

Dean's Corner
May, 2006

Dear Texas Tech Family,

Work continues apace on putting the new four year medical school in place even though we are still waiting for positive information about future funding from Austin. Construction on the Medical Education Building is moving more rapidly than many of us thought possible. It is already taking shape as a central focus of our new campus.

Medical School Commencement. One of the major events of the academic year is the spring Commencement of the Health Sciences Center in which graduates of all five of the schools of the HSC receive their diplomas. This year, the event will occur on Saturday, May 20 at the United Spirit Arena in Lubbock. On the preceding Friday, the medical school will hold its Convocation in which individual students are recognized and the recipient of the Gold Headed Cane award is announced. This year, there will be 50 medical students from the El Paso campus who will receive their MDs at the Saturday Commencement. I encourage the faculty to participate. I do recognize that it requires a special personal commitment to travel to Lubbock for the two days of activities, but it means a great deal to our students and their families to see our El Paso faculty members joining in the celebration.

Service Awards. The annual Service Awards celebration took place on April 25. Jacinto Gurrola from Orthopedic Surgery received the prestigious Chancellor's Award of Excellence – the first time in several years that an individual from El Paso has been so recognized. In addition, Sandra Bernal from Orthopedic Surgery, Angelica Harmon from Internal Medicine, Rosalia Torres from Internal Medicine, Yolanda Torres from the University Breast Care Center and Brian Wilson from Emergency Medicine were this year's recipients of the Quality Service Award. Those employees who have served the campus for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 year intervals were also recognized. Congratulations to all of those individuals recognized with "Special" congratulations to the award winners. Thanks are also due to both our Human Resources and Communications & Marketing Departments for organizing a very rewarding afternoon.

Departmental Review. We have nearly reached the end of the current cycle of departmental reviews. External reviewers for Pathology, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Pediatrics have visited the campus and provided their observations and recommendations. Site visits for Emergency Medicine, Radiology, and Family Medicine have been scheduled to occur during the next two months. The process, however, is not yet complete. I will be meeting with each of the Department Chairs to discuss the findings of the Internal Review Committees and the External Reviewers and to develop plans to address the recommendations made by them. In addition, I plan to meet with each of the Internal Review Committees as well as the faculty members of each of the departments participating in the review process.

Founding Dean Search. We have completed the initial visits of five candidates for the position of Founding Dean and will conduct at least one additional candidate visit within the next few weeks. At the completion of those initial visits, the Search Committee will meet to evaluate the candidates and make recommendations for second visits by the leading contenders. I hope that we will be able to make our recommendations within the near future. Although this has been a long process, it is important to pursue the effort in a methodical fashion to make sure that we select the best individual for this very key appointment.

Infinity Campaign. The *Infinity Campaign* continues in its progress toward the goal of \$25 million. The faculty and staff have been extremely supportive of the effort, and many of their gifts have been exceptionally generous. We continue with the goal of having 100% participation to demonstrate our institutional support for the new medical school.

Student Recruitment. Texas Tech University (Undergraduate) has begun a collaborative effort with the Office of Border Health. Ms. Edna Rodriguez has joined the staff as a student recruiter not only for the undergraduate campus but also for the medical school. The goal of this activity is to increase the number of El Paso students choosing to attend Texas Tech as well as to help with the pipeline of students interested in attending our medical school. Ms. Rodriguez recently hosted an event for over 70 El Paso high school students and their parents to provide them information about Texas Tech. Several deans and other officials from the undergraduate campus participated. It was a successful event, and hopefully there will be many more such events in the future.

Regional Dean's Update. At the end of April I hosted another of our campus update sessions. I was able to discuss **why** fellowships need to be established on our El Paso Campus. I firmly believe that this portion of our "Strengthen the Base" initiative will facilitate transition to an academic environment for our four year medical school. I am eager to see the business plans and budgets reach my office as the departments roll out their plans to bring subspecialty fellowships to our campus. Thomason Hospital has committed to support our endeavors.

Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D.

Regional Dean
TTUHSC -El Paso
(915) 545-6510
(915) 545-6521

Filename: Document2
Directory:
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\moncastr\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title:
Subject:
Author: moncastr
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 05/18/2006 9:21:00 AM
Change Number: 1
Last Saved On:
Last Saved By:
Total Editing Time: 0 Minutes
Last Printed On: 05/18/2006 9:21:00 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 800 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 4,564 (approx.)