



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy

Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

From the DEAN'S DESK



April - May 2010

Hooding Ceremony Held for the Class of 2010

On May 21 we brought down the curtains on another outstanding academic year by honoring the Class of 2010 at the annual hooding ceremony.

Each year the event kicks off graduation weekend and gives us the chance to reflect upon the unique contributions these students have made to our program. The Class of 2010 was the eleventh class to graduate from our program and they provided us with many memories during their four years.

I'd like to personally thank the faculty and staff who helped make the 2010 hooding ceremony and graduation such a successful event for our students and their families and express my gratitude to all who traveled to Lubbock for the festivities. I also want to express



Nicole Bruer receives her pharmacy hood at the 2010 SOP Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.

my appreciation to TTUHSC President Dr. Tedd Mitchell for speaking at the hooding ceremony.

The hooding ceremony also affords us an opportunity to recognize the individual accomplishments of some of our graduates. Members of the Class of 2010 who received special recognition for their achievements included:

Kalyn Qualls (Lilly Achievement Award; James Lee (the TTUHSC-SOP Professionalism Award); Casey Henderson (Facts and Comparisons - Excellence in Clinical Communication Award and the Pediatric Achievement Award);

Rohini Downs (Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award); Travis Garrett (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition); Madelyne Cearley (Teva Outstanding Student); and Nathan Skaggs (Geriatric Achievement Award).

Kalyn Qualls was also the recipient of the Class of 2010 Banner Bearer Award and Aby Rajagiriyl received the Bowl of Hygieia.

In addition, Dr. Craig Cox (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock) received the Most Influential Professor Award from the Class of 2010.

Congratulations to each of these honorees and good luck to every member of the Class of 2010 as they move on to the next stage of their careers. I'm sure they will continue to make us proud and we look forward to hearing about their accomplishments.



Class of 2010 members (from left) Samuel Park, Madelyne Cearley, Aby Rajagiriyl and Tran Nguyen pose for a photo after the 2010 SOP Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.

GOOD LUCK!
to the
TTUHSC-SOP
Class of 2010

Van Dusen Named Regional Dean for Abilene



Dr. Virgil Van Dusen

Virgil Van Dusen, R.Ph., J.D. has been named regional dean for the SOP's Abilene regional campus. He began his appointment on May 17.

Dr. Van Dusen is replacing Dr. Roland Patry (Chair, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo), who has served as interim regional dean since September.

"The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is well known for its School of Pharmacy and the campus at Abilene is an integral part of that highly regarded program," Dr. Van Dusen said. "I am honored to have been selected to serve as the regional

dean and look forward to working with the excellent faculty, staff and students associated with the program. The SOP is poised for continued growth and the future for all affiliated with the program is very promising."

Dr. Van Dusen comes to TTUHSC from the College of Pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he was the Bernhardt Professor of Pharmacy. He received his B.S. in pharmacy from SWOSU and his juris doctorate from the University of Tulsa.

Dr. Van Dusen has practiced extensively as a pharmacist and an attorney and has authored numerous articles dealing with management issues related to pharmacy practice. He has a special interest in legal concerns

for pharmacy education and has presented research at both state and national conferences.

We are very fortunate to have attracted a candidate with the depth and breadth of experience that Dr. Van Dusen has gained over his many years of practice and academic service. He brings a special attribute—his training and practice as an attorney as well as a pharmacist—to this critical position for our program.

I also want to acknowledge the great work Dr. Patry has accomplished as the interim regional dean. His leadership and dedication to the students, faculty and staff on the Abilene campus at this critical time when we are preparing for our fourth class has been exemplary.

Annual Ceremony Honors Students, Faculty, Staff

On April 30, SOP students, faculty and staff were recognized for their efforts and accomplishments over the past year at the annual TTUHSC – SOP Honors Convocation. Amarillo P3 Toni Edgar served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The convocation gives each of our student organizations an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of individual members and acknowledges the students who made the Dean's List.

The Student Staff Appreciation Award honoree is also recognized and the Teacher of the Year and Teaching Team of the Year for each class are announced.

In addition, the achievements of individual students are recognized by TTUHSC-SOP and other organizations.

Some of the 2009-2010 honorees included: Shawna Thomas (P2 - Amarillo), who received the P2 Achievement Award; Lori Law Campbell (P3

- Abilene), who was named the Pharmacists Mutual Student Unsung Hero; and Jaclyn Preist (P3 - Abilene), who received the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award.

