



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

## Students show off clinical skills

As part of its Annual Seminar, the Texas Society for Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP) conducts a Clinical Skills and Disease State Management competition for pharmacy students and residents. This year the event took place April 16 in San Antonio and there was a definite Red Raider presence.

In the Student Category I competition for P1/P2 students, the Amarillo P1 team comprised of Elizabeth Neyland and Traci Pafford took top honors and Abilene P2s Anastasia Diamantopoulos and Candis Massingill earned honorable mention. Dallas/Fort Worth P4s Tyler Sledge and Zubin Bhakta added to the SOP's strong showing by bringing home an honorable mention in the Student Category II competition for P3/P4 students.



*Elizabeth Neyland*



*Traci Pafford*

The first place finish netted Neyland and Pafford a plaque, \$75, free TSHP membership for next year and free admission to the 2012 TSHP Annual Seminar. It also provided a boost to their confidence.

"We were in complete shock because we were up against other P1s and P2s from across the state, including UH and UT," Neyland said. "We really didn't think we stood that much of a chance."

Neyland said she and Pafford relied on their biochemistry and physiology knowledge to conduct their diagnosis.

"This case was all about looking at drug interaction and the patient's lab values," Neyland explained. "Many of the indications that a drug was dosed incorrectly or that there were interactions occurring were found in the lab values, like liver enzyme levels, platelet levels, albumin and blood urea nitrogen."

Pafford and Neyland also benefitted from the experiences they have picked up competing in other similar events.

"We competed in the APhA competition last semester," Pafford said. "It's really hard to do any preparation because each case is different. You just have to go in blind and hope you can figure it out."

Pafford said she had no real interest in clinical pharmacy until she started participating in these competitions. She hopes her success will inspire more of her classmates to compete in the future.

"I think these competitions are great experiences; they are fun and challenging," Pafford said. "There is no right or wrong answer; a lot of it is judgments you make based upon the literature you have available to you."

Neyland said she enjoys the competitions because they have added to her knowledge base.

"I hope other first-year students participate next year," Neyland said. "I have learned so much from just this one case that I have been able to carry on quite a few conversations with my preceptor at Baptist St. Anthony's based solely on the knowledge that I garnered during the competition."



*Anastasia  
Diamantopoulos*



*Candis Massingill*



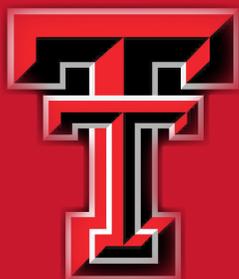
*Zubin Bhakta*



*Tyler Sledge*



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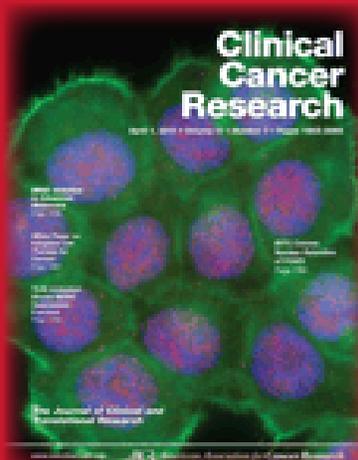
## Journal cover features SOP research

Dr. Sanjay Srivastava recently became the second SOP faculty investigator in the last four months to have a research manuscript featured on the cover of *Clinical Cancer Research*, a journal published by the American Association for Cancer Research.

SOP post-doctoral research associates Srinivas Reddy Boreddy and Kartick Pramanik were co-authors for the manuscript.

Srivastava's manuscript was featured on the April 1 cover. SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Paul Lockman received the same honor in the Dec. 7, 2010 issue. *Clinical Cancer Research* is consistently ranked as in the top 10 percent of the nation's oncology journals in terms of impact factor.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of deaths in cancer patients because of its poor prognosis and resistance to chemo-



*The April 1 cover of Clinical Cancer Research.*

therapy. Srivastava's paper discusses his research on suppressing pancreatic tumors using benzyl isothiocyanate, which is associated with the inhibition of a key cellular signaling protein known as AKT.

