long-term employees play an invaluable role in the life of UT Southwestern Medical Center. Their faithful, dedicated service has helped the institution become what it is today. In this special edition of Center Times, we showcase some of these employees and their varied interests. Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern Medical Center, will host a May 10 luncheon to honor employees with 50, 45, 40, 35, and 30 years of service, and to welcome new members of the Quarter Century Club.

By Ellen Beth Levitt

When Javier Garcia joined St. Paul University Hospital 45 years ago, he thought he’d be there for a couple of years and then move on.

“I was 17 and my first job was restocking supplies for Central Sterile Supply, Surgery, and the Emergency Department,” he says. “I liked the job and the people I worked with. Working here is interesting and exciting. Time flew by, and I can’t believe it’s been that many years.”

Currently serving as the Implant Coordinator within the Surgery Department at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, Mr. Garcia is in charge of ordering pacemakers, heart valves, breast implants, and all other products that are implanted in patients during surgery. He also makes sure that the correct charges for those products are posted in Epic, the electronic medical record.

“The job is challenging because we need to make sure that the doctors and patients get what they need, and different things come up every day,” he says.

One of his special memories was being promoted to the position of Director of Central Sterile Supply, which coincided with an exciting time in his life—the birth of his daughter. Then, about 20 years ago, with a reorganization, the ordering and restocking of patient surgical supplies was transferred to the Department of Surgery. He was asked to move into a newly created position there, and he’s worked in that area ever since.

Another memorable time in his career was the move to Clements University Hospital. “It’s so much bigger, and we have more patients to care for and more people working in the Department compared to when we were at St. Paul.”

Originally from McAllen, he moved to Dallas with his family at age 6. Outside of work, Mr. Garcia likes reading and watching sports. “I’m a big Dallas Cowboys fan,” he says.

Mr. Garcia and his wife, Cristina, have two sons and one daughter, and three grandchildren.

By Lin Lofley

Emberly A. Siniscalchi, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at UT Southwestern Medical Center, will talk about career assignments in the White House that were among the highlights of a 34-year of active duty military service, when she is the featured speaker at the annual Quarter Century Club luncheon honoring longtime employees.

Mrs. Siniscalchi’s Employee Recognition Program address, titled "A Career Journey ... transforming dreams to reality,” will offer memories of a career in service to the nation.

She was recruited to UT Southwestern in late 2014, and in addition to identifying, developing, and overseeing implementation of initiatives since January 2015, she is now the Medical Center’s Chief Integration Officer for Southwestern Health Resources, the clinically integrated network that blends the strengths of Texas Health Resources and UT Southwestern.

A retired Major General in the U.S. Air Force, Mrs. Siniscalchi became well known during her years in the military for her commitment to innovation, and dedication to bringing excellence in health care.

Please see SPEAKER on page 12

By Patrick Wacovich

A Medical Technologist now serving at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, Arlene Reeves has witnessed and also mandated tremendous changes over the 45 years she has worked at UT Southwestern.

Processes, preparation, and analysis techniques and protocols have improved, and she’s among the hundreds of employees who moved into the Medical Center’s newest clinical facility at the end of 2014.

“The work is interesting and I like all of my coworkers,” she says. “At this point in time, I take it one day at a time.”

Her duties include analyzing blood, urine, and other samples used by UT Southwestern health care teams to diagnose and treat patients efficiently and effectively. At Clements University Hospital, the latest automated processes are in place.

She wants to be known as someone who “could always be depended upon to get the job done.”

Ms. Reeves’ third-shift schedule allows her and her husband, Bruce, to pursue many personal interests and activities, which through the years have included breeding and showing horses, photography, and scuba diving. Ms. Reeves met her husband at a windsurfing club picnic. She was the first woman he’d dated who had her own equipment.

She currently has become quite active in horseback riding circles.

“As a member of the Dallas Safari Club, I am usually the only woman to compete in the annual Big Bore Shoot, which requires you to shoot a rifle of .375 caliber or higher,” she says.

She has participated in four hunting trips to Africa, and is planning on another big-game safari this spring.

Her family also includes two brothers.

1970 - Snapshot

Two new UT Southwestern employees were among those who went through orientation in 1970. Little did they know that those introductions to the institution would lead to 45-year careers at the Medical Center.

AT UT Southwestern

• Full enrollment for all four classes of medical students stood at 426.
• Additions were being built onto the Carryle Building and the Basic Science Research Building. An aggressive program of growth was being drafted to include construction of the Fred F. Florence Brainstormation Center, the Tom and Lula Joos Auditorium, the Cecile H. and Ida Green Science Building, the Eugene McDermott Academic Administration Building, and the interconnecting Eugene McDermott Plaza.

Dallas doings

• Dallas, a city of about 844,400 residents in 1970, was bolstered by the growth of technology-driven companies like LTV and Texas Instruments. That growth and diversity impacted North Texas and reached as far as Fort Worth (population = 393,000), so much so that the term “Metroplex” was first used as a label for the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.
• For music lovers, the Texas International Pop Festival was held near Lewisville and attracted thousands of fans. Many of the featured acts and musicians who played at the event traveled directly from Woodstock, held two weeks earlier.

National view

• Yearly income for households was about $7,800, the price of a new car was just under $4,000. You could buy a box of bread for 24 cents, and it took a 6-cent stamp to mail a letter.
• Political pressure from the young, including military personnel returning from the Vietnam conflict, was mounting and would soon result in voting rights being lowered to 18 years of age.
• In all, about 8.5 million Americans were bettering themselves by enrolling in institutions of higher learning. Tuition at Harvard College was $2,400 per year.
Kenny Sham, who joined the UT Southwestern team 40 years ago as a pharmacy intern, earned that colorful moniker thanks to his ability to maintain a calm demeanor, even under intense pressure.

