



Forum in Focus

FALL 2009

President's Letter

Dear Friends of the Forum,

This year represents the 40th installation of a president for the Southwest Foundation Forum. As we enter into our 5th decade, it's natural to reflect on where we came from, why we were established and what we have accomplished.

Had it not been for Tom Slick's vision of wanting to improve the lives of people all over the world, we would not have the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) and the many other institutions that are a part of his legacy today. His idea to bring the most brilliant minds together to "explore the possibilities" is the epitome of what SFBR represents.

Following his vision, a group of women got together forty years ago to establish the Southwest Foundation Forum. These women understood the importance of supporting the research that ultimately develops the medications and technology so crucial to saving lives. During each year of every decade, this organization has evolved to find new and better ways to educate the community about work done at SFBR, as well as increase their gifting.

This past year, gifts from the Forum went to underwrite studies of six SFBR scientists. Their research encompasses Herpes B Virus, Obesity, Preeclampsia, Tuberculosis, Effects of Nutrition on Fetal Bone Development and HIV. Results of studies like these have led to additional grants amounting to an estimated \$25 million.

On the average, SFBR scientists have been awarded more grants from major funding institutions at a rate far greater than most others in the field. How's that for putting the most brilliant minds together!

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



Terry Gouger

Knowing what the Forum supports makes it all that much easier to go out and perform the positions each of us have undertaken as Board members. Every person that has come before us has made our jobs a little easier. For me that person is **Laura Moorman**, our Immediate Past President.

Over the years, I could see Laura's passion and dedication to the Forum grow exponentially. Every position that Laura has held was left better because of her organizational skills and ability to

streamline. As I moved into the position of President, her support has been unwavering, and I'm glad to know she's just a phone call away. This year, Laura will be overseeing the Nominating Committee, thus ensuring the continued placement of dedicated women to our Board.

Our 1st Vice-President, **Karen Lee Zachry**, is in charge of lecture luncheons. This summer, she and **Julie Zacher** have been researching the best speakers to bring to our members. The luncheons are scheduled for November 18th and March 31st. Working with lecture luncheons, as well as with every other committee that can use extra help, will be **Leanne Kelly**, who will make sure enough volunteers are on hand.

With the ink barely dry on the check presented to SFBR for proceeds from the 2009 Gala, our newest group of women, **Paola Lloyd**, Gala Chair, **Mary Beth Mosbacher**, Co-Chair and **Kathleen Leflore**, Assistant, have already been working on next year's Gala *Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana*, scheduled for May 1, 2010 at the Argyle. It will certainly be a spectacular evening!

Our fall will start off with "Ladies Night Out." This event has been overseen by **Courtney Percy** and **Michele Stevens**. The date is set for September 24th. This will be the 6th year Julian Gold has generously hosted this fun-filled evening. A portion of this evening's sales are donated to the Forum by Julian Gold and we are most grateful. Making sure that this event, as well as all Forum events, are covered through the media is our Publicity Chair, **Julie Dudley**.

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President's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

Our membership numbers have continued to increase every year, and I have no doubt that **Suzanne Dabbous** has plans to maintain this upward trend. Working closely with Suzanne is our Database Coordinator, **Amy White**, who already has been working to reorganize this position making all information readily available to its members.

Our Treasurer, **Anne Heaner**, along with the Assistant Treasurer, **Cathryn LeVrier**, have been reviewing past revenues and expenditures taking into considerations any new forecasts to set the annual budget.

Jodi Wood, our Recording Secretary, will be busy taking minutes at our monthly meetings ensuring they are distributed to and approved by the Board.

Our Corresponding Secretary, **Kimberly Archer**, will keep the Forum's outside correspondence up to date. Documenting all that the Forum does throughout the year will be our Historian, **Courtney Burkholder**. She will work very closely with our Photographer, **Kim Shepperd**, as she captures highlights of each event.

The annual directory will be taking on a new format this year as **Josie Fleisher** and **Christy Meador** have changed things to include e-mail addresses of our members.

Our newest Forum committee, Forum Grants (formerly Gala Grants) will be chaired by **Whitney Ramirez**. Under Whitney's supervision, in conjunction with the 2009 Gala, an additional \$42,000 was gifted to SFBR. Working with Whitney this year will be **Debbie Duperier**. The new ideas these girls bring to the table will ensure Forum Grants continued growth and prosperity for years to come.

