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Cooks' generosity graces UT Southwestern campus with 'Undulating X'

DALLAS – Feb. 8, 2007 – Dallas philanthropists Dan and Gail Cook knew the time was right for them to make an additional gift to UT Southwestern Medical Center when their move to a new home meant downsizing their formidable art collection.

The couple decided to donate one of their prized pieces – an 18.5-foot stainless steel sculpture by contemporary sculptor Ali Baudoin. The sculpture, “Undulating X,” was commissioned by the Cooks in 1984 and had been installed on the grounds of their North Dallas home until December 2006, when it was transferred to UT Southwestern.

The high-finish metal piece is now featured on the medical center's North Campus, where it is a focal point of the lawn near the entrance to the Simmons Biomedical Research Building and the Hamon Biomedical Research Building.

“Gail and I are delighted to be able to donate this sculpture to UT Southwestern, of which we think highly,” said Mr. Cook, a retired partner of Goldman, Sachs & Co. and a senior advisor for MHT Partners. “We have a number of sculptures by Ali Baudoin, who is one of our favorite sculptors. It is exciting to think that now many more people may learn to appreciate his work through our gift. We feel strongly about both art and medicine, and we thought this might be a good way to support both.”

The couple's latest donation is worth an estimated \$300,000. Their previous gifts to support cancer research programs and other initiatives at UT Southwestern total more than \$100,000.

Mr. Cook holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Nebraska. A former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps, he is active in a variety of professional organizations. He is chairman of the Vice President's Residence Foundation in Washington, D.C., and is a member of the boards of the *National Review*, TD Ameritrade, and the Dallas Museum of Art.

Mr. Cook previously served as a trustee of the Communities Foundation of Texas, and was a member of the boards of Centex Corp., Brinker International, and the National Center for Policy Analysis. He also served on the boards of Southern Methodist University and its Willis M. Tate Distinguished Lecture Series and was vice chair of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business executive

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board. He served on the board of Southwestern Medical Foundation from 1989 to 2002, and is now an honorary trustee.

Mrs. Cook, an expert on interior design, antiques and art, is a national judge and lecturer on antique bisque dolls. Her collection, one of the largest in the world, has been exhibited at the Dallas Museum of Art and the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Neb. Her Bavarian bear collection was featured in a show at the National Museum of Wildlife Art at Jackson Hole, Wyo. She is a former member of the board of trustees of the Dallas Museum of Art and has served on the DMA's acquisitions committee. The Cooks, who have five children and seven grandchildren, are avid hunters and fishermen.

"Dan and Gail Cook are leading citizens of Dallas, and good friends of UT Southwestern," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the medical center. "We are thrilled that they have significantly enhanced our campus environment by generously sharing their beautiful art with us."

Mr. Baudoin has sustained a national reputation in sculpture that spans more than 25 years. His sculpture commissions can be seen around the world as public art and in scores of private settings. He is widely recognized as an expert metal worker whose classical lines evoke American Modernism. Mr. Baudoin grew up in Albuquerque, N.M., in a family of artists. He holds degrees from the University of New Mexico and the University of Washington in Seattle. He studied at the Santa Fe Institute and holds an instructor's degree from the Ichyio School of Ikebana in Tokyo.

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UT Southwestern Medical Center, one of the premier medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. Its more than 1,400 full-time faculty members – including four active Nobel Prize winners, more than any other medical school in the world – are responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and are committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide medical care in 40 specialties to nearly 89,000 hospitalized patients and oversee 2.1 million outpatient visits a year.

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