



Forum in Focus

FALL 2007

President's Letter

Dear Forum Members:

What a jewel the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) is...for San Antonio and for the world! These dedicated scientists examine hereditary medical conditions, bioterrorism, childhood obesity, and the spread of dangerous viruses – issues and conditions affecting millions of people around the globe – to contribute groundbreaking knowledge and improve the quality of human life.

In 1941, SFBR founder, Tom Slick, dared to imagine a “city of science” in South Texas that could be a “great center for human progress through scientific research.” Thirty seven years ago, a small group of dedicated women founded the Forum to support his vision. And now, in 2007, the Forum’s purposes of establishing and strengthening community relationships, offering volunteer service, and fundraising resonate as strongly as ever.

Your membership is key! This will no doubt be another record year for the Forum—thanks to the willingness of you, the women who say “yes”. Yes to volunteering your time, your energy and your hearts.

Our year officially began in May, as our outgoing president, **Brooke Connolly**, warmly welcomed the 2007-08 board and officers at a joint meeting and luncheon. Her very successful term was full of energy and fun. Surely the crown jewel to her year was the contribution of nearly \$250,000 to the Foundation –

The purpose of the Southwest Foundation Forum is to support the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research through community relations, volunteer service and fundraising.



Allison Zeller

proceeds from the 2007 Forum gala chaired by the very talented trio **Terry Gouger**, **Jean Mitchell** and **Julie Zacher**. Brooke will coordinate the Nominating Committee this year.

Several members of my board worked through the summer: wrapping up duties from last year, getting an early start on this year’s assignments, or ensuring a smooth transition between the two. *Forum in Focus* newsletter chairpersons, **Suzanne Marlar Dabbous** and **Kimberly Archer**, met several times prior to the first board

meeting to plan and prepare for this issue. A special thanks for their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to delivering this first issue to press early so that we may share details on exciting events coming up soon. **Mary Beth Mosbacker** and **Shannon Wingrove** have worked diligently all summer to produce the 07-08 Forum Yearbook.

The 2007 Forum Gala committee has been humming along for months now! Gala Chair **Anne Johnston** – together with co-chair **Anne Heaner** and gala assistant **Kim Shepperd** – has assembled myriad committees comprised of hundreds of volunteers to administer every detail of the magical evening planned for May 3, 2008. Save the date and plan to attend this spectacular evening of delicious food, fantastic prizes, and wonderful music, all in the unique ambiance of the Argyle.

Julie Whitaker closed the books on her term as treasurer, meeting with incoming treasurer, **Lynn Berryman**, while many of us were vacationing with our families. **Dottie Cooper** and **Julie Zacher** began talks to improve our already successful Science Education Awards.

Our first event will be taking place VERY soon. **Carrie Green** and **Karel Hoffman** squeezed their summer

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(Continued from Page 1)

vacations in around planning the annual Girls' Night Out at Julian Gold, to be held September 27, 2007. Forum members and their guests will enjoy amazing food and prizes thanks to these two ladies and the incomparable hospitality of James Glover and his efficient staff. Please join me in thanking Julian Gold for its long-time support of the Forum and the Foundation!

Make plans now to attend the popular Foundation Evening Tour – a wonderful chance to hear first-hand about the exciting and life-changing research underway at the Foundation. Forum trustees **Jean Mitchell**, **Julie Dudley**, and **Ann Lakey Reeks** are making arrangements for an informative and entertaining evening beginning with a cocktail buffet and welcoming remarks by Interim Foundation President John Kerr at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24, 2007. During the event, guests will tour the facilities in small groups and a handful of Foundation scientists will entertain questions. Don't miss this special opportunity to see what our efforts support and please share this incredible evening by inviting interested friends to attend with you.