Dr. Nakita Mirajkar (Instructor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Amarillo) was named P1 Teacher of the Year and Dr. Reza Mehvar

(Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Amarillo) was named P2 Teacher of the Year. In addition, Dr. Quentin Smith (Senior Associate Dean for Sciences) was selected as P3 Teacher of the Year and Dr. Sanjay Srivastava (Associate Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Sciences-Amarillo) was named Graduate Faculty Member of the Year.

Teaching Teams of the Year included the Drug Delivery Systems II Team (P1 students), the Cardiovascular Team (P2s), the Bone and Joint Pharmacotherapy Team (P3s) and the Principals of Drug Action Team (graduate students).

Kayla Talbot (Unit Coordinator-Abilene) and Logan LaRue (Administrator, Regional Dean's Office- Amarillo) were named recipients of the Excellence in Staff Services award. Karen Hendricks (Coordinator, Experiential Programs-Amarillo) received the Student Staff Appreciation Award.



From left, David Simmons, R.Ph., Dr. Judy Newsom and P4 Keely Artho receive a certificate of appreciation from Dr. John Gulde of the Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center in recognition of the Third Annual Immunization Partnership between the SOP and VA. Thanks to the partnership, nearly 900 wives of veterans received their flu vaccine in 2009.

SOP Students Deal a Winning Hand to St. Jude

Years ago the SOP's Phi Delta Chi chapter developed an annual fundraiser known as Casino Night that featured card games, roulette wheels and throws of the dice. Today, rather than raising money for their chapter, the PDC students have turned Casino Night into a community event that raises money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a national cause for Phi Delta Chi.

Amarillo P2 and PDC member Amber Miller said St. Jude is a national cause for PDC and receives multiple donations from the fraternity each year.

"St. Jude Children's Hospital strives to help benefit children and their families who are stricken with cancer," Amber explained. "I believe this organization is a worthy cause because it helps to combat cancer through research and gives a revived chance to children who suffer from this disease. Every PDC chapter is involved, whether it be through letter writing or hosting events to raise money."

The 2010 Casino Night was held at the Party Barn in Amarillo. The event featured professional dealers and was covered by local radio station KGNC-FM. It also featured a special guest: Amarillo resident Vanessa Pedraza and her 7-year old son, Alex, whose brain tumor was treated at St. Jude and is now in remission.

"Having Alex and his mother at the event put things in perspective," Amber said. "They opened many eyes to all the aspects of St. Jude and the benefits they provide. It was an amazing experience to hear a true and successful story."

Amarillo P2 and PDC President Jessica Williams agreed.

"It is always an awesome thing to hear someone's story first-hand; it was very inspiring and uplifting," Jessica said. "Having them present put a face on the money we were helping to raise and they touched everyone who was present."

Jessica said donations play a big part in the day-to-day mission of St. Jude and the SOP's PDC members are proud to help.

"St. Jude gives care to families that would otherwise not be able to afford it—not just medical care, but also by helping to pay for traveling expenses and other needs," she said. "St. Jude is not just trying to treat cancer, they also perform research to find a cure for cancer."



St. Jude representative Emily Bland (left) and SOP students Tausha Kemp, Jessica Williams and Amber Miller with Amarillo resident Vanessa Pedraza and her son, Alex, who received treatment from St. Jude.

Jessica said PDC raised more than \$5,600 for St. Jude this year, including the \$1,170 that was collected at Casino Night. The remainder came from the group's Letters for Hope and Mustache March fundraisers.

"It costs several million dollars a day just to keep St. Jude running and every little bit helps," Jessica said.

Amber and Jessica said PDC members Tausha Kemp and Amber Thakrar played important roles in organizing Casino Night 2010 and that the entire chapter pitched in to

sell raffle tickets to the community, decorate the Party Barn and clean up after the event.

"This year's event was also different because we actually had more St. Jude involvement," Jessica said. "Emily Bland, our St. Jude representative, was present and she was able to involve the radio station and Alex. Chili's also helped us out with the event by providing free catering. We do this event every year and we would love for more people to come out and support it. Watch for the emails about the event at the start of the next spring semester."

D/FW Student Wins Competition, Selected for Conference



Zubin Bhakta

It's been a busy—and rewarding—spring for Dallas/Fort Worth P3 Zubin Bhakta.

