

# **SOUTHWESTERN NEWS**

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## **DALLAS COUPLE ESTABLISH PROFESSORSHIP TO HONOR BROTHER INSTRUMENTAL IN UT SOUTHWESTERN'S EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

DALLAS – April 27, 1998 – In memory of her late brother, who was an outstanding cardiologist and prominent leader during the formative years of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Shirley Stone and her husband, Jim, have established the Alfred W. Harris, M.D., Professorship in Cardiology.

The Dallas philanthropists' gift of \$110,228 to Southwestern Medical Foundation will support the work of Dr. Gunnar Blomqvist, professor of internal medicine and physiology and director of NASA's Specialized Center of Research and Training in Physiology at UT Southwestern. Blomqvist will use the professorship to further his study of the cardiovascular system in space. He is the principal investigator of the blood-pressure studies taking place during the current launch of space shuttle Columbia's Spacelab.

"My husband and I are thrilled to be able to contribute to research of such significance," Shirley Stone said. "We know my brother would be very proud of the work his UT Southwestern colleagues have done. Though he was at the height of his career when he died, Al made many valuable personal and professional contributions to the center and to those who knew him. It's wonderful to have the opportunity to carry on his name in such a meaningful way."

Harris, for whom the UT Southwestern faculty-alumni center is named, drowned in 1966 at age 54 when the car he was driving was washed off the road in a flood. Harris was on the

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## **HARRIS PROFESSORSHIP – 2**

clinical faculty at UT Southwestern.

"Dr. Harris was instrumental in the early success of the university," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president. "He will always be remembered with great respect -- both by those who knew him personally and those who have, decades later, benefited from his hard work and unwavering dedication to the community. We are honored by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Stone and are proud to carry on the work that was so important to Dr. Harris. We are confident he would be pleased to see Dr. Blomqvist receive this important endowment."

Blomqvist is an international authority on the effects of bed rest and weightlessness on cardiac function. He joined the faculty in 1966 after earning his M.D. at Lunds University School of Medicine and a Ph.D. degree at Karolinska Institute, both in Sweden.

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