



Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

Annual ceremonies signal end of school year

School of Pharmacy faculty and staff reflected upon the unique contributions made by another outstanding group of graduates May 20 in Lubbock at the Class of 2013 Hooding Ceremony.

Class of 2013 honorees who were recognized for their individual achievements included Meredith Sigler, who received the Banner Bearer Award for having the highest GPA, and Chiamaka Ike, recipient of the Bowl of Hygieia for character and all-around contributions to leadership and professionalism inside and outside the classroom.

Sigler also received the Wolters Kluwer Excellence in Clinical Communications Award.

Other honorees included Paul Mathew (Eli Lilly Achievement Award); Matthew Pennington (Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Practice Award); Detty John (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition Award); Josh Long (Teva Outstanding Student Award); Sheba Jacob (School of Pharmacy Communications Award and the School of Pharmacy Pediatrics Achievement Award); Anastasia Diamantopoulos (School of Pharmacy Patient Care Award); Rebecca Tally (School of Pharmacy Geriatric Achievement Award); and Kevin Aloysius (President's Scholar Award for Interprofessional Teamwork).

Many thanks and much appreciation to the faculty and staff who helped make the 2013 Hooding Ceremony a successful event for School of Pharmacy students and their families.

Honors Convocation

The efforts and achievements of pharmacy students, faculty and staff during the 2012-2013 academic year were recognized April 19 at the school's annual Honors Convocation.

Student organizations recognized the accomplishments of their members and gave special mention to faculty and staff who supported the organizations throughout the school year. Individually, P2 Jordan Burdine received the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award and

Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal was named the Graduate Student of the Year.

Faculty honorees included Dr. Harold Miller (P1 Teacher of the Year), Dr. Eric MacLaughlin (P2 Teacher of the Year) and Dr. Steven Pass (P3 Teacher of the Year).

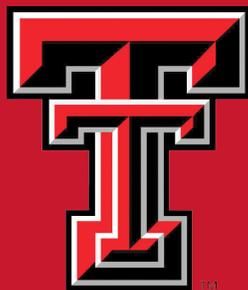
Dr. Vardin Karamyan was named Graduate Student Faculty Mentor of the Year and Dr. Reza Mehvar was named Graduate Student Faculty Member of the Year.

Teaching Teams of the Year included the Principal Drug Action Team (P1 students and graduate students), the Cardiovascular Team (P2s) and the Advanced Ambulatory Care Team (P3s).

Summer Balcer, Toni Johnson and Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara received the Student Staff Appreciation Award and Roxy Cox and Desmon Dunn were named Excellence in Staff Services honorees.



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



Meredith Sigler was named the Class of 2013 Banner Bearer at the Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.



Chiamaka Ike receives the Bowl of Hygieia Award for the Class of 2013 at the Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.



Amarillo P2 Jordan Burdine accepts the U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award from Summer Balcer, assistant dean for Student Services..

Students' poise pays off at Palo Duro Canyon crash site

During their first year in pharmacy school, Amarillo students Haley Maxwell and Jonathan Ethridge have developed a Sunday routine. When the weather is nice, they start the day by attending church together and then head to Palo Duro Canyon for an afternoon of hiking.

But on April 19, after a stressful week of classes, the couple decided to break their pattern and take a Friday afternoon hike in the canyon. It was a decision that may have saved another man's life.

"On a whim, we up and decided to skip our normal park routine to go hiking for a few hours," Ethridge said. "Honestly, it was just a random thought we both had once we saw how beautiful the weather was."

Several hours later, at about 5:45 p.m., Ethridge said the entire focus of their day changed in a way they never could have imagined.

"We had just finished the CCC Trail and were halfway back to our vehicle when we heard an out-of-place sound that caught our attention," Ethridge said.

That sound turned out to be the undercarriage of a red Ford Mustang scraping canyon rocks as it drove over the edge of a cliff. As their minds tried to decipher the unusual sound, they caught a glimpse of the vehicle through some trees as it made its way down the cliff and into a ravine.

"It took both of us a moment to fully grasp what we were witnessing, but within seconds we were running in the general direction of the crash," Maxwell said. "We followed the hum of the car's engine, and after about a 100-yard run through a field, we found the car."

Ethridge said they could tell the man behind the wheel of the still-running car was alive, though he was initially unresponsive.

