



From the DEAN'S DESK



January - February 2010

Dallas-Ft. Worth Student Receives First Dean's Award

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job as dean is watching students develop into the kind of people others look up to. Dallas/Ft. Worth P4 James Lee is certainly one of those students and I am proud to announce that he is the first recipient of the Dean's Student Leader of the Quarter Award.

"I am deeply honored to be the first honoree," James said. "One of the main frustrations students hold is the belief that their concerns and student-initiated efforts to improve the existing system are not valued or are completely ignored by the leadership. I hope the existence of this award demonstrates to students that faculty and administration want to actively promote student growth and leadership and to recognize student leaders for their efforts."

During his time at the SOP, James has served as president for the Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists and represented his campus and classmates as a member of the Dallas Student Senate.

"It's important for students to be active in organizations because it gives them the opportunity to explore the professional aspects of pharmacy that can't be provided through class, lab or rotation," James said. "Additionally, being active in student organizations



James Lee and classmates Amberly Hix (left) and Rebekah Ferguson help out at the Fannin History Festival in Amarillo.

allows students to form a collective voice to represent student concerns and interests to the faculty and administration, the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the community we are apart of through community service and the opportunity to grow professionally as student leaders by actively involving ourselves in the activities of the School."

In addition to his student organization involvement, James was instrumental in developing a survey to give faculty an insight into the student experience at the SOP.

"I believe that all student concerns—the good and the bad—about the Texas Tech pharmacy student experience have some validity and must be communicated to the leadership so we can work together to create an optimal academic environment

for students, faculty and administration," James explained.

In his P3 year, James was selected from among hundreds of applicants to participate in the Junior Commissioned Officer Student Training and Externship Program and spent that entire summer based in Washington, D.C. This year he is preparing to travel to Taiwan where he will complete his final rotation in family medicine at the National Taiwan University College of Medicine and School of Pharmacy.

"While deciding what P4 elective rotations to sign up for, I decided at the last minute to seek out an institution abroad where I could have both the opportunity to better my Chinese and learn something pharmacy related."

Through these efforts, and more, James has consistently inspired his fellow students. Perhaps classmate Jillian Ellis gave the best description of James and his influence as a leader when she nominated him for this award.

"Talking with James about career goals always reminds me that pharmacy is bigger than what I see in my immediate surroundings.

"While he is modest about what he has accomplished, I believe his efforts have left a positive impact on the professional development of his peers as well as the faculty and administration here at the SOP"

SOP Lends Helping Hands to Local Organizations

Thanks to a break in the Amarillo weather, SOP students were finally able to roll up their sleeves for the Helping Hands Volunteer Day on Feb. 20. The event was originally slated for Jan. 30, but as we all know, the area was covered by a blanket of snow on that day.

Once Mother Nature cleared the way, SOP students, faculty and staff fanned out into the community to help local organizations who had expressed a need for volunteers. The list of groups in need included Amarillo Habitat for Humanity; the Downtown Women's Center; the Eveline Rivers Christmas Project; Faith City Ministries; the High Plains Food Bank; and the Maverick Boys & Girls Club.

Amarillo P2 Crystal Campbell spearheaded the effort to get the SOP involved with such a worthwhile endeavor. To organize the day, she drew upon her experiences as an undergraduate student at the University of Texas in Arlington.

"Every March UTA has a volunteer day called the Big Event. I used to start haunting their web site weeks in advance to pick out the place I wanted to volunteer."

After doing some research, Crystal discovered that many universities have similar volunteer days. Amarillo P2 James Palmer told her the tradition started at Texas A&M in 1982, a fact she confirmed with a phone call to the school. She also found out that the TAMU event attracts more than



Karen Hendricks (Coordinator, Experiential Programs) and her son, Griffin, enjoy breakfast before heading out to volunteer for the Helping Hands event.



