



# Forum in Focus

FALL 2010

## President's Letter

What an honor it is to be the president of the Southwest Foundation Forum while we celebrate the Forum's 40th year. I think we are fabulous at forty! From our beautiful gala in the spring to the student tours throughout the year, and from our educational lecture luncheons to the SBFR tour, we offer so many different ways for our members to learn, educate, socialize and support SFBR.



Karen Lee Zachry

Every year the Forum has been blessed with talented, hardworking board members, and this year is no exception. First Vice President **Suzanne Marlar Dabbous, MD** ( a radiologist herself) and her luncheon assistant **Anne Seay** have arranged for Dr. Peter Ravdin, a prominent breast cancer expert, to talk about the latest advances in breast cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment for this fall's lecture luncheon. Mark your calendars now to plan to join us for this informative session on November 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Argyle.

Gala chairs **Julie Zacher** and **Josie Flesher**, and their assistant **Christy Meador** are already hard at work and have assembled a top-notch committee to take us to the Orient for the annual spring gala, to be held April 30, 2011 at the Argyle. The annual gala is often a sell-out, so be sure to be return your sponsorship letter this fall to reserve your table early!

And speaking of the gala, my hat is off to **Paola Lloyd**, **Mary Beth Mosbacker** and **Kathleen**

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

**LeFlore** for their hard work in presenting *Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana*. It was a beautiful party with great food, great music, and raised \$160,000 for the SFBR. The proceeds from our gala are specifically allocated to SFBR researchers to fund pilot studies at SFBR. Since 1999, scientists who have received seed monies from the Forum have been able to apply for federal grants and to other granting organizations. The scientists have been awarded over \$23 million dollars in federal grants

as a result of the SWFF's seed money. We are thankful to have Paola and Mary Beth continuing on the board as our recording and corresponding secretaries.

Over the years, we have been fortunate to have many members of the AT&T family serve on our board, and have been the grateful recipients of their generous support of our gala. This year, one of our talented board members, **Kimberly Archer**, was slated to serve as our vice president for membership, but she and her family were called by her husband's position to relocate to Dallas. **Kimberly Shepperd** graciously agreed to step in to the membership vice president's position, and we are thankful for the enthusiasm she will bring to the very important job of recruiting and retaining members!

If you have not already renewed your membership, be sure to do so as soon as possible at [www.swff.org](http://www.swff.org). **Amanda Bezner** and **Erika Silva** will be dotting all the "i"s and crossing all the "t"s to produce a timely and accurate directory that should be in your mailboxes later this month.

It's shaping up to be a busy fall! On September 23, **Courtney Duphorne** and **Raven Labatt** are working

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# THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(Continued from Page 1)

with **Courtney Percy** to expand our traditional ladies' night out shopping event at Julian Gold to a whole day of shopping and fun, with a portion of the whole days' proceeds going to benefit SWFF. Stop in before work, at lunch or on your way home . . . it's all for a good cause!

We received such great feedback about moving our SFBR tour from the evening to the morning that we decided to continue the day tour again this year. **Mary Potts** and **Gretchen Herrmann** will orchestrate another informative tour of SFBR beginning at 11:00 a.m. on October 20. Following the tour, there will be an opportunity to have lunch with SFBR scientists. Watch for your invitation and be sure to join us for a great behind the scenes look at the SFBR!

**Chaney Stuart** and **Jennifer McLiney** will coordinate our student tours of SFBR, which provide a great opportunity for high school AP science students to get a look behind the scenes and see practical applications of the scientific methods they are learning in class.

Another way we support science education is through our science education awards, whereby SWFF provides grants for programs or materials to high school science teachers. **Kathleen LeFlore** and **Wendy Garcia** are already working on reaching out to science teachers to educate them about our program and encourage them to apply for our grants.

And, as a working board, we truly take care of all our own needs. I am greatly appreciative of **Cathryn LeVrier** who will keep the Forum's books as treasurer and **Leanne Kelly** who will serve as the gala treasurer. Our parliamentarian, **Michele Stevens**, will make sure we're running things according to Robert's Rules, **Courtney Percy** will help us with mailings, and, since we are an all-volunteer organization, our volunteers chairman, **Debbie Duperier**, will make sure we've got help at every event!