Though his work is often done behind the scenes, his versatility and willingness to jump in wherever needed make him vital to the operation of his Department. Mr. Sham is responsible for staffing and scheduling of pharmacists and help coordinate the day-to-day operation of Pharmacy Services. He is also responsible for the Alantis Smart Pump drug library, the Dosidgets for checking IV drugs, and is involved in Medication Safety Event follow-up.

After his start as an intern, he became a Clinical Staff Pharmacist, and ultimately took on his current role as a coordinator. But he’s been visible in many other spots on campus.

“On the sports scene, the Dallas Cowboys secured success for years to come with one of the greatest drafts in their history. New players included defensive tackle Randy White of Maryland and the second overall pick, linebackers Thomas “Hollywood” Henderson and Bob Breunig, and offensive linemen Pat Donovan, Herbert Scott, and Butron Lawless.

“Jaws shocked people in theaters, and All In The Family continued to be television’s top-rated program. Ms. Smith currently is a Database Group Manager in UT Southwestern’s Department of Clinical Sciences, and she says it’s now much easier to implement systems. “Now, you just move stuff with a mouse and, of course, word processing has changed so many things. Everything is so much easier from a technological standpoint.”

“I have worked in the Intensive Care Units, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, started the Pharmacy Operating Room Satellite program, worked with Orthopedics, and have worked in every area, with the exception of pharmacy administration,” Mr. Sham says.

Since his arrival, UT Southwestern has changed enormously, “from St. Paul University Hospital, a private, religious-based teaching hospital, to an academic medical center with emphasis on research and education,” but remains a place that, above all, helps heal and educate others.

“The teaching occurs with new pharmacists, pharmacy students, and pharmacy residents,” Mr. Sham says. “Even with many changes over the 40 years, I’ve been very fortunate to work with many great and dedicated people.”

Away from work, Mr. Sham likes to jog and read. His family includes his wife, Susan, and sons and daughters-in-law, Jonathan and Monica.

“JANET SMITH
40 YEARS’ SERVICE

By Steve Lansdale

Before coming to UT Southwestern to work, Janet Smith had a job that she calls “pretty elementary” – working with lunar orbiting and docking for NASA.

But 40 years ago, her husband had a chance to come to Dallas. So she started her career at the Medical Center in 1975 as a Programmer/Analyst, working on mainframes and using graph paper for layouts – both of which feel throwbacks in today’s world.

Ms. Smith currently is a Database Group Manager in UT Southwestern’s Department of Clinical Sciences, and she says it’s now much easier to implement systems. “Now, you just move stuff with a mouse and, of course, word processing has changed so many things. Everything is so much easier from a technological standpoint.”

“She oversees a small team, but continues her work as a programmer/analyst. “We meet with clients who want [computer] analytical work done,” Ms. Smith says. “The investigation might be setting up clinical trials, or putting in for a grant.”

Ms. Smith says she’s remained so long at UT Southwestern because her work keeps her challenged; she thrives on constant learning about new studies and advancements.

“I love being around the medical field,” Ms. Smith says. “I want to be known as an employee who made a difference, however small.”
In a nursing job, tears often come with the territory. But Ade Auste recalls a bonding moment that prompted tears of joy—and relief. 

“In the early 1990s, for more than a month I took care of a patient who was on the heart transplant list,” says Ms. Auste, a Registered Nurse II who started at UT Southwestern as a Coronary Care Unit Staff Nurse. “I was working the night shift when we got the notification that there was a donor who was a match. His wife, and I started crying together.

“When you get to that level with a patient interacting, it makes you say, ‘This is what nursing is about.’ You get incredible satisfaction from something like that.”

Ms. Auste now serves in surgery prep-ration and recovery at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

“In day surgery, we get some inpatients who are already in the hospital,” she says, “but most of our patients are pre-scheduled outpatients, so we see a variety.”

Ms. Auste has been in her current po-sition for seven years—55% at TM Paul and the past year and a half at Clements Univer-sity Hospital. She spent several years in an education program, helping to run nursing internships for new graduates, before returning to floor nursing. She also has done cardiac rehabilitation with patients who have needed help recovering from heart-related procedures. Through all of her years at UT South-western, Ms. Aste says that real gratification has come when patients show their appreci-ation for her work.

“I have had former patients who have come back for additional procedures, and some of them will ask for me to take care of them,” she says. “That means a great deal to me.”

By Steve Lansdale

It’s hard to imagine a compliment delivered with more genuine gratitude than the one Yolanda Delira received one day on the job at UT Southwestern.

Ms. Delira, a Patient Interviewer in the Depart-ment of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the past eight years, has spent her entire career working in various capacities related to family planning.

“When I was working in the Children and Youth Program, I met a 15-year-old girl who was pregnant,” she says. “I saw her, her sister, her mom—I became really close with that family. Then, years later, she brought her daughter to see me. Her daughter was also 15 and pregnant. Her daughter didn’t know what to do, but her mother told her to come see me and said, ‘She’ll take care of you.’

“I love my patients,” Ms. Delira says. “When they see me, they hug it. I’m like a family member.”

Ms. Delira’s ability to speak both English and Spanish—and her caring nature have made her a valuable asset in family planning. “I talk to them about all kinds of things,” she says. “I teach them about contraceptives, the importance of using condoms, how to recognize symptoms of an STD, and how to get help.”

“Her family includes husband, Salvador, and two adult children—daughter, Adriana, and son, Cristian.

By Steve Lansdale

He works in electrical, plumbing, air-condi-tioning/heating, and also handles problems with locks and keys. In 1980, he started in the elec-trical shop where he learned the trade, remaining there for 16 years.