"Luckily the window was already rolled completely down on the driver's side so we could assess the victim," Maxwell said. "It took us asking several times, 'Sir, can you hear me? Where are you



Amarillo PIs Haley Maxwell and Jonathan Ethridge were the first to arrive at the scene when a car drove off a cliff at Palo Duro Canyon.

hurt?" before the man came to, but when he did he was able to unbuckle his seat belt and turn off the car, which thankfully wasn't on fire."

Though the driver drifted in and out of consciousness, he was able to tell the pharmacy students that he was experiencing severe back and neck pain. Neither student could get a sufficient signal on their cell phone to call 911, so after making sure the man was safe enough to be left alone for a few moments, they dashed back up the cliff to get additional help.

"Jonathan made it up the cliff first where he waved a car down and told them to go and inform the park police about the wreck. Miraculously he was also able to get through to 911 once he reached the top," Maxwell said.

One of the passengers in the car stopped by Ethridge was Dr. Kerry Gilbert, a physical therapist, associate professor and program director for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the TTUHSC School of Allied Health Sciences in Lubbock. Maxwell said she took Gilbert back down the cliff so he could attend to the injured man while Ethridge remained on the road to direct emergency responders.

"We were both impressed with the response time of all the emergency personnel and how quickly they all went into action," Maxwell said, "We also owe a special thanks to Kerry for his role in helping this individual. Initially we were just reacting and wanted to

get to the car as quickly as possible, because at that point we didn't know if the car was on fire or how many people might be in need of medical attention. It wasn't until later that we realized how deadly the situation could have been had we not seen the crash and been able to run to it."

Although the victim didn't require CPR or any of the other emergency procedures they have been trained to perform, Maxwell and Ethridge said they would not have hesitated to help in any way necessary. They also believe other forces played a hand in influencing the situation. In addition to the unplanned trip to Palo Duro Canyon that day, Maxwell said the couple would normally have been back to their vehicle an hour earlier.

"We both feel like God placed us at that exact location, at that exact time to save this man's life," Maxwell said. "His car wasn't visible from the road and it was surrounded by brush and trees. But we took an extra 30-minute scenic detour, and when I wanted to quit at the top, Jonathan convinced me to hike all the way down to the amphitheater. And then the car we waved down had a passenger who was a physical therapist who was able to aid in assessing the victim. We think it is another example of God putting people in the right place at the right time."

Gilbert also believes a special set of circumstances were set into motion to benefit the victim.

"The pharmacy students handled themselves very professionally and I believe the Lord used them to save the driver's life," Gilbert said. "If they hadn't been hiking in that part of the canyon at that specific time, no one would have ever known this guy went off the road. There were no skid marks, no real damage to the retaining wall by the road and you couldn't see the car from the road at all. This guy could have been stuck in his car for days or longer, if he even survived the night."

Diamantopoulos earns Dean's Leadership Award

All through the 2012-2013 school year, Dr. Krystal Edwards has interacted closely with the P4 students in Dallas/Fort Worth. She has admired how they work together as a group to support each other in completing classroom tasks and in planning organization events, whether the activity is related to the pharmacy profession or just for fun.

As Edwards watched each event come and go, she noticed that Anastasia Diamantopoulos seemed to be one of the class 'go-getters' who made herself available whenever necessary.

"Anastasia has developed a style where she may not come across as the leader, but it is known that she will help to get the job done and work her hardest wherever and whenever she is needed," Edwards said.

That willingness to always be available to lead has earned Diamantopoulos the latest Dean's Student Leadership Award.

During her P4 year, Diamantopoulos has served Phi Lambda Sigma as the Dallas vice president and is a member of the organization's new member induction committee. She has also acted as the student section executive committee chair for the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP). She is also a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the ACCP's Dallas/Fort Worth chapter; the American Society for Health-System Pharmacists; the Metroplex Society for Health-System Pharmacists; the American Pharmacists Association; and the Texas Pharmacy Association.

Her past roles include president, president elect and clinical skills committee chair for the Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (Double T); TSHP president elect, student section executive committee member and public affairs committee member; Abilene pharmacy student representative for the TTUHSC Student Government Association; School of Pharmacy Student Senate Treasurer for the Abilene campus; School of Pharmacy Regional Student Senate member and Professional Development Committee member; vice president for the School of Pharmacy Class of 2013; and Heartburn Awareness Committee member for the Texas Tech Academy of Student Pharmacists.