"Interestingly, 59 percent of the pancreatic tumors over express AKT, which is a tumor promoter gene and also plays

critical role in drug resistance," Srivastava explained. "Activation of AKT can protect the cancer cells from the cell death induced by anti-cancer drugs."

In this study, Srivastava said benzyl isothiocyanate, an active chemical present in cruciferous vegetables such as watercress, was shown to suppress the activation of AKT leading to programmed death, or apoptosis, in pancreatic tumor cells.

Although his research has been published in many journals during his career, including the prestigious *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Srivastava said having this work featured in such a manner is significant for his laboratory team.

"This will bring more visibility and recognition to my research program and boost the morale of my post-docs and graduate students," Srivastava said.

## Smith, collaborators receive \$1 million CPRIT grant

The Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas has awarded a \$1 million grant to Quentin Smith Ph.D., and a team of collaborating faculty investigators and basic scientists from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center schools of pharmacy and medicine in Amarillo. Smith is associate dean for sciences for the SOP and a University Distinguished Professor.

The grant will allow the purchase of a major laboratory instrument that will support the nationally competitive research programs being conducted in Amarillo by TTUHSC research faculty. The piece of equipment, known as a confocal/multiphoton laser scanning microscope, will allow researchers to view images of drugs and cancer cells in the tissues of living organisms. It can also be used to explore the mechanisms associated with cell signaling and cell invasion within the body so that new therapeutic drugs can be tested.

The TTUHSC Amarillo campus opened its new Amarillo Research Building in 2009. Earlier this year the campus received matching funds from the

TTUHSC administration to purchase two additional major new pieces of multi-user research equipment.

"The faculty's success with individual awards, coupled with the new facilities and equipment, will also strengthen the training of our graduate and Pharm.D. students who are engaged in laboratory research," SOP Dean Arthur Nelson R.Ph., Ph.D., said.



*Smith and his team will use a \$1 million CPRIT grant to purchase a major piece of laboratory equipment.*

## Dallas/Fort Worth P4 named latest Student Leader of the Quarter

The more Tyler Sledge advanced through the TTUHSC pharmacy program, the more he recognized the important role leadership plays in strengthening the profession as a whole. Today, as a P4 at the SOP's Dallas/Fort Worth (D/FW) regional campus, Sledge has become the type of person to whom others look for motivation and encouragement. In short, he has become a leader himself and he is the latest SOP student to receive the quarterly Dean's Student Leadership Award.

In nominating him for the award, SOP Associate Professor Dr. Krystal Edwards said she has observed Sledge in class, on rotations and at various after-school events and has always been impressed with his ability to affect others positively.

"Tyler seems to bring out the best in others by making them feel at ease and giving them a smile or a caring friend when they need one," Edwards said. "On rotations, he was quick to help and lend a hand and never turned away a request to be of assistance. He helped to educate and guide the P3s, which helped them to not get frustrated. Being available to others and demonstrating empathy, trust and caring are ways he has modeled leadership in others."

Sledge said his reputation as a leader was born of a willingness to participate, being in the right place at the right time and the examples set by faculty and fellow students he has seen tackle such responsibilities. He also credits his family and friends.

"There have been a number of teachers and mentors I've had throughout school who have motivated me both personally and from a career point of view," Sledge said. "But I probably draw the most motivation/inspiration from my family and the close



*D/FW P4 Tyler Sledge (center) enjoys a celebratory lunch to mark his Dean's Student Leader of the Quarter Award. Joining him (from left) are SOP Dean Dr. Arthur Nelson, Associate Professor Dr. Krystal Edwards and Regional Dean Dr. Richard Leff.*

knit group of friends I have had through school. It's easy to be motivated when you have stellar examples to follow."

Sledge believes it's important for students to give back to the school and the pharmacy profession through their involvement with student organizations. He is president for the Texas Tech Student Society for Health-system Pharmacists and is a member of the American Pharmacist Association, Rho Chi and Phi Lambda Sigma.

"I think student organization involvement is not just to learn more about different career paths or to promote leadership in school, but a large part of it is to learn the process and importance of local, state and national professional involvement," Sledge said. "It is definitely more than just something to plug into a CV."

Edwards said Sledge also challenges himself and others to continually strive to be the best they can be clinically.