Mr. Hervey says he continues to enjoy his ever-shifting tasks, especially when collaborat-ing with co-workers on an assignment. He says those who interact with him would say he’s an employee who “takes care of business.”

Mr. Hervey’s proudest moment at UT South-western was the day he was promoted to Building Man-ager. Mr. Hernandez has been in the building’s security department for 16 years. He says the reasons he continues to enjoy his job is because he has a sense of responsibility and a sense of pride in his work.

“I want to be known as caring for people and caring for the animals,” he says. Away from work, Mr. Hernandez enjoys being with family—his wife, Maggie, and daughter, Judy.

By Steve Lansdale

When José Luis Hernandez was 18 years old and looking for a job, he wasn’t sure exactly what he wanted to do. But he had made one stipulation to himself: He wanted to do something that helped others. Thirty-five years later, Mr. Hernan-dez’s ultimate choice stuck.

He took a job as an Animal Tech at UT Southwestern, caring for and feeding ani-mals.

“That’s why I have stayed here a long time,” he says. “Research is extremely important for development of medicine. I understand that a lot of people get sentimental about animals, and I love them, but this is one reason why I love them and I’m so appreciative.”

Mr. Hernandez currently serves as Ani-mal Transport Coordinator, a position he says is “about 80 percent paperwork, and 20 percent actual transport.” His respon-sibilities include receiving rodents from vendor trucks, checking crates for dam-age, and verifying shipments have been received.

For Mr. Hernandez, the job offers a unique balance between helping people and allowing him to be around animals.

By Steve Lansdale

By Steve Lansdale

In her 35-year career as a Regis-tered Nurse, she has won numerous awards, including the Intensive Ser-vice Award and the Diana and Richard C. Strauss Service Excellence Award. In 2013, she was named to the DFW Great 100 Nurses list, an honor for nurses nominated by their peers in role models noted for significant contribu-tions to the profession. Ms. Catterton says she loves her career and would like people to know her as someone who “never tires of her job.”

From work, Ms. Catterton enjoys spending time with friends and family, which includes Bill (her hus-band of 39 years), two grown children, two grandchildren, and her family dog, Aiko, a rescue from the Human Society “who might be a lab/corgi mix” and “makes my life more complete.”

By Steve Lansdale

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By Steve Lansdale
KAREN KAZEMZADEH

By Ron Durham

Like many long-time employees, Karen Kazemzadeh will tell you she feels like part of a family at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Now an Administrative Associate in Interior Planning/Design of Facilities Management, Ms. Kazemzadeh has seen exponential growth over the past 35 years.

“When I first started, it was the UT Health Science Center at Dallas and the Harry S. Moss Clinical Science Building was under construction,” Ms. Kazemzadeh recalls. “Dr. Charles Sprague was President. The population of faculty and staff was much less than now.”

A chance encounter with Dr. Sprague, UT Southwestern’s first President, remains one of Ms. Kazemzadeh’s fondest memories. “I have a warm memory of passing Dr. Sprague on the campus one sunny spring day, and he greeted me with a smile and a great deal of energy, as if I was one sunny spring day, and he greeted me with a memory of passing Dr. Sprague on the campus one sunny spring day, and he greeted me with a smile and a great deal of energy, as if I was one sunny spring day, and he greeted me with a

Patricia ‘Pat’ Lee

By Steve Lansdale

During her 35-year nursing career, one patient in particular stands out for Pat Lee, who works as a Registered Nurse II in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. That patient serves as a reminder of how the team of caregivers can make a profound difference in someone’s life.

“We had a heart transplant patient who, before she had her transplant, was so sick she couldn’t go home,” Ms. Lee says. “She had to stay with us at the ICU for a few months. She was depressed and wore a mask to give up. She screamed for her and tried to encourage her.

“After her surgery, she came back to visit. She was all dressed up — she looked great. It just reminded everyone to not give up. We see this day in and day out, but when she came back and changed me. When I see a transplant patient living with a new heart, a new liver, a new lung, I’m so grateful. There’s nothing like it.”

Ms. Lee’s career at UT Southwestern started in 1980 in the Cardiovascular ICU, where she spent 12 years. She then went to the Coronary Care Unit for three years, the Medical/Surgical ICU for 18 years, and then joined the surgical intensive care unit in December 2014.

Away from work, Ms. Lee and her husband, Kim, enjoy singing in their small church choir. The couple shares their home with their cat, Roman, who came into their lives a little over a year ago.

“He adopted us, and now he’s in control of the whole house,” Ms. Kruse says. “He’s the ultimate freeloader, but he’s a sweetheart.”
By Ron Durham

Research Scientist Paulette Padalino enjoys her job so much that she says choosing a single most funny or rewarding experience is virtually impossible because there are just too many. “In the 35 years that I have worked here, I have had so many funny and rewarding experiences that it would be hard to choose just one,” she says. “The campus has just mushroomed,” she says. “When I started, there was only the South Campus Ophthalmology building, and now there are many others standing away from the other buildings. But there is so much more now, more buildings, more service to the community. It’s an incredible place to work.”

Ms. Padalino says what keeps her at UT Southwestern for 35 years is that she “likes the job and the folks I work with,” as well as the great health benefits offered to employees. In her free time, she enjoys gardening and spending time with her “wonderful husband, two fine sons, and an incredible daughter-in-law.”

By Steve Lansdale

Cheryl Nava loved her job, but for her, something was missing. From 1999 through 2003, she worked in staff education—training new nurses to become ICU nurses. Then the Registered Nurse transitioned to her current role as Transplant Coordinator in Heart and Lung Transplant, which allows her to combine patient care with serving as an educator. “I love caring for patients,” she says. “I get to know them, I love them. While I was in staff education, I was missing nursing.”