"I think it's important for students to get involved in student organizations because being an outstanding pharmacist is not just about grades and studying," Diamantopoulos said. "It's also about being able



Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Anastasia Diamantopoulos accepts the Dean's Leadership Award from pharmacy school Dean Dr. Quentin Smith.

to work with and communicate with others and about being able to give back to the profession."

Diamantopoulos said her passion for what these organizations represent to the pharmacy profession and to the community motivates her to volunteer for leadership positions.

"For example, most of the organizations I am a part of work to help the community by setting up health fairs or participating

in medication take-back programs," Diamantopoulos said. "By being involved in these organizations, I feel like I can help make at least a small difference by helping to bring great ideas to life."

Because she is working toward a career in hospital pharmacy, Diamantopoulos said she constantly strives to gather as much information as possible about that specialty area of pharmacy.

"When I knew that hospital pharmacy was for me, I wanted to be involved in any organizations that helped to bring that information to students, whether it be through Double T meetings at TTUHSC or helping to coordinate student programming for the TSHP annual seminar," Diamantopoulos said.

She also draws inspiration from her mother, her professors and classmates and other pharmacists she has met during her time in pharmacy school.

"All of these people are hardworking, enthusiastic and passionate about what they do," Diamantopoulos said. "They encourage me to find what I am equally excited and passionate about and inspire me to be as successful as they are in their careers and their lives."

Several past recipients of the Dean's Student Leadership Award have been students Diamantopoulos has looked up to and who have served as a mentor for her. She said it is an honor to now receive the award herself.

"To follow in their footsteps has been very humbling and rewarding," Diamantopoulos said. "Being a part of organizations throughout pharmacy school has provided me with, and will continue to provide me with, this large network of amazing people who I know I can talk to if I have questions or if I ever need advice. Being an organizational leader has taught me the importance of working as a team and how everyone can always bring something valuable to the table. That will be essential as I work to be part of a health care team in the future."

TSHP Fellowship a career capper for Habeger



Butch Habeger was selected as a member of the inaugural TSHP Fellowship class.

Thirty years ago Butch Habeger attended his first Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP) seminar. To honor his service since that time, the organization's Board of Directors selected

Habeger as one of seven members of its inaugural Practitioner Recognition (Fellows) Program class. He received the honor April 28 in Austin at the TSHP Annual Seminar.

Habeger said he still remembers how inspired he felt after he returned home from the 1983 seminar.

"The scope, the size of it and the energy levels really impressed me," Habeger said. "I knew that there was a subsidiary chapter down in Lubbock, but there wasn't one up here in the Panhandle. We needed one for continuing education and other things, so when I got back I started working with a couple of past presidents and we got organized and started a Panhandle chapter."

The Panhandle chapter, known at the time as the Panhandle

Society of Hospital Pharmacists, officially started in 1985. As the group's first president, Habeger was automatically a member of the TSHP board, which provided him with an insider's look at how the organization operated.

"Getting involved with the board for a couple of years and getting to see how all of this really functions kind of turned on my jets, so to speak," Habeger said.

Over the next three decades, Habeger chaired various TSHP councils. In 1987, he was appointed to TSHP's Research and Education Foundation Board of Directors, a position he would hold for the next 13 years. He is still a member of the group's Public Affairs Council.

"I've said before, one of my problems is I just don't know how to say no," Habeger said with a laugh. "But really, I've just enjoyed it so much: the networking, the associations, just the very highly professional nature of the organization. It's very different from organizations that represent community or retail pharmacy where I guess you could say there's a little more splash than there is with institutional pharmacy."

Because he enjoys institutional and hospital pharmacy, Habeger said TSHP has been a natural fit for him. Getting involved in the or-

ganization's politics enhanced his experience.

"I still keep my finger in it, particularly the politics of it," Habeger said. "I've always told my students there are three kinds of people professionally in this world. There's 10 percent who make things happen, another 10 percent who watch things happen and the rest who say 'what the heck happened?' I tell them they do not want to be in that last group, so get involved with the organizations. It's very important, because if you don't set the terms of your practice, somebody else will."

In addition to his recognition as a TSHP Fellow, Habeger has been elected to serve as one of six Texas representatives to the national ASHP House of Delegates in June. He considers both honors to be career highlights.

