Cancer conferences set Baylor apart

When presented with a diagnosis, patients sometimes consult another physician for a second opinion. At Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center at Dallas, many of them get second—and third, and more—opinions without so much as asking.

That’s the idea behind the oncology site tumor conferences at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, during which medical professionals from many different disciplines meet on a regular basis to discuss interesting and challenging cases faced by Baylor patients. The conferences have two objectives: 1) to present our patients with the best options of care available; and 2) to discuss these difficult cases in a collaborative environment for the educational benefit of all.

There are 14 site-specific tumor conferences that meet regularly throughout the year. The physicians’ collective experience and expertise often set Baylor apart.

Distinguished new class brings wide range of talents to Foundation board

Baylor Health Care System Foundation has welcomed 20 notable community leaders to its board. Board members assist the Foundation in support of Baylor Health Care System’s mission to serve all people through exemplary health care, education, research and community service.

“These people will be excellent partners as we take bold steps during the next few years,” said Rowland K. Robinson, president of the Foundation. “Their leadership will be a great asset.”

John Harkey Jr. chaired the nominating committee.

“We are thrilled to have these individuals join our board,” John said. “They are a distinguished group who will enhance an already dynamic board and further the goals of Baylor and the Foundation in delivering exceptional patient care.”

New board members

- Toni C. Brinker, community volunteer
- Joshua M. Brown, senior managing director, Eastsid Secured
- Cecil G. Edwards Jr., senior vice president/regional manager, Wells Fargo Bank
- Fredye L. Factor (ex-officio), community volunteer: Celebrating Women co-chairman
- Jacqueline E. Feltszank, community volunteer
- Jerome M. Fullwilder, founder and vice chairman, Hillwood International Energy
- Cindy G. Hicks, community volunteer
- Michael Johnson, founder, Michael Johnson Performance Center and former U.S. Olympic athlete
- William H. Lively, vice chairman of strategic partnerships, University of North Texas System
- William A. Montgomery, investments
- J. Marc Myers, co-founder and partner, Myers and Crow Company Ltd.
- Ron. Jeann L. Phillips, senior vice president of corporate affairs and international relations, Hunt Consolidated Inc.
- Dawn S. Ramsey (ex-officio), Junior League of Dallas
- Vicki J. Rippetoe, attorney and consultant, The Compass Group Inc.
- G. Stacy Smith, principal, Walker Smith Capital
- Paul T. Staffel, chairman, Triple S Capital
- Jakey W. Stoffel, attorney and consultant, The Compass Group Inc.
- James R. Wilkinson, managing partner, Brunswick Group LLC
- Trisha Wilson, chief executive officer, Wilson Associates
- Kneeland C. Youngblood, managing partner, Pharos Capital Group LLC

Award-winning actress Diahann Carroll to speak at Celebrating Women

Ac...stress/singer Diahann Carroll has experienced many challenges and opportunities during her long, successful career. She’s won a Tony Award and a Golden Globe and been nominated for Emmys and an Academy Award.

But it was a visit to the doctor’s office that has made the biggest impact on her life. “My diagnosis of breast cancer in 1997 stunned me,” Diahann said. “Having no family history of breast cancer, making the biggest impact on her life. ‘My diagnosis of breast cancer in 1997 stunned me,’ Diahann said. ‘Having no family history of breast cancer, making the reality of it. I feared for my life, and then for my career.’

Diahann will share stories from her breast cancer journey as the featured speaker at Baylor Health Care System Foundation’s 12th annual Celebrating Women luncheon on

Mark your calendar

Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament
Benefiting graduate medical education
Where: Northwood Club
When: October 3, 2011
BaylorHealth.com/GrandRounds

Celebrating Women luncheon
Helping Baylor Health Care System fight breast cancer
Where: Hilton Anatole
When: October 28, 2011
BaylorHealth.com/CelebratingWomen
Baylor employees give back a record $1.9 million

Contributions to the Baylor Health Care System Foundation Employee Giving Campaign reached new heights in 2011. Employees at Baylor facilities gave $1,895,772 to support Baylor initiatives through this year’s campaign.

In a message to employees, Joel Allison, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System, said: “Across the System, you have demonstrated once again that the Baylor value of servanthood lives within you. Your gift – whatever amount you gave or area you chose to support – will have a big impact on our ability to continue serving the health care needs of our communities.”

Overall participation reached a new high, with 49 percent of employees contributing to the campaign.