First Vice President **Laura Moorman** has invited Mary Kelly, an Environmental Attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund to speak at the Forum's Fall Lecture Luncheon to be held Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at the Argyle. **Mary Herff** will assist Laura with preparations. All Forum members are encouraged to attend the General Membership Meeting at 10:30 a.m. and her talk on how we can all be a little "greener" will begin at 11:00 a.m. Please visit www.swff.org to purchase a luncheon ticket for \$40 or a table of eight for \$320. Invitations will be mailed in mid-October.

Audrey Mangold and **Roxana Newsom** are organizing Foundation Student Tours for spring 2008. These tours provide a one-of-a kind field trip for advanced high school biology students to view the research facilities, including the popular baboon nursery, as well as talk with scientists about the field of biomedical research as a career choice. Forum volunteers who accompany these groups on the staff guided tours find the experience as rewarding as the students. Contact the Roxana or Jane to volunteer your help with one of these tours.

Speaking of volunteers, opportunities to donate your time to the Forum abound! Please call our volunteer chairperson, **Paola Lloyd**, to volunteer with any of the committees or projects planned this year. We welcome your

involvement and hope each of you will get involved and help support our mission with your time and talent!

My heartfelt thanks to all of the Forum trustees who are busy keeping us informed and on task: **Courtney Burkholder**, who is communicating with the media on our behalf; **Dana Hamilton**, who is maintaining the website; **Deb Ferguson** and **Kristin LeVoyer** for capturing the important moments as our photographers; **Cathryn LeVrier** and **Carol Oliver**, our database and mailing/phone chairpersons, who are available at a moment's notice to keep the information flowing; **Catherine Comeaux**, who will record minutes of our meetings and track attendance; **Terry Gouger**, who will graciously handle our correspondence; **Jenni Curren**, who will compile all of our information at the end of the year as our historian; **Shari Stankey**, who will serve as this year's archivist; and **Meredith Campbell**, who will oversee our meetings as parliamentarian. Your contributions are essential to the smooth operation of our board and my sincere thanks to all of you.

A special thanks to the continued support of our honorary trustees, **Ruth Bates**, **Graciela Cigarroa**, **Dr. Harriett Romo**, and **Susan Kerr**. We all express our appreciation for your dedication to the Forum and our events over the years.

Finally, I am so appreciative to my four advisors for agreeing to serve. Two women who have such great heads on their shoulders and I really admire and respect – **Cari Hill** and **Kathryn Dehlinger**. And two other women who I hold in equal esteem and not just because we share DNA—my mom, **Barbara Dreeben** and my sister, **Lisa Sechler**.

As I told the board of trustees when I was given the gavel, we, the ladies of the Forum, are making a difference every day, with every dollar. I am proud to continue in the tradition of the dynamic and purposeful women who established this organization in 1970. I will do my best to honor what they have started with a job well done.

Thank you for your confidence in me, but I cannot and will not go it alone. I am looking forward to doing this together.

Sincerely,



Allison Zeller
President 2007-2008
Southwest Foundation Forum

COMING THIS MONTH . . .

A NIGHT OUT AT JULIAN GOLD'S



Come join the ladies of the Southwest Foundation

Forum for a night out at Julian Gold!! This great shopping event will take place on **Thursday September 27th from 5:30 - 8:00**. The evening's festivities will include delicious cocktails, tasty hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, and fabulous fall fashion. Come and see what is hot for fall including dresses, metallic accessories, shades of gray, knit dressing, the exotics, the shoe bootie, the coat, suiting up, shine, and wide leg pants.

This year's fall collections flourish with sequined dresses, tunics and jackets. Sparkly and metallic ensembles are being worn from daytime to evening and can be found in the form of clothing, accessories, shoes and handbags. Wide belts from last season are being replaced with the skinny variety, and really, anything can be accessorized with the skinny belt. With dresses, coats, vests or skirts, the skinny belt is a must have of the moment. Gray is the color of the season, and it is far from dull and uninteresting. Rich hues such as charcoal and anthracite are offered in luxe fabrics and sexy silhouettes; many with intriguing details like beading and crystals. Although the fashion world is not entirely ready to bid the skinny pant farewell, the wide leg pant is edging out as a must have for fall, and it brings with it a hint of sexiness and intrigue. Just as opaque tights took off for spring 2007; this trend continues into fall 2007 with a bevy of black tights, liquid tights and patterned hose. This leg ware is being worn with dresses, skirts, pullovers, and tunics. Knits with substance also stand out as a major trend for fall in the form of oversized cardigan coats, dresses and chunky pullovers. They can be worn over jeans and leggings, or mixed with metallics and tweeds.

