



Forum in Focus

SPRING 2009

President's Letter

Jambo!

Can you hear the glorious beat of the African drums?

Can you picture yourself on a first class African safari?

Come join the fun while doing the world some good at our Out of Africa Gala on May 2! I hope to see you at the Argyle for an incredible evening that Gala Chairs Karen Lee Zachry and Suzanne Marlar Dabbous, along with Gala Assistants Kimberly Archer and Paola Lloyd have planned to perfection. The raffle packages are worth buying chances for even if you cannot make the Gala or the After-Party!

I'm proud to report that the Forum has been busy serving the high school science community these past few months. Many Forum trustees and members were hosts to the Student Tours of the Foundation. The city's best honor and advanced placement students learn valuable lessons from the SFBR scientists and often become inspired to go on to work in the field of science. Our Student Tour leaders, Roxana Newsom and Mary Herff, received very positive feedback from the students and teachers who attended the tours.

The new Science Award incentive plan, implemented by Sally Sullivan and Carol Oliver, was a success! They received a record number of applicants and the Forum and the V.H. McNutt Foundation were delighted to award 6 schools with cash prizes. Thanks to the L.D. Ormsby Foundation, even the non-winning schools enjoyed a \$200 "participation" award and eighteen



Laura Moorman

teachers received a \$50 gift card just for their qualifying application. The winning science teachers received their awards at last month's successful Spring Lecture Luncheon, led by Terry Gouger and Michele Stevens. Participants learned about different forms of alternative energy from Amy Hardberger of the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin. I always walk away from these Forum luncheons with such a satisfied feeling . . . en-

lightened by the latest information on a timely topic, and filled with delicious Argyle food!

We are nearing the end of our membership campaign now. I encourage each of you to renew as soon as possible either on-line (swff.org) or via a check. Mary Beth Mosbaker is anxiously awaiting your renewals and hopes you will encourage your friends to join, too. Now, more than ever, the Forum needs your support to continue the life-saving research at SFBR!

It has been a true pleasure and honor to be the President of the Southwest Foundation Forum. I have had the opportunity to work with the most determined and enthusiastic board and advisors. I have learned so much and had a lot of fun during my tenure which is due to end next month.

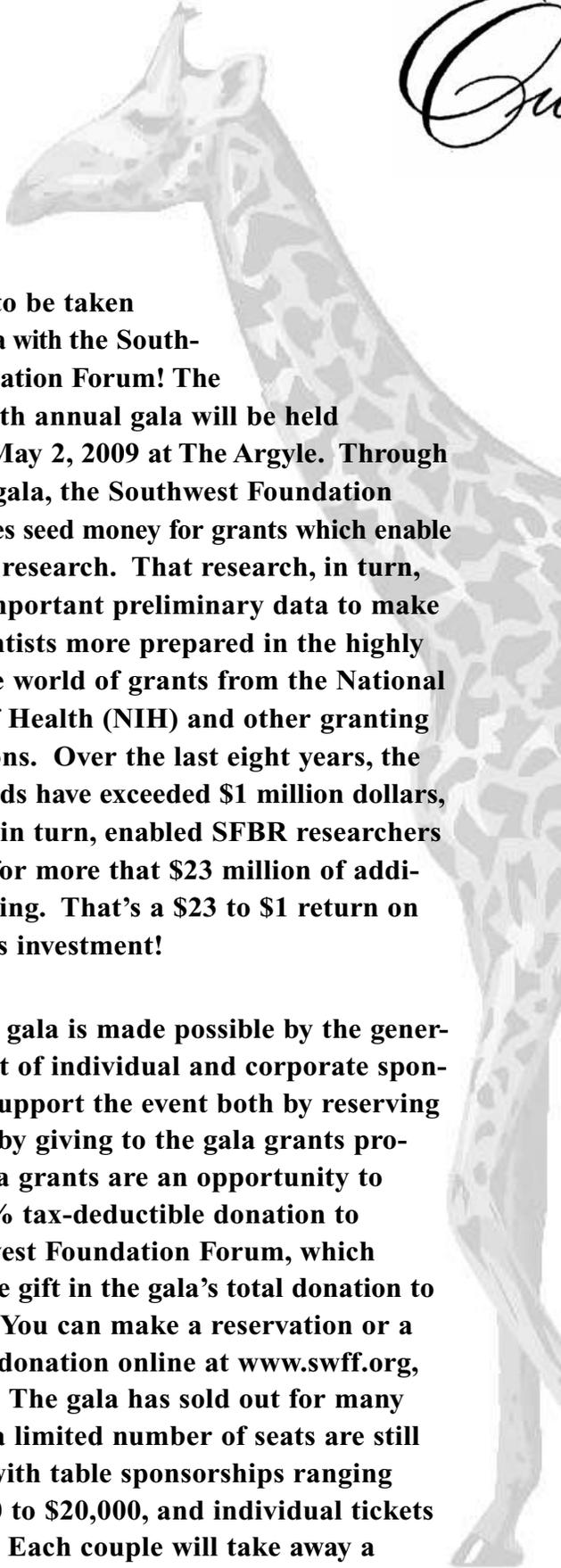
You all will be in incredibly able hands when I turn over the gavel to Terry Gouger, one of the most dedicated members the Forum has ever had. Thank you for giving me this experience I will always cherish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura".