In April he took first place in the 2010

Clinical Skills and Disease State Management Competitions, which took place at the Texas Society for Health-System Pharmacists Annual Seminar in Galveston. For his efforts, Zubin received a certificate and a \$75 check.

Zubin also learned in April that he was selected to represent TTUHSC-SOP at the 11th Annual Cardinal Health Student Leadership Conference, which was held May 20-22 in Houston.

The conference brings together the top pharmacy students from around the country for a two-day program designed to prepare them for future leadership roles in health-system pharmacy.

Poison Center-AISD Event Continues to Grow

On March 27, the Texas Panhandle Poison Center and the Amarillo Independent School District's Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative combined efforts to conduct the second Medication Cleanout™ project.

Medication Cleanout™ was designed to encourage residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and bring in any unused, expired or no-longer needed medications for proper disposal. TPPC Director and SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Jeannie Jaramillo said these drugs are often the cause of accidental poisonings, abuse and misuse and that simply tossing them into the trash or flushing down the toilet can harm the environment.



Volunteers working hard to sort through items collected at the second Medication Cleanout project in Amarillo.



A total of 94 volunteers—84 at Amarillo College and 12 at West Texas A&M University in Canyon—helped collect, log, identify and separate the drugs. Dr. Jaramillo said 1,045 pounds of drugs were taken out of circulation, including 74.5 pounds of controlled substances. “The drugs collected could have resulted in an enormous amount of poisonings if stored improperly or could have done significant harm to the environment if flushed,” she added.

Although collection took place for only four hours, Dr. Jaramillo said it took event personnel another week to clean up and return supplies to storage.

“Our program is unique in that we count and log every item that is brought for disposal and we continue to enter this data into our database,” Dr. Jaramillo explained. “The purpose for logging items is to help determine what

it is that people do not use so that we can begin the discovery process of why people do not use their medications. Additionally, we are working toward validating a sampling technique so that this information can be collected without having to log everything. The project is on-going as we continue planning for our next events in September.”



Some of the 1,045 pounds of unused, expired or no-longer-needed medicines collected at the second Medication Cleanout project in Amarillo.

Dr. Jaramillo said this event was every bit as successful as the first, despite the stormy weather that may have prevented some people from bringing in their medications.

“We do feel that we need to stress to the public how convenient the drop-off is, perhaps emphasizing that they do not even have to leave the comfort of their vehicle to participate,” Dr. Jaramillo said.

In July, the Poison Center and the SOP's Continuing Education office will conduct a conference to show other organizations how to conduct safe, legal and successful community medication take back programs. They are also planning September take-back programs for Amarillo, Lubbock and Shamrock and have applied for a grant that Dr. Jaramillo said will significantly advance those efforts.

“We continue to learn from each experience and hope to continually improve upon our processes,” she said.

SOP Students Make Strong Showing at Research Week

I'd like to offer my congratulations to the winners from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Student Research Week, which was held March 2-5 in Lubbock.

Kunal Taskar took first place in the Basic Science - Senior Researchers category from among 22 entries. His mentor was Dr. Quentin Smith (Sr. Associate Dean for Sciences - Amarillo)

In the same category, Arun Satelli finished in second place and Rachita Sumbria

garned third place. Dr. U.S. Rao (Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) was Arun's mentor and Dr. Ulrich Bickel (Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) served as Rachita's mentor.

First place in the Post-doctoral Fellows category, which featured six entries, went to Dr. Kartick Pramanik. Dr. Sanjay Srivastava (Dept. of Biomedical Sciences - Amarillo) was the principal investigator for Dr. Pramanik's project.

SOP Students Enjoy First International Night

After attending a grant-writing workshop, Amarillo P2 Merlyn Joseph drew upon some events she saw as a student at the University of Texas and came up with an idea for the SOP's first Kappa Psi Delta Pi International Night.



Amarillo P2 Merlyn Joseph (left) and Jennifer Barnett of Walgreens enjoy the refreshments at the Kappa Psi International Night in Amarillo.

After much planning and organizing, the event took place Apr. 16 at the Amarillo Federation of Women's Clubs and featured multi-cultural clothing, international food and salsa dancing.

"I thought of this event after I went home and thought about how to highlight diversity at our school," Merlyn explained. "Living in Amarillo for the last two years, this was the only time I've pulled out my Indian outfit. For me, this just indicates how little emphasis we put on showcasing our differences.

