



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy

Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

From the DEAN'S DESK



June - July 2010

Ceremony welcomes Class of 2014 to SOP

The new academic year officially opened Aug. 1 when we welcomed the SOP Class of 2014 at the annual White Coat Ceremony.

The Amarillo ceremony took place at the Globe-News Performing Arts Center. Abilene held its ceremony at the historic Paramount Theatre.

With 115 new students coming to the Amarillo campus and 40 arriving at the Abilene campus, the Class of 2014 is our largest ever. It is also the fourth Abilene class to begin our program, which means we now have all four years enrolled on that campus.

The White Coat Ceremony serves as an early induction into the pharmacy profession for our students. This is where we officially present our incoming class with their white pharmacy coats and



The SOP Class of 2014 recite the Oath of a Pharmacist at the White Coat Ceremony in Amarillo.

where they recite the Oath of a Pharmacist for the first time.

The White Coat Ceremony is also where incoming P1 students sign the Pharmacist Code of Ethics. The code defines the roles and responsibilities of the pharmacist and forms the basis for our students' interactions with patients and colleagues, not only during their years in our program, but also when they graduate and enter the profession.

The ceremony is an integral part of our two-week "boot camp," which is where we help our incoming P1s prepare for their first year of classes and present them with an overview of TTUHSC's four-year pharmacy program.

I'd like to personally extend my gratitude to all of our staff and faculty who were involved with planning

and coordinating this event and to the faculty and alumni who took time out of their schedules to participate in the program. I also want to thank CVS/Caremark for sponsoring the event. Their support is greatly appreciated.

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:

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It's 'Guns Up' for the Class of 2014 at the SOP White Coat Ceremony in Abilene.

GHO clerkship takes students to Guatemala

For the second straight summer, SOP Assistant Professors Drs. Shawna King and Niambi Horton traveled out of the country with a group of P4s as part of the Global Health Outreach elective clerkship. The students, all from the SOP's Dallas/Fort Worth campus, included Zubin Bhakta, Steve Hammond and Tyler Sledge.

The group spent nine days in Guatemala performing health screenings and educating patients about diabetes, hypertension, lifestyle issues and a variety of other topics of concern to the community. Their first three days were spent in Guatemala City learning about the Guatemalan national health care system and visiting primary care clinics in remote areas surrounding Guatemala City. From there, they traveled to Santiago Atitlán, the capital of the Tz'utujil Mayan community, and worked alongside staff and volunteers from all over the globe at Hospitalito Atitlán and at a local church.

"Choosing the location and which organization is very difficult," Dr. King said. "We spend much time researching, discussing and praying about this decision, but we are both passionate about Central and South America and plan to continue our mission work in that part of the world."

Dr. King said the GHO clerkship took place in Costa Rica last

year because she and Dr. Horton had both been there several times previously. This year they had the opportunity to go to Guatemala with CEDEPCA (Centro Evangélico de estudios pastorales en Centro América), an organization Dr. Horton worked with while she was in college.

"We wanted to work with an organization rather than organize our own trip this year to make sure we had a lasting and sustainable impact in the communities where we worked," Dr. Horton said. "This is why I pursued a career in health care and academia. It combines all of the things I love the most: helping and teaching people. In these experiences I learn as much from the students and patients on the trip and during the rotation as I teach, perhaps more."

To participate in the clerkship, students undergo an application and interview process. Those selected then spend more than a month preparing for the clerkship by learning about the culture, taking Spanish classes, collecting donations and working with Drs. King and Horton at various local clinics and organizations. For the students who took part in the clerkship this year, the experience proved to be very rewarding.

"My first rotation as a fourth-year pharmacy student may indeed have become one of the most educational experiences of my life," Zubin said. "I was taught about different cultures, the practice of pharmacy in and out of the United States and even about me as an individual. We were forced out of our comfort zones, which ultimately allowed us to know what we were truly capable of. From this I was able to understand that no matter the barriers that are present, if we work hard enough we can find ways to overcome them. I would recommend this rotation

hands-down to any of my colleagues who wish to grow, not only as a student, but also as a person."

Tyler said the clerkship gave him a new look at medical care and provided him with insight into building relationships, communicating and respecting other cultures.



D/FW P4 Tyler Sledge checks the blood pressure of a patient during the GHO elective clerkship in Guatemala.

"My hope is that the events that took place over this time will serve as a base to how I hope to perform in both my future career and life," Tyler said. "The Global Health Outreach rotation was an excellent experience from both a personal and academic aspect because we were able to see first-hand how a culture with limited resources to health care functions and the resilience of the people that make it happen. Professionally, I feel a greater understanding of how to approach situations with patients from different cultures and in situations where communication may not be as straightforward as it may seem."