Laura Moorman
President 2008-2009
Southwest Foundation Forum

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



Out of Africa

Get ready to be taken Out of Africa with the Southwest Foundation Forum! The Forum's 39th annual gala will be held Saturday, May 2, 2009 at The Argyle. Through its annual gala, the Southwest Foundation Forum raises seed money for grants which enable pilot study research. That research, in turn, develops important preliminary data to make SFBR scientists more prepared in the highly competitive world of grants from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other granting organizations. Over the last eight years, the gala proceeds have exceeded \$1 million dollars, which has, in turn, enabled SFBR researchers to qualify for more that \$23 million of additional funding. That's a \$23 to \$1 return on the SWFF's investment!

The SWFF gala is made possible by the generous support of individual and corporate sponsors, who support the event both by reserving tables and by giving to the gala grants program. Gala grants are an opportunity to give a 100% tax-deductible donation to the Southwest Foundation Forum, which includes the gift in the gala's total donation to the SFBR. You can make a reservation or a gala grant donation online at www.swff.org, but hurry! The gala has sold out for many years, but a limited number of seats are still available, with table sponsorships ranging from \$2500 to \$20,000, and individual tickets \$250 each. Each couple will take away a special favor from Neiman Marcus to remind them of their evening.

An example of the SWFF's seed money grants at work is Dr. Joanne Curran. In 2005, Dr. Curran received seed money from the Southwest Foundation Forum for a novel study examining genetic contributions to diabetes risk. In 2007, her research took a major leap forward with a new \$1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, allowing Dr. Curran and her colleagues to take a detailed look at 100 genes that have been shown to play a role in various risk factors for diabetes. Dr. Curran is studying how these genes exert their influence on such things as blood glucose, insulin levels and body fat so that scientists can find new methods of preventing and treating a disease that is quickly reaching epidemic proportions in the United States.

The evening will begin at 6:00 pm with sun-downers on the lawn, and a chance to win one of seven amazing raffle prizes, such as an eight-night African safari, including two business class airline tickets; a trip to Cairo, which includes two airline tickets and a driver and guide; a package including dinner at the Argyle, a diamond necklace, and a red Nancy Gonzalez crocodile clutch; a trip to New York which includes a private appointment with a designer to craft your

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OUT OF AFRICA GALA

(Continued from Page 2)

one-of-a kind gown, plus a custom fitted tuxedo for him; a private box at a Spurs game; a week-end safari at the Diamond K; and a weekend in Austin including your very own baby longhorn, tickets to the UT-Tech game, and a shopping spree at Cabela's. You'll also have the first-ever chance to bid on a painting done by one of SFBR's very talented chimps, Buddy! The African safari tickets are \$100 a chance, and the other six package tickets are \$50 a chance. You can buy raffle tickets in advance online at www.swff.org, and you need not be present to win.

