

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## DALLAS PHILANTHROPISTS GIVE \$500,000 TO ESTABLISH A DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN THORACIC SURGERY AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS – March 9, 1998 – Because they were impressed with the clinical care provided by a UT Southwestern Medical Center surgeon, Sarah and Charles Seay have endowed a distinguished chair in thoracic surgery with a \$500,000 gift, which will be matched, to further the physician's research efforts.

The Dallas philanthropists' latest gift is in support of the work of Dr. Dan M. Meyer, associate professor of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at UT Southwestern. The couple became acquainted with Meyer, a specialist in heart and lung transplantation, in 1997 when he treated Mrs. Seay for a pulmonary condition.

They were so impressed by Meyer's "hard work and expertise," Charles Seay said he and his wife knew they "wanted to do something to thank him and encourage his research.

"From a personal standpoint, we are very grateful for the care Dr. Meyer gave us; and from a medical standpoint, we recognize how important his contribution to the community is. Sadie and I are happy to be able to show him how strongly we feel about the wonderful work he's doing and how much we need him at UT Southwestern.

"We were especially proud when we saw him pictured in the (March 1) *Dallas Morning News* and read about some of his accomplishments in Michael Young's wonderful story on organ transplants. We had discussed an endowment for Dr. Meyer before, but the story was what ignited us into immediate action. Sadie suggested we make an even larger gift than we had been discussing and I heartily agreed.

"We reached Dr. Kern Wildenthal (UT Southwestern president) that very morning and told him of our decision. We called Michael Young and told him that his moving story had inspired us to give. We also told him that alerting the public about donating organs was bound to influence others to give of their bodies at death so others might live."

(MORE)

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## SEAY GIFT - 2

The couple already has given more than \$20 million to the medical center. The Seays previously have endowed two centers, four chairs and two distinguished chairs in pediatric medicine, psychiatry and cancer research at UT Southwestern. In addition, their generosity is helping build the Seay Biomedical Building on the medical center's North Campus, which will house the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Center for Basic and Applied Research in Psychiatric Illness, established in 1995.

"The generosity of Sadie and Charlie Seay is inspiring," said Wildenthal. "Their humanity and dedication to improving medical care for mankind is renowned, and we're extremely fortunate to have benefited so significantly from their philanthropic efforts. Their latest gift will fortify our research and clinical expertise in thoracic surgery and allow us to remain a leader in heart and lung transplantation."

Meyer, who will hold the distinguished chair, is associate director of pulmonary transplantation at UT Southwestern and Baylor University Medical Center. He is also the director of the mechanical-assist program at UT Southwestern and Baylor and has been the recipient of an American Heart Association Texas Affiliate Grant-in-Aid Award. He has published numerous papers and book chapters on thoracic and cardiovascular trauma, transplantation and surgery. Meyer joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1991.

"I am incredibly honored to be one of the beneficiaries of the Seays' profound generosity. It's wonderful to be given the means to further the surgical work we are doing at UT Southwestern, and I am very excited to see what the future holds for us," Meyer said.

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