



# Forum in Focus

WINTER 2009

## President's Letter

Dear Forum Members:

Happy New Year!

The Forum had a fantastic fall and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming spring events!

First, we kicked off the back-to-school season with a successful evening at **Julian Gold** in September. Our Ladies' Night Out event was co-chaired by **Kristin LeVoyer** and **Amy White** and after a fun night of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and (of course) *shopping*, the very generous folks at Julian Gold donated **\$5,000** back to the Forum!

Next, in October, **Audrey Mangold** and **Courtney Percy** planned a wonderful evening tour at the Foundation. This year we included the Founder's Council and Golden Circle members in the tour and had a record turnout! The Founder's Council generously provided bus transportation to and from the Foundation and it was a completely full and energetic ride!

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 topic and



Laura Moorman

questions were interesting, the food was fabulous and the Argyle always provides a cozy venue for these luncheons. Kudos to First Vice-President (President-Elect) **Terry Gouger** and her assistant, **Michele Stevens**, for chairing such a successful day!

I'd like to thank **Josie Flesher** and **Courtney Burkholder** for their efforts to get the word out regarding these events.

Our fearless website liaison, **Dana Hamilton** has been hard at work updating and improving our website, [www.swff.org](http://www.swff.org). I urge you to check it out or when someone asks you about the Forum, feel free to direct them to this site. It is quite impressive!

So now what? Our Foundation Student Tours will be on Tuesday mornings from January through March. These tours are for area high school advanced placement science students. Our role as tour hostesses is to accompany the students while they meet scientists, talk about potential careers in the field and see, firsthand, scientific research. The first time I volunteered as a Forum hostess was actually the first time I had ever seen the Foundation. It was so much fun to be at the Foundation with these motivated kids, to watch the animals play and to learn something too! **Roxana**

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

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# President's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

**Newsom** (roxnewsom@gmail.com) and **Mary Herff** (maryherff@mac.com) are in charge this year so please contact them if you are interested in supervising a tour.

February will start the Membership drive so please watch for your renewal notice. Of course, you can always renew NOW at [www.swff.org](http://www.swff.org) to be ahead of the game! We rely on your renewals so thank you in advance for continuing to support the Forum. If you know someone who would enjoy becoming part of the Forum, I implore you to send your referrals to Fourth Vice President – Membership, **Mary Beth Mosbacker** (mosbacker@sbcglobal.net).

In March, we will announce the winners of the 2008 Science Education Awards. **Sally Sullivan** and **Carol Oliver** have been hard at work to generate more applicants. This year it will *pay* to apply! The L.D. Ormsby Foundation will offer each teacher who sends in a qualified application a **\$50** reward! Even if the application does not win, every non-winning school receives a \$200 participatory stipend. The VH McNutt Foundation matches the Forum's prizes and a total of \$20,000 will be awarded across six schools for various projects and much-needed equipment.

These awards will be presented at the Spring Lecture Luncheon held at the Argyle on **March 25, 2009**. Mark your calendars and reserve your tables and seats now at [www.swff.org](http://www.swff.org) for what is sure to be an educational event and delicious lunch at the Argyle.

Finally, we are counting down to the "Out of Africa" Gala date . . . May 2, 2009! An old Zulu proverb says "You cannot know the good within yourself if you cannot see it in others." Well, you cannot deny the good in the women who are volunteering hundreds of hours of their time to bring you the most fun and

elegant gala yet. Chairs **Karen Lee Zachry** and **Suzanne Marlar Dabbous** lead this safari along with assistants **Paola Lloyd** and **Kimberly Archer**. The Gala kick-off lunch was held in Karen Lee's gorgeous home, and everyone got to sample some delicious African-inspired food and hear Forum board member **Kim Shepperd** give a motivating speech. Please help us raise money by buying a table (or hunt down some friends to buy a joint table), raffle tickets or after-party tickets!