“We are so overwhelmed every year when we see how Baylor employees come together to give back to our patients,” said Foundation officer Andrea Steiger, who led the campaign. “This kind of support really makes a statement about what a special place Baylor truly is.”

For more information, contact Andrea Steiger at Andrea.Steiger@BaylorHealth.edu or 214.820.2699.

Dr. Rick Boland named president of AGA Institute

Dr. Boland graduated from the Yale University School of Medicine. His internship in internal medicine was at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut, and he completed his internal medicine residency at the Public Health Service hospital in San Francisco. He also did a three-year fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine.

Baylor Dallas serves as a regional referral center for patients with digestive diseases and disorders. Approximately 100 cancer clinical trials are being conducted at Baylor Dallas. The hospital is also home to the Hereditary GI Cancer Risk Program, which determines genetic propensity for colorectal cancer. Baylor Dallas is one of the few places in the U.S. offering such in-depth analysis of genetic risk for GI cancer.

Baylor Health Care System Foundation has found a way to combine a day of fun on the golf course with providing for the future of medicine.

On October 3, the Foundation will host its 12th annual Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament. The event, held at Dallas’ Northwood Club, raises funds to provide graduate medical education to physicians on the staff at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

Last year, 175 golfers and 50 sponsors raised more than $265,000 for the graduate medical education program at Baylor Dallas. Since its inaugural event in 2002, Grand Rounds has raised more than $1.1 million.

These funds do make an impact. Supporting graduate medical education helps stem the rising cost of educating tomorrow’s physicians. The cost of this education at Baylor is approximately $22 million per year. Reimbursements by private insurers and the government are capped, which makes donor support crucial to keep Baylor Dallas from having to reduce or discontinue its teaching programs.

Baylor Dallas currently trains 223 residents and fellows in 37 specialty and subspecialty programs. With donor support, the Foundation plans to fund 288 residents and fellows at a cost of more than $1.9 million this fiscal year.

Teaching hospitals comprise only 6 percent of all U.S. hospitals but account for 20 percent of all hospital care. The excellence in patient care and research that Baylor offers begins with excellence in medical education.

That’s where Grand Rounds golfers come in. Playing spots and sponsorships for this year’s tournament are still available. Companies and individuals who sponsor at the silver level or higher will receive a special VIP gift: custom Ashworth golf shoes.

For more information, contact Andrea Steiger at 214.820.2699 or Andrea.Steiger@BaylorHealth.edu.

Future of medicine begins on golf course with Grand Rounds®

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Swim Across America raises $350,000 to fight cancer at Baylor

 Approximately 220 swimmers took to the waters of Lake Ray Hubbard in June to raise funds to fight cancer in Swim Across America’s first event in Texas.

 If they needed motivation, it wasn’t hard to find. Before the swim began, participants took to the stage and shared the reasons they were there. “My roommate was diagnosed with melanoma,” one said. “He was told he had two months, but he lived two years.”

 “On October 26, I was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer,” said a woman who had lost her hair to treatment. “On November 10, I had a double mastectomy. I’m so happy that I get to be here, for obvious reasons. I’m a survivor, and I believe there is hope.”

 Another: “Ten months ago, I lost my sister to cervical cancer.”

 “My 29-year-old cousin was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. I swim for him.”

 Thus inspired, the swimmers got into the water for half-mile, one-mile and two-mile swims.

 Three months later, Ben is better than ever. More than 190 days after he was admitted, Ben Bermudez was released from the hospital. When the surgery was finally available, and the surgery was performed.

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 Dr. Rosenblatt, M.D., is the medical director of lung and heart-lung transplantation at the Annette C. and Harold C. Simmons Transplant Institute. He attended one of the Mavericks games and, knowing that a big fan was watching from his hospital room, bought a shirt that said, “The Time Is Now.”

 Ben Bermudez was released from the hospital. When the surgery was finally available, and the surgery was performed.

 The name is now to get you some new lungs,” Dr. Rosenblatt told Ben.

 The same day, the call came that those lungs had become available, and the surgery was performed.

 More than 190 days after he was admitted, Ben was released from the hospital. When the Mavericks clinched the championship days before, he was one of the first at the sporting goods store, where he replaced his “The Time Is Now” shirt with one proclaiming the Mavericks champions.

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 Young double-lung transplant recipient celebrates along with Mavericks

 “The Time Is Now.”

 It was the slogan the Dallas Mavericks chose when they began their run to the NBA championship this year.

 As it turned out, it also applied to a young man wanting to breathe free again at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

 Ben Bermudez was born with cystic fibrosis. It always affected him, but he was able to keep up with the other kids in sports. About seven years ago, though, he started having trouble breathing, and the problem grew worse.

