Yancy was the lucky winner of a trip for two to New York City that included round trip airfare, hotel, theatre tickets and a tour of the New York Stock Exchange, courtesy of **Triple Fuhrmann.**

On September 13, **Dr. Frank Ledford** was presented a check in the amount of \$80,000, which will help fund select research projects.

Christy Gulley, Gala Chair
Jill Rosenthal, Gala Co-Chair
Debbi Chesney, Gala Assistant

Mary Benedum, Barbara Dreeben, Prissy Kent and Sandra Rosenberg, Gala Advisors
Jenny Gibson and Phyllis Viola, Corporate Sponsor Co-Chairs
Joy Fuhrmann, Beth Plummer and Nancy Barnes, Prize Co-Chairs

Jeanne Gurwitz and Tracy Vardiman, Amusements Co-Chairs
Kathryn Dehlinger and Sandi Taylor, Decorations Co-Chairs



Fun Fall Fashion Event Raises Funds



On Thursday, August 26, Julian Gold hosted “Fashionlicious,” an exclusive shopping evening for Forum members and their guests. Attendees were treated to fantastic wines and hors d’oeuvres while shopping for fabulous fall finds!

The fundraiser was enjoyed by all and raised \$2,000 for the Forum. We are especially grateful to Julian Gold and their wonderful team for being such gracious and generous hosts.

swff.org... Log on today!

Have you visited www.swff.org lately? If not, log on today and learn more about the rich history of our biomedical jewel, the latest news, the many departments, ways to support SFBR and so much more!

Special thanks to **Laura Moorman**, last year’s website liaison, who did a fantastic job in preparing the information and moving us into the 21st century.

We are also very grateful to the Foundation for allowing us to participate in the development of their new website. **Julie Collins**, director of communications at SFBR, spent hundreds of hours making sure everything was just perfect – and it shows!

You can also make donations online. Whether you are interested in making a memorial or honor donation, joining the Golden Circle or planned giving, it can now be done with the “click of a mouse.”

So, log on today, click away and show your support of SFBR.

SFBR Receives Record Grant

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Together, the primate centers constitute a network of unique research institutions that provide important scientific resources for advancing biomedical knowledge and improving human health. Each uses its unique combination of resources, infrastructure, animals and expertise in collaboration with scientists throughout the country as they work with non-human primates on studies of human health and disease.

Judith L. Vaitukaitis, M.D., director of NCRR, said she was pleased to be able to award the SNPRC a significant grant increase because “the primate centers are a critical national resource, and they’re playing a progressively expanding role in a number of important research efforts. As a result, they need added funds to expand and enhance their resources.

“With its outstanding genetics program and its unique development of the baboon as a biomedical research model for human disease, the Southwest National Primate Research Center offers expertise that is not readily available at the other seven centers, so it is a good complement to the primate center program as a whole,” said Vaitukaitis.

Outgoing President's Letter

Dear Forum Members,

As I reflect on our 34th year for the Southwest Foundation Forum, I smile.

I smile because of the members who enthusiastically participated in our many events.

I smile because of our Board of Trustees who gave so much of their time and effort in completing their tasks.

I smile because of the friendships made throughout the year with a number of our members.

I smile because we were able to continue providing community awareness, education and funds to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

And I smile because it was truly a privilege to serve as President of the Southwest Foundation Forum.

And I extend extra special thanks to our growing membership for your continued support. It is because of your interest and participation that the Forum remains such a respected organization in this community and is able to fulfill its goals to the Foundation.

I cannot let this opportunity pass by without, once again, thanking the Board of Trustees for all of their hard work. I am so grateful to each of them for their service to this organization. We are truly better and stronger because of this group of women that I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with.

Not only is the Forum able to provide education to the community and fundraising, it proves time and

again to be a wonderful opportunity to make new friends. Many longtime friendships have been formed in our 34 years and I encourage each of you to continue to welcome our newest members while making new friends along the way.

It is an honor to be associated with the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. There are many organizations in this community that serve various causes. I am particularly drawn to the Forum because of the money we raise for Foundation scientists to engage in research in so many different areas of study.

I mentioned in my first letter to the membership that I was raised as a member of the Southwest Foundation Forum. It is a part of me, as many family members have served this organization before me. I feel that I was able to serve as President this year because of the assistance and guidance of my most utilized advisor, my mother, **Barbara Dreeben**. It is not only her ability to listen and her sound advice, but also her ability to set an unbelievable example of the person I want to be. Again, mom, thank you for all you have to done to make this year such a success for me. And I am grateful to each of you for the opportunity to be the leader in an organization that has been so close to my heart and will continue to be for a lifetime.

With warm regards,



Lisa Sechler



Lisa Sechler, 2003-2004 Forum President, passes the gavel to Francie Calgaard, 2004-2005 Forum President.

President's Letter

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Foundation's outstanding biomedical research efforts, as well as their many successes, directly from the scientists.

Many thanks to all our Forum trustees who will keep us organized for the coming year. **Brooke Connolly** will promote our events to the media, while our photographers, **Debbi Chesney** and **Jill Rosenthal**, will be busy documenting our year. Our website liaison, **Kimberly Jacobs**, will maintain the Forum's fabulous new website, at www.swff.org. *(A special thank you to last year's website liaison, **Laura Moorman**, who assisted in the design and execution of our website – it is amazing!)* Our mailing and telephone team, **Sarah Quirk** and **Tricia Steves** are always ready to help and Parliamentarian, **Lynn Berryman** will ensure our meetings run smoothly, while Historian, **Sharon Bray** will collect and track our efforts throughout the year. Volunteer Liaisons, **Christy Gulley** and **Leigh Ann King** are sure to be busy as well, as I suspect many of you will be contacting them during the year to volunteer for the various events and opportunities.

To **Lisa Sechler**, last year's President – a simple thank you is not enough. Her amazing energy and generous gift of her time she devoted to the Forum last year is so appreciated. It is truly a privilege to follow in her footsteps. I also thank her in advance for serving on this year's Nominating Committee. Thank you also to our Honorary Trustees **Ruth Bates**, **Graciela Cigarroa**, **Marilyn Ledford** and **Dr. Harriett Romo** for their continued support. A most sincere and special thank you to **Ann Lakey-Reeks** who is not only a friend, but our trusty and invaluable Forum Liaison, and has been with us since our inception. And finally, to my wonderful Advisors, **Barbara Dreeben**,

Maxine Farrimond, **Cari Hill** and, my mother, **Martha Steves**, who have already answered so many questions and guided me in the right direction – thanks to all of you!

As this new Forum year begins, I encourage each of you to get involved. There are so many wonderful volunteer opportunities to support our mission. Find an area of interest and contact the appropriate

chairman, or get in touch with the Volunteer Chairs. The opportunities within the Forum are not only informative and worthwhile, but a wonderful way to see old friends and make new ones.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Francie

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2004-2005

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