

TTUHSC PharmNews

2014 - Issue I

Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

Chancellor's Council recognizes pharmacy faculty

Two TTUHSC School of Pharmacy educators were included in a group of 18 Texas Tech University System (TTUS) faculty members whose outstanding achievements and contributions to the university were recognized at a ceremony hosted by TTUS Chancellor Kent Hance in Lubbock.

Dr. Thomas Abbruscato, professor and chair for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was a recipient of a Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award for 2013 for his career research into improving brain recovery after a stroke. His research has been funded by National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association.

"It was an honor and I feel fortunate to be recognized by the Chancellor's Council of Texas Tech University System for the success of our research programs in brain stroke and identification of novel therapeutic targets," Abbruscato said. "These research advancements would not be possible without the diligent efforts of my current lab staff; Dr. Li Yang, Dr. Kaushik Shah and Rashedul Islam, M.S. It's a team effort that cultivates from basic discoveries on the bench, to presentations at national meetings, to publication of our research findings in peer reviewed journals. We hope that these preclinical discoveries

provide possible therapeutic options for stroke patients, which are severely limited."

In addition, Dr. Nikita Mirajkar, an assistant professor for the Department of Biomedical Sciences, received a 2013 Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award. Her teaching touches all levels of pharmacy education and has earned her six student-nominated awards, including Teacher of the Year.

"I was both humbled and ecstatic when I learned I was the recipient of the prestigious Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award," Mirajkar said. "I have always felt that Texas Tech values and appreciates its teaching faculty, and the appreciation and recognition I received due to this award makes me want to strive even harder to be a better teacher.

"Balancing one's professional and personal life is always a delicate task and I am blessed that I have a wonderful and supportive family that makes this much easier. I would like to thank my husband, Hemant, and my daughter, Riya, for motivating me to succeed in my career."

The Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards are presented annually and are the highest honors bestowed upon faculty by TTUS.



Abbruscato and Mirajkar with Texas Tech University System Board of Regents member Nancy Neal and Chancellor Kent Hance.



The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, masters, doctoral and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga. 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the TTUHSC accreditation.

Experience key to Edmiston's Student Leadership Award

It's typical for students to draw upon situations they've faced in school and apply those experiences to circumstances that arise in their professional careers. Will Edmiston has reversed that approach by using his six years of experience as a high school agriculture sciences teacher as a tool to help him navigate pharmacy school. Edmiston's success in doing so has earned him recognition as the latest Dean's Student Leadership Award recipient.

"In the teaching profession, it was necessary to step up and take care of problems as soon as they arose, so it has sort of become normal for me to do that," Edmiston said. "Being pharmacists, I feel like we are the ones that others will look at to fix problems which will arise regularly in a pharmacy. Putting ourselves in that role now will help prepare us for those situations, which will invariably arise each day. Also, I've always felt like it doesn't really hurt anybody to step up and give their time to help when needed."

Melissa Edwards, a unit coordinator for the Abilene campus, nominated Edmiston for the award. Edwards is the primary organizer for the Raider Red Pharmacy Camp held each summer at the Abilene campus for high school juniors and seniors who may be interested in pursuing pharmacy as a career. At the 2012 camp, Edwards saw Edmiston's leadership skills in action.

"Will was captivating during the camp and the leadership he displayed with the 34 campers was amazing," Edwards said. "He spoke with authority, but also a softness, and the campers really listened to him as he shared his experiences through pharmacy."

Edwards said Edmiston has been a voice of reason for the Abilene students since his first year in the program.

"Will has so many skills that set him apart and prove he is a natural-born leader," Edwards said. "He puts his heart and faith into everything he does and stays true to his beliefs. If all of our students could follow Will's example, I believe they would truly excel in the pharmacy profession."

Edmiston has also been an active student organization leader during his pharmacy school career. He has served the Abilene Honor Council as president since 2012 and was a representative for the Class of 2014 the year before. He has also been a member of the American Pharmacists Association student chapter in Abilene since 2010.

Being involved in student organizations has given Edmiston an opportunity to make tough decisions, something he said most pharmacists have to do at some point in their careers.

"I feel like I will have a good base of experience and knowledge to weigh all the options that will go into making the decisions I will have to make as a pharmacist," Edmiston said. "As with most things, the more practice a person has doing something, the more confident they will be when they need to do it in a professional setting."

Edmiston attributes a large part of his leadership ability to people who have served as his role models. The group includes

several professors before and during pharmacy school and some of the preceptors he's worked under during his pharmacy rotations.