Steven said the rotation started as an opportunity to travel outside the U.S. for the first time and learn about another culture, but the experience was much more than he ever imagined.

"After completing this rotation I have a new outlook on life," Steven said. "It allowed me to experience things that I would have otherwise not been able to experience. No one can take away the things I

Please see "Guatemala" on next page



The SOP contingent that traveled to Guatemala for the GHO elective clerkship included (from left): Steve Hammond, Zubin Bhakta, Tyler Sledge, Dr. Shawna King and Dr. Niambi Horton.

Guatemala

saw and learned on this trip and I highly recommend every student take advantage of an international health outreach project.”

Drs. King and Horton said they received plenty of help in putting together the 2010 GHO clerkship. SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Jill Polk precepted the students in her clinic and Smile Company, She-man Dental Group, Karr Dentistry, Triumph Hospital and Northwest Texas Surgery Center all made donations to Hospitalito Atitlán.

“We also received a great deal of support and help from Summer Balcer (assistant dean for student

services) and Janea Robinson (student services unit coordinator),” Dr. Horton said. “Without those two working with us the trip would not have been as successful as it was.”

Dr. King said she plans to return to same area next year with a new group of P4s.

“Medical mission work has been a lifelong dream of mine and one of the main reasons I chose a career in a health care field,” Dr. King said. “It is impossible for me to describe how rewarding it is to be able to share this passion with a colleague and pharmacy students.”

Dr. Horton is also making plans for next year’s clerk-

ship and will continue to work to achieve the GHO mission.

“This rotation offers the students a rare opportunity not only to grow as pharmacists, but most importantly as people, as human beings,” she stressed. “We can all learn something from everyone we encounter in life and it’s important to go where things are different to see how other people in other places and cultures do things so we can take the best of what we see and encounter and bring that back and apply it to our patients and our lives at home.”

Posters highlight 2010 Research Days

In June the SOP’s main campus in Amarillo hosted the school’s Ninth Annual Research Days.

Faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who attended the event learned about research activities that have taken place at the SOP during the past year. They also exchanged research ideas and interests and discussed possible interdisciplinary collaborations.

TTUHSC President Dr. Tedd Mitchell was the keynote speaker for the event. Dr. Marjorie Jenkins, executive director for the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health, also addressed the attendees.

The 2010 Research Days featured nine podium presentations where selected SOP investigators discussed their research findings with students and colleagues.

The event also included the annual research poster competition. Each of the 66 poster entries highlighted research activities undertaken during the past year by SOP investigators.

In the Biomedical Sciences category, SOP grad student Prabodh Kandala took first place and Snehal Padhye finished second. Bhavna



Amarillo biomedical grad student Snehal Padhye (right) discusses her Research Days poster with pharmaceutical sciences grad student Pooja Naik.

Verma and Parul Gupta tied for third.

Graduate student Kunal Taskar won the Pharmaceutical Sciences category. Chris Atkins garnered second place and Rachita Sumbria finished third.

In the Pharmacy Practice competition, resident Sydney Keisner took the first place award. Heather Wild and Chris Guiliano tied for second place and Jamie Ecklund and Jaime McCarrell tied for third.

Congratulations to each of the winners and to everyone who participated in the competition.

Student ambassadors selected for Abilene SOP

I want to extend my congratulations to four SOP students who were chosen to serve as student ambassadors for the TTUHSC Abilene campus.

The honorees include P4 Liz White(Riney), P3s Stacey Jordan and Carly Lemons and P2 Danny Miller.



Elizabeth White (Riney)



Stacey Jordan



Carly Lemons



Danny Miller

As student ambassadors, these students will serve as representatives for TTUHSC and the SOP to friends, guests and prospective students who visit the Abilene campus. I’m sure they will do an excellent job and we certainly appreciate their service.

Dr. Klein shares passion with Abilene community

During her first year practicing at Presbyterian Medical Care Mission in Abilene, Assistant Professor Dr. Mary Klein (Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Abilene) noticed that many of her diabetes patients lacked general health literacy and knowledge about their condition, two very important components of managing the disease.

At the same time, Rev. Amy Wilson, director of Spiritual Wellness at the Mission in Abilene, noted that patients she spoke to at that facility are often dealing with difficult circumstances, which further compound problems related to diabetes. She also noted that community awareness about concerns related to diabetes and poverty was relatively low.

After a series of conversations on these two topics—and a trip to a science and theology conference at Princeton Theological Seminary—Dr. Klein and Rev. Wilson began a journey that eventually led them to develop *Common Ground: Diabetes and the Whole Person*, a series of free diabetes education seminars.