Now serving at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, she provides patients with specialized care after their procedures, but also is part of a program designed to educate patients and their families before a transplant on how to manage the challenges that will come after transplant surgery. “It’s the best of both worlds,” Ms. Nava says, “because I have that patient contact again, but the people I teach are the patients and their families. I help them learn to help themselves.”

Ms. Nava’s caring nature was likely in her DNA; she and three of her five sisters went into nursing. At one point, she was one of four family members—along with two sisters and her electrician father—who worked at St. Paul University Hospital.

Travel is one of her favorite activities, and she and her husband of 40 years, Joe, have traveled throughout Europe. “Our most interesting trip was to Assisi in Italy, learning how the monks and nuns live there,” she says. “I lost it over French. I couldn’t be more proud of the job he does.”

His outside activities include photography, traveling, and enjoying a family that includes his wife, Debbie, sons Andy and Michael, daughter-in-law Samantha, and grandson Dominik, 4.

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Karyne Schindel

By Harriet Blake

A longtime Clinical Lead Registered Nurse, Karyne Schindel currently serves on the third-floor surgery unit at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

In this position, she is the team leader for four and four half surgical transplant teams in the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery. Her career at the Medical Center started in 1980 as a nurse on the neonology floor at St. Paul University Hospital.

Ms. Schindel considers her colleagues her work family, and believes she and her clinical team are instrumental in making patients’ lives better.

Her most memorable duties include being the scrub nurse for Dr. W. Steve Ring on one of the first heart transplants as well as the first lung transplant at St. Paul. Dr. Ring started the transplant program at the hospital.

In her work, Ms. Schindel makes sure things flow smoothly for the physicians who perform various forms of heart surgery, including coronary arterial graft surgery, valve surgery, and aortic dissection surgery. She remembers that in honor of the 100th heart transplant surgery, Dr. Ring took time to introduce his patients to the OR team who assisted in their surgeries. Ms. Schindel said she and her colleagues appreciated the gesture, since most patients don’t interact with the OR staff—they come in and go to sleep.

Outside of work, she is not a threat of adventure. In her younger years, she enjoyed white-water canoeing and rafting, as well as rappelling down mountains. Ms. Schindel also is a certified scuba diver. She currently counts photography and traveling as two of her favorite hobbies.

She is married to Nic Schindel, has one daughter, two sisters, and a 96-year-old mother. It is a close-knit family, all living on the same street.

Ms. Schindel says she was able to cope with the long hours during her early career because of the support of her husband, who always had dinner waiting for me whenever I got home.

By Steve Lansdale

For Maybell Staton, working at UT Southwestern is a bit of a sister act. One sister used to work here, and another plans to retire in August.

But her siblings aren’t the only draw: she has a deep affection for her coworkers—a group so close-knit and enjoyable that she says her job sometimes doesn’t even feel like work.

Now a Laboratory Technical Assistant II, in Internal Medicine/Muscular Dystrophy, Ms. Staton’s role has varied widely through her 33 years here.

She originally worked in a research laboratory, and then held positions in housekeeping and the library before returning to lab in a current position, she fulfills numerous duties.

“I do a little of everything, from washing glassware, to running equipment, to doing tissue cultures,” Ms. Staton says. “I love working there. “One of my favorite parts of being at UT Southwestern was going to the parties they had at the Plaza on North Campus in the 1980s, where everybody came together from all of the different Departments.”

Outside of work, Ms. Staton is passionate about her faith and her family, which includes her husband and her daughter, who is in 11th grade.

By Patrick Wascovich

A longtime Equipment Technician, Perry Thompson currently serves in the dialysis area at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital.

In this position, his duties include transporting and interacting with patients. His career at the Medical Center started in 1980 as a laundry handler at St. Paul University Hospital.

Mr. Thompson says “friendly people” are the reason his career has lasted at the Medical Center. Still, some faces are memories now.

“I miss some of my old co-workers who have moved on,” he says.

Current co-workers would describe Mr. Thompson as “a friendly person who likes to talk to people.” He also takes pride in working hard and helping others when needed. Although he’s looking forward to retirement, Mr. Thompson says he’s still surprising others. “They are surprised with how much fun they have around me,” he says. “I want to be funny, happy, and smiling all the time.”

In his free time, Mr. Thompson is active with his church.

Melissa Brown

Melissa Brown is so passionate about the benefits of rehabilitation that she has spent her entire career in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. “Helping people reach their maximum potential in spite of disabilities, and regain a quality of life that may look different but is still good and worthwhile is exciting and very fulfilling,” she says. Ms. Brown, a Department Administrator, hopes to stay in FMRE until she retires. “With our new Chair [Dr. Kathleen Bell], we have a vision and direction to become a substantial force and contributor to the specialty of Physical Medicine nationally,” she says. “I would like to continue and end my career at UT Southwestern as a part of that.” Ms. Brown is active in the music ministry at her church and other Christian organizations. “I love to sing and I particularly love to sing about something I believe in.” She has a daughter, three dogs, and two cats.

By Steve Lansdale

When Shirley Zwinggi started working at UT Southwestern in 1980 as a Recruiter in Human Resources, the Medical Center was much smaller, only encompassing what is now the South Campus.

“North Campus was just a field of grass—there was nothing there,” she says. “Now, to see the growth there and also the addition of William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, it is amazing how much everything has changed, how much our campus has grown.”

Growth is also the theme of Ms. Zwinggi’s career. After recruiting for the HR Department, she worked as an Employee Relations Representative, Benefits Manager, Employment Manager, and as Assistant Director of Employee Relations before assuming her current title of Administrative Manager for the Employee Recognition Committee for the past several years “It is a wonderful privilege to be able to recognize the staff whose loyalty and dedication have made UT Southwestern a premier institution.”