"In high school, our school put on an International Night Talent Show every year and at UT there was a plethora of events for different groups to educate and celebrate

their differences with others. However, I have yet to go to any such event in Amarillo. Perhaps it is my ignorance about the presence of such events, but I thought this was something we could easily change."

To fund the event, Merlyn and fellow P2 Loretta Rios wrote and submitted a proposal for the Diversity Grant that Walgreens donates to the SOP.

"With Walgreens' generous grant, I was able to rent a place, hire a DJ and dance teacher and reimburse everyone for the cost of the food," Merlyn said.



SOP graduate student Siva Koganti dressed in his native India garb.

Although there wasn't enough time to put together a talent show, Merlyn hired a dance instructor who taught everyone the basics steps of salsa dancing. "Personally, I wanted a Bollywood dance teacher," Merlyn said, "but those aren't really available in Amarillo!"

In addition to the help she received from Loretta and Walgreens representative Jennifer Barnett, Merlyn said there were others whose help was just as important. "Laura Perdomo (P1 - Amarillo) was the decorating genius," Merlyn said. "And of course, my Kappa Psi brothers for sup-



Holly Arimo watches fellow Amarillo P1 Gabriel Castañeda try his hand at using chop sticks at the International Night dinner.

porting this event, helping to make cards representing different cultures, and for bringing the majority of the food!"

Merlyn also thanked SOP staff members Logan LaRue and David Watson for helping her fill out the required paperwork and SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Niambi Horton for serving as advisor for the event.

"I asked Dr. Horton to be my advisor immediately before spring break and she was so excited about the event despite how little time we had to plan it," Merlyn said. "That optimism really helped fuel my drive to make this event as fun as it could be."

Merlyn hopes there will more International Nights in the future.

"The current P1s are very interested in hosting it again next year," Merlyn said. "Unfortunately, I will be moving to Dallas next year so I can't personally set it up. Only time will tell whether Amarillo will see another International Night!"

Organizations Award Scholarships to Three SOP Students

I want to extend my congratulations to Lubbock P3 Na'Lyn Swartz, Lubbock P2 Tyler Woods and SOP graduate student Sarah Willis for recently receiving scholarships.

Na'Lyn was awarded the 2009-2010 Marlin Ferguson Memorial Scholarship by the Lubbock Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists. for her academic excellence, ties to Lubbock and for demonstrating integrity, dependability and consideration of others.

Tyler was awarded two scholarships by the Texas Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation: the Gene Lake Scholar-

ship and the Michael Patry Memorial Scholarship for demonstrating leadership skills and dedication to the pharmacy profession.

Sarah will receive a Double T Star-Spangled Scholarship for her community service and participation in HSC student activities.



Na'Lyn Swartz



Tyler Wood



Sarah Willis

In Case You Missed It...



Dr. Mark Lyte

• Research performed by Dr. Mark Lyte and his collaborator from Ohio State University, Dr. Michael Bailey, was selected as an "Article of Significant Interest Selected from This Issue by the Editors" in the current issue of *Infection and Immunity*, the most often cited journal in the world regarding infectious disease. Their research has shown for the first time that stress can disrupt the bacteria in the gut to such a degree that it allows an infection to take hold. The research will lead to a new field in which the causes underlying infection and the determination of health in clinical medicine are studied.



Dr. Rebecca Sleeper-Irons

• A book by Dr. Rebecca Sleeper-Irons (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock) was recently published by the American Society

of Health-System Pharmacists. The book is entitled, *Fundamentals of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy: An Evidence-Based Approach*.



Dr. Amie Blaszczyk

• Amie Blaszczyk was selected to receive the American Society for Clinical Pharmacists Leadership in Education Award. She was selected based on her educational endeavors with the American Parkinson Disease Association in North Texas for patients, caregivers and SOP students.



Dr. Shu Shum

• The Texas Poison Center Network recently presented Dr. Shu Shum with a Distinguished Service Award for 15 years of dedicated work for the Texas Panhandle Poison Center in Amarillo. Dr. Shum has served as medical director for the TPPC since its inception in 1994. He is also an associate professor for the

department of pediatrics at the TTUHSC School of Medicine in Amarillo.