"I can think of probably about 100 people who should automatically be part of this group — past presidents and people like that," Habeger said. "Peer recognition is very important, so I kind of look at these things as the capstones to my career. I'm kind of winding down to retirement and I think this is a nice pat on the head to say thanks for a job well done. It just really means a lot to me because peer recognition is very special."

NCPA to stage pharmacy school Ryder Cup

The National Community Pharmacy Association student chapter will hold its annual TTUHSC School of Pharmacy Ryder Cup golf tournament July 20-21 at the Diamondback Golf Club in Abilene.

The first day will feature a four-ball format and the second day will be played using a match play singles format.

Entry fee for the two-day event is \$120 for students, \$150 for all others and includes green fee, cart, range balls and lunch on July 21.

The event will also include awards, door prizes and contests for closest to the pin and longest drive.

Teams will be based on campus and professional affiliation and matches will be set up based on handicap.

Entry deadline is July 10 and there is a \$15 discount per person for entries received by June 1.

For more information, contact Cody Clark at (806) 773-5958 or cody.clark@ttuhsc.edu.

Student efforts rewarded with scholarships, recognition

WTPA awards scholarships

The West Texas Pharmacy Association (WTPA), a perennial supporter of the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy, recently awarded 30 scholarships, 22 of which went to School of Pharmacy students from all four campuses.

P1 recipients include Teryn Bibb and Erica Braden from Abilene and Gina Graham, Courtney McGinnis and Barbara Reyes from Amarillo.

Recipients from the P2 class include Anh Hoang Huynh from Abilene and Nathan Harris from Amarillo.

P3 honorees include Carissa Chadwick from Abilene; Jessie Rea and Megan Sneller from Amarillo; Myka McMeans from Dallas/Fort Worth; and Justin Miranda and Taryn Satterwhite from Lubbock.

WTPA scholarships were also awarded to P4s Ryan George, Long Lam, Matthew Pennington, Yufei Wang and Heather Jo Williams from Abilene and Matthew Ries, Crystal Rodriguez, Leah Schumpert and Heather Jo White from Lubbock.

To be eligible for a WTPA scholarship, applicants must be a member of WTPA, provide two letters of recommendation and submit an essay describing his/her background and need for a scholarship.

Aloysius selected by leadership academy, TTUHSC QEP office

Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Kevin Aloysius was accepted to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Student Quality Leadership Academy, which is sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Academy will meet June 13-14 in Cambridge, Mass. for a two-day program designed to build leadership competencies shared by all health professions. Participants will learn specific skills related to leading change, managing conflict, communicating effectively and tackling other lead-

ership challenges they currently face or will face in their careers.

Aloysius was also selected as a President's Student Scholar in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice by the TTUHSC Quality Enhancement Plan Office. He is part of the inaugural group of student scholars in interprofessional education and has been actively engaged in collaboration with students from different professional backgrounds.

Absar garners award for Best Paper

The Controlled Release Society (CRS) has selected School of Pharmacy graduate student Md. Shahriarul (Abir) Absar to receive the 2013 CRS Outstanding Pharmaceutical Best Paper Award sponsored by CRS and PharmaCircle.

The CRS Outstanding Pharma Award Committee made the selection based on Absar's paper titled, *Camouflaged and Thrombin-triggered Delivery of Tissue Plasminogen Activator for Targeted Thrombolysis*.

Absar will be presented a plaque and \$1,500 July 24 at the 2013 CRS Annual Meeting & Exposition in Honolulu. He is a Ph.D. candidate in Dr. Fakhru'l Ahsan's laboratory.

Students prepare for TPA competition

The School of Pharmacy's student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) recently held its annual Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA) Patient Counseling Competition. Amarillo P2 Telyssa Anderson earned first place and will represent the School of Pharmacy at the state competition July 24-27 at the TPA Rxperts Conference in Frisco, Texas.

Dallas/Fort Worth P3 Urvi Desai finished in second place and Amarillo P2 Nidhu Baby took third place. Desai and Baby will join Anderson at the state competition.

Competition alternates included Chiamaka Ike (P4 Amarillo) and Anastasia Diamantopoulos (P4 Dallas/Fort Worth). Special Mentions included Jini John (P1 Amarillo), Jordan Burdine (P2 Amarillo), Michelle Sterrett (P2 Amarillo), Rachel Seka (P3 Dallas/Fort Worth) and Chris Hobart (P3 Lubbock).