Come to see this and so much more. There is nothing more hip than supporting a good cause! And remember, 10% of all sales benefit the Southwest Foundation Forum. The event is sure to be a great success! Special thanks to **Karel Hoffman** and **Carrie Green** for organizing this event and the generosity of **Julian Gold** for enabling us to raise these funds for the Forum.



Fall Lecture Luncheon:

Is Green the new Black?

Should you trade in your Suburban for a hybrid?

Does organic food really make a difference to your health/environment?

Does recycling do any good?

What are ways I can get greener without spending a lot of money?

Find out the answer to these and other questions you may have about climate change, pollution in our food and water, and the current state of Texas wildlife. We are honored to have Mary Kelly, Attorney and Co-Director of the National Land, Water and Wildlife Program for the Environmental Defense Fund, as our next lecturer.

Mark your calendar for the next Forum Lecture Luncheon!

November 14th • 11:00 am • The Argyle

Our lecture luncheons are often sold out, so please book your seats/tables early. Members will receive an invitation in the mail in early October. We look forward to seeing you and your friends (invite a potential new member!) in November.

SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARDS UPDATE

2007 will mark the 15th year for the Annual Science Education Awards Program. Jointly administered by the V.H. McNutt Foundation and the Southwest Foundation Forum Board, the Science Education Awards reward innovative and creative San Antonio Area high schools by providing funds for purchasing teaching materials for “hands on” science education programs.

Each year, both public and private San Antonio and surrounding area high school science teachers are asked to submit an innovative proposal for

teaching a basic science principal. These proposals are evaluated by a panel of judges which includes scientists from the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, a representative from the V.H. McNutt Foundation and the chairmen of the Southwest Foundation Forum Science Education Committee. **Dottie Cooper** and **Julie Zacher** are co-chairing this committee in 2007.

These outstanding teachers are honored annually at the Science Education Awards Luncheon at the Argyle.

Last year’s winners included:

1st place

Cotulla High School
“Hydromania”

2nd place

Brackenridge High School
“Microscopy”

3rd place

Byron P. Steele High School
“How Age, Weight and Stress Affect the Human Body”

4th place

Holy Cross High School
“Ethnobotany Exploration”

Honorable Mention
Keystone High School
“Spectrophotometer”

New developments are underway to address the “silent epidemic”: Scientists show progress with hepatitis C vaccine



Dr. Krishna Murthy's test results with a candidate vaccine for hepatitis C have been very encouraging. Now he is assisting with efforts to refine the vaccine and test it against all strains of the virus.

The vaccine we have today for hepatitis B was tested for efficacy and safety at Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. Now SFBR scientists are working with pharmaceutical companies and the National Institutes of Health to help find a vaccine and better drug therapies for hepatitis C, the most common cause of liver disease and liver transplantation in the United States.

Tests by Dr. Krishna Murthy at SFBR have shown great promise with one candidate vaccine in particular. Dr. T. Jake Liang with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, along with other collaborators, has developed an experimental hepatitis C vaccine that uses non-infectious pieces of the virus to induce immunity.

In tests with chimpanzees, Dr. Murthy showed the vaccine to be protective. Of the four chimpanzees given a four-dose regimen of the vaccine, one developed a mild infection that it quickly cleared. The other three showed signs of a slightly higher level of infection, but they also cleared the virus within 10 weeks. Four other chimpanzees that had not received the vaccine all contracted chronic infections when challenged with hepatitis C.

