

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN TRAUMA AND CRITICAL CARE HONORS FORMER CHAIRMAN OF SURGERY AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS – March 21, 2002 – People familiar with Dr. C. James Carrico when he was a student at Southwestern Medical School in 1960 predicted he was destined for a distinguished career.

At the start of his medical career, Carrico received the Ho Din Award, the top prize awarded by Southwestern Medical Foundation to a graduating student. During his 10 years as chairman of surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, colleagues say, he revitalized the department and guided it to the prestige it has today.

In recognition of Carrico's contributions to UT Southwestern and the field of surgery, more than 318 donors, including friends, colleagues and former residents, contributed to a \$1 million endowment to establish the C. James Carrico, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Surgery for Trauma and Critical Care – only the second endowment to support a chair in trauma in the country.

Dr. Robert Rege, who succeeded Carrico as chairman of surgery, said many people may not realize the role Carrico has played in surgery at the national level.

"During a time of reorganization for the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Carrico served as chairman of its Board of Regents. Recently Dr. Carrico's leadership was recognized with his election to president of the organization, which will be effective in October," said Rege, holder of the Hall and Mary Lucile Shannon Distinguished Chair in Surgery.

At a recent reception in his honor, Carrico had the opportunity to personally thank those who had contributed to the chair, some of whom traveled across the country to greet him.

"This is a wonderful day to remember blessings and say thank you to all," Carrico said. "This distinguished chair is a great contribution to this institution. Long after we are gone, the endowment will continue to support the activities of trauma research and education."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said Carrico helped strengthen the
(MORE)

DISTINGUISHED CHAIR - 2

Department of Surgery by recruiting key faculty from other institutions and retaining top-notch residents.

“His dedication to education, research and clinical care was instrumental in the growth and evolution of the department,” Wildenthal said.

Carrico, a '61 alumnus of UT Southwestern, trained as an intern, resident and research fellow in trauma at the medical school and Parkland Memorial Hospital. After two years in the military service at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, Carrico joined the Department of Surgery at UT Southwestern. In 1974 he accepted a position at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, and eventually became chairman of surgery there in 1983. Carrico returned to his alma mater in 1990 to chair UT Southwestern's Department of Surgery. He retired from that position in 2000, but continues to serve as a professor in the department and holder of the Doris and Bryan Wildenthal Distinguished Chair.

Rege said, “The endowment will allow us to recruit an excellent trauma surgeon to lead what is already one of the premier trauma/burn programs in the country.”

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