10,000 volunteers annually. Putting together such an event required Crystal to overcome a couple of communications snafus and work around student schedules, funding issues and the winter weather. She eventually got all the pieces to fall into place with the support of Alicia Aragon and Jean Haynes from the SOP's Office of Experiential Programs and Dr. Sherry Luedtke (Associate Dean for Professional Affairs). Fellow Amarillo P2 Terri Paulson came up with the "Helping Hands" name and Dallas P3 Martin Bishop designed the event logo.

Crystal said monetary donations made by Southpark Pharmacy and United Supermarkets went along way toward making the Helping Hands day a success. On the morning of the event Amarillo P2 Angela Wu, P1 Meredith Sigler and Micki Pawlicki, Crystal's roommate who lives in Dallas and drove to Amarillo for the occasion, helped set up breakfast for the volunteers. The food was graciously provided by CVS.

"CVS was an amazing sponsor. At the career fair in October I approached them with a letter describing what we wanted to do. Right away they said they would like to provide breakfast. I worked with Brant Day to coordinate the meal and they were always right there. I can't say enough good things about their willingness to help."

Crystal said the event was successful because the SOP volunteer group, which also included some people's family members and friends, remained flexible despite changes in times and locations. Although many of the student volunteers were eligible to receive VPS credit for their participation, she said there were others who volun-

teered because they simply wanted to be a part of such an effort.

One such participant was Linn Marin, a senior specialist for the SOM.

"Linn volunteered for the maximum hours she could at the Eveline Rivers Project," Crystal said. "When the hours were cut down, she told me that worked better for her anyway because she was moving that day! That amazed me. She already had a ton of things to do, but she put volunteering at the top of her list."

Crystal said there are no plans presently in the works for another Helping Hands Day. If there is interest in repeating the event, she said the responsibility for putting it together should rest with the students.



Amarillo P1 Robert Boulware demonstrates some basic carpentry skills during the Helping Hands Volunteer Day in Amarillo.

She also thinks the effort could be successful on the SOP campuses in Dallas/Fort Worth, Abilene and Lubbock. If another Amarillo event is planned, Crystal said she'd like to see the SOM and SOAHS invited to participate as well.

"I think this would be a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff from the entire Amarillo campus to work together and get to know each other better. I would also like to see more staff and faculty participate, but I think most of them thought this was something for the students. It was really meant for everyone and I think it would be great to do it again and make it a yearly tradition."

Alumni Association Seeking Nominations for 2010 Awards

The TTUHSC-SOP Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Individuals who were nominated but not selected in 2009 will automatically be considered for the awards this year.

Winners will be recognized July 24 during the Alumni Association's 10 Year Reunion Celebration in Grapevine, TX.

Three award categories will be presented and all TTUHSC-SOP graduates (Pharm.D., Ph.D. or Resident) whose accomplishments and careers have brought

significant credit to the SOP are eligible to be nominated.

The Distinguished Alumni Award for Pharmacy Research recognizes alumni who have demonstrated excellence in research.

The Distinguished Alumni Award for Pharmacy Practice honors alumni who have demonstrated excellence in pharmacy practice.

The Distinguished Alumni Award for Leadership recognizes and honors alumni who have demonstrated leadership in professional organizations, health care and/or community service.

Nomination forms are available online at www.ttuhsoc.edu/sop/administration/profaffairs/

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Dr. Sherry Luedtke (sherry.luedtke@ttuhsc.edu) or call (806) 356-4031 ext 237.

**Nominations
will be accepted
through
March 19th.**

Alumni Preparing for Ten Year Reunion

A decade has passed since the first class of TTUHSC graduates crossed the stage with a pharmacy degree in their hands.

To commemorate the occasion, the SOP's Office of Professional Affairs and the TTUHSC-SOP Alumni Association are hosting a Ten Year Reunion July 23-25 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, TX (www.greatwolf.com).

The weekend will include an alumni awards and recognition dinner, a golf tournament, outlet shopping opportunities and chances to play at a nearby water park.