Phillip Gall

• Lubbock P4 Phillip Gall has been elected as a Student Government Association officer for the 2010-2011 academic year. He was officially installed Apr. 30 at the SGA annual banquet.



Beverly Johnson

• In accordance with HSC OP 70.01, Beverly Johnson (Senior Business Assistant - D/FW) has been recommended by her peers to receive the Service Excellence Leave Award for dedication and hard work. She will receive an additional eight hours of paid leave for her efforts.

WTPA Announces Scholarship Winners

The West Texas Pharmacy Association recently announced its 2010 scholarship recipients. Congratulations to these SOP students who were awarded WTPA General Scholarships: Amarillo P1s Heather Jo Chenault-White, Magen Fields, D'Neise Laverty and Matthew Sanders; Ester Gyamfi (P1 Abilene); Lora McCullough (P2 Abilene); Shanna James (P3 Amarillo); Elise Johnson (P3 Lubbock); Lam Long (P3 Abilene); and Amarillo P4s Brooke Britten and Nathan Skaggs.

Other WTPA scholarship winner include: Mahsa Fardin (P1 Abilene) - Good Neighbor Pharmacy/Amerisource Bergen Endowed Scholarship; Joshua

Long (P1 Amarillo) - Roberta High Endowed Scholarship; Leah Schumpert (P1 Amarillo) - Robert K. Stanley Memorial Scholarship; Stacy Johnson (P2 Amarillo) - Leland Wehde Endowed Scholarship; Stacey Jordan (P2 Abilene) - Eakman Family Endowed Scholarship; Lori Campbell (P3 Abilene) - Roberta High Endowed Scholarship; Ashlee Flowers (P3 Lubbock) - Martha Atkinson Endowed Scholarship; Amanda Spangler (P3 Abilene) - Wesley and Norma Robbins Scholarship; and Na'Lyn Swartz (P3 Lubbock) - United Supermarkets Endowed Scholarship.



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Getting to Know...

Racheal Barron
Unit Coordinator
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo

Racheal was born and raised in Amarillo, though she graduated from Dalhart High School when her mother's work transferred the family for a few years. Her husband, José, also went to Dalhart High and he and Racheal both graduated in 1999.

"We knew each other in school, but we hung out with different crowds and didn't really talk very much until we ran into each other at Best Buy in 2000," Racheal says. "We went on our first date a few days later and have been together ever since." They were married on Dec. 31, 2001.

The following April they made a big move when José was offered a seasonal security job at a lodge in Denali Park, Alaska.

"They offered me a job working at the front desk, so we packed everything that would fit in our little S-10 pickup and drove to Alaska," Racheal explains. "It was quite an adventure and we thought we



Racheal Barron and her husband, José, pose for a family photo with 3-year old Israel.

might want to do it every summer. But after the summer was over, we decided it wasn't for us."

Today Racheal and José have a 3-year old son named Israel. "He is the light of our lives and the main entertainment in our home!" she says.

Racheal started working at the SOP in November. "I really love my job here, but what I enjoy most is the people I get to work with." Prior to coming here, she worked as a reconciliation specialist at Anderson Merchandisers.

In her spare time Racheal enjoys "hanging out" with her husband and son. "My other delights in life are praising God, scrapbooking, gardening, watching reality TV and reading," she says.



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SOP Photo Gallery



Texas Panhandle Poison Center Unit Coordinator Robbi Rivers (above) and SOP Graduate Program Coordinator Teresa Carlisle (right) pose with their spouses after receiving a 2009-2010 TTUHSC Quality Service Award.



Members of the SOP's Class of 2010 at the annual Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.

The blackjack tables were busy at Phi Delta Chi's 2010 Casino Night. The event is a fund raiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Some of the students who attended the SOP's first International Night work on their salsa dance steps.



It's not easy to move large umbrellas when the spring winds howl in the Texas Panhandle. Fortunately some of the SOP graduate students and faculty from the Amarillo Research Building were there to help out.



Dallas/Fort Worth P4 James Lee receives the Class of 2010 Professionalism Award from Dr. Sherry Luedtke (Associate Dean for Professional Affairs) at the 2010 Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.



Volunteers had to brave the elements at the April 2010 Medication Cleanout community project at the event's Amarillo College collection location.



P4 Beau Baker discusses a simulated patient case with SOM student Daniel Evans at the TTUHSC SIM Central facility in Amarillo.

