



# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™ School of Pharmacy

*Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene*

## *From the* DEAN'S DESK



*August - September 2010*

### **SOP student earns first MBA under new program**



*Arvin Zeinali*

To some of his TTUHSC and SOP colleagues, Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Arvin Zeinali is best known as one of the four finalists on “Knight School,” the 2004 reality show that saw

Texas Tech students compete for a spot as the 12th man on legendary head coach Bobby Knight’s Red Raider basketball squad.

In August, however, Arvin achieved a more scholarly distinction when he became the first SOP student to complete his master’s degree in business administration under the school’s joint Pharm.D.-MBA program with the Texas Tech University Rawls College of Business.

“As of right now, I hope to perhaps get involved with a pharmaceutical company when I graduate, but I am still trying to see what avenues will open up as pharmacy school graduation comes up,” Arvin said. “The MBA has given me a certain skill set that will allow me to hopefully gain upper management positions in my career at a faster pace.”

The idea for the combined degree program was set in motion in 2006 when Dr. Roland Patry (Chair, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo) initiated discussions with Rawls administrators. He was interested in developing a conduit through which pharmacy students could earn their MBA while simultaneously working toward their Pharm.D. Those negotiations centered upon a health organization management path within the MBA program, which Dr. Patry believed were a match for what he and the SOP faculty saw as the necessary areas of focus for developing strong health care organization leadership.

After several discussions the pieces fell into place and the TTUHSC-TTU Pharm.D.-MBA program became the 31st such program in the country. To date it is one of only a handful of accredited health organization management programs in the country and is the only one between Georgia and Arizona.

Arvin, who is on track to earn his Pharm.D. with the SOP Class of 2011, said he spoke with Dr. Patry in March 2009 about entering the program.

“Dr. Patry showed me the layout of the curriculum and what would be expected of me,” Arvin recalled. “Honestly, I have always

had an interest in the business aspects of health care and I saw this as a great opportunity to learn another skill set.”

Arvin said the MBA work was tough, but it provided him a view of the pharmacy profession that others may not possess.

“Our Pharm.D. program is very clinically based, and I feel that with this MBA program, students can really develop into substantial and effective leaders in this profession,” Arvin said. “This is a new and innovative program that has not been offered at any other institution in Texas. I won’t lie to the students: the curriculum is challenging and very difficult, but I truly believe that the benefits far outweigh the sacrifices. I feel like I have advanced my career by being involved with such a great program.”

Arvin said his stint on “Knight School” prepared him for his role as a Pharm.D.-MBA trailblazer.

“Playing for Coach Knight was a great experience,” Arvin said. “He is truly a college basketball legend, and as a participant of the show, I learned a lot of valuable lessons from him that translated from the basketball court to my career. When you put in the necessary hard work and time you will see the results, be it on the basketball court or in a health care setting.”

## **Abilene P4 selected for Dean's Student Leadership Award**

As each new class of students settles into the first year of our Pharm.D. program, there are typically a handful of individuals who possess the type of can-do attitude and positive personality that faculty members respect and classmates find inspirational.

From the moment she entered our program in 2007 as a founding class member for the Abilene regional campus, Jaclyn Priest has been one of those students. I am therefore proud to announce that she is the latest recipient of the Dean's Student Leadership Award.

"It is a very big honor and achievement for me to win this award," Jaclyn said. "To me personally, the award means I am fortunate to have had the opportunities to be in multiple leadership roles and to have been supported by students and preceptors who were always willing to work hard and participate with me."

Jaclyn is an active member of several student organizations, including the Double T Society for Health System Pharmacy (TTSSHP), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and the Student Senate. She said it is important for students to be involved because it helps them develop professional skills and provides opportunities to promote and support the pharmacy profession.

Jaclyn said she also enjoys working with children and she is involved with the St. John's Episcopal School in Abilene. She has helped the school organize a student hand washing project and served as a judge for the St. John's 2009 middle school science fair.

"There is just something about watching children learn that is very rewarding," Jaclyn said. "Younger children are at the age where you can really educate them about preventative decision-making practices. They are still in the learning process and have not had

the opportunity to develop habits; as a result things like proper hand washing and medication safety are easier to teach because you don't have to modify developed habits."

Classmate Matt Pennington was a member of the committee that unanimously selected Jaclyn for the Dean's Student Leadership Award. He said Jaclyn consistently displays a professional attitude on and off campus and is always willing to help others in their times of need.



