

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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CHILTON FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN BIOCHEMISTRY

DALLAS — October 10, 1994 — Continuing major commitments begun more than 40 years ago, trustees of the A.L. Chilton Foundation have pledged an additional \$500,000 toward an endowed chair in biochemistry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The funds will be matched as part of the university's Fund for Molecular Research to create the Sam G. Winstead and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry. The chair, which will be held by the chairman of the department of biochemistry, is being named by UT Southwestern for the Chilton Foundation's two trustees, in recognition of their support to the biochemistry department over several decades.

"Biochemistry had always been a big interest of Mr. Chilton's," Bell said. "It was his wish that we continue to support the UT Southwestern biochemistry department."

Chilton owned Sky Broadcasting Service, a chain of radio stations in Texas and Arkansas. The Dallas affiliate was KSKY-AM.

Bell worked at KSKY for 30 years, working his way up from on-air announcer to part owner. He also helped establish the National Museum of Communications, a Las Colinas-based collection of communications history and artifacts. Bell was named a trustee of the Chilton Foundation at the time of Chilton's death in 1973.

Winstead served as attorney to Chilton before joining the foundation's board. He is now retired from the law firm of Jackson & Walker, L.L.P.

"This gift will establish a vitally important, ongoing source of support for the Department of Biochemistry, and it will appropriately recognize and honor two of Dallas' leading citizens and some of UT Southwestern's most loyal friends," said UT Southwestern President Dr. Kern Wildenthal. "This endowment will enable us to recruit a leading biochemist to head the department."

(MORE)

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Dr. Ronald Estabrook, professor of biochemistry, who served as chairman of the department for 14 years and worked closely with Chilton, noted that A.L. Chilton and the Chilton Foundation "really came to the forefront at a critical time when the department was being built in the 1960s." Estabrook holds the Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Chair in Biomedical Science and the Virginia Lazenby O'Hara Chair in Biochemistry.

"Mr. Chilton's support was critical in getting equipment for the department, central to establishing the Chilton summer research program for medical students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and essential in creating the annual Chilton lecture series that has brought some of the most distinguished people in the world to this campus," Estabrook said.

Dr. John M. Johnston, professor of biochemistry and holder of the Frank C. Erwin Jr. Professorship in Obstetrical Biochemistry, directs the Chilton Fellowship visiting professor program. He echoed Dr. Estabrook's sentiments, saying "the funds provided by the Chilton Foundation allow medical students to have a hands-on experience in the biochemistry laboratory as well as the training of graduate and post doctoral fellows. The annual lectureship has also brought to our campus outstanding scientists in the field of lipid metabolism.

"Mr. Winstead and Mr. Bell have been extraordinarily interested in helping ensure the excellence of our department," he said. "Their support has been critical for our development and it is an honor for their name to be linked with our department in perpetuity through this Chilton chair."

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