Behind the scenes, **Whitney Ramirez** and **Victoria Roca** will capture the events of the year as our photographers, **Sally Sullivan** will keep us in the news as our public relations chair, **Melinda Hart** will keep all our news online as our website liason, and **Melissa**

**Marino** will help keep us organized as our archivist. Our historian, **Jennifer Allison**, will keep all our memories of the year in our Forum scrapbook.

**Melissa Morgan** and **Shannon Turner** have done a great job putting together this newsletter and will keep us up to date in the winter and spring editions. **Amy White** mastered our new database management system last year, and has graciously agreed to stay on to ensure we receive timely news and updates.

Stepping in to past president **Terry Gouger's** shoes is no small undertaking. She was a dynamic and enthusiastic leader to our organization. I am thankful for all the guidance and advice she has given me, but most importantly for the terrific example she set of how to be a great leader. Last, but not least, I am grateful to past presidents **Peggy Mays**, **Caroline Walker** and **Cari Hill** who have graciously agreed to be my advisors this year, and to **Ruth Bates**, **Mary Henrich**, **Harriett Romo** and **Barbara Trevett**, who will serve as honorary trustees.

Here's a toast to SWFF at 40! May it be our best year ever.



Karen Lee Zachry  
President

**This year marked the passing of Margaret Brannan who served as a President to the Forum in 1983-1984. The Board of the Southwest Foundation Forum along with all of its members-at-large, both past and present, send their condolences to her family. Margaret's dedication and support will continue to serve as an example to all for years to come. She will always be remembered in our hearts.**

# Southwest Foundation Insiders' Tour

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

The Southwest Foundation Forum is proud to host a tour and luncheon for our members on Wednesday, October 20th, 2010 at 11:00 in the morning at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.



The Insiders' Tour will include the Southwest National Primate Research Center and the BSL4 Lab. A briefing on recent research in these areas will be shared. The event will provide Forum members the opportunity to learn more about the Foundation's extensive research and fundamental mission. Lunch will be served after the tour and will include remarks by Forum President

Karen Lee Zachry and SFBR President Ken Trevett. During lunch, SFBR scientists who received Forum Grants will take part in roundtable discussions with us.

Don't miss a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Southwest Foundation

for Biomedical Research and its dedication to advancing the health of our global community through innovative biomedical research. Bus transportation from Alamo Heights United Methodist Church will be provided. Invitations to be mailed soon.

For more information, contact: Gretchen Herrmann, 210.930.2563 – [gretchenh@arminiususa.com](mailto:gretchenh@arminiususa.com) or Mary Potts, 210.826.7091 – [marycaldpotts@yahoo.com](mailto:marycaldpotts@yahoo.com).



## FALL LECTURE LUNCHEON

The Southwest Foundation Forum invites you to join us on November 10, 2010 for the Annual Fall Lecture Luncheon to be held at the Argyle at 11 a.m. We are so fortunate to have the Cancer Therapy and Research Center Breast Cancer Program Team director, Peter Ravdin, MD, PhD, as our guest speaker. The lecture will cover not only current breast cancer diagnosis and treatment but also surveillance of the healthy breast and benign breast conditions.

This promises to be an enlightening hour on a topic that is near and dear to all of us.

Invitations will go out this fall. Reservations for tables of 10 or individual seats will be available on our website. We hope to see you there.



# Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana

## The Southwest Foundation Forum Gala 2010



The annual SWFF gala, held this year on May 1st at The Argyle, was an elegant and fun-filled evening honoring the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Southwest Foundation Forum. The SWFF was founded forty years ago by a group of determined and forward-thinking women who created the Forum to support the life-changing work being done at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. It has been the goal of every gala to honor this founding principle by raising funds and building community awareness in an effort to assist the SFBR researchers in their quest to study and cure diseases affecting our world community. The annual gala is the largest event of the SWFF and is entirely produced by volunteers donating thousands of hours of their time over a 12-month time period.