Alumni will also be able to take advantage of several continuing education programs, participate in breakout activities and attend a lunchtime town hall meeting.



“Ten years ago we packed up and began our careers as pharmacy professionals and we have each had tremendous experiences in both our professional and personal lives,” SOP alumna Traci Metting said. “Now, ten years later, we have the opportunity to come back together to celebrate our friendships, our professional growth and the privilege of being alumni.”

“The SOP 10-year reunion and alumni event will be a tremendous opportunity for us to enjoy family fun, fellowship and continuing education. I hope that all SOP alumni consider participating in this event as it is sure to be a great time.”

For more information about the reunion, contact Sherry Luedtke (sherry.luedtke@ttuhsc.edu).

Help Needed for Second Medication Cleanout Event

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center and the Amarillo Independent School District's Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative are seeking volunteers for the second Medication Cleanout community program slated for March 27 in Amarillo and Canyon.

The Amarillo event location will be the Durrett Hall parking lot, which is located on 22nd Street on the Amarillo College Washington Street campus. The Canyon site will be the First United Bank Center (WT Events Center) parking lot located at 3301 4th Avenue.

Volunteers will collect drugs from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at the Amarillo site and from 10 a.m. - noon at the Canyon location.

Volunteers are also needed for a variety of tasks before and after the collection phase. Those who sort and process the collected material

will do so in four-hour shifts to prevent fatigue.

All volunteers must attend one training session in Room 107 of the main SOP building. The first session is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. on Mar. 18; the second will take place from 4-5 p.m. on Mar. 23.

The Medication Cleanout program is designed to encourage residents to bring in any unused, expired or unneeded medications for proper disposal.

If you have any questions about volunteering for the event, please visit www.MedicationCleanout.com or call 806/351-5626.



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SOP Students Receive Phonathon Scholarships

Congratulations go out to 12 SOP students who were recently awarded 2010 TTUHSC Phonathon Scholarships.

The group includes Dallas/Ft. Worth P2 Frank Wang; D/FW P3s Zubin Bhakta, Anu Chackacherry, John Esparza and Marca McCoy; Lubbock P3s Elise Johnson and Tyler Wood; Amarillo P3 Toni Edgar; Abilene P3 Elizabeth White; D/FW P4s James Lee

and Aby Rajagiriyl; and Amarillo graduate student Kaci Bohn.

The Phonathon scholarship was established by the Student Senate in 1989 to raise funds for the HSC Student Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is open to all HSC students. Recipients are chosen on the basis of leadership, academic excellence and community service.



Frank Wang



Zubin Bhakta



Anu Chackacherry



John Esparza



Marca McCoy



Elise Johnson



Tyler Wood



Toni Edgar



Elizabeth White



James Lee



Aby Rajagiriyl



Kaci Bohn

Clinical Simulation Playing Larger Role at SOP

When the Pharmacy Academic Building opened on the SOP's Amarillo campus, one of the features that jumped out at people was the clinical simulation wing located on the second floor. The area includes 12 assessment rooms, two mannequin simulation rooms and video recording capabilities, all designed to allow us to more effectively employ clinical simulation as a tool for teaching students.

"Clinical simulation is a safe and innovative method intended to train students in the medical profession for scenarios they may encounter in practice," Dr. Anitra MacLaughlin explained. "The potential to develop the PAC space into a teaching facility that focuses on simulation applicable to pharmacy, and to also advance our interdisciplinary relationships with SIM Central, the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing for teaching and research is infinite."

As an assistant professor for the Dept. of Pharmacy Practice Community Care Division, Dr. MacLaughlin is currently threaded through all second-year Pharm.D. practice laboratory courses, where simulation may increasingly play an important role. She was invited to sit on an ad hoc committee to determine which courses were likely to provide enhanced learning experiences for doctor of pharmacy students through simulation.

Mannequins are routinely employed to certify pharmacy students in Basic Life Support and most people associate simulation with the use of mannequins. However, other simulated training devices, such as injectable arms and flesh pads, also are regularly used to train pharmacy students for certification in immunizations prior to their injecting a patient.