"They are the ones who led by example and did the right thing when it was necessary," Edmiston said. "These individuals have inspired me to strive to be the best leader I can be."

As for receiving the Dean's Student Leadership Award, Edmiston said it was an unexpected and humbling honor.

"I didn't even realize I was nominated until I was notified that I was selected," Edmiston said. "I think it is great that the dean recognizes students who demonstrate good leadership abilities. It feels good to be recognized for what we do. I am thankful to Melissa Edwards for nominating me I would also like to thank my wife, Raney, for supporting me in the decision to go back to school."



Abilene P4 Will Edmiston accepts the Dean's Student Leadership Award plaque from School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Quentin Smith.

Poison Center moves to TTUHSC campus

After calling Northwest Texas Hospital (NWTX) home for nearly two decades, the Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) has moved across Coulter Street to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) campus.

Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo, TPPC's managing director and an assistant professor at the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy, said the move makes sense because TTUHSC has operated the poison center through the pharmacy school since 2003.

"Because the poison center serves as an educational site for health care professionals and students, the pharmacy school was just a natural fit," Jaramillo said.

TPPC was created in 1993 by State Bill 773, which established and financed a network of six poison centers across the state called the Texas Poison Center Network. Other centers were opened in Galveston, Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso and Temple.

From 1994 until 2003 the Amarillo Hospital District sub-contracted with NWTX to be TPPC's host institution. TTUHSC, through its pharmacy school,

began hosting TPPC Sept. 1, 2003. Dr. Shu Shum, a board certified toxicologist and a professor at the TTUHSC School of Medicine, has served as TPPC's medical director since it opened.

"We are very proud of the important work TPPC provides locally and across the state," said School of Pharmacy Dean Dr. Quentin Smith. "Dr. Shum, Dr. Jaramillo and each member of the team provide a vital service to their fellow residents and are a true resource of knowledge and expertise. We are

very grateful to Northwest Texas Hospital for providing a home to these outstanding professionals for nearly 20 years. They have been members of the TTUHSC family for more than 10 of those years and now we welcome them to our campus."

TPPC's service area encompasses the upper 71 Texas counties, a geographical area equivalent to roughly 25 percent of the state and a population of more than 1.3 million. The area is mostly rural, but also includes four urban areas: Amarillo, Lubbock, Abilene and Wichita Falls.



How to submit items for the Newsletter

The mission of this newsletter is to communicate the news, events and achievements from the School of Pharmacy to all four of our campuses and to alumni and other friends of the school who enjoy hearing about your good work.

If you or your department, division, organization or class have something you'd like to include in this newsletter, or if you have a question about the types of items typically included in the newsletter, please contact:

Mark Hendricks
Communications Coordinator
TTUHSC SOP/Amarillo
806/414-9280
mark.hendricks@ttuhsc.edu

In 2009, TPPC began organizing Medication Cleanout, a program that allows people to bring in unwanted, unneeded and expired medications for proper disposal. According to Jaramillo, since the program started TPPC has conducted 29 Medication Cleanout events in Amarillo, Abilene, Lubbock and several other smaller communities in the TPPC service area. The collections have taken in 15,140 pounds of unused medications for proper disposal.

When it opened in 1994 TPPC employed five registered nurses and two paramedics as call takers. Today, the TPPC staff includes Shum, Jaramillo, Community Outreach Specialist Ronica Farrar, Unit Coordinator Robbi Rivers and eight qualified specialists in poison information who answer TPPC's phone lines.

Spring dates announced for Medication Cleanout

TPPC has tentatively set dates for the 2014 Spring Medication Cleanout events:

- Amarillo - March 15
- Abilene - April 5
- Lubbock - April 26

Volunteer training is scheduled for 5:30 – 7 p.m. on the day prior to collection in each location. TPPC will release additional information and sign up instructions as the event dates approach.

For more information, call (806) 414-9402.



WTPA history now part of Texas Pharmacy Museum

The West Texas Pharmacy Association (WTPA) was an important supporter of the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy long before the first bricks were laid for the home campus in Amarillo. That support recently extended to the collection of pharmacy-related memorabilia housed at the school's Texas Pharmacy Museum.

WTPA has been serving the pharmacists of West Texas since 1921 and is one of the oldest pharmacy associations in Texas. With approximately 500 members, it is also the largest district drug association in the world.

Its primary goal is to offer scholarships to West Texas students that are interested in pursuing their profession in West Texas. To advance that goal, the organization works directly with employers and pharmacy schools to create opportunities for these students in West Texas.