Chimpanzees are the only species besides humans that are susceptible to hepatitis C infection. Unlike humans, however, they can carry chronic infections without ever developing liver disease.

These characteristics make them ideal for vaccine studies. Drs. Lang, Murthy and their collaborators are enthused by their initial findings, which they recently published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. “You want to prevent the chronic infection in disease. This is the goal we are targeting, and preliminary data suggests that this is possible,” Dr. Lang told the *San Antonio Express-News*. This is good news in the battle against a disease that affects an estimated 170 million people worldwide and is dubbed “the silent epidemic.” Individuals can unknowingly carry a hepatitis C infection for years, because they do not experience any symptoms until the infection eventually leads to cirrhosis, liver cancer or liver failure.

“I think we’re headed in the right direction [with this vaccine],” Dr. Murthy told KENS-TV. “Now we need to modify it a little bit and fine tune it in hopes that we can completely prevent infection.” In addition, he said that there are six major strains of hepatitis C, and the vaccine has only been tested against one. So future work also will include tests with the other strains. Dr. Liang expects human trials with the vaccine to be at least a year or two away.



Scientists working within SFBR's BSL-4 lab have been testing candidate vaccines against Lassa fever, a potential bioterror threat that is epidemic to West Africa. Their development of the marmoset monkey as an animal model for Lassa is already advancing that biodefense research.

New animal model boosts biodefense research

Scientists at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research have developed a new tool in the battle against a potential biological weapon, Lassa fever, which kills several thousand people each year and leaves thousands more with disabilities such as deafness and liver damage. In an article in the June 2007 issue of the *Journal of Virology*, Drs. Jean Patterson and Ricardo Carrion Jr. and colleagues detailed the development of a new animal model, the marmoset monkey, for use in Lassa fever research.

The marmoset is a small primate that weighs about one pound when fully grown, but it has many genetic and physiological similarities to humans. An advantage of using marmosets is that the animal's response to Lassa infection completely mimics the response found in people who develop symptoms.

The availability of the marmoset for this research is expected to speed the testing of potential vaccines against Lassa fever, including a number of candidate vaccines that already have been developed and are waiting on a model like this for testing, said Dr. Patterson, who chairs the Department of Virology and Immunology at SFBR.

Lassa fever is a viral illness that occurs in West Africa, spread by the “multimammate rat.” The virus is seen as a potential bioterror weapon because one of the ways that people become infected is via airborne particles contaminated with rodent excretions, known as aerosol or airborne transmission. Only about 20 percent of people infected with Lassa develop severe symptoms. Of those who get sick, the mortality rate is from 15-20 percent, but the mortality rate rises to 60 percent for those who are pregnant.

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The band of Vince Dawson &
J.B. Gouger...featuring Kathy
Biedenharn, Valerie Jackson,
Madison Wares and Ann Watson

Mystical Living Gardens was an unparalleled success!

This year's 2007 Southwest Foundation Forum Gala set an unprecedented record of over **\$260,000 for the scientists at SFBR!** The party, co-chaired by **Terry Gouger** and **Jean Mitchell** along with the invaluable support of **Julie Zacher**, assistant chair, was a magical night the guests won't soon forget!

The evening began with guests entering through a beautiful garden gate festooned with flowers and vines that winked at the guests as they arrived, thanks to the artistic skill of **Jennifer Wascher** and her company, **Natural Journey Florist**. As they strolled the Argyle and its grounds to the soothing sounds of a class al jazz trio, the guests were greeted



by vignettes of garden scenes cleverly incorporating human models in floral costumes. Our thanks to **Mary Beth Mosbacker** and **Melissa Barnett** as chairs of the Logistics Committee and their seamless staging of the venue. The party then moved indoors where the sight of beautiful gift boxes with generous gift certificates from **Saks Fifth Avenue** (thank you **Laura Moorman**, **Paola Lloyd** and **Karen Hydenreich** of the Favors Committee) awaited each couple. Beautiful centerpieces adorned each table, many of them purchased due to the efforts of our newly formed Centerpiece Committee chaired by **Karel Hoffman** and **Shari Stankey**. Following a delicious meal of