“Patients in lower socioeconomic classes, like those at the Mission, often have a very low health literacy,” Dr. Klein said. “Because they don’t understand the disease they are facing and its complica-

tions, they often don’t take diabetes or their medications seriously until they have a major complication.

“One of our goals in Common Ground is to provide basic information that will help patients and community members better understand diabetes, which in turn will help them to participate in their own care. Additionally, we hope that participants gain a better understanding of the people around them, which is why we’ve opened the program up to anyone in Abilene that wants to learn more about diabetes, not just Mission patients.”

Because diabetes has become an epidemic in this country, Dr. Klein believes it is “absolutely critical” that health care professionals find ways to open lines of communication about the disease between patients, their families and the community.

“The subtitle to the program is *Diabetes and the Whole Person*, because we understand that diabetes doesn’t just affect the patient – it affects everyone in their family and even those in the community around them to some extent,” Dr. Klein explained. “Common Ground provides patients and their families a place to come, listen, learn and talk about diabetes and I think

that dialog can be a key factor in helping everyone involved understand the patient’s treatment.”

The hour-long Common Ground seminars are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Medical Care Mission and are open to the public. Topics range from nutrition, exercise and complications of diabetes to oral and injectable medications and monitoring of diabetes. Rev. Wilson opens and closes each session and seminar presenters include members of the community, pharmacy students and Dr. Klein.

“Helping patients to live the best life they can is why I love what I do,” Dr. Klein emphasized. “I love hearing patients tell me ‘I feel so much better!’ when we’ve finally gotten them on the right track with medicines, diet and exercise. I actually had a patient last week tell me that she now likes coming to the clinic because she knows I’m going to listen and then I’m going to help her. That particular patient’s A1c has gone from 10.9 to 7.4 in the past 11 months. Those are the patients that make me smile for the rest of the day. I love having the opportunity to have a direct positive effect on patients’ lives – it is a daily blessing!”

ABRI concludes 2010 session

Six student interns recently wrapped up a summer of research at the SOP as part of the Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship program.

The ABRI seeks to attract promising and gifted students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies and research careers in the biomedical sciences.

During the 10-week program, ABRI students develop and conduct research projects in consultation with their faculty mentor and other lab personnel.

The 2010 program concluded July 30 when the interns conducted poster presentations showcasing their projects.

The 2010 ABRI student researchers (and their faculty mentors) included: Binod Baniya (Dr. Sanjay Srivastava); John Fullerton (Dr. Majid Moridani); Ricardo Leveck (Dr. James Stoll); Tri Salihima (Dr. Xinli Liu); Angela Vela (Dr. Karen Mark); and Hezhen Wang (Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan).

Kudos also go out to Teresa Carlisle (graduate program coordinator) and Shari Morris (graduate student advisor). Their efforts were instrumental in making the ABRI a success.



ABRI student researcher Ricardo Leveck receives his certificate of completion from Dr. Thomas Abbruscato (associate professor - Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences).

Clinical training paying off for SOP grad

At TTUHSC-SOP, one of our biggest sources of pride is the fact that our students receive more clinical training hours than do students from any other school or college of pharmacy in the country. We do this because today's pharmacist plays an increasing role in patient care and that role will only grow in the years to come.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting with Dr. Tyson Cromeens, (SOP Class of '02) at one of the CVS stores in Amarillo. Tyson has been with CVS for 15 years, the last three as a pharmacy supervisor overseeing 20 stores in Amarillo, Pampa, Hereford, Slaton, Plainview, Levelland, Lubbock, Lamesa, Snyder, Midland and Odessa.



SOP grads Dr. Tyson Cromeens and Dr. Janda Whitaker discuss new CVS programs.

According to Dr. Cromeens, the hours of clinical training he received in our program are quite important in the today's pharmacy.

"In the world of ever expanding health care, today's pharmacists must be prepared for anything and everything," Dr. Cromeens said. "We are already the most available source of medical knowledge and we must be thoroughly prepared to handle any question."

As a pharmacy supervisor for a major chain, Dr. Cromeens has had the opportunity to observe and evaluate our graduates in comparison to those from other programs. From his perspective, TTUHSC-SOP graduates rate very high.



Amarillo P2 Veronica Iniguez speaks with a patient as part of her job at CVS.

"The Texas Tech pharmacy students are in a class by themselves when it comes to patient care," Dr. Cromeens said. "Retail pharmacy is not about counting and pouring; it has shifted to patient adherence and patient care. TTUHSC students excel at this. They are more prepared than those from other schools and I believe the SOP gives the students a more well-rounded education instead of just gearing them toward one sector of pharmacy. This comes in very handy. I also believe that Texas Tech develops not only a knowledge base, but teaches professional communication as well."