The purpose of the Foundation Tour has been to educate both new Board mem-

bers and members-at-large by allowing them a first-hand look at what happens behind the scenes at SFBR. This year, **Dana Hamilton** and **Mary Potts** have been hard at work. Instead of the tour being held in the evening as in the past, it has been set for October 14th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., thus allowing time to tour the primates.

Several of last year's committee heads graciously volunteered to remain for another year. **Mary Herff**, again chairman of the Student Tours, along with **Jennifer McLiney**, will continue to build on our community relations with local high schools providing their science students a better understanding of applied science.

This fabulous Newsletter was put together by **Roxana Newsom** and **Melissa Morgan**. Trying to gather information for this publication, especially during the summer months, is no easy feat when you are trying to meet a deadline.

Working closely with me throughout this year will be **Jenni Curren**, our Parliamentarian. Jenni will make sure meetings run smoothly and according to procedures and by-laws.

Under **Sally Sullivan's** leadership, the Science Award Program received last year a record number of applicants. This year, along with **Chaney Stuart**, they will continue to broaden our base of applicants by working more closely with schools across Bexar County. Our thanks go out to the **V. H. McNutt** and **L.D. Ormsby Foundations** for their continued support in lighting that spark in the young scientists of the world.

Keeping everyone abreast of all of the Forum's activities, as well as on-line ticket/raffle sales, is **Melissa Barnett**,



Allison Zeller, Lisa Blonkvist and Lisa Sechler, the President's Advisors

(not pictured, Jean Mitchell and Honorary Trustee Barbara Trevitt)

our web-site liaison. Please feel free to view our site at www.swff.org.

And serving as Honorary Trustee and Advisors are **Barbara Trevett, Lisa Blonkvist, Jean Mitchell, Lisa Sechler** and **Allison Zeller**. You are all invaluable to me. Thank you all for agreeing to give your time and expertise, and to help me on this journey.

As we all move forward this year, my hope is that as a Board we capture Tom Slick's attitude of "exploring the possibilities." Let's make each board position more effective and productive than in years past.

Warmly,

Terry B. Gouger
President 2009-2010
Southwest Foundation Forum

Mark your calendars for the Southwest Foundation Forum's fall lecture luncheon, to be held Wednesday, November 18 at 11:00 a.m. at the Argyle. Keep watching swff.org for an update on this year's speaker and topic!

Southwest Foundation Insiders' Tour

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

The Southwest Foundation Forum is proud to host a tour and luncheon for our members on Wednesday, October 14th, 2009 at 10:30 in the morning at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. This event is a new version of the tour historically scheduled in the evening.

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 Terry Gouger and SFBR President Ken Trevett. Roundtable discussions led by SFBR scientists who have received Forum grants will provide educational entertainment during lunch.

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. Invitations for this unique event will be mailed soon and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that because of the up-close nature of this tour, we are limited to the first 50 reservations. For more information, please contact:

Dana Hamilton • 210.820.3676 • dana_b_hamilton@yahoo.com

Mary Potts • 210.826.7091 • marycalpotts@yahoo.com

Science Education Awards

For the past 16 years, the Southwest Foundation Forum, in cooperation with the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation, offers 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 further 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 Foundation Forum board. This year we would like to thank Valerie Guenther from the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation for her time and input during the judging and throughout the year. 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, thanks to the L.D. Ormsby Foundation, all non-winning applications that were considered this year for review received a generous participatory stipend of \$200.00 for the school's science program, and each teacher who submitted a qualified proposal received a \$50.00 personal stipend for taking the time to apply.

This year, \$20,000 was awarded jointly by the SWFF and the V. H. McNutt Memorial Foundation. The deserving winners for the 2008-2009 year are as follows:

1st Place – Alan Spannagel	\$7000.00
Byron P. Steele High School <i>“Physical Properties of Plastic Fragments”</i>	
2nd Place – Brenda Carrillo	\$4500.00
McCullum High School <i>“Building Biological Concepts”</i>	
3rd Place – Pete Alaniz	\$3500.00
South San Antonio High School <i>“Investigating Pond Environmental Systems”</i>	
4th Place – Marvin Rudd	\$2500.00
Byron P. Steele High School <i>“Polymerase Chain Reaction and Comparative Protein Analysis Lab”</i>	
5th Place – Layne Steinhelper	\$1500.00
Keystone School <i>“Soil Microplates / Microplate Reader”</i>	
Honorable Mention – Colin Lang	\$1000.00
Alamo Heights High School <i>“Aero Science Studies”</i>	

Volunteers Needed!