This year's gala chair, **Paola Lloyd**, co-chair, **Mary Beth Mosbacher**, and gala assistant, **Kathleen LeFlore**, chose to celebrate the splendors and elegance of the culture of Mexico as the theme for this year's gala. The idea of celebrating the traditions of Mexico made perfect sense for our community, who has so many close ties with our closest neighbor, and Mexico certainly knows how to throw a great party! Of course, the main goal of the evening was to raise funds for the SFBR. Thanks to our very generous and dedicated SWFF members and donors, **the gala was a huge success with a donation made to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research for \$160,000.**



Early in the summer of 2009, countless meetings with Table Sales Chairs **Kimberly Archer** and **Melissa**

**Marino** helped us to sell every table for the event, a huge accomplishment in today's economy. We are so grateful to the loyal families and businesses that support the gala year after year by sponsoring the event. The raffle committee, led by **Whitney S. Miller, Courtney Percy, Christy Meador and Tricia Dilling**, created a buzz of excitement before the evening arrived with their amazing raffle packages including a trip to a private winery in Napa (won by Victoria and Carlos Roca), a stay in a private Puerto Vallarta hacienda (won by Wendy and Tom Wirth), a New York fashion trip (won by Christine and Mike Lynd), the traditional Argyle dinner package (won by Pat and Tom McCorkle), a VIP rodeo package (won by Ashley and Rad Weaver), and a UT football/Port Aransas trip (won by Jan and Gib Meadows). Congratulations to all of the lucky winners!

The evening began with guests being greeted by Argyle waiters in guayaberas offering mango margaritas and mojitos. As they walked down the white carpeted and columned entry-runway, guests were serenaded by the sights and sounds of traditional Folklorico dancers. Decorations chairs, **Melissa Morgan and Michele Stevens**, transformed the Argyle into another time and place with an exotic mixture of old and new Mexico complete with an enormous replica of the ancient Olmec head and a "discoteca" worthy of the hippest Mexico City crowd!

Inside, the rooms of the Argyle sparkled and glowed with hundreds of candles as guests dined at tables dressed in elegant white linens surrounded by the gorgeous white and green centerpieces, subtly reminiscent of an Aztec headpiece, created by the decorations chairs with Illusions and Flair Floral of the RK Group. Favors chair, **Leanne Kelly**, saw to

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# Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana

(Continued from Page 4)

it that guests were gifted with beautiful pewter and enamel lily bowls by Julia Knight and generously donated by Saks Fifth Avenue. As always, the food at The Argyle was one of the evening highlights. Menu chairs, **Mary Herff and Melinda Young**, assisted by John Moratta and chef John Barrios, created an evening of unforgettable Mexican delicacies highlighted by the chocolate Mayan pyramid for dessert! For the heartiest guests, our amazing menu chairs even provided the wonderful



Mariachis performing at the Gala.

Mary Beth Mosbacker, Gala Co-Chair  
Kathleen LeFlore, Gala Assistant and  
Paola Lloyd, Gala Chair.



Jenny Seger, Debbie Duperier, Leanne Kelly, Kim Shepperd, Julie Dudley, Melissa Morgan, and Juliana Azar.

Mexican tradition of late-night breakfast tacos at the end of the evening!

The entertainment chairs for the gala were **Courtney Duphorne, Josie Flesher and Julie Zacher**. We were all in good hands with these ladies who know how to plan a fun night of dancing and merriment! Not only did they provide us with the beautiful pre-dinner entertainment, but we were all serenaded during dinner and after by the beautiful sounds of the mariachis, *Las Damas* and *Mariachi Internacional*. As the After Party, led by chairs **Chaney Stuart and Amy White**, began, guests relaxed in the disoteca lounge-seating or had fun on the dance floor to the tunes of *Third Language*.

Borrowing from a Mexican-party tradition, the band encouraged guests to join in the fun with favors they tossed out to the crowd . . . more than a few friends were seen sporting satin matador capes, sombreros, and maracas! Another fun surprise for the guests of the After Party was the infamous tequila tasting bar. Guests were treated

to an education about fine sipping tequilas and samples of four different types of tequilas. There were some very diligent students in attendance that spent quite a bit of time researching their favorite type of tequila!

The invitations and programs, headed by committee chairs **Amber Canseco and Mary Potts**, were a beautiful design of a Mayan pyramid. Thank you to **Joey Zollino** who created the original charcoal drawings of all of the ancient Mexican icons used throughout this gala year. Joey's beautiful works of art have become a wonderful gift to his daughter and gala chair, **Paola Lloyd**, as treasured

momentos from this year's event. The gala chairs would also like to thank our trusted advisor, **Rosina Zollino**, who not only lent her expertise on Mexican art and culture, but, as a past gala chair, understood coordinating an event of this magnitude. Thanks also go out to our other gala advisors, **Kimberly Archer, Suzanne Dabbous, and Karen Lee Zachry** who always graciously mentored us every step of the way.