Following dinner, you can dance the night away to the sound of the Newsboyz under the stars, or you can choose to have dinner on your own and join the party at 9:30 for Sherehe (Swahili for "party"), the after-party featuring drinks and dancing for \$75 a person.

For more information, to make reservations, to purchase raffle tickets, or to make a gala grants donation, please log on to swff.org or call Karen Lee Zachry at 829-8585.

SFBR STUDENT TOURS ***— SPRING 2009 —***

Tours of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research are an amazing opportunity for local high school students to witness, first-hand, the phenomenal work being done by the Foundation and its scientists. What better way to inspire young minds than to introduce to them real situations with life changing impacts?

A total of eight selected local high schools participated in these tours comprised of junior and senior AP Science and Biology students. The groups were given the opportunity to see the many primate enclosures (baboon families, macaques and chimpanzees) and learn more about the Foundation's work with non-human primates. Additionally, the groups were allowed to tour the SBC Genomics

Computing Center and see the 1,500 computer processors churning statistical genetic analysis. Each tour concluded with a scientist-led discussion on on-going research projects.

Linda Patterson from Cotulla High School was quoted stating that "all of her students were extremely impressed and were inspired to talk about future career options in science following their field trip. All of the students were especially impressed with the primates and the virus lecture. All around a great success and a great field trip."

We look forward to introducing even a larger number of high schools to the Foundation in 2010.

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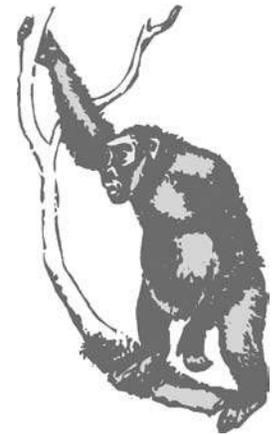
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GALA RAFFLE OFFERS AMAZING PRIZES

Escape to Africa

South African Splendor

Enjoy an extraordinary once-in-a-lifetime eight-night safari in beautiful South Africa visiting Cape Town, Madikwe, Samara and Thornybush Game Reserves, coordinated by Ker & Downey.



This amazing experience, which includes two roundtrip business class airline tickets on American Airlines, will begin with two nights at Madikwe Hills Game Reserve. At Madikwe Hills you will enjoy the finest cuisine, spa and plentiful viewing of all of Africa's majestic animals. From there you will travel to spend two nights at the exclusive Samara Private Game Reserve, which provides habitat for over 60 mammal species, such as Kudu, Duiker, Aardvark, White Rhino, Giraffe, and especially Cheetah.

Taking a rest from the bush, you will travel to Cape Town, where you will spend two nights at the stately Cape Cadogan hotel. In Cape Town you may choose to take in the wine country, visit the scenic Cape of Good Hope and Table Mountain, or simply enjoy this historic and beautiful city. To cap off an amazing trip, you will then travel to the Royal Malewane, in the legendary Thornybush Game Reserve, for two last nights in South Africa. Accommodating a maximum of 20 guests in the utmost colonial splendor, Royal Malewane is an exclusive getaway for those who value privacy, personalized service and the best game viewing Africa has to offer.

At every camp you will enjoy breathtaking views and exceptional cuisine, accommodations and service. This is truly a unique opportunity to see the very best South Africa has to offer!

Trip includes two roundtrip business class tickets on American Airlines and its partner airlines, and all travel within Africa. Meals included at game reserves. To be arranged on mutually agreeable dates, and is subject to availability. Package value is approximate. Winner is responsible for all taxes, duties and fees.