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 For more information about transplant initiatives, contact Melissa Hamm at 214.820.2705 or Melissa.Hamm@BaylorHealth.edu.
Dr. Mayfield leaves $1 million for cancer research

William Mayfield, M.D., wanted to honor the two most important people in his life – his late wife, Elaine, and his late sister, Hassie. He achieved both goals when he designated a gift to Baylor Health Care System Foundation.

Dr. Mayfield passed away on June 3, 2011, and a gift of approximately $1 million from his estate will establish an endowment in memory of Elaine ("the love of my life") and Hassie, whom he regarded as a second mother.

"I had already remembered my parents with a gift in my will to their church in Mississippi," she retired Corisciana physician said. “With the Baylor gift, I honored the two women who played such important parts in my life."

After receiving his medical degree in 1945, Dr. Mayfield served his internship at Baylor Hospital in Dallas and then worked as chief of the medical service in the U.S. Army Air Force at Sumter Air Force Base in South Carolina. He returned to Baylor Dallas in 1948 to complete a one-year residency in internal medicine.

In 1949, Dr. Mayfield moved to Corsicana, where he practiced internal medicine for 37 years.

For the first 10 years in Corsicana, Dr. Mayfield remained a bachelor. However, fate intervened in 1959, when Hassie’s husband, Wallace Bassett, a Baptist minister in Dallas, suffered an illness.

Dr. Bassett’s daughter, Elaine, was a former Powers Modeling Agency model in New York and came to visit. Dr. Mayfield, then 39, also in town to see Dr. Bassett, fell head-over-heels in love with Elaine, and she with him. Eighteen days later, when the couple married. “Dr. Bassett, who was already my brother-in-law, also became my father-in-law!” Dr. Mayfield said.

The couple lived in Corsicana until Dr. Mayfield’s retirement in 1986, when they moved to Dallas. Elaine underwent treatment for breast cancer at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas before passing away in 1989. Dr. Mayfield also had surgery for a lung tumor at Baylor in December 2001, which is why he designated his gift to benefit cancer research.

Rubye Morgan celebrates 100th birthday, gives gift to Baylor

Longtime Baylor Health Care System supporter and donor Rubye Morgan turned 100 on July 11. To celebrate, she threw a grand birthday party at the Park Cities Hilton, inviting close friends and neighbors.

Rubye and her late husband, Evan Morgan, received their health care at Baylor for decades, and she tells everyone Baylor is the only hospital anyone should use. In gratitude for the care Rubye and her husband received from Baylor and from their many cherished physicians, she has established a gift through her estate for Baylor.

The gift will create the Evan Scott and Rubye Edith Morgan Endowment Fund, which will be used for capital, programmatic and research purposes and medical education for cancer, cardiovascular and diabetes initiatives at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

The Morgans owned and operated the well-regarded Evan’s Fine Gifts and Antiques in Inwood Village from 1940 to 1989.

Rubye liked to call the shop “Neiman Marcus without the clothes,” and they were paid a huge compliment when they saw Stanley Marcus peeking in the window one day.

“A bride knew she was getting something very nice if it came from Evan’s,” said Baylor Health Care System Foundation officer Lindalyn Adams, who was a frequent customer.

“They had accessories, barleyware, silverware, top-of-the-line cooking implements. Beautiful, beautiful things. Wonderful accessories,” Lindalyn said. “I pulled out a set of glasses the other day that my husband and I bought there. Evan said to me then, ‘These will last you forever.’ And it’s been 55 years now.”

Education was also important to Dr. Noteboom, and he came to the United States in the mid-1950s to further his medical training, which included a residency at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. His career spanned nearly 40 years, including more than a decade at Baylor Medical Center at Washakie.

When his life reached its end, Dr. Noteboom’s generosity and his love of education did not. In addition to his gift for Baylor, he left his body to the medical school at UT Southwestern so students could continue to learn from him.

Dr. Noteboom’s gift lets him keep giving, teaching

“H e was amazing. Just an amazing man.”

The word came up frequently as Lisa Noteboom described her father, Gerard Noteboom, M.D.

“He was just wonderful, an honest person – loyal, devoted,” Lisa said. “The best father anyone could have.”

Dr. Noteboom, a retired pathologist, passed away in February, leaving a $350,000 gift to Baylor Health Care System Foundation. The gift has created the Gerard Noteboom, M.D., and Elizabeth M. Hauland, M.D., Endowed Fund for Palliative Care Nursing. The fund will support continuing education, research and clinical leadership development for nurses.