Gala grants are another great way to give to the Foundation. You'll all be hearing from this year's Gala Grants team – **Whitney Ramirez, Erika Silva** and **Terry Gouger** (founder of Gala Grants in 2006). They are seeking 100% participation from membership for even a small donation to the Gala Grants. We know these are tough economic times, so we are trying a new strategy of asking for a smaller amount (minimum \$25 instead of \$250). Thank you in advance for helping these go-getters achieve their goal.

I am so proud of the Forum Board and its members. What you do for the community and for the world is so valuable I really appreciate the support you give – by attending the events and simply by being a member.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Laura Moorman  
President 2008-2009  
Southwest Foundation Forum

# Ladies' Night Out at Julian Gold

Once again, supporters of the Southwest Foundation Forum showed there is truly nothing more hip than shopping for a good cause!

Julian Gold graciously hosted a very fun evening on September 25, 2008. After enjoying delicious appetizers by Los Barrios, everyone was excited about adding to their fall wardrobe. Julian Gold generously donated \$5,000 from the \$50,000 in purchases back to the Southwest Foundation Forum.

Special thanks to all at Julian Gold for making this event such a success and for their tremendous ongoing support!



## Evening Tour Recap

On October 29, 2008, the Southwest Foundation hosted an evening at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR). This year's tour was a tremendous success with record attendance. Guests enjoyed cocktails and appetizers catered by Don Strange of Texas, Inc while awaiting the lectures given by the scientists at the foundation.

Welcoming remarks by SWFF President Laura Moorman were followed by the introduction of SFBR President, Kenneth P. Trevett. The featured areas for the tour included three informative topics; Animal enrichment and SFBR's Chimpanzees, Genetics – Finding the Genes that Cause Human Disease, and Inside the World of Viruses and a Look into the BSL-4 Lab. Attendees learned a great deal about what these scientists are studying, discovering, and applying at the SFBR.

We would like to extend a special thanks to these exceptional men and women who are so dedicated to their research. Their lectures were incredibly enlightening and led to an entertaining and educational experience for all. We would also like to thank Corbett Christie, Amy Abdalla, and Bennie Garcia for their help in organizing the event and for serving as tour guides.

It was a terrific evening thanks to the efforts of everyone involved. With over 150 guests in attendance, we hope everyone walked away feeling informed and inspired to continue their support of the Southwest Foundation in the future!





# Fall Lecture Luncheon Recap

Are the mind, body and spirit all interconnected and relative to our personal health? That is the basis behind complimentary medicine of which homeopathy is a part. At the Fall Lecture Luncheon, 177 guests were enlightened by guest speaker Dr. Lawrence M. Cohen as he spoke on "Homeopathy – Rethinking Wellness and Healing".



We learned that homeopathy treats the person in their entirety; one cannot just look at a symptom and try to treat that specific because the symptom is a manifestation of an underlying disturbance. In addition, since the mind, body and spirit are all interconnected, the entire underlying disturbance is what needs to be addressed. One has to ask themselves questions like, "What stress is going on in my life?", "How am I eating?", "What is my attitude?", and "How are my relationships with others?" The "total picture" determines our wellness and therefore our healing.

The time spent with Dr. Cohen proved to be thought provoking and spurred many conversations during the beautiful and delicious meal that was served. So, with exciting topics like this, be sure to save the date, March 25, 2009, for our next lecture luncheon to be held at the Argyle.



## Spring Lecture Luncheon at The Argyle

**SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 25**

Our lecture luncheons are often sold out, so please book your seats/tables early. Members will receive an invitation in the mail. We look forward to seeing you and your friends (invite a potential new member!) on March 25.

# Science Education Awards Update

Each year, the Science Education Awards are given jointly by the **Southwest Foundation Forum** and the **V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation**. This year marks the 16th anniversary of these awards!

High School science teachers in and around San Antonio may submit applications for these science grants. Teachers submit a proposal requesting in detail the purchases they would like to make to help develop their science programs. Awards are then given to those teachers who demonstrate the strongest commitment to further the development of innovative and progressive science education programs.

Winners are determined by a panel of judges consisting of a representative of the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation, SFBR scientists, and members of the Southwest Foundation Forum. This year's forum representatives are Science Education Awards co-chairs, **Carol Oliver** and **Sally Sullivan**.