Ms. Zwinggi’s passion is travel, and she loves reading. A scene from her long career involving retirement involves being able to volunteer at the Wolong Panda Reserve in China.
The many career opportunities and family atmosphere have allowed Lisa Reyes to literally grow up on the UT Southwestern campus. “I sincerely believe that UT Southwestern cares about its employees, patients, and community,” she says. As Senior CSA Program Specialist in Ambulatory Services, Ms. Reyes is responsible for managing the Float CSA Program, the Centralized CSA Hiring Program and the CSA Career Development program. A self-proclaimed daredevil, Ms. Reyes has flown a plane and loves riding roller coasters and bungee jumping. She is looking forward to her first skydiving adventure. She has helped initiate a non-profit bilingual academy for children in her community, and also serves as events planner for a couple’s ministry. “I am passionate about serving my community and about doing what I can do for others at UT Southwestern.”

JO SMITH

A Research Associate in Biochemistry, Jo Smith works as laboratory manager, which includes managing research projects and grants and writing protocols for investigative studies. She worked her way up from Laboratory Assistant. During her years at UT Southwestern, Ms. Smith says she has made great friends with many of the people she has met and interacted with at the Medical Center. “I stayed because of a great boss, good atmosphere, and good benefits,” the 30-year veteran adds.

DARWIN SIMPSON

Simpson ensures that the University receives the goods and services needed to fulfill its three-prong mission. He started his career at UT Southwestern in 1985 as a Store Clerk. After 35 years, Mr. Simpson is still at UT Southwestern. Mr. Simpson says the work environment is great, one reason he remains at UT Southwestern. Mr. Simpson has been married for 33 years and his daughter recently graduated from UT Dallas.

SHWUYU ‘JEANETTE’ TSAI

For Cynthia Owens, working as Senior Administrative Assistant in the Information Resources Financial Control Department means processing daily purchase requests, along with checking vouchers, yearly maintenance renewals, and invoices. As she celebrates her 30-year anniversary with UT Southwestern, Ms. Owens wants to be known as someone who “takes pride in my work and who cares about those around me.” Friendly, sensitive, and caring, Ms. Owens began her career in the Purchasing Department. She says her co-workers, excellent benefits, and training have kept her at the Medical Center. Learning to use PeopleSoft, the University’s new financial reporting system, is one of her major accomplishments. Ms. Owens has seven siblings and enjoys singing and teaching classes at her church. She has two daughters and one granddaughter. “I am a God-fearing woman,” she says. “I am genuine and take pride in what I do for others at UT Southwestern.”

DAVID GRESHAM

There is speculation that, outside of some health care professionals, Dave Gresham has the best job at UT Southwestern. Mr. Gresham travels the length and breadth of the campus, at all hours, to record the goings on and the faces that participate in those moments. As Chief Medical Photographer in the Office of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs, he also took every picture for this special edition of Center Times, which honors longtime employees at the Medical Center. Beyond those who do their jobs every day, he has photographed renowned visitors to the campus, including politicians, scientists, and philanthropists. Best of all, he seems to treat every photo and every subject as important enough to take the time to speak with them and put them at ease. “It was my first time to have such an experience,” one subject said to him in an email. “Thank you for making this so enjoyable. I will for sure work harder and publish another good story.” He and his wife, Maureen, have been married 28 years, and have three adult children, four grandchildren and two dogs.

JOHN POINDEXTER

Software Systems Supervisor John Poindexter remembers the day he became a programmer. “I learned how to program when a program on a project I was working on quit,” he says. From that unlikely beginning, Mr. Poindexter is now in charge of data management and technical support at the Chairs and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, where he celebrates 30 years of service at UT Southwestern. Mr. Poindexter says colleagues would describe him as someone who is always willing to help, even if he doesn’t really have the time. He hopes co-workers feel he did everything he could to help the Medical Center and University be successful. Mr. Poindexter wants to continue in his current position “at least until Dr. Pak retires ... hopefully much longer.” In his spare time, Mr. Poindexter enjoys playing golf and spending time with family. He and Dana, his wife of 25 years, have two children, Jason and Sarah.
Manny Alfaro is a Monitor Technician in the Intensive Care Unit at Zale Lipshy University Hospital. During his career, Mr. Alfaro’s cheerful and giving personality has been noticed—he has been named Employee of the Month at Zale Lipshy as well as Employee of the Quarter at UT Southwestern. First hired as a Unit Secretary in September of 1990, he has a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry and plans to continue his education. Little known facts? “Growing up, I was an altar boy and made the rank of Eagle with the Boy Scouts of America.” Mr. Alfaro’s whose family includes two brothers and two sisters—enjoys swimming, working out, cooking, volunteer- ing, and dancing.

Tina Bargmann is a Patient Navigator Lead in Patient-Physician Referral Services. In this Office of Vice President for Clinical Operations position, she helps clients transition from in-patient to out-patient, keeping and payroll for Restoration Ministry, an orphanage, clinic, and battered women’s shelter in Peru. She and her husband, Brian, have two daughters and two grandchildren. She says friends and family have to remind her that in discussing her work, she needs to remember her conversational filters!
RONALD FISCHER

Kevin Coolaghan says “the challenging work and good people” have kept him at UT Southwestern Medical Center for the past 25 years. As a Senior Information Resources Manager in Information Resources/Systems & Operations, Mr. Coolaghan helps to ensure that the IR Systems and Operations Database and SharePoint traumas are operating fully and optimally. He began his UT Southwestern career in December of 1990 as a Software Systems Specialist.