"In addition to mannequins, simulation activities may also involve paying trained actors to portray or simulate patients," Dr. MacLaughlin added. "Task trainers are an additional tool that may be used to enhance the simulation experience."

Still, it is the mannequins that seem to garner most of the attention because technology has produced models that can mimic almost every inpatient scenario future medical professionals will encounter.



Dr. Anitra MacLaughlin works with a mannequin inside one of the patient assessment rooms at the new Pharmacy Academic Center in Amarillo.

"Mannequins may be used to teach advanced cardiac life support in ACLS, other emergency code situations and they may be used to help a particular discipline of students work through a case scenario," Dr. MacLaughlin said. "For example, we ran a scenario for our students where a mannequin was used to simulate a hypoglycemic emergency in a pharmacy-based scenario. Students were able to practice appropriate two-way communication with the mannequin and they were also able to practice the correct reconstitution and subsequent administration of a glucagon injection into the mannequin."

Because the PAC was still under construction until the end of last year, students weren't able to take advantage of the simulation rooms until Spring 2010. Though the rooms are not yet fully operational, students are already benefitting from the use of simulation.

"The SOP has a collaborative relationship with SIM Central and the School of Medicine, which has a state-of-the-art simulation facility," Dr. MacLaughlin said. "This semester P2 students have had the privilege and opportunity to use some of this equipment, including mannequins, at SIM Central and also at the PAC."

According to Dr. MacLaughlin, SOP faculty members are continually looking at courses where simulation may enhance student learning and that most faculty involved with teaching the pharmacy practice laboratories will also be involved in developing and integrating simulation into applicable courses.

"We continue to work with our other teaching campus site in Abilene to ensure consistency in the development of these facilities and in the use of simulation equipment and scenarios for all doctor of pharmacy students," Dr. MacLaughlin said.

In the end, all of these simulation programs, technology and equipment will allow students to participate in clinical scenarios in a safe setting and to ultimately become better pharmacists.

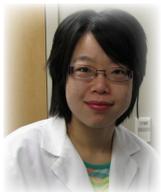
"Simulating clinical scenarios with pharmacy students may improve future patient safety," Dr. MacLaughlin said. "It may also increase retention of material, build confidence through realistic exposure and bridge students from didactic learning to clerkships more fluidly."

In Case You Missed It...



Dr. Craig Cox

• Dr. Craig Cox (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock and Vice Chair for Experiential Programs) has assumed his duties as Chair-Elect Designate for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Experiential Section.



Dr. Xinli Liu

• Drs. Xinli Liu and Majid Moridani, assistant professors for the Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Amarillo, each received a Large Grant (\$20,000-\$50,000) from the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health Seed Grant Program. Dr. Liu's research is entitled, *Targeted Therapy for Ovarian Cancer*;



Dr. Majid Moridani

Dr. Moridani's research is entitled, *Investigation of Vita-*

min B12 Deficiency in Women with Post-partum Depression.

Dr. Moridani was also informed recently that he has been named the recipient of the Outstanding Speaker Award from the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. The award stems from a presentation entitled, *The application of pharmacogenetics in personalized treatment*, which he delivered at the 2009 AACC annual meeting in Chicago.



Arun Satelli

• Arun Satelli, a graduate student in Dr. U.S. Rao's laboratory, received a \$750 Biotechnology Travel Scholarship from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences and a \$500 Student Scholar's Award for Young Research Scientists from the American Association of Indian Pharmaceutical Sciences to attend the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences Meeting in Los Angeles, where he presented his re-

search entitled, *Galectin-4 is a prognostic marker of colorectal cancer.*



Dr. Paul Lockman

• Dr. Paul Lockman (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) was a finalist for a 2009 Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for his exemplary contributions toward closing the higher education gaps that challenge the state, as outlined in the THECB's Closing the Gaps Higher Education Plan.