## **\$20,000 will be awarded:**

First place	\$7,000
Second place	\$4,500
Third place	\$3,500
Fourth place	\$2,500
Fifth place	\$1,500
Honorable Mention	\$1,000

This year, we are mailing a card to all high school principals announcing this exciting

opportunity. Teachers can then go to our website, [www.swff.org](http://www.swff.org), for details about the process and for a downloadable application.

In addition, thanks to the **L.D. Ormsby Foundation**, all non-winning applications considered for review will receive a participatory stipend of \$200.00 for the school and each teacher who submits a qualified proposal will receive a \$50.00 stipend for taking the time to apply. The \$50.00 teacher stipend is new this year and is sure to pique the interest of many creative teachers who want the opportunity to share plans they would like to implement for their future scientists but who may hesitate to take the time out of their busy day to apply. **It actually PAYS to apply this year!**

A special thanks to **Valerie Guenther**, trustee for the V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation for her invaluable input in preparing for this year's awards and in advance for the SFBR scientists who will help us determine the winners this spring. Winners will be announced on March 25, 2009 at the Southwest Foundation Forum Lecture Luncheon at The Argyle.

To view the winners from the past 15 years or for more details about these awards, please go to our website: [www.swff.org](http://www.swff.org) and click on Science Education Awards. We look forward to awarding many dedicated and deserving teachers and their schools this year!

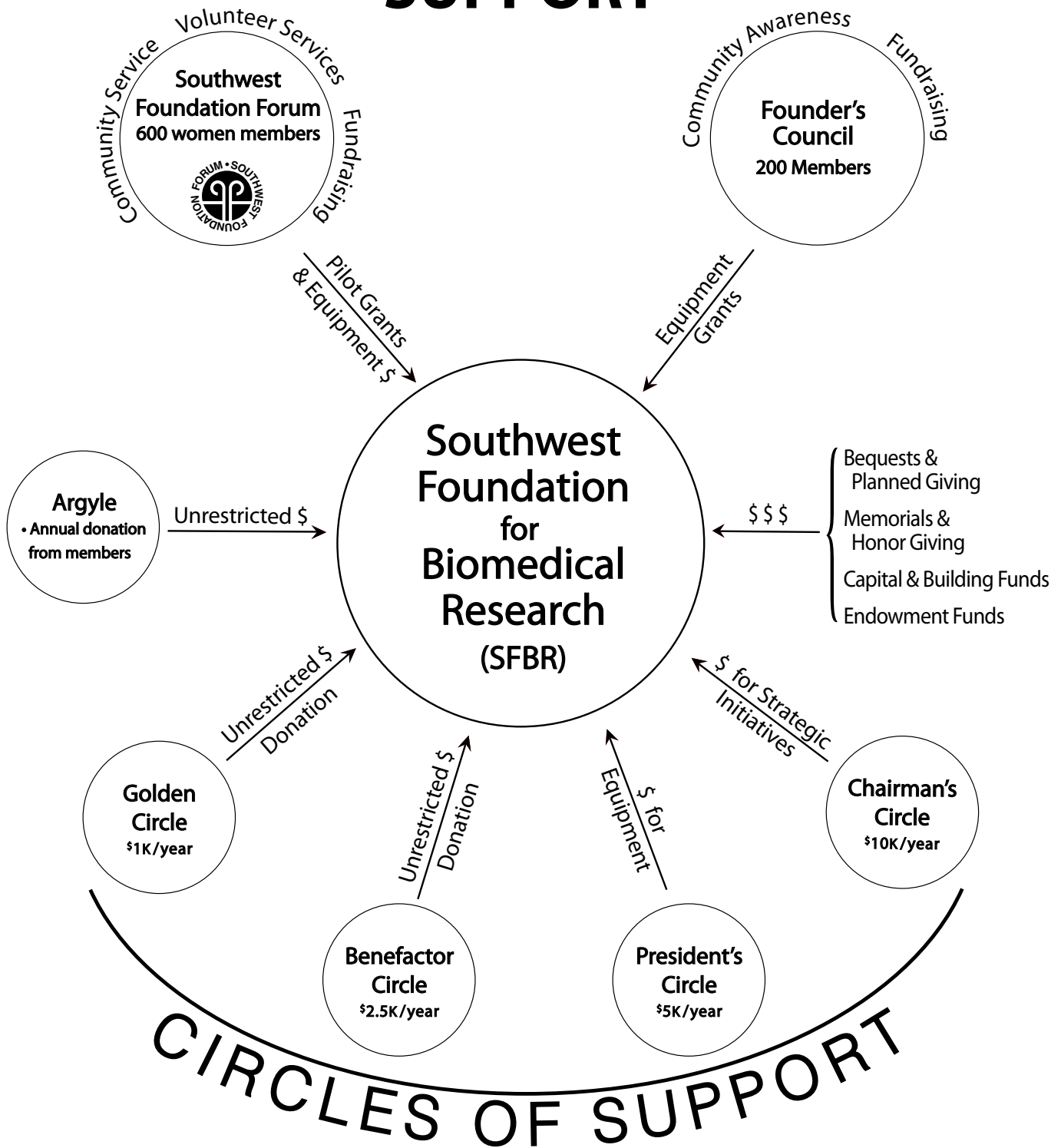
## STUDENT TOUR – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each winter and spring, San Antonio's future scientists and researchers are given an amazing opportunity – to tour the Southwest Foundation's campus and learn, first-hand, about the incredible work being done. These tours, which are open to high-school level, AP science classes, are great learning field trips.