RICK EARLY

An Enterprise Systems Administrator III for Citrix, Rick Early credits his co-workers for a long career. “I’ve enjoyed all the great people that I have worked with over the years and the opportunity to use my creative and problem-solving skills,” he says. Mr. Early began his career at UT Southwestern in 2003 as the third-shift Computer Operator at Zale Lipshy University Hospital before eventually moving up to his current position in the Information Resources Department. Mr. Early says his most rewarding work during the past 25 years is “my work on the Windows 7 upgrade project and the implementation of the Dell KACE system.” His long-term goal is to advance to a Systems Engineer position.

DEIRDRA L. GAINES

Deirdra L. Gaines says she would like to be known as the employee who “had a smile for everyone and inspirational and encouraging words to say.” As a Reimbursement Specialist in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Ms. Gaines is responsible for ensuring that office and surgery charges are sent out correctly to insurance companies. Ms. Gaines began her career at the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center, and hopes to stay at UT Southwestern until she retires because of “my boss, wonderful co-workers, employee benefits, and location.” In her spare time, Ms. Gaines enjoys skating and trying new healthy recipes. She says her co-workers would describe her as “supportive and very family oriented.” Recently, Ms. Gaines and her husband hosted a reunion for more than 150 family members. The couple has two adult children and two granddaughters.

SONGSAK HAYACHANTA

Songsak Hayachanta is an Advanced Operating Room Surgical Technician, working in the Department of Surgery at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital – “a great hospital,” he says. His job entails being a scrub in operating rooms, particularly for endovascular cases. He started his career at UT Southwestern in January of 1990 as a Medical Attendant. He says the Medical Center’s stellar reputation is one of the main reasons he enjoys his work. Mr. Hayachanta is married. Away from work, he has been known to play the erhu, a two-stringed bowed musical instrument, more commonly called a siki fiddle, and sometimes referred to in the Western world as a Chinese violin or a Chinese two-stringed fiddle.

LISA RENEE HORTON

Lisa Renee Horton is a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Department of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics. In this role, she provides administrative support for the epilepsy physicians within the Department. Her first job at UT Southwestern was with Patient Collections at Medical Services, Research and Development Plan. Mr. Horton is passionate about her job and is always happy to listen to her colleagues. She enjoys the stability of working at UT Southwestern, as well as its benefits. Still, she says, “I see retirement in a couple of years.” Ms. Horton is looking forward to the high-school graduation of her daughter, Victoria, this spring, and to her next chapter.

ROBIN DOWNING

Robin Downing, PhD, is a Senior Research Librarian at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she began her career in 1993 as a cataloging assistant for the Medical Center Library. In 1995, Dr. Downing completed her PhD in Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin, and was appointed as a senior research librarian in the Medical Library. In 2000, she was appointed as a Senior Research Librarian and in 2003 was named the Foundation Chair in the Medical Library. Dr. Downing received a Fulbright Foundation Grant to conduct research in the United Kingdom and was appointed as a Research Librarian at the University of Texas at Austin in 2007. She is currently a Senior Research Librarian in the Medical Library and has been appointed as the Director of the Medical Library at UT Southwestern Medical Center.
If you're looking for an employee willing to go the extra mile, look no further than Anne-Marie January, a Senior Project Coordinator in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development. Ms. January once loaned the outfit she was wearing to her boss so she could attend a meeting. “Good things we wear the same size,” Ms. January says. Her career at UT Southwestern is fulfilling because “I feel the goal and vision contribute to making the world a better place.” Ms. January says her co-workers would describe her as “vivacious, positive, and animated.” She says people would be most surprised to know the French is her first language. Ms. January enjoys football and “making a difference in someone’s life on a cloudy day.” Her son, Brandon, is a graduate of Kenyon College.

HARRIETT KING

Harriett King is a Certified Health Unit Coordinator (CHUC) in the Department of Neurology at UT Southwestern, where she currently serves as HUC chairperson. Her job includes answering the phone and taking patient calls. She began her career at the Medical Center in 1990 as a Patient Care Technician. In 2000, she received the Employee of the Year Award, but recalls “I almost didn’t attend because I was sick. It was all a secret.” Within her area at Zale Lipshy University Hospital, Ms. King is known as the “go-to person.” She hopes to eventually become an educator for HUCs and, in doing so, enhance their roles in health care. When she’s not at work, Ms. King enjoys the outdoors and spending time with family and friends. Her says her co-workers would describe her as “fun or crazy” but adds they would be surprised to know “I’m very shy.”

BRENDA JOHNSON

Brenda Johnson has a heartfelt reason for remaining at UT Southwestern as a Physical Therapist. “I love helping people,” she says. In fact, Ms. Johnson says she would like to be known as the employee “that all the therapists fight over to help treat their patients.” She says her most rewarding memory at the Medical Center is “working with co-workers that feel like family.” Now serving as William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, Ms. Johnson says her long-term goals are “to continue to take on leadership roles in the Department.” Away from work, Ms. Johnson enjoys playing cards with family and friends. She says her co-workers would describe her as someone “who is always happy.”

HERMAN I. MAY

Herman May is a Research Scientist in Internal Medicine’s Division of Cardiology. In his work, Mr. May performs surgeries and experiments related to studying the molecular basis of cardiovascular disease. He says his career is fulfilling “because it allows me to pursue scientific research in different disciplines.” Among his many memorable experiences was the opportunity to meet Dr. Stephen Hawking following a lecture given by the University of Cambridge theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author. Mr. May hopes to continue his contributions to learning new insights into the inner workings of the human body. To his credit, Mr. May has commuted to his job by bike for the past 20 years. In 1996, he was honored by the North Texas Clean Air Coalition for bicycle commuting. Outside the office, Mr. May enjoys camping, hiking, and exploring areas “furthest from civilization.”