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# Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana

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One of the most anticipated events of the evening was the unveiling of *La Sopresa* . . . a beautiful diamond necklace donated by Shetler Wade Jewelers.



Amelita and David Mauze

*La Sopresa* was enticingly displayed under spotlights in an acrylic box with a mysterious padlock. Guests were able to purchase keys, and one lucky winner, **Courtney Burkholder**, had the key which unlocked the box. Thanks to our surprise committee chairs **Kim Shepperd and Allison Zeller** for creating and coordinating this Argyle version of a piñata which raised over \$7,000 in a matter of three hours!

This year's forum grants committee was chaired by **Debbie Duperier and Whitney Ramirez**.

Thank you to all of the generous donors who supported our efforts to reach a very ambitious \$40,000 goal for forum grants. Thanks go out as well to Jim and Lena Gorman and San Antonio Capital Management for a very generous donation of \$2,000 which helped us reach our goal of \$40,000!

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A final donation of \$2,000 from Jim and Lena Gorman and Whitney Solcher-Miller of San Antonio Capital Management helped the Forum reach their goal of \$40,000 for Forum Grants.

Many thanks to logistics committee chairs, **Lee Ann Jones and Jodi Wood**, for their efforts in coordinating the volunteers for the mammoth task of transforming the Ar-

gyle. Thank you, as well, to the ladies who chaired the ticket sales committee and coordinated delivery of prizes to all the winners: **Dana Hamilton, Amelita Mauze, and Roxana Newsom**. Thank you to publicity chairs **Julie Dudley and Ashley Hixon** who ensured the event was covered by the media, and gala treasurer, **Cathryn Le Vrier**, who dedicated countless hours to operating the gala accounts.

In closing, we would like to say a final thank you to all those who were involved in this year's event: the volunteers,

the Argyle staff and the many vendors worked together flawlessly to recreate every inch of an evening immersed in Mexican culture. The guests had a wonderful time celebrating the work of the Forum,



Kim and John Shepperd

and the families and businesses that supported the gala by sponsoring tables, buying raffle tickets, donating grants, and attending the event enjoyed themselves. All



Stephanie and Matt Matthews

of these groups came together on May 1st to create a night of splendors we will not soon forget and which allowed us to give something to the SFBR

which we hope may lead to a scientific legacy as long-lasting as the Mayan pyramids. ADIOS Y GRACIAS!



Terry and J.B. Gouger

# Gala Sponsors

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# Forum Grants

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Terry and J.B. Gouger • Mrs. Helen K. Groves • Emory Hamilton

Claudia Huntington and Marshall Miller • Mr. and Mrs. John Kerr • Mr. and Mrs. Byron LeFlore, Jr.

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A gift from the John Newman Family Charitable Trust of the San Antonio Area Foundation

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Phyllis and Mike Viola • Barbara Wood • J. Keith Wright, M.D., P.A • Lori and Mark Wright

Julie and Peter Zacher • Karen Lee and David Zachry

## Special Thanks

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You're Invited Fine Stationery & Invitations

# A Gala to Remember



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 23, 2010 — 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
Julian Gold Event

Oct. 20, 2010 — 11:00 A.M.  
SFBR Tour and Luncheon

Nov. 10, 2010 — 10:00 A.M.  
Joint Board Meeting and  
Lecture & Luncheon – 11:00 A.M.

Dec. 1, 2010 — 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.  
Holiday Coffee for Members  
606 Arcadia Place, 78209

March 31, 2011 — 10:00 A.M.  
Joint Board Meeting & Science Awards  
and Lecture Luncheon — 11:00 A.M.

April 30, 2011 — 6:00 P.M.  
SWFF Gala



Shop  
till you  
Drop!

There is nothing more hip  
than supporting a good cause.

Join us

*Thursday, September 23rd*

*10:00am- 6:00pm*

for an ALL DAY shopping event  
supporting the  
Southwest Foundation Forum.

The festivities will include food, drinks,  
and door prizes including a handbag,  
pair of shoes, jewelry set, and Julian Gold  
gift card!

*Julian Gold*

10% off all sales to benefit  
the Southwest  
Foundation  
Forum.