See Page 6 for Additional Prizes

Package 1 – CAIRO CONNECTION

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enjoy the exotic beauty of Cairo, Egypt, with the advantages and luxuries enjoyed by having your own private driver and translator available throughout your stay. This amazing opportunity includes:

- Two roundtrip coach airline tickets on Lufthansa Airlines
- Two nights at the Mena House Oberoi overlooking the pyramids in Giza
- Three nights at the Four Seasons Cairo overlooking the River Nile
- Private car with driver/translator
- For the bon voyage party, a case of Faithful Hound wine from Mulderbosch winery in South Africa

To be arranged on mutually agreeable dates prior to December 31, 2010, subject to availability. Courtesy of Improved Petroleum Recovery Group and Costco Liquors. Value: \$8,200.

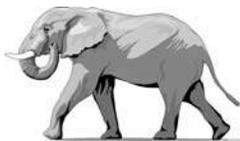


Package 2 – THE ELEGANT HOSTESS

The perfect opportunity to entertain your friends in elegant style at The Argyle, San Antonio's premier private dining venue.

- Delight in a private wine dinner for eight at The Argyle
- Exquisite white gold necklace set with multiple diamonds totaling 2.3 carats with three dazzling center diamond drops
- Gorgeous red Nancy Gonzalez crocodile clutch handbag
- Custom-designed invitations
- Danny Cuellar floral arrangement
- One-of-a-kind carved elephant napkin holders and hem-stitched linen napkins
- African home décor gifts

To be arranged on mutually agreeable date. Courtesy of The Argyle, Dennis Jewelry Company, Saks Fifth Avenue, Invitations, Etc., Trinity Flowers and Gifts, Five Broads off Broadway, Lin Marché and Hanley Wood. Value \$7600



Package 3 – RED CARPET READY

You'll be red-carpet ready after enjoying the beauty of fall in New York combined with the ultimate luxury of a custom-designed gown and custom crafted tuxedo.

- Custom designed ball gown for the winner with a private design meeting in the Fifth Avenue boutique of the designer
- Custom-tailored men's Loro Piana tuxedo & tuxedo shirt
- Roundtrip airfare for two to New York City
- Two nights at the historic Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
- Five-course dinner for two with all wines, accompanied by a visit with the sous chef of either restaurant Public or Double-Crown
- Mariquita Masterson animal-print men's cufflinks and studs set, and Mariquita Masterson women's earrings and necklace

Travel to be arranged at mutually agreeable time in September or October 2009. Courtesy of Julian Gold, J.S. Satel Custom Clothing, Wendy and Eugene Garcia/Avroko, and Natalia and Brett Weatherbie. Value: \$7,100.

Package 4 – GO, SPURS, GO

Cheer on the San Antonio Spurs in style! Package includes:

- Private box with arena seating for twelve, as well as a separate private lounge area
- Four VIP reserved parking passes and \$250 gift certificate for in-suite catering
- Pre-game dinner for twelve at Paloma Blanca Mexican Cuisine
- Pair of Tony Parker autographed tennis shoes

To be arranged at a mutually-agreed upon date during the 2009-2010 regular season. Courtesy of Zachry Corporation, Paloma Blanca Mexican Cuisine, and a Friend of the Forum. Value: \$4,600.

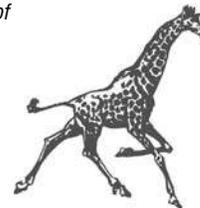


Package 5 – DIAMOND K – TEXAS SAFARI

If another continent is not in your plans, enjoy the exotic beauty of Texas and the world-class wildlife and dining of the Diamond K Ranch in Sisterdale, Texas. Includes:

- Weekend outing for eight to the Diamond K ranch with lodging in the four luxurious and unique safari-style tents imported from South Africa
- Gourmet South Texas-style cuisine prepared for lunch and dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday prepared by on-site chefs
- Sporting clays for your party in the Diamond K's Clays, Skeet, and Trap sporting arena overlooking the beautiful Texas Hill Country
- Luminox men's leather field-watch
- Rustic gun case by Jon Hart outfitters
- Diamond K Ranch store \$250 gift certificate

To be arranged on mutually agreeable date before September 1, 2009. Courtesy of Diamond K Ranch, Duncan and Boyd Jewelers, Sparkles, Argo Group US, and a Friend of Value: \$6,150.