"In case studies his group always went the extra mile to do their best work and not only do the minimum work, but truly dig deeper to get the most out of

the case," Edwards said. "He was one of the students that helped keep the group on track and get the work done to the best of the group's ability."

Edwards has also seen Sledge encourage classmates to apply for some of the toughest residencies, though ironically, he didn't feel he was qualified for some of these same top programs. After conducting a thorough self-evaluation with Edwards, Sledge challenged himself and submitted his applications. He and classmate Zubin Bhakta eventually accepted a PGY-1 residency in pharmacy practice at the University of Utah.

During Sledge's self-evaluation, he and Edwards identified a need for incorporating a practice interview component into the D/FW curriculum. They believed such a component would help students prepare for both residency and job interviews.

"Tyler worked with me to help set up the first 'mock interview' session on the Dallas campus," Edwards said. "It involved him advertising and reaching out to his fellow students and also helping to find a way to raise funds to provide lunch for the program. He organized the students, helped us get the appropriate documentation from them and worked closely with me to organize the event."

Despite such successes, Sledge was still humbled by the announcement that he would be receiving the Dean's Leadership Award.

"Personally, it was an honor and really a surprise, especially when you realize how many other people are very deserving of the award," Sledge said. "There are a lot of people just in Dallas alone that are always helping and giving me advice. They have really made the process of being involved much easier."

## Development Notes... by Carrie Croley Development Director



Carrie Croley  
Carrie Croley

It's hard to believe that I've been with the SOP for nearly a year now! During that time, I've met quite a few of our alumni and I am impressed with the dedication, compassion and service they demonstrate to the profession and to patients every day. It's these qualities that set our graduates apart and will continue to distinguish them and their alma mater well into the future.

Now, on to some news:

- The Board of Directors for the Texas Tech Pharmacy Alumni Association met in January and officially adopted the group's bylaws. In addition, they elected their first officers: Traci Metting ('00) – chair; Josh Rodgers ('03) – chair-elect; Alisia Baker ('06) – secretary; and Jason Heuermann ('01) – treasurer. Many thanks to the entire board for their service and willingness to get the association organized.
- Earlier this year Ms. Jean Stockton, a graduate and longtime supporter of Texas Tech,

provided additional scholarship funds for students at the Abilene and Dallas campuses. When asked, "Why pharmacy?," she said she appreciates the care and counseling her pharmacist provides. This proves that our alumni are making a difference.

- We are pleased to announce efforts to establish the SOP Alumni Pioneers Scholarship. The goal is to endow this scholarship at the \$10,000 level. While we are focusing on the first six classes (2000-2005) to participate in this initiative, any SOP alum is welcome to join in this effort. To make a gift, visit [give2tech.com](http://give2tech.com) and then select "School of Pharmacy Alumni Pioneers Scholarship."
- Are you looking to stay in touch with fellow friends and classmates and follow the latest alumni news and events? If so, visit the Texas Tech Pharmacy Alumni Association Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=98106275856>

Finally, congratulations to all of our 2011 SOP graduates! Guns up and Go Tech!

## SOP students receive various scholarships

During the last three months, several SOP students have received scholarships.

Graduate students Kaci Bohn, Siva Koganti and Naomi Wangler were awarded TTUHSC Student Endowed Scholarships by the TTUHSC Student Senate Scholarship Committee. These scholarships recognize students for their participation in school activities, community service, demonstrated leadership ability and academic standing. The Student Senate raises funds for the scholarships through their annual Phonathon.

In March, Amarillo P1 Megan Sneller was awarded the Lubbock Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists Marlin Ferguson Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes academic achievement, citizenship and superior personal characteristics. Recipients must be from, or have ties to, Lubbock or the surrounding area.

In April, the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation named its scholarship recipients for the 2011 academic year and four of those honorees were SOP students. The group includes Abilene P3 Minh Hong, who received the Celso & Matiana M. Cuellar Sr. Scholarship; Amarillo P2 Kevin Aloysius (the Jon Peyton Hudlow Memorial Scholarship); Amarillo P1 Kaytlin Huseman (the Michael Patry Memorial/TTUHSC SOP/El Paso Society of HSP Scholarship); and Amarillo P1 Jonathan Head (the Grace Dyan Coggin Metroplex Society of HSP Scholarship).

