

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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MINERAL METABOLISM LECTURESHIP ENDOWED WITH BEQUEST FROM UT SOUTHWESTERN SUPPORTER LILLIAN B. CLARK

DALLAS – Aug. 5, 2002 – A \$100,000 bequest from Lillian B. Clark, a longtime benefactor of UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, has endowed the Lillian B. Clark Lecture Series in Mineral Metabolism.

Lillian Clark first visited UT Southwestern for osteoporosis treatment in 1984. Dr. Charles Y.C. Pak, director of the Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, said the Montana native – who could entertain those who knew her with tales of growing up in the remote and rugged West in the early 1900s – continued to be treated at the medical center until her death in 1998.

In the mid-1980s, she began donating \$5,000 annually for the mineral metabolism program. She also included the program in her will, stipulating a \$100,000 gift to the Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research upon her death.

“We decided to use the \$5,000 gifts to invite prominent experts in mineral metabolism as visiting lecturers,” said Pak, who also directs the Robert T. Hayes Center for Mineral Metabolism Research and holds the Distinguished Chair in Mineral Metabolism and the Alfred L. and Muriel B. Rabiner Distinguished Academic Chair for Mineral Metabolism Biotechnology Research. “The \$100,000 gift will now permanently endow that series.”

Pak said the invitees usually spend about three days on campus and deliver a Grand Rounds lecture.

“The Grand Rounds lectures usually are very well-attended, so the lectureship makes these visiting leaders in our field available to a large number of people here,” Pak said. “We in the Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research also get to interact with the lecturers on a one-to-one basis.”

Lillian Clark’s unfaltering generosity and forward thinking, Pak said, will make a tangible difference for years to come. Pak had a unique connection with his former patient: She

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CLARK LECTURESHIP - 2

was born in March 1905, as was Pak's mother, whose own battle with osteoporosis inspired Pak's groundbreaking research into the disease.

"Mrs. Clark was most gracious and always had a lot of wonderful stories to tell," Pak recalled.

She and her husband, the late James H. Clark Sr., were well-known art collectors and philanthropists. After meeting in New York in 1935, the couple moved to Dallas in 1950. The Clarks started collecting art in 1960, developing a collection that included works by Dutch painter Piet Mondrian, Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi and French painter Fernand Leger.

James Clark served as president of the Dallas Museum of Art from 1964 to 1968, and the Clarks' collection was donated to the museum upon his death in 1979. The collection included what still are some of the museum's most important and valuable works and formed the foundation of its 20th century collection. A portion of the museum's European section is designated as the Clark Gallery in honor of their contribution.

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