The students and their teacher are given a private tour of the Foundation's facilities, with an emphasis on the baboon, macaque and chimpanzee colonies. The students love seeing the animals and then learning how the Foundation's primate research is benefitting each of us. These lucky students also meet a Foundation scientist and take part in a round-table discussion of on-going Foundation work. What better way to inspire young minds than to introduce to them real situations with life-changing impacts.

Please contact the Southwest Foundation Forum to learn more about student tours. Please also encourage your children's high schools to participate in this fantastic experience.

# SFBR SUPPORT



SFBR Mission:

"To improve the health of our global community through innovative biomedical research."

**T**he Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) has many supporters besides the Forum! One of the realities that non-profit organizations like SFBR face is that they are only as successful as the resources they have to support the research their scientists conduct. The most modern equipment, laboratory facilities and technologies have been funded by donations from supporters. Passionate supporters are often involved in many of these groups . . . the more the better! These can get confusing so here is a quick breakdown for you.

### **The Founder's Council**

The Founder's Council was established in 1988 as a dynamic organization that would honor the founder of SFBR, Thomas Baker Slick Jr., and work in support of his extraordinary vision. The Founder's Council welcomes individuals ages 25 to 46 to embrace Tom Slick's vision by becoming **community advocates** and financial supporters of life-saving biomedical research. Members' annual donations (\$135 Single/\$195 Couple) help fund competitive grants to SFBR scientists for their vital work, while the group's fun-filled special events increase community awareness of SFBR's research and its positive impact on human health.

### **The Argyle**

The Argyle, a stately Southern mansion and unique private eating club in the heart of Alamo Heights, is devoted exclusively to the support of the life-saving efforts of the SFBR. Founded in the 1950s, it serves as a bond between the independent research institution and those who give time and money to support it.

### **Circles of Support**

**Golden Circle:** The Golden Circle is made up of contributors who give an unrestricted donation of \$1,000 or more annually.

**Benefactor Circle:** The Benefactor Circle is made up of donors who give an unrestricted donation of \$2,500 or more annually.

**President's Circle:** This philanthropic giving society includes members who contribute \$5,000 or more to the President's Fund, which is used to purchase needed scientific equipment throughout the year.

**Chairman's Circle:** The Chairman's Circle is made up of those who donate \$10,000 or more annually. These contributions fund strategic initiatives that require immediate investment at the discretion of the Chairman and the Board of Trustees.

### **Bequests and Planned Giving**

For those who wish to include SFBR in their estate planning, there are experts at the Foundation who can help you do this.