## ON TARGET... *Celebrating Continuous Quality Improvement in the TTUHSC-SOP*

The SOP Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program is re-credited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) every six years.

The first step in reaccreditation is a detailed internal assessment and evaluation called a self-study. The self-study is per-

formed by faculty, staff, students and other constituents of the SOP.

This process started in March 2010 and will conclude with adoption of the self-study at a faculty retreat in August. Follow the process by clicking the "ACPE Accreditation 2012" link on the right side of the SOP homepage.

## Walgreens helps SOP students showcase diversity

Thanks to a generous grant from Walgreens, students on all four SOP campuses have organized programs designed to promote the understanding of diverse cultures, groups and ideas.

Students from each campus submitted proposals to the Walgreens Student Diversity Project, which awarded \$2,000 to the best proposal from each site. The proposals focused on organizing projects that promoted diversity in areas such as age, culture, disabilities, ethnicity, gender, lifestyle, religion and socio-economic status.

Project organizers at each campus are also eligible for a single, \$2,000 individual scholarship that recognizes their outstanding leadership in developing and executing one of the four projects. Three campuses — Amarillo, Abilene and Dallas/Fort Worth — have completed their projects. The project for the Lubbock campus is ongoing.

### AMARILLO

The Amarillo project was organized by Kevin Aloysius, Sheba Jacob and Shanna James and included three events: International Night, an Introduction to Medical Spanish lecture and the Tulia Mission Trip. Dr. Krystal Haase served as the group's mentor for the proposal preparation process and Drs. Cynthia Raehl and Chris Tawwater served as preceptors for the Tulia Medical Mission Trip.

International Night focused upon cultural diversity. Students, faculty and staff were encouraged to wear clothing associated with their native or ancestral country and to prepare a potluck dinner featuring foods associated with those cultures.

The Introduction to Medical Spanish lecture was presented by Dr. Niambi Horton, who led students through an interactive session about the basics of Spanish. The project was designed to expose students to a language other than English and increase their



From left: Amarillo P2s Detty John, Mona Pham and Sheba Jacob at International Night.

awareness of language diversity.

The Tulia Medical Mission trip was designed to introduce students to two more types of diversity: economic and educational. The students organized a free medical screening clinic where patients were tested for diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and memory and counseled about smoking cessation and medication safety. Many of the patients did not have insurance and if any of their screening values fell outside normal ranges, students provided them a list of facilities offering affordable care.

"Events like these help us understand more about each other's culture and helps us, as future health care professionals, to better interact with our diverse group of patients," Aloysius said.

### ABILENE

The Abilene campus project was entitled "CHATTERx: Providing Autonomy for the Visually Impaired." The project included a presentation that focused upon



From left: Abilene P3 Clayton Roman, Walgreens' Regional Manager Susan Ashcock, R.Ph. and Abilene P3 Muriel Garza at CHATTERx.

improving awareness among pharmacy students about the technologies presently available to assist the visually impaired in their communities. It was organized by P3s Muriel Garza and Clayton Roman and was held at the Lytle Land and Cattle Company restaurant.

"There are so many technologies to aid the visually impaired, yet no attention is brought to those that can actually help implement these technologies," Garza said. "As pharmacists, we serve a number of different subpopulations and this is a diverse group of people that is often overlooked."

### DALLAS/FORT WORTH

The Dallas/Fort Worth project featured two events: Learn a Language Day and Barriers to Health Care: An Hispanic Perspective. P3 Merlyn Joseph organized both events with the aid of faculty



From left: Dallas/Fort Worth P3s Samrawit Agonafer, Merlyn Joseph, Ajay Sam and Tri Dung Le at Learn a Language Day.

advisor Dr. Megan Stapleton.

Learn a Language Day introduced participants to nine languages: Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Gujrati (from Pakistan), Swahili, Chinese, Vietnamese and Amharic (from Ethiopia). Students went from table to table and learned phrases like, "take one tablet in the morning," from their peers. The students were also provided with cheat sheets for their ID badges so that they would have quick access to basic pharmacy tips in all nine languages.