The Forum needs volunteers with the Fall Lecture Luncheon, Student Tours, and Gala. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these events, please contact:

Leanne Kelly at 736-6115
or leannekelly@yahoo.com



Gala 2010

Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana

It's not too soon to mark your calendars for the Southwest Foundation Forum's 40th Annual Gala! *Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana*, celebrating the splendor and beauty of the Mexican culture, will be the theme for this year's gala, to be held May 1, 2010 at the Argyle. Paola Lloyd and Mary Beth Mosbacher, Co-Chairs, and Kathleen LeFlore, Gala Assistant, are already hard at work planning what promises to be a special evening of fine cuisine and extraordinary entertainment as we celebrate four decades of memorable galas!

In the past, the gala has often sold out its tables in early spring in advance of the gala. To be sure that all Forum members who would like to attend have an early chance to reserve a table, all Forum members will receive a table sales letter this fall inviting them to join together with friends and reserve a table well in advance. Not able to attend the gala? You will also have the opportunity to give a Forum grant, a direct donation to the Forum, which in turn supports the life changing and life-saving research of the SFBR.

The secret to the success of our annual gala is our tremendous volunteers! If you would like to be a part of the committee, please contact Paola Lloyd at 826-5048 or via email at paolalloyd@yahoo.com, and let her know in which area you would like to help.

We look forward to celebrating *Esplendores de la Cultura Mexicana* with you!

IN MEMORIUM

This past year marked the passing of two women who served as Presidents of the Forum, Neal Krause (1975) and Margie Rust (1987). The Board of the Southwest Foundation Forum along with all of its members-at-large, both past and present, send their sincere condolences to the families of these extraordinary women. The dedication of women like these have brought us to where we are today as an organization.

They will always be remembered.

There's nothing more hip than supporting a good cause!



Southwest Foundation Forum Ladies' Night Out
Thursday, Sept. 24th, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
at Julian Gold

Catering by
LA FONDA
Alamo Heights

with their famous margaritas

- Register to win \$250 gift certificate
- Dian Malouf trunk show with all of her latest unique designs

Julian Gold

10% of total sales benefits the Southwest Foundation Forum

Out of Africa

Southwest Foundation Forum Gala 2009

The 38th annual SWFF gala, held May 2nd, on the newly-remodeled Argyle grounds was an evening to remember. The theme, *Out of Africa*, seemed perfectly suited to the setting of the Argyle and the romantically decorated tent.

This year's Gala Chair, **Karen Lee Zachry**, Co-Chair, **Suzanne M. Dabbous**, and Gala Assistant, **Kimberly Archer**, knew when they were asked by President, **Laura Moorman**, to chair the 2009 gala that it would be a challenge in the current economic climate. But with the help of dedicated SWFF members and sponsors, the gala was by all accounts a smashing success with a sum of \$175,000 presented to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.

Early in the summer of 2009, countless meetings with Table Sales Chair, **Paola Lloyd**, and Gala Grants chairs, **Erika Silva**, **Terry Gouger** and **Whitney Ramirez**, paved the way for a sellout event and generous grant donations from our loyal sponsors.

The invitations and programs, beautifully designed to resemble a personal travel journal with hand calligraphy and custom designed monogram, were a graceful reminder of simpler times. Many thanks to the Invitation Chairs, **Michele Stevens** and **Dottie Cooper**.

The superb organizing skills of Raffle Chairs, **Kathleen LeFlore** and **Courtney Percy**, resulted in a uniquely extravagant raffle that raised approximately \$30,000 for the Forum. The raffle winners were announced the night of the gala with the grand prize of an African safari going to Barbie and Toby O'Connor.