JORDAN LIN

Jordan Lin works in the Medical Service Research and Development Plan at UT Southwestern, where he is a Senior Financial Analyst. He performs financial reporting for 24 clinical departments and management reporting for top management. He began his career at the Medical Center in 1999 as a Senior Accountant in Auxiliary Enterprises. Mr. Lin’s best campus memory? “My son, Chris, took his first steps at UT Southwestern’s South Campus 23 years ago.” He is known in his department as “a problem solver.” Outside the office he is involved with his Pino church, which has a congregation of 900 people. Mr. Lin counts playing basketball as one of his hobbies. He and his wife, Yvonne, have two children. Daughter Karen is studying at UT School of Medicine at San Antonio.

CASSIE LIVINGSTON

Cassie Livingston credits her challenging position as Study Coordinator at the Nephrology Research Clinic for keeping her at UT Southwestern since Jan. 1, 1991. “There’s a lot to learn in medicine,” she says. Ms. Livingston’s responsibilities include completing all study documentation forms, electronic data entries, and recruit and consent participant forms in addition to conducting various study procedures. Ms. Livingston, who started her career at the Medical Center in the General Internal Medicine Clinic, says her co-workers see her as someone “caring, spiritual, and humble” and would like to be known as a team player who “loves life and people.” She has one son, Brandon. When she’s not in the office, Ms. Livingston enjoys fishing, volleyball, basketball, singing, and Zumba classes.

HARRIETT KING

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If you're looking for an employee willing to go the extra mile, look no farther than Anne-Marie January, a Senior Project Coordinator in the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development. Ms. January once loaned the outfit she was wearing to her boss so she could attend a meeting. “Good things we wear the same size,” Ms. January says. Her career at UT Southwestern is fulfilling because “I feel the goal and vision contribute to making the world a better place.” Ms. January says her co-workers would describe her as “vivacious, positive, and animated.” She says people would be most surprised to know the French is her first language. Ms. January enjoys football and “making a difference in someone’s life on a cloudy day.” Her son, Brandon, is a graduate of Kenyon College.

1. Jordan Lin works in the Medical Service Research and Development Plan at UT Southwestern, where he is a Senior Financial Analyst. He performs financial reporting for 24 clinical departments and management reporting for top management. He began his career at the Medical Center in 1999 as a Senior Accountant in Auxiliary Enterprises. Mr. Lin’s best campus memory? “My son, Chris, took his first steps at UT Southwestern’s South Campus 23 years ago.” He is known in his department as “a problem solver.” Outside the office he is involved with his Pino church, which has a congregation of 900 people. Mr. Lin counts playing basketball as one of his hobbies. He and his wife, Yvonne, have two children. Daughter Karen is studying at UT School of Medicine at San Antonio.

Martha Kingman Liberty is a Registered Nurse Practitioner for the Heart and Lung Center, where she works in the outpatient pulmonary hypertension clinic. She began her career at UT Southwestern as a Physical Therapist. “I love helping people,” she says. In fact, Ms. Johnson says she would like to be known as the employee “that all the therapists fight over to help treat their patients.” She says her most rewarding memory at the Medical Center is “working with co-workers that feel like family.” Now serving as William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, Ms. Johnson says her long-term goals are “to continue to take on leadership roles in the Department.” Away from work, Ms. Johnson enjoys the outdoors and spending time with family and friends. She says her co-workers would describe her as “fun or crazy” but adds they would be surprised to know “I’m very shy.”

DAVID M. MILLER

David Miller is an Associate Professor of Surgery at UT Southwestern. His research is focused on the mechanisms of liver failure. “I have been working on this problem for a long time, and it remains a challenging problem that is not well understood,” Dr. Miller says. He says his career is fulfilling because “I feel the goal and vision contribute to making the world a better place.” Ms. January says her co-workers would describe her as “vivacious, positive, and animated.” She says people would be most surprised to know the French is her first language. Ms. January enjoys football and “making a difference in someone’s life on a cloudy day.” Her son, Brandon, is a graduate of Kenyon College.

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As the person who helps prepare and deliver meals, Velethea “Lynn” Parker may be one of the favorite employees of patients at UT Southwestern’s Zale Lipshy University Hospital. Ms. Parker, who works in Nutrition Services, says the most rewarding part of her job is “patients’ comeback – they remember me by my name.” She says co-workers would describe her as dedicated because “no matter what is going on I make my patient feel special and show them that I care.” Ms. Parker says she would like to retire at UT Southwestern, and would like to be remembered as the employee who “show compassion because I enjoy helping others.” Ms. Parker and Charles, her husband of 31 years, enjoy skiing with their two children and two grandchildren.

Darlene Reynolds is the Administrative Manager in the Department of Biophysics. She describes her role at UT Southwestern as “running the business, so the scientists can do their research.” She got her start at the Medical Center doing administrative duties in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Ms. Reynolds says she had continued to enjoy her job because she “likes being part of something that is changing our world ... and contributing to the advancement of science.” One of her most rewarding jobs was serving on the inaugural Employee Advisory Council. With her goal-oriented mindset, she describes her role at UT Southwestern as “taking care of the scientists.”

Cynthia ‘Cindy’ Robinson, Senior Administrative Associate in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, has a long list of accomplishments in her time at UT Southwestern. Perhaps none top being elected to the inaugural Employee Advisory Council, which she says “was an honor and privilege.” Her face and a quote appear when Systems and Applications on the ACE website is accessed. “I’m also quoted in ‘DNA of a Title,’ which describes the work of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management.”