Dr. Noteboom supported palliative care after losing two people to chronic illnesses. His first wife, Linda Greathouse Noteboom, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and she passed away in 1991. Dr. Hauland, his second wife, suffered from Alzheimer’s disease before she died in 2009.

Dr. Noteboom possessed a can-do spirit that he brought with him from his native Netherlands, where he learned how to face adversity at an early age.

When Holland was occupied during World War II, a 10-year-old Gerard saw his father taken to the concentration camps as a political prisoner. The grocery shopping was left to him.

“I heard that there would be a shortage of salt,” he once said. “I went from one store to the next. I bought about 20 kilos of salt. My mother was furious. But the next day, people couldn’t find salt anymore, and I started trading it.”

That one act helped sustain his family for the remainder of the war.

Dr. Noteboom had a desire to give back that was always on display to his four children, Lisa, Willem and John Noteboom and Karen Hale.

“He taught us all the value of money, friends and family,” Lisa said. “If you do good for other people, you rest easy at the end of each day. He was extremely frugal, but at the same time he was always giving to others.”

Lisa Noteboom, M.D., Endowed Fund

For more information about planned giving, contact Cynthia Krause at 214.820.7928 or Cynthia.Krause@BaylorHealth.edu.
Physicians at heart hospital lead way with new atrial fibrillation procedure

David Amman came a long way to Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital, where he was the first in North Texas to have a new procedure to correct his atrial fibrillation.

“It’s a little over 1,000 miles to Dallas,” said David, who lives in Melbourne, Florida. “It’s not too far when you want to go to a place and get fixed.”

David had experienced an irregular heartbeat for 11 years. When medication failed to resolve his condition, he researched his options and discovered that an advanced technique was offered at Baylor Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital.

“It got worse and worse as time went on,” he said. “I found out there was a new process that would be available, and Baylor led the nation in enrollment in the study that led to approval of this novel technique by the Food and Drug Administration, so we made an appointment and came out.”

The new procedure was cryoablation using the Arctic Front cryoballoon system. The cryoablation treatment involves a minimally invasive procedure that freezes tissue around the pulmonary veins before, during and after cryoablation.

“In many cases, this new mapping catheter will provide valuable information regarding time to effect during the cryoablation procedure,” said Robert Kowal, M.D., Ph.D., an electrophysiologist on the medical staff at Baylor Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital who performed the procedure. “The procedure can be completed more efficiently by incorporating these new technologies together.”

For David, who enjoyed running, biking and swimming before his heart problems, it was a godsend.

“I started walking right away,” he said. “And then within about two weeks, I started to lightly jog. After about 30 days, I started to run again.

“I’m perfect. I’ve never felt better.”

For more information about heart and vascular initiatives, contact Ellen Deerman at 214.820.7877 or Ellen.Deerman@BaylorHealth.edu.

Baylor Research Institute signs international human immunology expert

Baylor Health Care System has appointed a world-renowned expert in immunology as vice president and chief scientific officer of Baylor Research Institute (BRI) and director of Baylor Institute for Immunology Research (BIIR).

Yong-Jun Liu, M.D., Ph.D., specializes in the function of the immune cells that are central to fighting cancer. He comes to Baylor from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he was professor and chair of the department of immunology, director of the center for cancer immunology research and Vivian L. Smith Distinguished Chair in Immunology.

“We are extremely fortunate and proud to have attracted one of the world’s most distinguished immunologists to lead our research efforts at BRIIR and to reinforce the work being done in oncology, transplant and other therapeutic areas,” said Joel Allison, Baylor’s president and chief executive officer. “Dr. Liu has the expertise and insights to support the advancement of cancer research to unparalleled heights – ultimately benefiting our patients.”

In 2002, Dr. Liu joined MD Anderson, where he created a world-class research center with physicians and basic immunologists working together to develop novel therapies for human diseases, including autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases and cancer. During the past quarter century, Dr. Liu has made many seminal contributions to the field of immunology. He has published more than 200 scientific articles in many prestigious journals and is among the most-cited immunologists.

Dr. Liu has received numerous awards, including the Dallas-Fort Worth Living Legend Faculty Achievement Award in Basic Research from MD Anderson and the Dana Foundation Award for Human Immunology Research.

“He will take the research excellence from Texas Woman’s University.