The Barriers to Health Care presentation featured Dr. Marisa Escobar Quinones, a former SOP

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# From the Dean's Desk

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faculty member who is currently working as a clinical pharmacist at Parkland Hospital. She spoke to students about some of the barriers she's seen in her familial and clinical experiences that predispose Hispanics to certain health conditions like diabetes and limit their access to health care. She also discussed some of the unusual herbals that she's seen her patients use, such as cactus.

"It was really interesting since many of the herbals that she discussed we had never discussed in our herbals class," Joseph said. "If I have a chance to take part in the Diversity Grant next year, I hope to have a chance to have my

peers put together a list of herbals, their utility and scientific data on herbals used within their culture."

## LUBBOCK

The Lubbock campus diversity project is entitled "Interdisciplinary Clinic Experience in Providing Pharmacy Care Services to Diverse Populations." It is scheduled to begin in May and will end in December.

The project will partner SOP students with an existing student-run clinic managed by the TTUHSC School of Medicine and Lubbock Impact, a nonprofit agency that cares for the city's poor and homeless populations who don't qualify for Medicare

or the Lubbock County Medically Indigent Program.

The project goal is to improve the level of patient care for these populations and provide meaningful interactions for SOP students working with underserved populations. The SOP students hope to use patient assistance programs to help patients acquire more expensive medications that might otherwise be unobtainable. They will also provide patient education and medication counseling; drug information for the clinic medical staff; patient profile reviews to minimize drug interactions; and over-the-counter/on-site medication sample storage management and inventory.

## Students, faculty and staff recognized with 2010-2011 awards

The efforts and achievements of SOP students, faculty and staff over the past year were recognized April 29 at the annual TTUHSC – SOP Honors Convocation.

Some of the 2010-2011 honorees included: Tri Salihima (P2-Amarillo), who received the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award; Crystal Campbell (P3-Amarillo) and Josh Longbine (P4-Amarillo), recipients of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy Student Recognition Award; and Tyler Wood (P4-Lubbock), who was named the Pharmacists Mutual Student Unsung Hero.

Wood also received the Student Professionalism Commendation



*Dr. Jayarama Gunaje receives the Graduate Teacher of the Year Award from Amarillo P1 Sarah Willis, who graduated from the GPPS in 2010.*

for the Lubbock campus. Kevin Aloysius (P2-Amarillo), John Hoyng (P3-Abilene) and Zubin Bhakta (P4-Dallas/Fort Worth) were the recipients for the other SOP campus sites.

Department of Biomedical Sciences instructor Dr. Nakita Mirajkar was named P1 Teacher of the Year and Dr. Reza Mehvar (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences) was named P2 Teacher of the Year. In addition, Dr. Steven Pass (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice) was selected as P3 Teacher of the Year and Dr. Jayarama Gunaje (Associate Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Sciences) was named Graduate Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Gunaje was also named Graduate Faculty Mentor of the Year and Dr. Chris Tawwater (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice) received the Faculty Mentor of the Year award.

Teaching Teams of the Year included the Biochemistry Team (P1 students), the Cardiovascular Team (P2s), the Psychiatric Team (P3s) and the Research Design and Analysis Team (graduate students).



*Amarillo P4 Toni Edgar (center) presents the excellence in Staff Services Award to Summer Balcer (left) and Lisa Bentley.*

Roxy Childs-Cox (Unit Coordinator-Abilene) and Debra Farrow (Budget Analyst-Amarillo) were named Excellence in Staff Services honorees. Summer Balcer (Assistant Dean for Student Services-Amarillo) and Lisa Bentley (Director of Recruiting and Retention-Amarillo) received a Student Staff Appreciation Award.



*Amarillo P2 Tri Salihima receives the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award from Lieutenant Commander and SOP alum C. Kyle Groop.*

## TPPC conducts more Medication Cleanout events

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) Medication Cleanout™ initiative recently completed another round of drug collection projects in Amarillo and three other West Texas communities. The projects were conducted in Borger (March 12), Sweetwater (March 19), Amarillo (April 9) and Lubbock (April 30).



Volunteers were busy at the April 9 Medication Cleanout event in Amarillo.