filet mignon and quail with truffle risotto, the choice of our Menu Committee, **Audrey Mangold** and **Julie Whitaker**, the



guests danced the night away to the outstanding sounds of the bands, **Sauce** and **Misdirection**. **Kim Shepperd's** Games Committee kept the party hopping with the many gaming tables that were



always full. Could it have been the fun prizes given out at random by the dealers? The dance floor was packed all night thanks to the great music and the addition of the

After Party Committee chairs, **Dottie Cooper** and **Sally Sullivan's** hard work. **Marci Hatcher**, **Cathryn LeVrier** and their diligent Raffle Committee members provided fabulous raffle prizes. From a year with a personal physician to vacations to Florida, Chicago, and even two trips to Mexico, their group set a new record for revenue from raffle sales.



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Mystical Living Gardens a success!

(Continued from Page 8)



The Gala could not have been the success it was without the amazing job done by **Anne Johnston** and **Jodi Wood** as co-chairs of the Table Sales Committee. Thanks



to their hard work, we had the continuing support of our generous sponsors, **AT&T**, **Mays Family Foundation**, **South Texas Money Management**, **Valero**, **Argonaut Group**, **Ernst & Young**, **The Capital Group Companies/American Funds**, **Claudia Huntington**, **Marshall Miller**, **Cox Smith Matthews Inc.**, **Emory A. Hamilton**, **Karen & Tim Hixon** and **Laura & Lew Moorman** along with many other long time supporters. However, their diligence also brought us new found sponsorship from **Robert Tucker Hayes Foundation**, **Goldman, Sachs & Co.**, **Carol & Charles Foster** and **H-E-B**.



The inaugural year of the Gala Grants Committee was a rousing success thanks to the remarkable work of **Allison Zeller** and **Suzanne Dabous**. The purpose of this committee was to allow benefactors to donate to our worthy cause when they were unable to purchase a table at the Gala or just wanted another avenue of gifting. A goal of \$25,000 was set for this group in their initial year and they brought in an impressive \$75,000! Many thanks to the three original founders who helped us reach this goal, **Ruth Eilene Sullivan**, **Tena Gorman** and **Dottie Block**.

A heartfelt thank you to all the committee members who contributed so much to the dazzling success of the 2007 Gala, especially committee chairmen **Anita Allison**, **Meredith Campbell**, **Anne Heaner**, **Lynn Berryman** and **Lynn Smith**. The key to such a successful gala is the diligent support of the many



dedicated volunteers.



Past President's . . . Past President Pin Presentation

In the spring of 2006, the Forum board approved designing a past president's pin to honor the women who have given their time and energy to lead the Southwest Foundation Forum. Last May, those pins were present-ed to over 25 past presidents at our year-end luncheon at the Argyle. Many thanks to Mary Penaloza (1991-92 President) and Penaloza Jewelers for their help and generosity in bringing this project to fruition. If you see one of these ladies wearing this pin, thank them for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the Forum.



PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

These days everyone I know is so busy. Many of us are in our "productive" years and the products are numerous – babies, money, research, new home construction. Kids' activities alone require a Treo or Blackberry just to keep track of appointments and practices.

Like many other women I know, I have scaled back my volunteer hours considerably. If I'm going to be sitting in a meeting or writing an article for a newsletter, the cause had better be worth my time.

During my year as Forum President, I was exhilarated by the sheer number of women who turned out for our Back to School Fashion Night at Julian Gold, the Foundation Evening Tour, and the annual lecture luncheons. I can only imagine how many volunteer hours were spent compiling the newsletters, planning and administering the Science Education Awards, tallying RSVP's for Forum events, calling the media, reviewing the financial statements, organizing the yearbook, e-mailing each new Forum member individually, and tying ribbons around centerpieces.

