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Friends and family of Mauricia and Charles Fugitt create \$107,000 research fund in their honor at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Sept. 26, 2008 – Family and friends of Mauricia and Charles Fugitt have established a cancer and bone marrow research fund at UT Southwestern Medical Center in memory of the Dallas banker and his wife. Gifts totaling more than \$107,000 from the estate of the Fugitts and from others have created the Mauricia and Charles Fugitt Family Fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Fugitt, longtime patients of the medical center, died after battles with cancer – he in 2004, and she in 2006.

“Everyone at UT Southwestern took such wonderful care of my mom and dad, who both suffered through very bleak cancers without losing their wonderful fighting spirits,” said Melinda Matter of Dallas. “Not only were their physicians armed with tremendous technological advances, they showed incredible compassion and a determination to give them the best quality of life possible.

“After my father’s death, my mother wanted to do something to honor him and the doctors, to whom she felt they both owed so much. This fund is an extension of that – and of our gratitude to UT Southwestern and to my parents.”

In particular, the Fugitts wanted to show their appreciation to Dr. Eugene Frenkel, professor of internal medicine; Dr. Randall Hughes, associate professor of internal medicine; Dr. Bruce Mickey, professor of neurological surgery; and Dr. Robert Timmerman, professor of radiation oncology, all of whom serve at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern.

Born in Greenville in 1923, Mr. Fugitt earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Tech University in 1944 and went on to a long and illustrious banking career. In 1988 he retired as vice chairman of the board of Grand Bancshares of Dallas. His career included service as vice president of the Bank of the Southwest in Houston, executive vice president of Mercantile National Bank in Dallas, senior vice president of Mercantile Texas Corp., and vice president of

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Fugitt gift – 2

1st United Bancorp in Fort Worth.

In addition to his undergraduate degree, Mr. Fugitt earned degrees from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking and the National Commercial Lending School, where he served on the faculty for five years. He also was a consultant to the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Mrs. Fugitt, a devoted wife and mother, was a former flight attendant and dedicated civic volunteer. A Dallas native, she attended the University of North Texas and was an active member of the Dallas Woman's Club. She served for many years in the Clipped Bs, an association of former Braniff flight attendants and on the board of Methodist Hospitals of Dallas.

The Fugitts, married for 52 years, helped start the Wesleyan Fellowship Class at Highland Park United Methodist Church, where they were longtime members. In addition to Mrs. Matter and her husband, Pete, the Fugitts are survived by a grown son, Chuck, of Los Angeles and three grandchildren Charlie, Miles, and Megan Matter.

"This heartfelt gift not only honors a great couple and their wonderful family, it supports an area of research of tremendous importance to all of us," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "We're very grateful to the entire Fugitt family for their loyalty to UT Southwestern and for their desire to help others in such a wonderful way."

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