Dr. Cromeens is presently helping CVS develop several

programs designed to improve patient care from the pharmacy perspective, especially as it pertains to drug therapy adherence and cost effective therapeutic interchange. He said his clinical training at the SOP gave him the tools to tackle such a project.

"We want our patients to be taking the best possible medication for them and taking it correctly," Dr. Cromeens explained. "My training at Texas Tech gave me a distinct advantage as I already knew how to choose which medication would be most beneficial for the patient and how to communicate this with both the physician and the patient. I was also taught the importance of being adherent on medications in order to achieve the best possible medical outcome and I can help teach other pharmacists the same thing."

We are certainly proud of our program and the way our faculty go about preparing the next generation of pharmacy professionals. When we hear that all those hours of hard work and dedication are paying off for our graduates and their patients, it's truly inspirational.

Three SOP faculty to receive top ACCP honor

Congratulations to three of our faculty members who were recently selected to receive Fellow status from the American College of Clinical Pharmacists.

Drs. Sara Brouse, Steven Pass and Sachin Shah will be officially recognized Oct. 17-20 at the ACCP Annual Meeting in Austin.

All three are associate professors for the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the SOP's Dallas/Ft. Worth regional campus.

Fellow status, the highest honor ACCP bestows on its members, is awarded in recognition of continued excellence

and contributions in clinical pharmacy practice or research.



Dr. Sara Brouse



Dr. Steven Pass



Dr. Sachin Shah

In case you missed it...



Arun Satelli

• Arun Satelli received a 2010 Graduate Student Symposium Award in Biotechnology from the American Association of

Pharmaceutical Sciences. The award is sponsored by Pfizer and includes a commemorative plaque and a cash award of \$250, both of which will be presented at the 2010 FIP PSWC/AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition Nov. 14 in New Orleans. Arun will also receive a complimentary registration to the meeting and will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for his travel expenses. Arun is in his final year as a Ph.D. graduate student in Dr. U.S. Rao's laboratory. His poster is entitled, *Galectins in Colorectal Cancer*.



Dr. Paul Katz

• The Texas Pharmacy Museum and curator Dr. Paul Katz hosted a workshop July 13 that discussed strategic plan development for

museums and historical societies. The workshop was sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Association of Museums and was funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency. Brian Crockett, an experienced museum consultant from Albuquerque, NM, led the workshop, which was attended by 20 participants representing small museums and county historical commissions from across the Texas Panhandle.



Dr. Traci Metting

• Dr. Traci Metting (SOP Class of '00) received a \$10,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame. The scholarship, through

the University of Dallas, will help Dr. Metting obtain her MBA degree. She is currently serving as vice president/practice leader pharmacy for Broadlane, Inc. She is also a past president for the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists.



Dr. Jeremy Ashley

• Dr. Jeremy Ashley (SOP Class of '08) has been promoted to assistant manager of Professional Pharmacy Services for H-E-B in San Antonio.

Getting to know...

Wendi Monroe
Coordinator - Residency Programs
Department of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas/Fort Worth (VA)

Wendi was born and raised in Dallas. In fact, she and her family still live there and Wendi says they all love to spend time together.

Although her only "child" is Muffin, an 8-year old crème colored Pomeranian, she does have two nephews: 6-year old Greyson and 4-year old Brandon. Wendi also has an 8-year old "dog" niece named Liebchen. She says her nephews and the dogs keep her very busy.

Wendi became a member of the TTUHSC family in 2008. She currently

serves as coordinator for the SOP's residency program and works at our Dallas/Fort Worth VA campus.

In her spare time Wendi likes to attend concerts, Dallas Cowboys football games and Texas Rangers baseball games. She also enjoys scrapbooking, traveling and reading. She says she spends most of her free time in Austin and Allen, which is a northern suburb of Dallas.



Wendi's youngest nephew, Brandon (left), poses with big brother, Greyson.



Wendi (right) at a concert with a couple of friends.



Wendi rings in the New Year with her brother, Robert, and her oldest nephew, Greyson.

SOP Photo Gallery



Winners of the 2010 Research Days poster competition included biomedical sciences grad student Prabodh Kandala (top); pharmacy practice resident Sydney Keisner (right); and pharmaceutical sciences grad student Kunal Taskar.



Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Steve Hammond checks out a couple of patients in Guatemala as part of the Global Health Outreach elective clerkship.



Albuquerque museum consultant Brian Crockett speaks to a group of Texas Panhandle museum and historical commission representatives at a workshop hosted by the Texas Pharmacy Museum.



Incoming P1 J'Maria Cannon receives her pharmacy coat from Dept. of Pharmacy Practice Chair Dr. Cynthia Raehl at the White Coat Ceremony in Amarillo.



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