Bill Carroll, R.Ph., a pharmacist for Walmart in Abilene, visited the museum in January to make a donation on behalf of WTPA, for whom he is currently serving as secretary.

"WTPA had lobbied for years for a pharmacy school in West Texas and we were so excited when it finally happened," Carroll said. "We presented the first endowed scholarship that is given annually by the school in WTPA's honor. I was a district manager for Eckerd Drug when the school opened in Amarillo in the mid-1990s. I remember having lunch with Founding Dean Arthur Nelson when all he had was a blueprint of the school."

Carroll said Walmart, his current employer, also supports his work with WTPA and the School of Pharmacy.

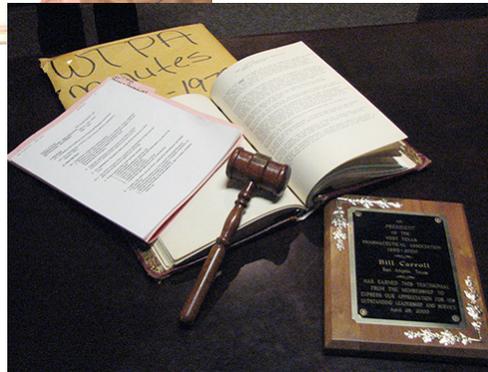
"All of the pharmacists in my store are preceptors and we have about 15 students a year that rotate through our location," Carroll said. "We love working with the students."

WTPA's most recent donation included a gavel from 1923, a plaque Carroll received in 2000 as WTPA president and the WTPA meeting minutes from as far back as 1953.

"Lonnie Hollingsworth was a long-time secretary prior to me and he was having lunch with Dean



Clockwise from right: Bill Carroll, R.Ph., presents WTPA donations to Texas Pharmacy Museum Curator Susan Denny; Director of Development Carrie Croley; Asst. Dean for Student Services Summer Balcer; and Amarillo Regional Dean Thomas Thekkumkara. The items included WTPA meeting minutes, a 1923 gavel and a WTPA president's plaque.



Quentin Smith and Carrie Croley, the school's development director," Carroll said. "They decided the museum would be a great place for the WTPA minutes to be preserved; the minutes we currently have date to the early 1950s. The board also voted to present the president's gavel from 1923 to the museum."

Carroll said the pharmacist who used the gavel as president of WTPA in 1923

was a Lubbock pharmacist born in 1875 and deceased in 1954.

"His only child was a son who was killed in World War II," Carroll said. "I'm sure he would be proud to know it was presented to the museum more than 60 years after he passed."

Carroll said the donation only deepens the relationship between WTPA and the School of Pharmacy. Former pharmacy school graduate Nathan Buerkle (Class of '09) is currently serving as WTPA president and Lori (Law) Campbell (Class of '11) is the organization's vice president. Buerkle and Campbell each received a WTPA scholarship for three years.

Smith is also presenting a continuing education (CE) session at WTPA's Lubbock meeting Apr. 25-27.

"In addition to having 15 hours of CE, we will present 35 \$1,000 scholarships at the President's Banquet on April 26," Carroll said. "This is the highlight of our year as about half of the scholarship recipients attend to accept their scholarships. More than three-quarter of the recipients are TTUHSC pharmacy students so it is a great celebration for both WTPA and the school."

Carroll said WTPA has much to offer pharmacists in Texas and he encourages them to consider joining and becoming active participants.

"This whole process has been a great experience for me," Carroll said. "Other than my church, WTPA is the best organization I am involved with. Its motives are pure — scholarships for deserving pharmacy students, continuing education and fellowship."

For more information about WTPA, or to register for the Lubbock meeting, visit www.westtexaspharmacy.org

Dallas staff member also a published author



Beverly Johnson began writing creatively when her fingers were barely skilled enough to grip a pencil.

"I wrote a six-line poem and received my first rejection letter from Ideal Publishing when I was 6 years old," Johnson

recalled. "That is something I will never forget and I have been writing since then."

In 2003, Johnson's talent and persistence paid off when her book, "The Heavenly Weigh-In, Diet for the Christian Heart," was published by R.H. Boyd Company. Last year, a week before Christmas, Crosslink Publishing made another of Johnson's efforts available by publishing her book, "From This Text: A 52-week Bible Study Focused on Faith." Both books are available through Amazon; her newest work is also offered through Barnes & Noble.

Inspired by her early childhood rejection, Johnson's love for writing took full bloom in high school and continued when she studied journalism at McNeese State University. In 1990, she went to work for the now defunct Dallas Times-Herald writing the obituary columns.