*Abilene Regional Dean Dr. Virgil Van Dusen and P4 Jaclyn Priest, recipient of the Dean's Student Leadership Award.*

"When Jaclyn talks to you, you get the sense that she is completely focused on you and is already working on a way to solve your problem or answer your question," Matt explained. "She keeps projects very organized and always knows what needs to take place next. She also has a caring heart and she will use that in her practice to make her patients feel better."

Kelley Matula, another classmate and selection committee member, described Jaclyn as a person whose thoughtful approach is uplifting and inspiring.

"Jackie continually puts forth an attitude of caring and encouragement to others," Kelley said. "Even

when she herself is challenged, she ends the discussion with a positive slant or a message of hope. Even in a moment of adversity, Jackie's positive attitude and caring about others comes through."

Jaclyn is also described by peers as someone who eagerly recognizes the efforts of those on her team and readily shares her successes appropriately with them. Therefore, it isn't surprising that she credits the contributions of others when discussing her accomplishments.

"I have to thank God for the strong outgoing personality I was given," Jaclyn said. "I also have to admit that I have been very fortunate to have awesome mentors and lots of family support; I am very lucky to have such an understanding and encouraging husband and family! They give me the desire to continue to seek out leadership roles and to be in a position where I can positively influence others and show my support for the pharmacy profession."



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
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## SOP pitches in at Rotary Club Diabetes Camp

As they have for nearly three decades, children from West Texas and eastern New Mexico who are afflicted with diabetes mellitus had an opportunity to enjoy nature this summer at the Rotary Club Camp for Children with Diabetes. The camp was held at Ceta Glen Christian Camp in Palo Duro Canyon and was set up to accommodate the lifestyle requirements associated with their disease.

"It gives campers the opportunity to be around others with similar challenges and to learn from each other and the staff," SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Thomas Parker said. "It also gives our staff the opportunity to learn from the campers about the challenges of living with this disease."

This was Dr. Parker's fifth year to lead the group. However, he took on a larger role this year. Prior to the start of the camp Dr. Parker was asked to join Sue Rankin, a TTUHSC-SOM family nurse practitioner, in assuming the responsibilities for all camp operations. They replaced Dr. Michael Bourgeois, who decided to step down after nearly 30 years with the camp.

SOM Professor Dr. Rolf Habersang served as the camp physician and the SOP provided the majority of the camp's medical staff. The group included SOP residents Dr. Audrey Kennedy and Dr. Jamie McCarrell; P4s Kris-

ten Finical, Amanda Spangler, Elizabeth Riney, Shanna James, Sarah Carman, Toni Edgar, Lori Campbell, Jessica Christian, Maxie Friemel, Chris Bartlett, Raul Najera, Jose Jimenez and Dustin Wynne; P3s Tri-Dung Le, Crystal Campbell and Nohemi Pham; P2s Tiffany Johnson, Mahsa Fardin, George Jacob and Matt Randolph; and P1 Taryn Satterwhite.



*Dallas/Fort Worth P3 Tri-Dung Le goes fishing with some of his friends at the Rotary Club's 2010 Diabetes Camp.*

"We had so many students volunteer this year that we had to turn some down because we reached our capacity," Dr. Parker said.

"From a management perspective, this was perhaps our most successful year at helping the campers maintain good disease control. I attribute that to the efforts and training of our medical staff volunteers."

Dr. Parker said the camp is one of the most satisfying aspects of his job and reinforces the choice he made to become a pharmacist.

"Basically I get as much out of the camp, if not more, as the campers do," Dr. Parker said. "The things I learn from them and the perspective I gain affect how I practice and how I live my life. I also gain a great deal of pride in seeing our student volunteers rise to the challenge of helping to care for these children's health and seeing how much that helps them learn and grow in the profession."

## Dallas SOP contingent Speaks Out! for Parkinson's

In September, SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Amie Blaszczyk, PGY2 geriatrics resident Scott Vouri and a group of students from the Dallas/Fort Worth regional campus attended *Speak Out! For Parkinson's* at the Eisemann Performing Arts Center in Richardson.

The Texas Voice Project, an organization devoted to helping patients with Parkinson's disease 'find their voice,' hosted the event.

The SOP students who attended included P4s Tyler Sledge, Steven Hammond and Marca McCoy and P3s Kaylyn Howard and Lauren Miller.

"Parkinson's disease has the potential to decrease the volume of the voice and affect the individual's ability to enunciate, which increases the potential they won't be able to communicate at all," Dr. Blaszczyk said. "The TVP uses the Lee Silverman voice technique, which teaches participants to 'Think Loud!' and in turn helps these individuals again 'find their voice.'"