Dr. Paul Katz

• In January Dr. Paul Katz (Assistant Professor/Curator, Texas Pharmacy Museum) took the TPM Chuck Wagon Therapy exhibit to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum for their annual Archaeology and History Day. He spoke to approximately 300 students and 30 teachers and parents.

Abilene, Amarillo Students Reach Out to Communities

On Feb. 20, SOP students in Abilene and Amarillo got an opportunity to hone their clinical skills while helping their communities.

In Abilene 36 P1 and P2 students conducted a free Health Fair at the United Supermarket South 14 location. The fair included free blood pressure reading, cholesterol and glucose screenings and heartburn awareness information.

Shannon Ferrill (Coordinator, Early Experiential Programs – Abilene) said all of the students did a great job, but P3s Jennifer Grelle and Elizabeth Le and P2 Robert Meeks merited special recognition.

"Jennifer and Elizabeth worked at the event even though they got no IPP credit and Robert worked the entire health fair because I



Amarillo P2 Josh Longbine draws a blood sample for cholesterol testing under the watchful eye of Dr. Eric MacLaughlin.

couldn't get enough P2s to sign up. He filled the empty spots and was a real life saver," Shannon said.

Abilene faculty who supervised the effort included Drs. Michelle Johnson, Jose Vega and Mary Klein

In Amarillo, 64 P1 and P2 students participated in the Tyler Street Resource Center's Annual

Winter Outreach, an event that brings various organizations together at one location to assist the homeless and underprivileged population in Amarillo.

The focus of this event this year was health care so TTUHSC-SOP were the guests of honor. Students helped approximately 300 patients by conducting cholesterol and glucose screenings, providing blood pressure readings and disseminating information regarding tobacco cessation and heartburn awareness.

Faculty and staff who helped with the clinic included: Drs. Niambi Horton, Audrey Kennedy, Shawna King, Eric MacLaughlin, Kenna Payne and Jill Polk, all from the Dept. of Pharmacy Practice; and Alicia Aragon (Coordinator, Experiential Programs – Amarillo).

Getting to Know...

**Lee Easterday, CPhT
Pharmacy Projects Director
Department of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo**

Lee was born and raised in Atchison, which is located in northeast Kansas on the bluffs of the Missouri River. He remained in his hometown to attend Benedictine College and earned his BA degree in art.

After graduation Lee moved to Canyon and continued his graduate studies at West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M).

During his WT years Lee also worked primarily backstage at the Country Squire Dinner Theater, located at the Villa Inn on I-40 and Grand where a Walmart now stands. While working at the theater, he met and worked with Russell Johnson, who played the Professor on Gilligan's Island; Ron Ely, who played Tarzan in the TV series; Playboy model and actress June Wilkinson; and body builder Peter Lupus who also starred in the Mission Impossible TV series.

More importantly, Lee met his wife, Janice, while working at the theater. She was a member of the Country Rogues, the pre-show entertainment at the dinner theater.

Lee says he started his pharmacy career unintentionally in 1982 when he worked as a pharmacy technician at High Plains Baptist Hospital (now BSA). He says SOP Associate Professor Butch Habeger was the pharmacy director at that time.



Lee Easterday takes a break while from one of the home projects he enjoys working on when he isn't busy at the SOP in Amarillo.

In 1995, Lee was among the first to become certified as a pharmacy technician by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. He joined TTUHSC in 2000 and now wears many hats as Pharmacy Projects Director.

"There is nothing more challenging or more rewarding than finding success in the most regulated of health care professions, which is pharmacy," he says.

Even though Texas Tech provides his paycheck, Lee is true to his Kansas roots and is a huge "Rock Chalk" Jayhawk basketball fan.

Lee also enjoys golf, working on home projects and attending Amarillo Little Theater events with his wife. He especially enjoys the ALT productions in which she performs.

"Janice is the most captivating performer I have ever met," he says.



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