Marybeth Mosbacker and **Melissa Barnett**, Logistics Co-Chairs, and **Julie Zacher**, Decorations Chair, undertook the mammoth responsibility of transforming the Argyle into a proper English dining room and stylish but rustic African safari tent. With the help of committee volunteers, **Bill Haynie** of AVT Lighting, **Danny Cuellar** of Trinity Flowers, **Faye Seeman** of Aztec Rentals, **Izzy** of Izzy's Rugs, **Pat Martin** of Milberger's Nursery, **Picnikins**, and the ever faithful Argyle manager, **John Marotta**, the newly-remodeled Argyle grounds were transformed. Billowing columns of mosquito netting mixed perfectly with the rustic wood chandeliers, oriental

rugs and music of The Newsboyz to provide a surreal safari experience.



Greeted by tuxedo clad Argyle staff holding silver trays of champagne, guests were treated to a safari "sundowner" of dates

stuffed with goat cheese and wrapped in prosciutto and to the sounds of Mwendo African Drummers. Menu Chairs, **Shari Stankey** and **Meredith Campbell**, went beyond the call to provide an apropos gourmand experience.

Seated at simply dressed tables of white linen and orchids, guests enjoyed a gift of leather passport covers provided by generous gala sponsor **Neiman Marcus**. Thank you to



Caroline Schupbach and **Anita Allison**, Favor Chairs, for working closely with Neiman Marcus. Guests then danced under the safari tent to the tunes of an awesome Austin band, **The Newsboyz**. Many thanks to **Nicole**

Greenberg and **Leanne Kelly**, Entertainment Chairs, for their foresight.

Courtney Duphorne and **Heather Kraft**, After Party Chairs, were there to greet the additional guests with white orchid wrist corsages, champagne and a special buffet of light fare suited to the event.

Many thanks to **Anne Heaner**, Gala Treasurer, **Courtney Burkholder**, Publicity Chair, and Raffle Ticket Sales Chairs,

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Out of Africa

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Dana Hamilton and Roxana Newsom, for hours of work on this event. Special thanks to the gala advisors, **Anne Johnston and Kim Shepperd**.

It seems every detail of another era was remembered resulting in a fabulous party with great fund-raising results!



Special Thanks

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Wendy & Lyndsay Thorn

SFBR Foundation Updates

Lanford Studies Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer Using SFBR's Chimpanzees

Dr. Robert Lanford at SFBR and co-workers from the Fox Chase Cancer Center and the University of Adelaide in Australia recently published their findings on events that precede the development of liver cancer due to hepatitis B virus infection. The goal of this research is to better understand liver cancer which may lead to new therapeutics and methods to diagnose liver cancer at an earlier stage. These studies utilized the chimpanzee model of HBV infections at SFBR and were supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Their research results were just accepted for publication in the *Journal of Virology*.

Rico-Hesse Develops Mouse as First Animal Model for Dengue Fever

Dr. Rebeca Rico-Hesse has developed the first animal model – the mouse – for dengue fever, a mosquito-borne infectious disease that is contracted by 50 - 100 million people around the world. Texas is a perfect port of entry to the United States because the state has the type of mosquito that can carry dengue. This project, sponsored by the Kleberg Foundation and the NIH, resulted in the first animal model for the disease. The results are in the September 2009 issue of the *Journal of Virology*.



SFBR Geneticists Confirm Newly Discovered Fat Cell Substance Associated with Diabetes

Although many consider them separate disorders, signs of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity often occur in a dangerous combination called “the metabolic syndrome.” Investigators from SFBR’s Department of Genetics and collaborators from Australia have proved an earlier study and confirmed that a substance produced by fat cells is associated with – and may contribute to the development of – the metabolic syndrome, which affects 44% of the U.S. population over age 50, and type 2 diabetes which affects 90-95 percent of the 21 million Americans who have diabetes. These findings were published in the May 2009 *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*.

Scientists Map Genome for Parasite-Causing Widespread Infections

Along with collaborators at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Dr. Timothy Anderson from SFBR and Dr. Charles Criscione, formerly of SFBR and now at Texas A&M University in College Station, have for the first time constructed a genetic map of the parasite that causes schistosomiasis, a chronic intestinal infection that can damage internal organs and, in children, impair growth and cognitive development. Schistosome parasites are flatworms that infect more than 200 million people a year world-wide. Infection results in an estimated 200,000 deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa alone, while 20 million suffer severe disease, according to the World Health Organization. The new study was published in the June 30, 2009 issue of the journal *Genome Biology*, and was supported by the NIH.