Judy Shaw, Senior Research Associate Judy Shaw, who works as Chief Psychometrist in Psychiatry, happily puts herself in a very select group. “I am one of the fortunate few who has found a job that utilizes my skillset and fits my personality,” she says. “The co-workers and students I’ve known through the years have enriched my life. I am truly blessed!” She hopes colleagues see her as “an encourager” and says receiving the Diana and Richard C. Strauss Excellence Award in 2013 is her most rewarding moment at UT Southwestern. Her long-term goals are to “continue to hone my skills, especially as our field moves to more computerized testing.” Ms. Shaw is a charter member of the National Association of Psychometrists, where she has served as a board member and treasurer. She and her husband, Jeff, have five children and seven grandchildren.

Judy Shaw

Cynthia ‘Cindy’ Robinson

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Judy Shaw

A Senior Business Analyst for Information Resources, Rhonda E. Smith supports the Department as Harriett Administrator, which is used for time entry and project management. “The work challenges me,” she says. “I support a Department that is very vital to the University.” Ms. Smith, who started her UT Southwestern career as a Human Resources secretary, says her most rewarding moments are receiving her 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year certificates. She hopes colleagues consider her someone who “was always there and willing to help when I was needed.” She says people would be surprised to know that she is very tidy. She and husband, Michael, have been married “going on 28 years” and have six children and 12 grandchildren. “My family is my passion,” she says.

Rhonda E. Smith

Ensuring that Pharmacy Services works efficiently is a large part of Sunil Varghese’s duties as Supervisor Pharmacy Technicians. He handles work schedules, manages coverage and workflow, coordinates new employee orientations and training, and jumps in wherever assistance is needed. He wants to be known as “an employee with a lot of pride in being who I am and doing what I am doing.” Mr. Varghese, who had a break in his service before returning for good in 1990, says UT Southwestern offers many benefits. “I’ve stayed because of my relationships with co-workers and management, real job security, and being part of a team that always tries to give the best patient care.” His leisure activities include acting, volleyball, and swimming. He also enjoys time with his wife and their children, ages 20 and 16.

Sunil Varghese

A Senior Provider Enrollment Specialist in Contract Administration, Rosetta Scott gets all providers – full-time, part-time, and volunteers – into the Medical Science Research Development Plan within Business Operations. “I love my work, communicating with various agencies and the customer service representatives,” she says. “And I have excellent co-workers.” Her professional business traits include being reliable, detail-oriented, dependable, and a team player. “I want to be known as willing to go above and beyond in getting the job done.” Married for 40 years, Ms. Scott enjoys the family that includes a daughter, two sons, and three grandchildren. In her free time, her activities include working at her church, watching old western movies, travel and, listening to “Oldies” music.

Rosetta Ann Scott
Credit: Credentialing Specialist Jackie Velasquez cares for the multi-faceted mission. “UT Southwestern is a teaching institution and medical facility,” she says. “I like the combination.” In the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Ms. Velasquez processes new and renewal credentialing for surgeons as well as providing specific administrative support for Dr. Michael Vanpelt, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery. She says her colleagues would describe her as “quiet... most of the time. So if I speak up most people are shocked.” Ms. Velasquez would like to be known as someone who “did good work and helped.” Away from work, she and her husband, Steve, operate three concession booths at the State Fair of Texas and have been semifinalists in the annual Fried Food Contest five times. They have one daughter, Stephanie.

Ross Hudson Wilson relaxes by playing music and hunting when he’s not in the office. In his position as Research Associate at the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development, Mr. Wilson is responsible for microsatellite genotyping, cell line authentication and paternity testing. He began his career at UT Southwestern in 1990 as a Research Technician for Dr. Kathy Meek. Mr. Wilson says his greatest claim to fame is being “a bass player for Irving Bible Church for more than 15 years and traveling/recording with the Joey Witham Band for eight years.” Mr. Wilson and his wife, Kim, are raising their grandson, Cayden, who is now in kindergarten.

Jackie Velasquez

Richard Wayne says he would like to be known as someone who “treated everybody with dignity and respect.” He says co-workers would describe him as “measured,” but adds that people would be surprised at his adventurous side – twice in the 1970s he hitchhiked and backpacked across North America. Mr. Wayne has remained at UT Southwestern since 1990 because “our mission and the associated work have value.” His long-term career goal is to “make a positive contribution to our mission every day.” He and Carol, his wife of 35 years, have three sons – Greg, Ryan, and Evan – and recently welcomed the arrival of their first grandson, Jackson. In his free time, Mr. Wayne enjoys fly fishing, backpacking, cats, and reading.

Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, President of UT Southwestern, will introduce Mrs. Siniscalchi and present the awards recognizing longtime employees. Shirley Zwirgg, Chair of the Employee Recognition Committee, will offer welcoming remarks and assist Dr. Podolsky in the induction ceremony.

Mrs. Siniscalchi, a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing who has an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, received a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at Duquesne University and a master of science degree in nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

She received her military commission in 1979 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Pittsburgh. She was promoted to Major General in 2008 and retired from active duty in 2013. At UT Southwestern, she also serves on numerous boards and advisory councils that are focused on military and veterans issues, health policy, and health care.

Dr. Podolsky holds the Philip O’Bryan Montgomery, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Presidential Chair in Academic Administration, and the Doris and Bryan Wildenthal Distinguished Chair in Medical Science.

Speaker Continued from page 1

to members of the U.S. armed forces. She spent 34 years on active duty, serving multiple command tours, including leading an Expeditionary Military Group that supported the global war on terrorism.

Mrs. Siniscalchi counts among the highlights of her career assignments to the White House to serve both Presidents George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton.

Fifty UT Southwestern employees will be inducted into the Quarter Century Club, in addition to colleagues who are celebrating 30-, 35-, 40-, 45-, and 50-year state employment milestones.

Employee program on My UT Southwestern

UT Southwestern honorees, photos, and service lists are located at utsouthwestern.net/employee.recognition.