Package 6 – THE EYES OF TEXAS

The ultimate Longhorn experience! Package includes:

- Your very own baby longhorn calf!
- Custom pair of Lucchese boots
- \$1000 Cabela's gift certificate
- Four 30-yard line (alumni side) tickets to the November 7, 2009 U.T. v. Texas Tech football game (includes two parking passes)
- Tailgate party, including a case of wine, a case of Bud Light and a Jon Hart burnt orange cooler.
- Dinner for four and a bottle of prosecco at Lambert's Downtown Barbecue in Austin.
- Saturday night stay in a one-bedroom suite at Austin's famous Stephen F. Austin hotel, including Sunday breakfast.

Courtesy of Azar Minerals, Lambert's Barbecue, Water 2 Wine, Silver Eagle Distributors, and Friends of the Forum. Value \$3,600.

All package values are approximate.
Winners are responsible for all taxes and fees.
You need not be present to win.

Thank you for supporting Out of Africa!

SFBR Foundation Updates

Advances Against Ebola Viruses Cancer Model May Aide Treatment

In separate new research developments, SFBR scientists report that an experimental vaccine can achieve protection against Ebola, one of the world's deadliest viruses, and that a new animal model of cancer may represent a new method for understanding and treating virtually all tumors.

In the Ebola virus vaccine study, SFBR scientists Ricardo Carrion



and Jean Patterson report protection through the use of a vaccine using Ebola virus-like particles (VLPs) produced in insect cells using traditional bio-engineering techniques and injected into laboratory mice. A VLP vaccine is based upon proteins produced in the laboratory that assemble into a particle that, to the human immune system, looks like the virus but cannot cause disease.

Two high-dose VLP immunizations produced a high-level

response in mice. And when the twice-immunized mice were given a lethal dose of Ebola virus, they were completely protected from the disease. In contrast, mice that were not immunized had a very low immune system response and became infected. In another experiment, a three low-dose VLP immunization effectively boosted immune system response in mice and protected them against the Ebola virus. This finding is important because it demonstrates that since the vaccine produces immunization in dilute quantities, many more vaccine doses can be generated compared with a weakly immunogenic vaccine.

The new study was published in the January 2009 issue of the journal *Virology*, and was supported by the National Institutes of Health.

There is no effective vaccine to prevent infection

with Ebola virus, which causes severe bleeding and a high fatality rate of up to 90 percent of patients. There also is no effective treatment. Since its first identification in Africa in 1987, Ebola outbreaks have caused some 1,800 human infections and 1,300 deaths. Outbreaks have become increasingly frequent in recent years, and are likely to be caused by contact with infected animals followed by spread among humans through

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SFBR Foundation Updates

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close person-to-person contacts. Ebola viruses cause acute infection in humans, usually within four to 10 days. Symptoms include headache, chill, muscle pain, followed by weight loss, delirium shock, massive bleeding and organ failure leading to death in two to three weeks.

Ebola viruses are considered a dangerous threat to public health because of their high fatality rate, ability to transmit person-to-person, and low lethal infectious dose. Moreover, their potential to be developed into biological weapons causes grave concern for their use as a bioterrorism agent. While some vaccines show protection in non-human primate studies, the strategies used may not be uniformly effective in the general human population due to pre-existing immunity to the virus-based vaccines.

The findings will be validated in additional animal systems. The vaccine will then undergo FDA safety and efficacy testing prior to use in humans.

CANCER MODEL

In an unexpected result, human cancer cells injected into a new animal model act in a manner similar to the way they do in humans, and may represent a new

method for understanding and treating virtually all tumors.

