

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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GIFTS ESTABLISH PROFESSORSHIP AT UT SOUTHWESTERN IN HONOR OF PIONEERING DALLAS OTOLOGIST

DALLAS – October 23, 1998 – For more than 40 years Dr. Marvin Culbertson took care of children with ear, nose and throat problems. All along he had the ear of adults – especially other physicians.

To honor Culbertson on his recent retirement from UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, friends and colleagues established a fund in his name. With the support of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, where Culbertson had been a clinical volunteer since 1956 and on staff since 1993, more than \$100,000 was raised to create a professorship in honor of him and his wife, Elizabeth Culbertson.

"In addition to being a friend and a caring physician, Dr. Culbertson has been a teacher, humanitarian and ambassador for medicine in general and, more specifically, for the specialty of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery," said Dr. William Meyerhoff, chairman of otorhinolaryngology and holder of the Arthur E. Meyerhoff Chair in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery. "This contributory effort will join, in perpetuity, his name and the name of his lovely wife, Beth, with the specialty he so dearly loved."

Dr. Orval Brown, who trained as a resident under Culbertson, has been named to the Beth and Marvin C. (Cub) Culbertson Professorship in Pediatric Otolaryngology.

"Dr. Culbertson has contributed greatly to the care of patients with diseases of the ear, nose and throat," said Brown, associate professor of otorhinolaryngology. "He has been involved in the training of many ENT residents, including me, and has been part of the establishment of pediatric otorhinolaryngology as its very own discipline on a national basis. He has long been recognized for excellence in otologic surgery in children. His lifetime of service to patients is justly deserving of this named professorship."

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Culbertson's long medical career took root in his hometown of Vernon, when, as a boy, he decided to become a pediatrician. He graduated from UT Medical Branch at Galveston in 1950, completed an internship at the University of Pennsylvania and served in the Navy during the Korean War. He then decided to specialize in otolaryngology and trained in otology at New York University/Bellevue Medical Center, with plans to return to Texas.

"My mentors in New York City taught me to give medical care with compassion," Culbertson said. "One told me I could repay him only if I went back to Texas and did the same for other young physicians. He said, 'If you appreciate what I've done for you, do the same.' And giving myself and my time to training residents has been very gratifying. I ask of my students the same."

Culbertson said he was the first otologist in Dallas in 1962, and later helped establish pediatric otolaryngology as a specialty in Dallas. For 37 years he was in private practice and also cared for patients and trained young otolaryngologists at UT Southwestern. When he closed his practice in February 1993, he joined UT Southwestern's clinical faculty part time and continued to treat his young patients at Children's Medical Center of Dallas and his adult patients at the James W. Aston Ambulatory Care Center.

"UT Southwestern has always been an important part of my life," he said. "I'm honored by the generosity of those who made gifts to the Beth and Marvin C. (Cub) Culbertson Professorship. Beth and I are assured that Dr. Brown will carry on our ideals and values in medicine."

Although Culbertson has retired from UT Southwestern, he continues to train physicians and treat patients in other countries through his church and other missionary efforts, causes that have been important to him since his days in the Navy.

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