Amarillo events are conducted with the help of the Amarillo Independent School District's Safe Schools/Healthy Students program.

Medication Cleanout™ was designed to encourage residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and bring in any unused, expired or no-longer needed medications for proper disposal. TPPC Director and SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Jeannie



A member of the Amarillo Police Department displays a doctor's medicine case that was turned in at the Medication Cleanout event.

Jaramillo said these drugs are often the cause of accidental poisonings, abuse and misuse and that simply tossing them into the trash or flushing down the toilet can harm the environment.

A total of 168 volunteers provided curb side service to 634 vehicles and helped collect, log, identify and separate the drugs. A combined 1,838 pounds of drugs were taken out of circulation, including 140 pounds of controlled substances.

"Prescription drug abuse is currently the fastest growing drug problem in the U.S.," Jaramillo said. "The drugs collected could have resulted in an enormous amount of poisonings if stored improperly or could have done significant harm to the environment if flushed."



Mona Pham (P2) and Andrew Orsa (P1) sort through some of the drugs turned in at the Amarillo Medication Cleanout event.

TPPC presently has collection events slated for Pampa in June and Amarillo in September. Plans are also under way for a second Lubbock event, possibly in September. TPPC is also trying to find ways to increase participation in smaller communities.

"Small towns have had really low turnout," Jaramillo said. "We will have to re-evaluate our marketing to these areas and include more outreach to surrounding small towns. If we don't improve turnout in the smaller towns, we may have to stick to larger ones and include outreach to the small surrounding communities for participation."

## GSBS recognizes SOP grad students

Two students from the SOP's Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences (GPPS) have been selected to receive the Outstanding Graduate Student Award and the Dean's Recognition Award by the TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). This is the first year for GPPS students to receive both awards, which will be presented May 20 at the GSBS Convocation in Lubbock.



Dr. Vivek Gupta

The recipient of the Outstanding GSBS Graduate Student for 2011 is Dr. Vivek Gupta, who worked in Dr. Fakhru

laboratory. Gupta will serve as the speaker at the GSBS Convocation and carry the GSBS seal May 21 at the TTUHSC Commencement. He is presently working as a post-doctoral research associate at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

Sarah Willis, who earned her M.S. working in the laboratory of Dr. James Stoll, will receive the Dean's Recognition Award. She will describe the GSBS seal at Convocation and carry the GSBS banner at Commencement.

Gupta is the fifth GPPS student to receive the Outstanding Graduate Student Award since 2005, when Dr. Prasad Chimalakonda was the honoree. Other past recipients include Dr. Alamar Hussain (2006), Dr. Jennifer Paulson (2008) and Dr. Chandan Thomas (2009).

Dr. Julie Gaasch received the Dean's Recognition Award in 2007.



Sarah Willis

## Faculty receive awards, promotions

The TTUHSC Student Senate recently selected two SOP faculty members as teacher of the year honorees for 2011.

Dr. Nikita Mirajkar, an instructor for the Department of Biomedical Sciences in Amarillo, was named Didactic Teacher of the Year. In addition, Dr. Craig Cox, associate professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice in Lubbock, was named Preceptor Teacher of the Year.

Mirajkar and Cox received their awards in April at the Office of Student Services and Student Government Association Annual Awards and Installation Banquet in Lubbock. Both were recognized for their knowledge of material; enthusiasm for subject matter; demonstrated interest in learning; flexible teaching

methods to accommodate different learning styles; patience and empathy with students; and demonstrated belief that teaching is an active process.

### Promotions

In March, the TTUHSC Board of Regents announced it had approved the promotion of two SOP faculty members.

Dr. Lisa Brinn, who works for the Department of Biomedical Sciences in Abilene, was promoted from instructor to associate professor.

In addition, Dr. Eric MacLaughlin was promoted from associate professor to professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice in Amarillo. The promotions are effective Sept. 1.

Both of these promotions recognize the outstanding teaching, scholarship and service provided by Drs. Brinn and MacLaughlin on behalf of the SOP and its students. I want to personally extend my congratulations to each of these individuals and let them know that we are proud of the contributions

they have made to our program over the years and we wish them continued success in the years to come.