Walker, Lafitte win Target Scholarship competition

Abilene P2s Ashley Walker and Kally Lafitte were recently selected as winners of the 2013 Target Business Plan Scholarship Competition, which is a part of the Target Campus Grant Program. Each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for their winning effort.

This year the Target Corporation asked the question, "How might Target position itself as the one-stop shop for guest's health and wellness wants and needs?"

Walker and Lafitte responded with their presentation and business plan titled, "The Target Health Awareness Community Project."

Other P2 teams competing included: Telyssa Anderson and Jordan Burdine (Amarillo); Khumpham Amaratana and Cindy Huynh (Abilene); Wayne Chee and Alexandra Weiser (Amarillo); Saeed Alzghari and Rashmi Singh (Abilene); and Diane Pham and Anh Huynh (Abilene).



From left: Abilene P2s Ashley Walker and Kally Lafitte receive a scholarship check from a Target Corporation representative.

Pharmacy students part of CLARION team

Amarillo P1 Vi Bui already knew she was interested in a hospital pharmacy career and the interprofessional collaborations that have become integral to that career path. So when she was contacted by Cindy Acton, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, from the School of Nursing about taking part in the TTUHSC regional CLARION Interprofessional Case Competition, Bui jumped at the chance.

CLARION, a University of Minnesota (UM) student organization dedicated to improving health care through interprofessional collaboration, began hosting a student case competition for UM health professional students in 2002. In 2005, the competition was expanded to the national level. Four-student teams representing at least two health care disciplines are assigned a case and must develop a root cause analysis and then present its evaluation to a panel of interprofessional judges that assesses their analysis in the context of real world standards of practice.

"Working in the hospital setting, clinical pharmacists are always involved in direct communication with other health care professionals to provide care and solve problems," Bui said. "I figured this class would provide me a chance to meet and work with fellow students from different schools at TTUHSC, an experience that I had not been exposed to as a first-year pharmacy student."

After several email exchanges with Acton, Bui and classmate Thien Hoang joined Lubbock TTUHSC students Loc Le and Nickolas Thrash in forming one of six teams to compete at TTUHSC's regional CLARION competition.

Lee is a second-year Ph.D. student with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Thrash is a junior at the School of Nursing.

By winning the April 6 regional competition, Bui and her teammates punched their ticket to Minneapolis for the national competition April 19-21. They were ac-



The TTUHSC team that competed in the national CLARION competition included (from left) Nickolas Thrash (School of Nursing), Loc Le (Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences) and pharmacy students Vi Bui and Thien Hoang.

companied by faculty advisors Acton, Sharon Decker, RN, CS, PhD, CCRN, from the School of Nursing and Chuck Seifert, Pharm.D. from the School of Pharmacy.

"We were very excited because we got to represent TTUHSC," Bui said. "At the same time, we felt the pressure of representing the school and defending the school's championship from last year's competition. However, with our advisors being very supportive, I personally think our excitement and confidence was definitely greater than the nervousness."

There were nine teams at the 2013 national competition. The TTUHSC team did not move forward to the final round as one the top four teams, but Bui said they finished strong and impressed at least one of the judges with their creativity.

In the three-month period that started with Acton's original email and ended in Minnesota, Bui said each team member learned more about health care and hospital administration, financial planning and federal, state and public policies than they thought possible when the project started. Because they were located on different campuses, their primary communication took place using Skype and Google Hangout.

"The fact that all of us were still in the introductory levels of our respective programs required each of us to constantly look

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 School of Pharmacy to all four of our campuses and to alumni and other friends of the school who enjoy hearing about your good work.

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

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up almost every subject matter needed for our presentation and then explain it to the other team members," Bui said. "Being on two different campuses, we learned how to work as a team long before we even knew each other's faces."

Despite the challenges, Bui said the experience was one that will provide her with benefits for years to come.

"From my personal point of view, I had the opportunity to meet and become friends with my teammates, to practice and improve my not-so-impressive public speaking skills and to be part of a very exciting network of students and health care professionals who share the same visions about interprofessional collaboration," she said. "Competing at CLARION has become one of the most significant experiences that will help guide my career pathway."

Abilene's Johnson earns trip to the City of Angels

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Patient Counseling Competition began with 39 students from all four School of Pharmacy campuses. The first round of the competition took place Oct. 23 at each School of Pharmacy campus. The top 10 advanced to the second round, which was held the following week.