When the paper was bought out by the Dallas Morning News, Johnson went to work for a transportation company at Love Field Airport and continued writing by contributing articles to the company newsletter and to her church newsletter. She also wrote a restaurant piece that was published in the online version of the "Dallas Morning News."

"Someone once told me to write about what you know and love," Johnson said. "I know about the importance of a relationship with God, so I stick to Christian writing. I also know about good Cajun cooking, and I have also written a cookbook, but I've never had it published."

In addition to books, Johnson enjoys writing poetry and short stories. Though none of her poems have been published, she does post them on her personal website under a Dabbling in Poetry tab.

"I also write a lot of Christian speeches for my friends when they are speaking at different church events," she added.

Like her first book, Johnson's latest work was inspired by her religious faith.

"Down through the years I have listened to Bible stories being taught and preached," Johnson said. "The minister would always say 'read it for

yourself,' and so I began the practice of reading it for myself and allowing God to reveal to me what the application was for my life. I believe the lessons that can be learned from those same Bible stories are as important today as they were during Biblical times."

As is the case with most writers, Johnson loves to spend her spare time reading. She especially enjoys the classics.

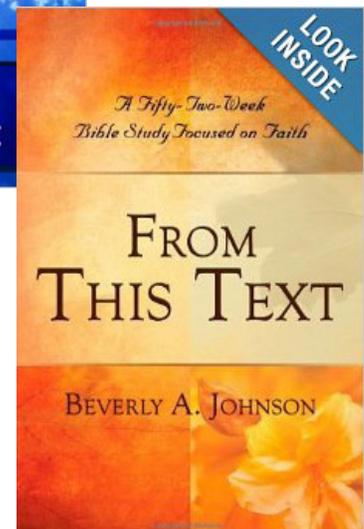
"I am a great fan of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens and I am fascinated by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," Johnson said. "I'm old school to the bone, but if there is one modern television show that I follow, that would be 'Scandal.' I think Shonda Rhimes is a talented writer."

Johnson describes her own writing ability as a blessing and a gift from God, though she understands some people prefer labeling such things as natural ability.

"When I realized that my gift was writing, and that I had to use that gift to honor God, the words started to flow and the ideas came to me like presents waiting to be opened," Johnson said. "It is an excitement that you get — you just have to get to a pen and paper or a keyboard and you're sitting there smiling like God just told you a secret."



Beverly Johnson has two published books to her credit. The first (left) appeared in 2003 courtesy of R. H. Boyd Company. The second was made available in December thanks to Crosslink Publishing.



In case you missed it...

- Parul Gupta, a Ph.D. candidate for the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences (GPPS), was recently named a recipient of a Dean's Scholar Award from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Her selection was based upon exceptional academic ability and potential for research excellence. She will receive an additional \$5,000 for her research assistantship annually for the duration of her degree plan. Gupta works in the lab of Dr. Sanjay Srivastava (Dept. of Biomedical Sciences-Amarillo).

- Neel Fofaria and Pooja Naik, GPPS Ph.D. candidates, were each selected to receive a \$1,000 Graduate Student Travel Support Award to attend the Society of Toxicology 53rd Annual Meeting Mar. 24-27 in Phoenix. Fofaria works in the lab of Dr. Sanjay Srivastava (Dept. of Biomedical Sciences-Amarillo). Naik works in the lab of Dr. Luca Cucullo (Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Amarillo).

- Abilene Regional Dean Dr. Cynthia Raehl has been nominated to receive the The Harvey A.K. Whitney Lecture Award, which is given annually by the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists to an individual who has made significant contributions to health-system pharmacy, including sustained exemplary service, an outstanding single achievement, or a combination of accomplishments benefiting the profession and public health. The award is considered to be the highest honor in health-system pharmacy.

- The Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health recently awarded seed grants to Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) Dept. of Pharmacy Practice faculty Dr. Carlos Alvarez (\$24,992) and Dr. Ron Hall (\$25,000).

Alvarez will use his grant to investigate factors of medication adherence in underserved, breast cancer survivors prescribed adjuvant hormonal therapy. His research team includes DFW department colleague Dr. Gary Jean, Dr. Jasmin Tiro (UT Southwestern) and Dr. Bijal Balasubramanian (UT School of Public Health).

Hall's team will investigate the impact of weight on the pharmacokinetics of doxorubicin in women with breast cancer. His team includes Sr. Associate Dean for Clinical/Translational Research Dr. Richard Leff from the DFW campus and Dr. Barbara Haley (UT Southwestern).