## SFBR Studies will Someday Save Lives of Primate Workers

Twelve years ago, a research assistant was transporting a macaque monkey from one location to another. As she picked up the macaque, her eye was exposed to fluid from the animal. Within six weeks, even with antiviral therapy, the woman was dead. Why? The macaque monkey carried the deadly herpes B virus in its system and transmitted it through this unusual accident.

While this event did not occur at SFBR, herpes B virus is a potential threat to anyone who works with these animals. Herpes B virus naturally infects macaque monkeys and is the monkey version of herpes simplex virus, the cause of cold sores in humans. This virus and the herpes simplex virus are genetically very similar. In the monkey, herpes B virus causes self-limiting lesions similar to cold sores. In contrast, human infection of herpes B virus is frequently fatal— 80 percent fatality if untreated, 20 percent if early treatment is administered. Given that herpes B virus is endemic in most macaque colonies, and macaques are the most commonly used non-human primate in biomedical research, animal care staff and veterinarians are at great risk of herpes B virus infection.

At SFBR, the laboratory of Anthony Griffiths, Ph.D., is working to understand the molecular basis of human disease caused by herpes B virus. These studies will lead to the increased safety of those working with these animals. Moreover, their work will further the understanding of how highly pathogenic viruses cross between species.

Using the latest sequencing technology, known as deep gene sequencing, Griffiths and his team have recently discovered 27 herpes B virus (BV) – encoded microRNAs and are investigating how they regulate the expression of virus and cellular genes. “Our studies of microRNAs are furthering our understanding of how viruses successfully infect cells. Ultimately, we anticipate that by comparing the interactions of the virus between human cells and monkey cells, we will gain valuable insight into why the virus is so harmful to humans,” says Griffiths. MicroRNAs are newly recognized molecules that

control the expression of genes. They have been shown to be important in many biological processes, and also diseases including cancer. Recently, microRNAs have been shown to be exploited by some viruses, and appear to play fundamental roles in the disease process.



**Anthony Griffiths, Ph.D.**

Griffiths’ study is the first to combine detailed herpes virus microRNA identification and expression in the naturally infected host – macaque monkeys – and normally infected cells. The work is so dangerous to humans that many of the experiments must take place in SFBR’s biosafety level 4 containment laboratory.

Herpes viruses cause diseases for which there are limited treatments, but no cure. Indeed, as the saying goes, herpes is forever. These viruses have a two-phase life cycle; they may be actively replicating (when one may see lesions) or “latent,” when there is no active replication and almost no gene expression. BV-encoded microRNAs are generated during both phases of the virus life cycle. And by using the deep sequencing data, Griffiths and his team have developed tests that sensitively and specifically detect the viral microRNAs in infected cells during active replication and latency. These tests

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# Studies will Someday Save Lives of Primate Workers

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have permitted a quantitative analysis of expression throughout the viral life cycles.

The deep sequencing was funded by the Southwest Foundation Forum. Parts of the analyses that have

relevance to diagnostic assays were funded by a supplement to the Southwest National Primate Center base grant.

Next steps in the research include answering the questions: What are the functions of the microRNAs? What viral genes are regulated by the microRNAs? What cellular genes are regulated by the microRNAs and are these genes different in monkey versus human cells?

## Foundation Scientists Find That Smoking Alters Gene Function

In the largest study of its kind, researchers at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) have found that exposure to cigarette smoke can alter gene expression – the process by which a gene’s information is converted into the structures and functions of a cell. These alterations in response to smoking appear to have a wide-ranging negative influence on the immune system, and a strong involvement in processes related to cancer, cell death and metabolism.

The scientists involved in the study identified 323 unique genes whose expression levels were significantly correlated with smoking behavior in their study of 1,240 people. The changes were detected by studying the activity of genes within white blood cells of study participants.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Azar and Shepperd families of San Antonio, ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals and the AT&T Foundation. The study is part of SFBR’s San Antonio Family Heart Study (SAFHS) which includes 40 families in the Mexican American community.

“Previous studies of gene expression as influenced by smoking have been seriously limited in size with the largest of the in vivo studies including only 42 smokers and 43 non-smokers. We studied 1,240 individuals, including 297 current smokers,” wrote lead author Jac Charlesworth, Ph.D., formerly of



John Blangero, Ph.D.