The event featured a performance by The LOUD Crowd, a choir of people with Parkinson's who have successfully found their voice again through TVP.

Dr. Blaszczyk was also part of a panel of experts who answered questions submitted by the audience.

"The questions ranged from 'How do I manage all these medications?' to 'What makes someone a good candidate for the deep brain stimulation surgery?'" Dr. Blaszczyk said. "It was a fantastic event and the students really had a great time."



*Amarillo P4 Dustin Wynne gets back to nature with some of the children attending the 2010 Rotary Club Diabetes Camp.*

## Mission work in Ecuador energizes SOP student

Amarillo P2 Andrew Willner felt a bit fatigued after completing his first year of classes, so he found a unique way to rejuvenate: he joined a mission team and took a week-long trip to Ecuador.

"It was a good way to recharge and get excited about working in the field," Andrew said. "Pharmacy school can be exhausting and it was really nice to be able to interact with people who were so receptive and thankful for advice or even just a friendly smile or hug."



*P2 Andrew Willner teaches the "Guns Up" sign to some friends in Ecuador.*

Andrew said he developed an interest in mission work during previous trips to Mexico and Florida.

"It's the best way to experience a country in ways a tour guide could never show you," he said. "We also feel we have been given talents and abilities that need to be shared with other people in an effort to help them improve their lives."

Andrew's mother, Suzanne, is a pediatric ICU and operating room nurse at Children's Medical Center in Dallas and she also signed up for the mission. They joined a contingent that traveled to a Quichua Indian mountain village about three hours from Quito, the Ecuadorian capital. The village is located at an elevation of 12,105 feet, so the temperatures were often cold, even though it was late June-early July.

Suzanne Willner said an 18-month old baby had died of dysentery the day before the mission team arrived and others in the village were also becoming sick.

"The intent of the trip was to work on a construction project to provide a bathroom for their gov-

ernment-run day care center," she said. "However the villagers were very concerned about the child's death and the spread of dysentery, so we could tell no work was going to progress until we addressed this need for them."

She said it was immediately apparent why dysentery had become such an issue in the village. Farm animals were kept just outside the door of the daycare center and stagnant water had collected around the facility.

"The workers at the center were sweet and wonderful, but they had no facilities to wash their hands," Suzanne Willner said. "They also didn't know about the importance of proper hand hygiene between diaper changes."

The mission team put together a makeshift clinic and worked with a local pharmacist to purchase multiple doses of bactrim, amoxicillin and Vermox. The pharmacy also donated expectorant and other supplies required to treat maladies such as malnutrition, intestinal worms, sinus infections and cardiac defects.

"We saw clubbing of the fingers and the bluest hands you've ever seen on a child upright and walking," Suzanne Willner recalled. "One woman came to us with a severe case of acne and contact dermatitis. Her face was covered with a scarf and only her eyes were showing. She was understandably embarrassed and had no social life, but after a day of antibiotics she

came back with her scarf off and a huge smile on her face! It's amazing to see what a difference antibiotics make for these people since they've had little to no antibiotic treatments in the past."

Andrew said nutrition and community hygiene are often all it takes to make a huge difference in people's lives.

"You really can change a kid's prognosis or status with something as simple, cheap and readily available as oral rehydration therapy," he continued. "These people are in a forgotten Indian culture and many will never leave the village. They were just so excited to have anyone come and bring them the things they don't feel comfortable going into the city to get. They sometimes just want attention, a hug and a smile. Sometimes affirming to a mom that she was doing a good job and that her kids were doing fine was the best you could do."

Suzanne Willner said it was very obvious to her and others on the mission trip that Andrew had learned so much in just his first year of pharmacy school.

"I can safely say the TTUHSC pharmacy program is doing a wonderful job," she said. "Andrew had a tremendous affirmation that this is the right field for him."

Andrew said the things he has learned doing mission work will help make him a better pharmacist for his patients.

"The big take-home message for me was that so much of my success in providing good healthcare—at least in an outpatient setting—will be judged by patient compliance and that really means patient education," he explained. "As pharmacists we will probably always wish we could spend more time counseling and managing our patients, but sometimes we serve them best by really teaching them how to take care of themselves, because as hard as we may try, we won't always get to be there."



*Amarillo P2 Andrew Willner answers questions from two day care workers during a week-long mission trip to Ecuador.*

## TPPC conducts third medication take-back event

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center, in conjunction with the Amarillo Independent School District's Safe Schools Healthy Students initiative, conducted its third Medication Cleanout™ program Sept. 25 in Amarillo and Shamrock. The program is coordinated by the TPPC to encourage residents to bring in any unused, expired or unnecessary medications for proper disposal.