Dr. Lisa Brinn



Dr. Eric MacLaughlin



P3 Omar Martinez and Dr. Nikita Mirajkar, who was named Didactic Teacher of the Year by the TTUHSC Student Senate



Dr. Craig Cox, selected as Preceptor Teacher of the Year by the TTUHSC Student Senate, and P3 Tyler Wood.

## In Memorium: Angela Wills

The SOP is accepting gifts for future scholarships in the name of alumna Angela Renee Wills, who recently passed away at the age of 34.

Angela was the Banner Bearer for the Class of 2005 and she will be greatly missed.

If you would like to make a gift you may send a check made payable to:

Texas Tech Foundation, Inc.  
TTUHSC  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
3601 4th Street, Stop 6238  
Lubbock, Texas 79430

Please note on your check that this is in memory of Angela Wills.

To make a gift online, please visit [give2tech.com](http://give2tech.com) and select School of Pharmacy Fund For Excellence. You'll be provided the option to designate your gift to Angela's memory.



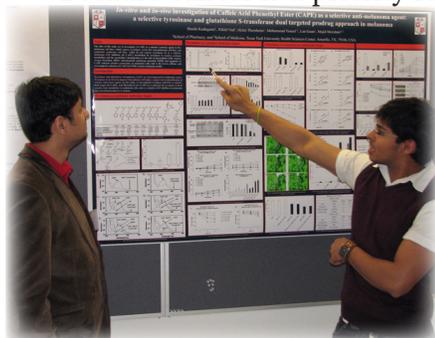
## SOP hosts 2011 TTUHSC Cancer Symposium

Some of the country's top cancer researchers met April 29 – May 1 at the SOP campus in Amarillo for the 2011 TTUHSC Annual Cancer Symposium.

The symposium brought together more than 100 researchers and clinicians from across the TTU System to discuss how to build collaborative cancer research in West Texas. Attendees also focused on how to best move forward with discussions aimed at creating a TTU/TTUHSC Cancer Institute that covers all of West Texas and helps integrate and build cancer research and therapy initiatives for the region.

Alfred G. Gilman, a Nobel Laureate and National Academy of Sciences member who is also the chief scientific officer for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) was the keynote speaker. Prominent cancer investigators from the Food and Drug Administration, the Duke University Medical Center and other TTU System campuses also made special invited presentations.

Because cancer is a priority for Texas, the state



SOP grad students Kunal Taskar (left) and Shashi Kudugunti discuss a research poster at the 2011 TTUHSC Cancer Symposium.

legislature created CPRIT, which will direct \$3 billion in funding to cancer prevention and research over the next decade.

Overall, CPRIT has awarded 10 grants

to TTUHSC and three grants to TTU totaling approximately \$8.4 million.

Researchers at the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo have received CPRIT funds for two major projects: a \$1.6 million grant was awarded to Marjorie Jenkins, M.D. of the TTUHSC School of Medicine to improve access to breast care for West Texas and a \$1 million grant was awarded to Quentin Smith, Ph.D. and cancer researchers at the TTUHSC-SOP to purchase a major new multiphoton microscope to study cancer development and treatment.

Cancer research is also a focus of TTUHSC Amarillo. The Amarillo Research Building, which opened on the campus in 2009, is helping to expand this initiative, which has a significant cancer research base consisting of more than 20 SOM and SOP faculty researchers and more than \$4 million of external research funding. Faculty cancer researchers from both schools have joined together to form the Cancer Biology Center, led by Ming-Hai Wang, Ph.D.

In addition, TTUHSC-SOP recently recruited two major cancer researchers—Ruiwen Zhang, M.D., Ph.D. and Junxuan “Johnny” Lu, Ph.D.—to serve as chairs for the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences departments. Both have large research programs and extensive external grant funding.

Rakhshanda Rahman, M.D. and other highly experienced cancer clinicians from TTUHSC-SOM have formed the Breast Center of Excellence for Therapy. Cynthia Raehl, Pharm.D., who is founding chair of the SOP's Department of Pharmacy Practice, leads the SOP's clinical research efforts.