Baylor ranks among America’s Best Hospitals for 19th year

For the past three years, Baylor Health Care System Foundation officer Jonathan Eckberg has researched, written and edited the stories that have appeared quarterly in the Torch.

This month, Jon is leaving the Foundation to pursue his passion – a career on the clinical side of health care. Inspired by the care his father-in-law received while fighting complications of type 1 diabetes, Jon is returning to school to earn a master’s degree in occupational therapy from Texas Woman’s University.

Jon’s dedication and thoughtful approach to developing content for the Torch has elevated the quality of our flagship publication,” said Rowland K. Robinson, Foundation president. “We wish him the best, and we hope when he completes his degree that he will consider bringing his talents back to Baylor.”

In many cases, this new mapping catheter will provide valuable information regarding time to effect during the cryoablation procedure. The new catheter allows doctors to map electrical conduction between the left atrium and pulmonary veins before, during and after cryoablation.

For more information about heart and vascular initiatives, contact Ellen Deerman at 214.820.7877 or Ellen.Deerman@BaylorHealth.edu.

Foundation bids farewell to the Torch author/editor
Unfortunately, the uncertainty that clouds Medicare tends to discourage young physicians from fellowship training in dementia. And although my wish list for the Memory Center is long, my short-term goal is to be able to fund recruitment efforts to add more physicians and psychologists to our team. When you consider providing care to the 5 million people in the United States who have Alzheimer’s disease, the supply-demand curve is daunting.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. My Southern upbringing shaped who I am today, particularly the values of family, friendship and community.

To what do you attribute your success?

My parents’ mind-set on child-rearing. They were not at all invested in my accomplishments. They let me know early on that what mattered to them was the person I became. This served to foster a sense of self-motivation that has served me well.

Who are your heroes?

Oprah Winfrey. She taught the masses it is OK to talk about how you feel but you must take responsibility for your actions.

What inspires you?

People who rise out of adversity and people who fail to pay attention to negative messages around them.

If you had to choose a different career, what would it be?

FBI agent

Tell us about your dream vacation.

I am fortunate to take my dream vacation every year. I head to Florida with my family, set up my canopy on the beach, and sit with my book facing the ocean. Every night, we go out for seafood at a hole-in-the-wall place where dressy attire is considered T-shirt and shorts. I literally count the days until my next trip.

The one thing that really gets me angry is … seeing kids and/or parents talking on their cell, texting or playing hand-held games during dinner

What actor would you like to portray you in a movie, and why?

Sandra Bullock because she’s a sassy, strong Southern lady.

What’s the best reward for a job well done?

One person that notices.
New frontiers in surgery help babies while still in the womb

ONE PERCENT OF ALL BABIES are born with a congenital heart defect, one-third of which will require intervention in their first year of life just to survive.

Many of these conditions result in fetal and neonatal death or require numerous high-risk surgeries to correct. Physicians on the medical staff of the Fetal Care Center at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas are leading the charge to develop advanced in-utero treatments and equipment to care for these tiniest of patients, whose hearts can be the size of your thumbnail.

Kevin Magee, M.D., recognized that several of these defects could possibly be treated in-utero and found a way of meeting those challenges.

“There is a child carried to term, and within three minutes of birth, they pass away. A family is expecting this beautiful blessing and that’s it for them—three minutes. That’s what we want to prevent,” Dr. Magee said.

In-utero cardiac procedures were pioneered at Harvard in 2003; however, the current approach for fetal cardiac intervention involves piercing the fetal heart by going through the chest wall.

Using existing equipment at Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital—the stereotaxis machine—Dr. Magee, along with Nicole Yost, M.D., and Reenu Eapen, M.D., developed an advanced method for correcting heart defects in the tiny patients they work with.

The technique uses magnetic navigation, a less invasive procedure that can be used to dilate valves and place stents in vascular structures.

Magnetic navigation would allow a physician gentle access to the heart via the umbilical cord using a magnetic guide wire.

“Instead of going in through the mother’s abdomen, through the uterine wall, through the baby’s chest, lungs and heart, you go in through the umbilical cord and maneuver the catheter around the heart. That’s the innovative piece,” Dr. Yost said.

In July, the procedure was successfully tested in fetal sheep.

“You see these kids, and your heart just breaks,” Dr. Magee said. “These rescue efforts were born from the feeling that there’s got to be something we can do.”

In 2009, The Crystal Charity Ball, which supports Dallas County children’s charities, raised $750,000 for the Fetal Care Center at Baylor Dallas. The funds have been used to expand the center’s clinical research, which will allow Baylor Dallas to offer advanced treatments such as the magnetically guided fetal intervention developed by Dr. Magee.