When the collection ended, a combined 400 people had used the drop-off sites in both communities. SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo, who also serves as managing director for the TPPC, said it was the largest turnout to



Amarillo P3 James Palmer sorts and identifies some of the drugs turned in at the September 2010 Medication Cleanout event.

date for the program. She said the two sites collected almost 593 pounds of unwanted medications, including nearly 515 pounds of non-controlled substances and 78 pounds of controlled substances.

"We collected less by weight than we did at our previous events, but this time our weights were measured primarily without containers as we have streamlined our processing," Dr. Jaramillo explained. "To minimize disposal and incineration costs, we removed all containers except those used for liquids."

The event was held the same day as the Drug Enforcement Administration National Prescription Medication Take-Back Day. Dr. Jaramillo said the Medication Cleanout™ program didn't partner with the national event, but was every bit as successful.

"A news report the following morning said Houston had 17 DEA collection sites and took in an average of 176 pounds per site," she said. "But they also prohibited the collection of liquids, regardless of control status, so in comparison, our collection was very good."

Dr. Jaramillo thanked the AISD staff and the SOP students for their essential roles in the event.



Volunteers collect information and medications during the Medication Cleanout event.

"Our poison center staff—especially Robbi Rivers and Ronica Farrar—also put 110 percent of their effort into every program aspect and were absolutely wonderful," Dr. Jaramillo said.

She also added a special thanks to the Amarillo and Shamrock police departments, who provided officers to manage the controlled substances collected at their respective community sites.

"These controls are some of the most dangerous meds available in terms of both poisonings and abuse, so the participation of these police officers is essential to the success of our programs," she said. "As always, the officers were gracious and professional and we greatly value them."

## Poison Center receives grant to expand Medication Cleanout™ program

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center's Medication Cleanout™ program recently received a three-year, \$300,000 Health Resources and Services Administration grant.

Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo, TPPC managing director and an assistant professor for the SOP, said the grant will allow the Medication Cleanout™ program to continue without cutting other programs.

"As mandated budget cuts have been made, we were approaching a point where we were going to have to either discontinue

the take-back program or cut other important poison prevention and education initiatives. We will now be able to continue established programs as well as the medication take-back initiative and expand the program into rural communities within our 71-county service region in addition to our larger urban and suburban areas."

Dr. Jaramillo said community medication take-back programs are relatively new in Texas and have been difficult to develop due to laws, rules, regulations

and the risks involved. She said collaboration and coordination between the Drug Enforcement Administration, local law enforcement, the Texas State Board of Pharmacy and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is necessary to conduct events that meet all legal requirements.

"The Medication Cleanout™ team from our poison center now provides technical assistance for programs that are being developed across the state and outside of Texas as well," Dr. Jaramillo said.

## SOP Preceptors of the Year 2009-2010

### *Amarillo Campus*



*Faculty Preceptor  
Dr. Krystal Haase  
(above) and  
Adjunct Preceptor  
Dr. Evans Schell  
(right).*



### *Abilene Campus*



*Above center: Adjunct  
Preceptor Dr. Jason  
Heuerman with Abilene  
Regional Dean Dr. Virgil  
Van Dusen (above left)  
and P4s Marius Fryer  
and Kelley Matula. Right  
center: Faculty Preceptor  
Dr. Chris Tawwater.*



The Office of Experiential Programs has announced the honorees for faculty and adjunct faculty Preceptors of the Year for 2009-2010, as selected by our P3 and P4 students.

Faculty Preceptors of the Year, all from the SOP Department of Pharmacy Practice, include: Dr. Krystal Haase (Amarillo); Dr. Chris Tawwater (Abilene); Dr. Monica Mathys (Dallas/Fort Worth); and Dr. Craig Cox (Lubbock).

Adjunct Faculty Preceptors of the Year include Dr. Evans Schell, Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center (Amarillo); Dr. Jason Heuerman, James McCoy's Drug Store (Abilene); Dr. Jennifer Nelson, Parkland Health and Hospital System (Dallas/Fort Worth); and Dr. Allen Cunningham, Covenant Medical Center (Lubbock).