## In case you missed it...



Dr. Sherry Luedtke

- SOP Associate Professor Dr. Sherry Luedtke was elected Fellow in the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG). She was recognized at the March 18 PPAG meeting.

Luedtke has been a committed PPAG member since 1995. She has served the organization at all levels and she is currently associate editor for the *Journal of Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

- The Tenth Annual Research Days has been scheduled for June

14–15 in Amarillo. This event is an opportunity for all SOP researchers to gather in one place to talk about research, build collaborations and form friendships. Administrative support for the event will be handled by the Office of Sciences.

- Kartick Pramanik, a post-doc in Dr. Sanjay Srivastava's lab, received the Excellence in Postdoctoral Research Award April 22 at the TTU/TTUHSC



Kartick Pamanik

Postdoctoral Association event in Lubbock.



Dr. Thomas Abbruscato

- On April 18, Dr. Thomas Abbruscato ran in the Boston Marathon. He completed the 26.2 mile race in 3:15:46 and kept his pace of 07:28

minutes per mile. There were 26,907 runners entered, including 15,445 men and 11,462 females. Abbruscato finished 4,060th overall, putting him in the top 15 percent. He is an associate professor for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

## Getting to know...

**Roxy Childs-Cox  
Unit Coordinator  
Department of Biomedical Sciences - Abilene**

Roxy first moved to Abilene with her parents when she was 4 years old. She eventually graduated from Abilene High School and then moved to Austin where she received a Bachelor of Music degree in music from the University of Texas.

After college, Roxy moved to Houston and taught junior high school music for three years until her children were born. She continued to reside in Houston for more than 20 years and was active in church and volunteer work.

Roxy met Bill Cox while playing guitar for church events. When she and Bill got married in 1989, they moved back to Abilene where they owned and operated Abilene Telephone Specialists for several years. After they sold the business, Roxy worked for seven years as

the agency manager for First Southwest Insurance Agency.

Roxy and Bill have three children: Chesley of Abilene, Rob of Irvine, Calif. and Joel of Lewisville, Texas. All are married with children of their own, so Roxy also has seven grandchildren ranging in age from 4 to 20 years old.

In June 2008, Roxy began working for the SOP in Abilene as a unit coordinator primarily with

the Center for Immunotherapeutic Research. Bill manages the computer hardware division of WolfePak Software.

Roxy is an elder in the Presbyterian Church and has been active in the Better Business Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, Abilene Preservation League and the Community Advisors Board for the Junior League of Abilene. She also gives her time to events such as Cursillo, a three-day Christian retreat.

Roxy and Bill live in a 101-year-old historic home in an older area of Abilene, where she says they like to cook and entertain.

"Bill is the chief cook — lucky me — and I am mostly the sous chef," Roxy says. "We also enjoy hunting, especially deer hunting."



*Roxy Childs-Cox and her husband, Bill.*



**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
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School of Pharmacy

## SOP Photo Gallery

Students were decked out in native or ancestral attire associated at International Night in Amarillo.



P1 Catherine Nguyen, Adam Rodgers (P1, center) and P2 Joshua Long enjoy the black jack table at the Phi Delta Chi Casino Night fund raiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Amarillo P2 Tri Salihima discusses a patient's osteoporosis screening results with Dr. Anitra MacLaughlin.



Dr. Paul Katz, associate professor and Texas Pharmacy Museum curator, is recognized for his years of service at a reception marking his retirement from TTUHSC and the SOP.



Dr. Alfred G. Gilman, Nobel Laureate, was the keynote speaker at the 2011 TTUHSC Cancer Symposium at the Amarillo SOP campus.



Kristin Foster (P1-Amarillo) found the golden egg at the 2011 Easter Egg Hunt on the Amarillo campus.



P2 Paul Mathew obtains a blood sample for a glucose screening at the March 11 Walmart Health Fair in Amarillo.



Barakha Yadav applies henna to the hand of Amarillo P2 classmate Crystal Rodriguez prior to International Night in Amarillo. Henna is a paste that is typically applied to the hands of girls in India before important events such as weddings. When washed away, it leaves behind a temporary orange design that can last for several days. The application of henna is known as Mehndi.



Some of the items that were auctioned at the Phi Delta Chi Casino Night fund raiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