### **Memorials and Honor Giving**

A way to honor and remember friends and loved ones with a gift to SFBR. This can easily be done on-line at [www.sfbr.org](http://www.sfbr.org) and the Foundation will send a beautiful note to the honoree with a copy to the sender.

### **Capital and Building Funds**

Supporters may donate funds for a particular capital project or a specific building. A few examples include:

- Betty Slick and Lewis J. Moorman Jr., Laboratory Complex
- SBC Genomics Computing Center
- Hixon Hospital
- Hurd Nursery
- Slick Building

### **Endowment Funds**

A named endowment provides a perpetual form of funding to SFBR as well as recognition to the donor. Revenue generated by a healthy endowment helps free up valuable resources that can be dedicated to research and program support. If you have any questions about any of these, please feel free to contact Corbett Christie at 210-258-9870 or [cchristie@sfbr.org](mailto:cchristie@sfbr.org).

## SFBR Foundation Updates

### *Forum President's Fund enables SFBR purchase of vital laboratory equipment*

The fight against several diseases just got a little bit easier thanks to a gift from the Southwest Foundation Forum to SFBR. At the end of the SWFF 2007-2008 year, money remaining in the President's Discretionary Fund was used to purchase two key pieces of laboratory equipment that support research projects on health issues as varied as heart disease, worm infections, and viruses that affect the nervous system.



“We’re thrilled to be able to support Southwest Foundation this way,” said SWFF 2007-2008 President Allison Zeller. “Money raised through our annual Gala goes directly to SFBR scientists for novel research projects, and that remains a priority for us. However, we recognize that, for any research project to be a success, scientists need to have the proper tools to accomplish their goals. We’re proud to provide SFBR with not one, but two pieces of laboratory equipment needed by three research projects seeking treatments and cures for diseases that affect millions of people worldwide.”

Of the total \$15,000 Forum gift, SFBR applied \$10,700 toward the purchase a refrigerated centrifuge, a piece of laboratory equipment that is used to isolate DNA from blood samples. It replaces on older centrifuge – originally purchased in 1983 and no longer functioning properly – that is heavily utilized by two major research projects

One of these major SFBR research projects is a study of a large family population in Nepal that strives to

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# Fund enables purchase of laboratory equipment

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uncover how genes influence susceptibility to parasitic worm infections, which affect a quarter of the world's population and can cause a variety of health problems, including anemia, intestinal blockages, stunted growth, and deficits in cognitive development. Treatments are available but somewhat futile, since affected individuals are constantly susceptible to new infections from re-exposure through their environment. That makes vaccine development efforts especially critical, and the field of genetics seems to hold the key to a successful vaccine design.

In Jiri, Nepal, 65 percent of the people are infected by one or more types of worm, while 35 percent have no infection. Among those who are infected, the degree of infection varies considerably. At SFBR, Dr. Sarah Williams-Blangero leads a study with this population to identify genetic variations in some individuals that protect them from worm infections or that help keep their worm burden low. Ultimately, that knowledge could be used to design a vaccine that mimics the effect of those protective genes.

The other SFBR research project that relies heavily upon the new refrigerated centrifuge is a study led by Dr. John VandeBerg. This study focuses on Chagas disease, a fatal heart condition caused by a parasite that is common in Latin America and also exists in Texas and other parts of the southwestern United States. For this project, the centrifuge is being used to isolate DNA from the blood of monkeys – in which Chagas disease naturally occurs at a low rate – which is then analyzed to determine if the DNA of the parasite is present in the blood. This diagnostic test is

used to ascertain which monkeys are infected so that they can be used to test experimental drug treatments intended to prevent progression to heart disease.

The other \$4,300 of the Forum's gift to SFBR was used by Dr. Anthony Griffiths to purchase a cup horn sonicator, a piece of equipment that will allow his laboratory to grow concentrated stocks of drug resistant viruses. This is vital to his research on viruses that affect the nervous system, particularly herpes simplex virus and herpes B virus. Herpes simplex is the same virus that causes cold sores but also can cause encephalitis in humans under certain conditions. Herpes B virus, a monkey virus, invariably causes fatal encephalitis when transmitted to humans.