SFBR and now a research fellow at the Menzies Research Institute at the University of Tasmania in Australia. “Never before has such a clear link between smoking and transcriptomics been revealed. The scale at which exposure to cigarette smoke appears to influ-

ence the expression levels of our genes is sobering.”

“Our results indicate that not only individual genes but entire networks of gene interaction are influenced by cigarette smoking. It is likely that this observed effect of smoking on transcription has larger implications for human disease risk, especially in relation to the increased risk of a wide variety of cancers throughout the body as a result of cigarette smoke exposure,” Charlesworth said.

All of Charlesworth’s ten co-authors on this paper are doctoral-level faculty and staff in SFBR’s Department of Genetics and members of the group of investigators working on the SAFHS by Principal Investigator John Blangero, Ph.D.

# SFBR Expands One of the Largest Computer Clusters for Exploring Human Genes

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The “computer ranch” at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) will more than double in size this summer, thanks to a \$2 million federal grant that will create new jobs as it speeds the pace of discovery at the Foundation’s AT&T Genomics Computing Center.

The grant will fund the manufacture and installation of 5,004 more linked processors for the computing center. That will give the Foundation a total of 8,004 linked computers that can work in tandem to process the billions of calculations required for complex genetic analyses. Installation of the processors was scheduled to begin in August and be completed by the middle of September.

The investment will more than double the computing power of the ranch and provide a 20-fold increase in data storage capacity, said John Blangero, Ph.D., a statistical geneticist and director of the computing center.

Until recently, cost and technological limits meant that scientists had to focus any study on a narrow segment of the genome. The field is advancing rapidly though, and soon computational geneticists will be able to undertake complete genome sequencing of individual subjects in their studies, said Blangero.

“Our expansion will provide us with sufficient computational firepower to handle the coming flood of whole human genome sequencing, which will become cost-effective in the next one to two years,” Blangero said. “This investment will keep the Foundation at the forefront of the expanding genetic frontier.”

Funding for the expansion comes through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, part of the economic stimulus package approved by Congress in 2009. It provided money to the National Center for Research Resources, a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to make awards for scientific equipment investments at research institutions across the country. The Foundation’s grant application got a perfect score in the competitive review process, which considered both the equipment’s effect on scientific research and its impact on job creation.

The Foundation will add one systems analyst position because of the computer expansion, Blangero said. M&A Technology Inc. of Carrollton, Texas, which will manufacture, install and maintain the specialized processors, will add one or possibly two new positions because of its contract with the Foundation, said Senior Vice President Val Overbey, Sr.

M&A Technology has sales and service operations in San Antonio. Formed in 1984, it has been the Foundation’s partner since 2002 in designing, assembling and maintaining the computer ranch.

The computers support \$110 million worth of NIH grants, giving the Foundation a compelling case in favor of the additional federal investment, said Blangero. “The decision was made that giving us \$2 million to support our work was a good idea,” he said. “We also showed that we had a need for expansion because of the cutting-edge computational activities that we are engaged in.”

Foundation scientists are directing or supporting a number of studies that employ extended family pedigrees to track down the genetic basis of chronic complex diseases. These include the San Antonio Family Heart Study, begun at the Foundation in 1991, which has involved 1,400 Mexican Americans from 40 San Antonio-area families in the search for genes that influence heart disease, diabetes and obesity. The genetic data collected in that study has given rise to several others, including studies now looking at the genetic determinants of brain structure and the genetic basis of psychiatric illnesses.

# SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARDS

For the past 17 years, the Southwest Foundation Forum, in cooperation with the V. H. McNutt Memorial Foundation, has offered an opportunity for area teachers to apply for grants to benefit their schools' science program. The goal is to assist in the purchase of teaching materials for creative, hands-on projects that the teachers would like to implement in their schools. Both public and private school teachers within Bexar County and its contiguous counties are eligible to participate. The awards are given to the six teachers who submit the most innovative proposals showing a strong commitment to furthering the development of progressive science education programs at their school.

The winners are determined by a panel of judges consisting of a representative from the V. H. McNutt Memorial Foundation,



scientists from the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research and members of the Southwest Founda-

tion Forum board. This year we would like to thank Valerie Guenther from the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation for her invaluable time and input. We would also like to thank the SFBR scientists, Joanne Curren, Lorena Havill and Matt

Johnson who gave their time to judge this year's numerous applications. In addition,



due to a generous donation by the L.D. Ormsby Foundation, applicants who submitted their project by the due date received a generous participatory stipend of \$200.00 for the school's science program while each teacher received a \$50.00 personal stipend.