The theme I chose for my presidential year was "communication" and during the year, we looked at how the Forum communicates – both internally among members and externally to people interested in our work. The creation of a database manager turned out to be a real boon to my theme. One board member channeled information to the appropriate parties and established the infrastructure for the gynomous fundraising and friend-raising effort we know as the Annual Gala.

At the beginning of the year when the gala committee met, the list of committee chairs and members went on for pages, even though the information was succinct and well organized. I thought the person who took the time to create that document must have thought *if I'm going to spend a couple hours making this spreadsheet, the cause had better be worth my time.*

Among the women of the gala committee, I can only imagine how many hours were spent collecting prizes, calling vendors, studying paper samples, tasting menu items, negotiating tent prices, signing letters (I myself spent a couple hours signing letters), hauling items from the storage unit, calling Saks, calling the Argyle, conducting committee meetings, proofreading letters and invitations, listening to bands (in Terry's case, I'm sure she's spent *hours*), designing seating arrangements, updating the board on progress, and troubleshooting details guests never even noticed.

A handful of women spent even more time on top of their gala committee jobs brainstorming and launching the Gala Grants program aimed at community professionals who might not be able to attend the gala, while still wanting to support the cause.

A visit to the Foundation's website (www.sfbr.org) provides merely a snapshot of what we're supporting: new research on tuberculosis, genome sequencing, the possibility of being selected for a federal bioterror defense institution. Ground-breaking studies are conducted daily and amazing results affecting people all over the globe are announced with such frequency that I always think of the running tally McDonald's used to have on its signs, "46,890,327,789 served."

It seems unlikely that a few volunteer hours could be indirectly responsible for a cure for cancer ... but when you combine the volunteer hours of a large network of efficient, creative, and highly motivated women and *then* you add a sum of money like the total dollars the Southwest Foundation Forum has given to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research over 37 years, suddenly the likelihood seems a lot better!

For literally hundreds of women, volunteering with the Southwest Foundation Forum *is* worth the time. I have been so proud to lead this group and thank you for the opportunity to do so. It was a great year!

Brooke Connolly



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 38th ANNUAL SWFF GALA

Gulf of Mexico or Arabian Sea? Possibly an island somewhere near Fiji? Or the Great Barrier Reef, wherever it may be, join us on a journey "Beyond the Sea"

The 2007 Gala Co-chairs are busy planning another spectacular evening to benefit the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

Co-Chairs Anne Johnston and Anne Heaner and Gala Assistant Kim Shepperd have begun preparations for the annual gala, "Beyond the Sea." This magical oceanic adventure will be held Saturday, May 3, 2008 at The Argyle.

Don't be a fish out of water. Mark your calendar!!!

For more information about how you can be a part of the Forum's 38th annual Gala, please contact:

- Anne Johnston** at annewj@swbell.net
- Anne Heaner** at anne@heaner.com
- Kim Shepperd** at jkshepperd@satx.rr.com

SOUTHWEST FOUNDATION FORUM Calendar of Board Meetings and Events – 2007-2008

- September 19, 2007 10am Board Meeting
- September 27, 2007 5:30-8:30 Julian Gold Night Out
- October 17, 2007 10am Board Meeting
- October 24, 2007 6:30-8:30 Fall Evening Tour at SFBR
- November 14, 2007* 10am Board Meeting
10:30am General Meeting
11am Lecture Luncheon*
- December No meeting
- January 16, 2008 10am Board Meeting
- February 20, 2008 10am Board Meeting (Office s Elected)
- March 12, 2008* 10am Board Meeting (Trustees Elected)
10:30am General Meeting
11am Lecture Luncheon*
- April 16, 2008 10am Board Meeting
- May 3, 2008 The Gala
- May 21, 2008* 10:30am New Trustee Orientation
11am Joint Board Meeting & Luncheon*

SOUTHWEST FOUNDATION FORUM

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