Herpes viruses cause infections for which there are limited treatments but no cures. In healthy individuals, herpes simplex virus infections are typically self-limiting. However, in immune-compromised individuals, such as AIDS patients, those undergoing chemotherapy, or those receiving organ transplants, herpes simplex virus infections frequently cause serious disease. These patients are typically given antiviral chemotherapy in an attempt to control their infection, but unfortunately, viruses that are resistant to therapy often arise. Dr. Griffiths is studying how drug-resistant viruses arise and how they cause disease with the hope that his research will lead to improved antiviral agents and therapies for this common and potentially fatal infection.

Dr. Griffiths was recruited to SFBR from Harvard Medical School in 2006, and the cup horn sonicator is an important addition to his laboratory.

## SOUTHWEST FOUNDATION FORUM CALENDAR OF BOARD MEETINGS AND EVENTS – 2008-2009

January 21, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
February 18, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
*March 25, 2009	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Joint Board Meeting Science Awards / Lecture / Luncheon
April 15, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
<b>May 2, 2009</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>SWFF "Out of Africa" Gala at The Argyle</b>
May 20, 2009	10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	New Trustee Orientation Joint Board Meeting and Luncheon

## **"Out of Africa" will be out of this world!**

On September 17th, 2008, the Gala Committee set off on safari with a kick-off meeting and luncheon at the lovely home of Karen Lee Zachry. A record number of committee members attended, with members preparing to make this year's gala the best yet. The meeting began with a moving testimonial given by **Kim Shepperd** about the impact the research at the Foundation has on her own family. Knowing that lives in our community are being impacted by the work these scientists do makes all the hard work for the gala that much more rewarding.

This year's gala, "**Out of Africa**," will be held in the wilds of the Argyle on Saturday, May 2nd, 2009, at 7 p.m. Chairman, **Karen Lee Zachry**, Co-Chair, **Suzanne Marlar Dabbous**, and Gala Assistant, **Kimberly Archer**, are grateful to the many volunteers who work tirelessly to organize this spectacular event benefitting the **Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research**. This year promises to be a truly amazing event. With the Argyle's marvelous food, fabulous favors, exquisite floral design, wonderful prizes, and dancing to the sounds of the Newsboyz, an Austin-based band, **Out of Africa** is sure to be an exotic night you won't soon forget.

This year's **Gala Grant Committee**, chaired by **Erika Silva**, **Whitney Ramirez**, and **Terry Gouger**, kicked off the 2009 Gala Grant Campaign at the Fall Lecture Luncheon, raising a total of \$4,580. With a goal of 100% participation from all Forum members, the Gala Grant Committee is well on their way to making this the most successful Gala Grant Campaign ever. According to Erika, even \$25 per member would raise a significant amount of money for the cause, and 100% of Gala Grant money goes directly to the grants that support the scientists.

Letters for **Corporate Table Sales** have also gone out. If you know of a company that is interested in buying a table and has not received a letter, please contact the Tables Sales Committee Chairman, **Paola Lloyd**, at 826-5048. As always, the Gala sells out quickly, and it's not too early to begin organizing your table, or plan on joining the evening's festivities at the **After Party!** The After Party tickets are \$75 a person and you can join the fun at 9:00 p.m. Come to dance, visit with friends, and enter to win one of the fantastic raffle prizes. If you are interested in purchasing one of these coveted tickets, please contact one of the After Party Chairmen, **Heather Kraft** or **Courtney Duphorne** (804-1657).

Raffle Chairs, **Courtney Glover** and **Kathleen LeFlore**, are hard at work putting together some amazing packages. If you have something to donate or have a special contact with a store or retail establishment, please contact Kathleen at 828-1215.

For more information on ticket/table reservations or to make a Gala Grant, please visit our web-site at [www.sfbr.org](http://www.sfbr.org) for a simple way to make your purchases!

Karen Lee, Suzanne, and Kimberly are grateful to each and every committee member for their hard work and dedication. We look forward to a great evening at what we hope will be our most successful gala yet!



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