This year, \$10,000 was awarded jointly by the SWFF and the V. H. McNutt Memorial Foundation.



## **The deserving winners for the 2009-2010 year are as follows:**

**1st Place – Michael J. Scully \$3,500**

**John Jay Science and Engineering Academy**

*“The Purple Martin Research Center”*

•

**2nd Place – Layne Steinhelper \$2,250**

**Keystone School**

*“Long-Term Urban Forest Project”*

•

**3rd Place – Marvin Rudd \$1,750**

**Byron P. Steele High School**

*“Water Quality Analysis of the Cibolo”*

•

**4th Place – Jason Nydegger \$1,250**

**Keystone School**

*“CO<sub>2</sub> Incubator for Botanical/Environmental and Mammalian Tissue Culture Studies”*

•

**5th Place – Greg Schwab and Joe Ingle \$750**

**Pleasanton High School**

*“A Project-Based Learning Exercise for the Design and Construction of Four Rainwater Harvesting, Storage, and Delivery Systems”*

•

**6th Place – Deborah Baker \$500**

**San Antonio Christian High School**

*“Technology and Karst Topography: Connecting Students and Community with GPS”*

## GALA 2011 A SHANGHAI AFFAIR

Save the date for a journey to the Far East, back in time to the Golden Days of Shanghai, China's most dynamic and cosmopolitan city. *A Shanghai Affair*, The Southwest Foundation Forum's annual Gala, will celebrate the rich culture of this city, and will be held on April 30, 2011 at The Argyle.

**Julie Zacher** and **Josie Flesher**, Gala Co-chairs, and **Christy Meador**, Gala Assistant are hard at work planning what promises to be a special evening of fabulous cuisine and entertainment.

All forum members will receive a table sales letter this fall inviting them to reserve a table well in advance. Tables are often sold out in advance of the Gala, so reserve yours early! Not able to attend the Gala? You will also have the opportunity to support our fundraising efforts by giving a Forum grant, a direct donation to the Forum, which in turn supports the life changing and ground breaking research of the SFBR.

We could not succeed each year without the help of many volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the gala committee, please contact **Julie Zacher** at [jmzacher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmzacher@sbcglobal.net) or 832-0541.

We look forward to celebrating what we promise will be an affair to remember!

**The Forum needs volunteers for special events throughout the year! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Debbie Duperier at 736-1342 or [duperier@yahoo.com](mailto:duperier@yahoo.com)**

## Past President's Letter —

Issac Newton credited with saying "If I can see further it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants." The Southwest Foundation Forum is filled with many giants leaving their mark on this community for forty years. I was honored to serve as President during this landmark anniversary following in the footsteps of my friends and founders of the Forum, **Dottie Block**, **Tena Gorman** and **Ruth Eileen Sullivan**. The foundation these women laid for this organization has continued with unparalleled enthusiasm.

The Board of 2009-2010 was no exception. My sincere thanks to each of you for all that you brought to the table with your ideas, time and energy. I would specifically like to acknowledge **Paola Lloyd** – Gala Chair, **Mary Beth Mosbacher** – Gala Co-Chair and **Kathleen LeFlore** – Gala Assistant. Until you have walked in their shoes, I'm not sure any of us understand the amount of effort that goes into our annual gala. A year of their planning gave us a night of perfection. Their work, along with all of their committee members, and your support, allowed the Forum to present a check to SFBR in the amount of \$160,000!

To put this gift in perspective, the Forum's 2009 contributions to pilot studies helped develop more than \$6 million in new grants. With statistics like that, I cannot wait to see what this group of women will accomplish over the next forty years!

It has been a privilege to share in the pursuit of supporting an organization that makes a difference in all of our lives. This experience, has made a lasting impression on my life and I will take something away with me from each of you. The Board in place for 2010-2011, with **Karen Lee Zachry** as President, is as dynamic as they come and I wish you all the best. Again, many thanks for a wonderful year.

Warmly,



Terry



Past presidents gathered at the May annual meeting to celebrate the Forum's 40th year.



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2010-2011**

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