Tom Slick exhibit at the McNay Art Museum runs through September 13th

On June 18th, about 25 members of the Board and past-presidents, along with their guests, attended the Tom Slick exhibit at the McNay Art Museum. The night started off with cocktails at the home of Terry & J.B. Gouger, and then moved to the McNay auditorium where Catherine Nixon Cooke, author of Tom Slick – Mystery Hunter, shared stories of her great-uncle's life and fascinating adventures. Tom Slick's life was something to which most of us can only aspire.

He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, a compassion for all humankind and a desire to make this world disease free, hunger free and peaceful. Thus, when most people think of Tom Slick, they think of his many philanthropic legacies, often overlooking his passion for the world of aesthetics. In the mid-1950's, he started his cutting-edge art collection, acquiring works that included Pablo Picasso, Ben Nicholson, Georgia O'Keefe, Isamu Noguchi and Barbara Hepworth, just to name a few. This extraordinary exhibit is well worth a visit.



Past President's Letter

As the 39th President of the Forum, I had the pleasure of working with the most phenomenal group of spirited board members and dedicated Forum member volunteers.

Throughout my tenure I learned a lot more about SFBR.

I had been on the Forum board for 7 years and always knew that having a role in the Forum was supportive to SFBR, but I didn't truly grasp how *vital* the Forum's role was to the advancement of human health until I became President. SFBR's purpose is hard to explain. It is easy to figure out what the American Heart or Lung Associations do. SFBR is a harder sell. "Bio-medical research" doesn't just jump off the page as something significant but it is the *basis* of what the Heart, Lung or Cancer institute scientists need. The main "product" of SFBR isn't usually a "cure" but instead, the product is "scientific publications" which serve as a basis for other research that leads to cures, vaccines, and things such as medical equipment that has saved thousands of premature babies. SFBR does get millions of dollars from grants to do their research, but in order to win those grants, these scientists need seed money to help them prepare to apply for these grants. This money comes from the Forum. The support we provide is critical to their winning this money. So . . . as a member of the Forum, YOU make a significant impact on science!

Here are some of the many highlights of the 2008-2009 Forum year:

- We kicked off the Fall season with a successful **Ladies' Night Out event**, and the very generous folks at Julian Gold donated \$5,000 back to the Forum!
- In October, the Forum and Founder's Council hosted an entertaining and informative **Foundation Evening Tour**. The Founder's Council generously provided bus transportation to and from the Foundation and it was a completely full and energetic ride that led to a record turnout!
- In November, our **Fall Lecture Luncheon** was another sell-out event where almost 200 women listened to Dr. Lawrence Cohen encourage them to rethink wellness and healing with the help of homeopathy.

- The new **Science Award** incentive plan was a success! We received a record number of applicants and the Forum and the V. H. McNutt Foundation were delighted to award 6 schools with cash prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000. Thanks to the L.D. Ormsby Foundation, even the non-winning schools enjoyed a \$200 'participation' award and eighteen teachers received a \$50 gift card just for their qualifying application.

- At our **Spring Lecture Luncheon**, another sell-out Argyle crowd learned more about the solar and wind forms of alternative energy from Amy Hardberger of the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin.

- The **Out of Africa Gala** was a beautiful and enormous success and raised well over \$150,000 for seed money grants for Foundation scientists to advance their research.

- The Forum is almost **600 members** strong and we are on track to maintain this number for the 2009-2010 year.

- All members were kept up to date with Forum activities and the latest research at SFBR via our three informative newsletters. All recent past issues of *Forum in Focus* may be accessed on our website at www.swff.org.

- The Forum's **website** has come a long way since its inception in 2004. It has been updated to meet today's needs for on-line commerce of all Gala-related purchases, membership and lecture luncheons. Please check us out when you have a moment!

- Forum events and photos were featured in many **publications** this past year including the San Antonio Express News, North San Antonio Times, Brilliant magazine, SA Woman and Scene in San Antonio.

It was a true privilege and honor to be the Forum President and my job was so easy because each board member took their responsibilities seriously and dedicated themselves to giving it their all. On my last day as President, Terry Gouger presented me with a beautiful bowl with an inscription of a Tom Slick quote, "*I don't believe in failure, only outcome. When there is a disappointment, I never think it is the end of the story, but the beginning of something new, sometimes a great adventure.*" I will cherish this bowl and my time as Forum President forever. Welcome to your new adventure, Terry!



Laura Moorman
Past President 2008-2009



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