- Dr. Paul Trippier (Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Amarillo) has been selected to attend the *Training in Neurotherapeutics Discovery and Development for Academic Scientists* course Feb. 19-22 in Bethesda, Md. The program provides trainees with various knowledge elements required to discover and advance a neurotherapeutic agent to Investigational New Drug application. Following the course, Trippier will continue the program and receive individual mentoring for two years.



Gupta



Fofaria



Naik



Raehl



Alvarez



Hall



Trippier

Nominations sought for Distinguished Alumni Awards

The School of Pharmacy, in conjunction with the TTUHSC Office of Alumni Relations, is requesting nominations for the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards recognize TTUHSC-SOP alumni who have achieved a high level of success in their chosen fields of endeavor, and in doing so, have distinguished themselves and their alma mater.

Nominations will be accepted in three categories: Excellence in Pharmacy, Pharmacy Research and Pharmacy Leadership. Recipients will be recognized May 23 at the Class of 2014 Commencement.

Nomination forms are available online at www.ttuhs.edu/alumni/distinguished/ or by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at (806) 743-3239 or TTUHSCAlumni@ttuhsc.edu.

Completed forms may be submitted online, returned by mail or faxed to (806) 743-3245. All nominations must be received online or postmarked on or before Feb. 20.

Drs. Brian Irons (left) and Brandon Suchar were honored as Distinguished Alumni for the School of Pharmacy in 2013.



Getting to know...

Sarah Innis
Assistant Director for Recruitment
Office of Student Services • Amarillo

Sarah Innis was born in Tupelo, Miss., but she said she was as a Texan because her family moved to Amarillo when she was six. After attending South Georgia Elementary School and Bonham Middle School, Innis briefly attended Amarillo High.

“We moved one block over the school district dividing line, so I had to attend Randall High School,” Innis said. “It was a blessing to change schools because it brought me more opportunities in music and closer friends.”

In 2009, Innis received a B.S. degree in communications from Oral Roberts University after majoring in worship arts.

“Music has been my lifelong passion and so has my heart for the Lord,” Innis said. “It was an easy decision when I chose majors because this went hand-in-hand with those passions.”

Innis is approaching the end of her first year at the pharmacy school. As the assistant director for recruiting, she spends much of her time interacting with future pharmacists, a part of the job she enjoys.

“I really like meeting our future and current students,” Innis said. “I also like the people with and the atmosphere I work in. I really enjoy my job because of who the Student Services staff is and because they are all about helping our students succeed with a caring and kind attitude. They are always willing to help someone in need, whether a student, staff or faculty. This is why I like working here.”



Sarah Innis enjoys spending time with friends like co-worker Macy Begley (bottom left photo) and family members like her grandmother.



In her spare time Innis enjoys spending time in the kitchen and then sitting down to enjoy a meal with friends and family. She also enjoys singing at her church and volunteering for community outreach efforts.

“Loving on people brings me joy,” she said.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Pharmacy

School of Pharmacy Photo Gallery



The School of Pharmacy organized the largest group of volunteers for packaging items for the latest Snack Pak for Kids campaign. The effort, organized by APhA, received an enthusiastic Guns Up! from P2 Mina Botros (below).



Members of Kappa Psi turned out to serve a holiday meal to children and families at the Boys and Girls Club.



From the Dallas/Fort Worth Preceptor Appreciation Reception: (left) Dallas P4 Vbin Thomas shares a laugh with Dallas P3 Jordan Burdine and Associate Professor Dr. Krystal Edwards. (Below) Noel Garcia, assistant director for student services, and Debra Notturmo-Strong, associate dean for professional affairs, enjoy one of the event presentations



P1 SNPhA members Jiwei Zhang (left) and Ira Gupta discussed effective smoking cessation methods at the Faith City Ministries health fair in Amarillo. The organization also conducted free blood pressure and glucose screening and educated attendees about COPD and Vials of Life.



Members of APhA and Kappa Psi braved near-record cold temperatures to deliver canned food to the High Plains Food Bank. Their efforts earned a spot on an Amarillo newscast.



Above: Amarillo students show off their moves at the 2014 Spring Formal. Right: P2 Jasmine Carter and her date, Andrew, take a break from dancing at the 2014 Amarillo Spring Formal.



P2 Kurt Wettlaufer addresses students at a breakfast forum organized by APhA's Policy and Advocacy Committee. Wettlaufer was among a group of students who made presentations addressing provider status for pharmacists, expanding the immunization role of pharmacists, reducing the waste and abuse seen in medication and Medicare Part C.



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