

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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SHERRY KNOPF CRASILNECK ENDOWS CHAIR IN PSYCHIATRY HONORING YOUNG BUSINESSMAN WHO BELIEVED IN PHILANTHROPY

DALLAS – Feb. 7, 2002 – More than four decades ago, a young businessman named Albert Knopf and his wife, Sherry, talked of future plans of investments, trusts and philanthropic commitment to each other and their community. In December 1957, at age 41, Knopf's life was cut short, but his widow vowed to keep alive their dream of generosity.

Sherry Knopf Crasilneck has donated \$500,000 to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to establish a chair in psychiatry in honor of Albert Knopf.

The Sherry Knopf Crasilneck Chair in Psychiatry, in Honor of Albert Knopf will be held by Dr. Robert Greene, professor of psychiatry and vice chairman for veterans affairs services in psychiatry at UT Southwestern and chief of psychiatric services at the Department of Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System.

"I am forever grateful to be able to establish this chair in honor of Albert Knopf, who believed so wholeheartedly in the importance of giving," said Sherry Crasilneck. "I am also proud that Dr. Greene, who has such a fine reputation as a researcher and clinician, is the first holder of the chair."

Albert and Sherry Knopf moved to Dallas shortly after World War II and founded Lone Star Camera Exchange in Oak Cliff. She continued to run the business for eight years after Knopf's death. In 1958, Sherry Knopf met, and in 1959, married Harold B. Crasilneck, Ph.D., a leader in medical hypnosis, and a professor who taught psychiatry at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Crasilneck, in private practice since 1960, now serves as a clinical professor of psychiatry and anesthesiology at UT Southwestern, where he teaches pain management. Among his 26 awards, it is the Arthur M. Griffin Award from UT Southwestern's Department of Psychiatry, which he received in 2000, that he treasures most.

Dr. Crasilneck continues to work closely with his wife, who has been his research associate and editor for 39 years. She is an accomplished artist and poet, is active in

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philanthropic causes and remains devoted to her children and grandchildren.

“This gift is a wonderful expression of love and desire to help others,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “UT Southwestern is privileged to receive an endowment that honors the legacy of Albert Knopf, who was committed to philanthropic efforts. We are very grateful to Sherry Knopf Crasilneck for making the chair a reality, and we are especially pleased that it supports mental health research, an area in which Dr. Crasilneck has made major professional contributions.”

A renowned neuroscience researcher, Dr. Robert Greene joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2001 after more than a decade at Harvard Medical School. His studies, which focus on sleep and schizophrenia, involve the cellular and molecular mechanisms that control behavior and cognition.

Dr. Greene earned a Ph.D. in physiology from the School of Arts and Sciences at George Washington University in 1982 and earned a medical degree in 1983 from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. His studies have taken him around the world and continue to provide critical knowledge about the brain’s processing of information.

“Being named the first holder of this chair is a tremendous honor for me,” said Dr. Greene. “I am very grateful to Mrs. Crasilneck and am excited about the research opportunities that her gift makes possible. Her generosity will have a significant impact on our efforts toward better understanding of the functions of the human brain and toward correcting its disabling dysfunctions.”

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