For more information about supporting the Fetal Care Center, contact Melissa Hamm at 214.820.2705 or Melissa.Hamm@BaylorHealth.edu.
Sarah Burdi considers herself lucky. Sarah, who began her tenure with Baylor Health Care System Foundation as a director in January, began working in fundraising, approximately 20 years ago, and she’s never had a reason to look back.

“I was so fortunate to discover my passion early in my work career,” Sarah said. “My first job in fundraising was with the United Way of Central Maryland. I told my boss after three weeks that everything clicked, and I knew I was doing what I was supposed to be doing. I have been so grateful that no matter where I have worked, I always love my job, because I love what I do.”

One reason for that love is the opportunities it provides to see a grateful family make a gift, and the joy it brings them.

“At my last job, we worked with a couple that had lost a child after 12 weeks of pregnancy. They were very sad, but they wanted to make a gift to the perinatal services program that would provide a social worker to counsel other parents who were going to lose a baby,” Sarah said. “We had a meeting where the social worker could meet the family, and they were crying. It touched my heart. They hadn’t worked with her before, but they were so grateful to her. They said, ‘This gives us closure now. We feel like this horrible thing happened, and now there’s a program, and maybe someone else won’t have to go through this in the same way.’ They could move on and be happy.”

With the Foundation, Sarah works with several of Baylor Health Care System’s community hospitals.

In July, Sarah celebrated the ninth anniversary of her wedding to Tom. The pair shares an interest in golf so strong that for their first date, they hit the links. A few months later, when Tom proposed, he did it by placing the engagement ring in the 18th hole.

Married on a beach in Delaware, Sarah and Tom are now proud parents of Sam, 6, who loves baseball, tennis and swimming, and Lindsay, almost 3, who “keeps us laughing and on our toes.”

It was Tom’s job as a senior vice president with the Archon Group in Irving that brought Sarah to Texas last year. She had spent most of her life on the East Coast, where she grew up in Darien, Connecticut.

While the blistering Texas summers have taken some getting used to, Sarah’s new home has made an impression on her.

“I've impressed with how much passion and enthusiasm people in Texas have for the state,” she said. “You see it everywhere – in advertisements, in the people. It’s really true: Everything in Texas seems bigger. Even the sky seems bigger.”

“I have yet to understand the use of the word ‘y'all,’ though,” she said, laughing.

Don and Linda Barnett with Dr. Joseph Fay

Don told Dr. Fay: “I had lots of people in church who were praying for me, and those prayers were answered because they sent me to you. You brought us hope.”

When Don came to Baylor, Dr. Fay told him about experimental bone marrow transplants in older patients. He told Don the odds of success weren’t great – about 20 to 30 percent. But Don’s odds at the moment were approaching zero. A transplant from his brother was completed within 30 days. Ten years later, the Barnett’s are enjoying every day Don has been given, and they want everyone to know how appreciative they are.

“Our theory is that anytime people take recovery for granted, something happens to your soul,” Linda said. “God created us, and all He wants from us is gratitude. As humans we were made in His image, and we need to feel appreciated. Doctors can work one more night call, nurses can work one more shift, if someone just says ‘thank you.’ ”

Don and Linda Barnett with Dr. Joseph Fay

October 28 at the Hilton Anatole hotel.

Diahann feels that creating awareness about prevention is vitally important, which is the reason she went public with her diagnosis.

“I learned that it helps to turn fear into action,” she said. “In the war against cancer, we have the ability to arm ourselves with knowledge. Education is a powerful tool, and we are blessed to have information at our fingertips in this electronically connected world. We also have experts who know the science, who push themselves to the cutting edge of medicine in order to bring greater knowledge and treatment options to people with cancer. We can take action by getting screened for some cancers, eating healthy diets and exercising. Taking that action and doing something positive ultimately replaces fear with hope.

“Another way to take action and cope is to join the fight and help spread the word about cancer. People need to know that cancer does not have to be a death sentence. Education and prevention really can make a difference.”

Diahann won a Tony Award for best actress in 1962 for her work in the musical _No Strings_ and took the Golden Globe for best actress in 1968 for playing the title role in _Julia_, one of the first series in American television to feature a black woman in a nonstereotypical role.

Later, she created the role of Dominique Deveraux on the popular soap opera _Dynasty_. For more information about Celebrating Women, contact Angela Randall at Angela.Randall@BaylorHealth.edu or 214.820.4776.