### *Dallas/Fort Worth Campus*

*Faculty Preceptor  
Dr. Monica Mathys  
(right) and Adjunct  
Preceptor Dr.  
Jennifer Nelson  
(below).*



### *Lubbock Campus*



*Adjunct Preceptor Dr.  
Allen Cunningham  
(above) and Faculty  
Preceptor Dr. Craig Cox  
(left).*



## In case you missed it...



*Prabodh Kandala*

• Prabodh Kandala, Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences - Department of Biomedical Sciences, has been selected to receive a \$500 Mary Lou Clements – Mann Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to full-time M.S. or Ph.D. students who carry a 3.0 minimum GPA. Recipients must be nominated by a faculty member and be engaged in infectious disease, immunology or cancer research. Prabodh is conducting ovarian cancer research in Dr. Sanjay Srivastava's lab.

• SOP resident alumnus Dr. Chris Guiliano (2008-2010) presented "A multi-center study evaluating the impact of guideline-recommended empiric dosing of vancomycin in MRSA bacteremia" Sept. 10 at the 50th International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents

and Chemotherapy in Boston. Project investigators from the SOP included associate professors Dr. Krystal Haase (Amarillo), Dr. Sara Brouse (D/FW) and Dr. Ron Hall (D/FW); Assistant Professor Dr. Carlos Alvarez (D/FW); and SOP resident alumna Dr. Katie Hazelwood (2008-2009).



*Dr. Ron Hall*

• Dr. Ron Hall, an associate professor at the SOP's Dallas/Fort Worth regional campus, presented research entitled "A surprising effect of weight on ethambutol (EMB) pharmacokinetics (PK)" Sept. 10 in Boston. The research was presented at the Third International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of Tuberculosis Drugs and again at the 50th International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. Project investigators included D/FW Assistant Professor Dr. Claudia Meek and D/FW Regional Dean Dr. Richard Leff.



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## Getting to know...

### **Janea Robinson Coordinator Office of Student Services - Amarillo**

Janea graduated from Canyon High School in 1999 and attended Amarillo College from 2000-2002. In 2007 she started her career at TTUHSC by working in Human Resources. A short time later she moved to her current Students Services position with the SOP.

"I love my job because it allows me to serve others every day," Janea says. "Our office is a very busy place, but it makes the day go by fast! I am blessed to have awesome people that I work with every day."

Janea says her husband, John, is "the love of my life." They have been married for ten years and

have three children: 8-year old Peyton, 6-year old Taylor and 1-year old Gage.

The family attends Living Truth Ministries and enjoys pitching in to help others. In fact, Janea's favorite quote is by Anne Frank: "No one has ever become poor by giving."

In her spare time Janea enjoys gardening and cooking, but she says, "we enjoy anything that we can do as a family."



*Janea and her husband, John, on the shores of Lake Texoma with children Peyton (top), Taylor and Gage.*



*Janea's daughters Peyton (right) and Taylor give their little brother, Gage, a helping hand.*

## SOP Photo Gallery



*New faculty orientation attendees check out the patient simulation center located in the new Pharmacy Academic Center in Amarillo. Pictured from left: Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Jessica Eveleth, Dr. Wei Wang, Dr. Megan Stapleton, Dr. Sherry Laguardia, Dr. Anna Kochanowska, Dr. Virgil Van Dusen and Dr. Ruiwen Zhang*



*Amarillo P3s Stacey Johnson (left) and Kristy Ramirez (right) enjoy some refreshments with Dr. Sherry Luedtke at a reception to honor Dr. Luedtke for her eight years of service as the SOP's associate dean for professional affairs.*

*Volunteers work to sort and identify medications at the September 2010 Medication Cleanout event in Amarillo.*



*Debbie Griffin, project manager for TTU System Dept. of Facilities, Planning and Construction, introduces artist Ken Williams at a ceremony to officially unveil sculptures created by Williams for the TTUHSC Amarillo campus.*



*The Rho Chi chapter of Phi Delta Chi served snow cones at the SOP's Back to School Picnic in Amarillo. Pictured from left are P2s D'neise Laverty, Crystal Rodriguez and Barakha Yadav.*

## How to Submit Items for the Dean's Newsletter

The mission of "From the Dean's Desk" is to communicate the news, events and achievements from the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy to all four of our campus sites 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  
806/356-4000 ext. 245  
mark.hendricks@ttuhsc.edu



*The group from the SOP's D/FW regional campus who attended the Speak Out! for Parkinson's event in Richardson included (from left): Tyler Sledge (P4), Scott Vouri (PGY2 Geriatrics Resident), Steven Hammond (P4), Kaylyn Howard (P3), Marca McCoy (P4) and Lauren Miller (P3).*