“It’s a model for studying the mechanisms for how cancer cells evade the immune system, and for developing new diagnostic and therapeutic methods,” said senior author John VandeBerg, PhD, SFBR’s chief scientific officer.

The new animal model, the newborn opossum, represents an advance over other animals, such as the mouse in which human cancers cannot survive unless the animal’s immune system is totally absent. The new model is described in a paper appearing in the February issue of the *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Pathology*. The research was supported by a grant from The Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation.

In the study, researchers injected human melanoma, colon cancer and prostate cancer cells into newborn opossums. The resulting tumors grew, invaded, spread and eventually regressed. Further studies found that as early as 11 days following injections with colon cancer cells, tumors grew and spread, and induced immune responses. The pattern showed how the cancerous cell first escapes the normal regulatory mechanisms by not appearing to be foreign

to the immune system, and later is distinguished from normal cells, thus making the model capable of predicting activity in humans.

When developed, a test might allow physicians to assess the effect of a wide variety of treatments, including chemotherapy, gene therapy, and immunotherapy, for virtually all cancers. Typically, patients are



administered several drugs which may appear to be effective but eventually decrease in efficacy. With a new testing tool, physicians might be able to gauge the efficacy of both standard and experimental cancer treatments before giving them to patients by injecting a patient’s cancer cells into several groups of newborn opossums and comparing the efficacy of different treatments among groups.

Spring Lecture Luncheon teaches us about Wind, Sun and the Future of Energy



Amy Hardberger, from the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin, blew our minds when she shared her thoughts



- Water is required in all major stages in the creation of power from most energy sources. The turbines move via steam, but vast amounts of water are also necessary for extracting, processing, refining, transporting and cooling, too. So when you do things to conserve energy, like switching to energy-efficient light bulbs, you are not just helping the environment by reducing carbon emissions, but you are saving water too!
- We need diversified sources of renewable energy so we are not dependent on any one thing. The hope is that

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about alternative energy sources. Here are some of the things we learned from her at the Spring Luncheon:

- Wind can be a great source of energy, especially in Texas! One of the major issues with wind is that it mainly blows in the evening when we need energy the least. Unfortunately we do not yet have a way to harness this energy for use in peak times.
- Sun, or solar power, has the potential to serve as a great alternative during peak power usage. However, the space and water required to turn the sun's rays into the amount of energy we need is limiting.



The 2009 Spring Education Awards

This year's Science Education Awards were presented on March 25th at our Spring Lecture Luncheon at the Argyle. We were excited to receive the many innovative and quality applications that were submitted this year. Carol Oliver and Sally Sullivan, Forum Science Education Co-Chairs, met with Valerie Guenther, trustee from the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation, along with Joanne Curran, Lorena Havill, and Matt Johnson, all scientists from the Southwest Foundation for Bio-medical Research to determine this year's winners.

First Place:

Alan Spannagel \$7000.00
*Physical Properties of
Plastic Fragments*
Bryan P. Steele II High School

Second Place:

Brenda Carrillo \$4500.00
*Building Biological
Projects*
McCollum High School

Third Place:

Pete Alaniz \$3500.00
*Investigation Pond
Environmental Systems*
South San Antonio High School

Fourth Place:

Marvin Rudd \$2500.00
*Polymerase Chain
Reactin/Comparative
Protein Analysis Lab*
Byron P. Steele High School

Fifth Place:

Layne Steinhelper \$1500.00
*Soil Microplates/
Microplate Reader*
Keystone School

Honorable Mention:

Colin Lang \$1000.00
Aeroscience Studies
Alamo Heights High School

Spring Lecture Luncheon teaches us about Wind, Sun and the Future of Energy

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the proposed caps on carbon emissions will be an incentive to develop and use cleaner sources.

- The most effective actions we as individuals can take right now are to get our own homes as energy as energy efficient as we can, and to ensure that our leaders in government are focused on integrating water and energy supply planning.

Amy's lecture sizzled and provoked great questions and lunch conversation!





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