

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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Evelyn Whitman-Dunn gives \$50,000 to support neurodegenerative disease research at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – Nov. 11, 2004 – Evelyn Whitman-Dunn, who has been called “the woman behind the men” responsible for transforming a medical school housed in World War II barracks into one of the nation’s top medical centers, has given \$50,000 to support neurodegenerative disease research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The gift will create a postdoctoral fellowship in neurodegenerative disease research, which is to be conducted in the Department of Psychiatry under the direction of Dr. Dwight German. The funds – which were given to Southwestern Medical Foundation, where Ms. Whitman-Dunn was a former executive director – will be used to help researchers study Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“My time at Southwestern Medical Foundation was a very important and wonderful part of my life, and so I think of this gift as giving back to an institution that has given so much to me,” said Mrs. Whitman-Dunn, who retired in 1988, but remains an honorary trustee. “I have always believed in UT Southwestern and feel very much at home there – as a former employee and as a patient.”

Mrs. Whitman-Dunn began her career at the foundation in 1945 as a 25-year-old assistant and secretary. Intelligent and loyal, the Dallas native quickly rose to the top of the nonprofit organization, where she became indispensable. Upon her retirement, the trustees of the foundation established the Evelyn M. Whitman Scholarship Fund in her honor.

“Mrs. Whitman-Dunn’s generous support of our efforts is greatly appreciated, and we are hopeful for the opportunities this gift will provide our researchers,” said Dr. German, professor of psychiatry. “This level of support will go a long way in helping us better understand nerve-cell death and develop noninvasive techniques for identifying neurodegenerative disease.”

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, added, “Evelyn Whitman-Dunn’s

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contributions to the medical school – both as a foundation employee and now as a philanthropist – are immeasurable. She was a beacon in the early years of the medical school, and she has remained a bright part of UT Southwestern’s history. We are grateful for her continued generosity and are proud that she has remained a part of us.”

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