When the final results were tallied, Abilene P4 Tiffany Johnson stood above the field and earned a March trip to Los Angeles for the APhA national competition.

"This was the first year the pharmacy school's APhA student organization opened the competition to all four campuses," Johnson said. "I was extremely proud and honored to be the sole representative for Abilene and the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy in a national competition. Though I was nervous right before going into the recording room, I was confident that my natural ability to speak with patients would allow me to represent my school well."



Abilene P4 Tiffany Johnson traveled to Los Angeles to represent the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy at the APhA National Patient Counseling Competition in April.

At the national level, Johnson squared off against 122 other students who had also won competitions at their pharmacy schools. Johnson said the format for the national competition was the same as the local events: all competitors took part in the opening round and the top 10 advanced to final round. Johnson said the experience she gained at the local competition aided her preparation for the national contest.

"For this type of experience, it is essential to practice, practice, practice but to also make sure not to over do it," Johnson said. "Many

students can have spectacular drug knowledge, but not necessarily know how to be their own person and let their personality shine through while communicating with patients. It doesn't matter what area of pharmacy we eventually go into, communication is a valuable skill when it comes to being a successful health care professional."

Although she didn't finish in the top 10, Johnson said the competition was a valuable experience that enhanced her education and will help her become a better pharmacist.

"Going through the School of Pharmacy pharmaceutical care lab and having to practice patient counseling for what seems like a million times can feel redundant," Johnson said. "But I am thankful to have had the course's extensive grading rubric and continuous practice to prepare myself to do well at the local competition and feel confident while competing at the national level."

Double T students shine at TSHP Annual Seminar

Thanks to the Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (Double T), the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Annual Seminar in Austin had a distinct TTUHSC feel. School of Pharmacy students from all four campuses attended the conference and made a strong showing for Double T and the school.

"Our chapter and students were able to return home with an extensive number of awards and recognition, which shines a positive light on the strength and future of our organization," P2 student and Double T President Jordan Burdine said.

In the 2013 TSHP Clinical Skills Competition, the team comprised of Amarillo P2s Jisha Jacob and Heidi Michaels took first place in the P1/P2 category, outpacing all other teams from across the state.

Other award winners included Ryan Collins and Anastasia Diamantopoulos. Collins received the 2013 Glenda Lawson McRee Pharmacy Student Award for his commitment to the profession through service, practice, education or research. Diamantopoulos received a 2013 Lourdes M. Cuellar Circle of Excellence Award for outstanding service and leadership.

Four students also received \$1,000 scholarships. The honorees included Amarillo P2 Telyssa Anderson (Gene Lake Scholarship), Burdine (Michael Patry/TTUHSC-SOP/El Paso Area Health-System Pharmacists Memorial Scholarship), Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Kevin Aloysius (El Paso Area Health-System Pharmacists Scholarship) and Dallas/Fort Worth P4 Kinjal Patel (Grace Dyan Coggin Metroplex Society of Health-System Pharmacists Memorial Scholarship).

Four students — Burdine, Diamantopoulos, Amarillo P4 Cortny Anderson and Lubbock P4 Ashley Gutierrez — competed in the TSHP Poster Competition and the entire chapter received the TSHP Medication Safety Product Innovation Award.

In addition, Telyssa Anderson, Burdine and Abilene P2 Saeed Alghazari were inducted into the TSHP Student Section Executive Committee and will represent the Double T chapter on the 2013-2014 state-wide committee.

"I want to personally thank and extend a tremendous congratulations to everyone who attended and represented Double T," Burdine said. "I am so very proud of all the growth and success our chapter has achieved this past year and I can't wait to see what the future holds."

Student organizations bring on the fun, food to benefit others



**Casino Night
Benefit for
St. Jude Children's
Hospital**
*Phil Delta Chi
(Beta Rho Chapter)*



**International Night
Cultural Celebration & Talent Show**
Kappa Psi (Delta Pi Chapter)



Hot Chocolate Run
*APhA
(Dallas/Fort Worth)*



4th Annual Mud Bug Bash
*Phil Delta Chi
(Gamma Eta Chapter)*



**A Vintage Hollywood Affair
2013 Dallas Spring Banquet**
Dallas Student Council



**Snak Pak 4 Kids
5k Fun Run**
*Kappa Psi
(Delta Pi Chapter)*



**Hoops for Health
3-on-3
Basketball Tourney**
*Foundation for International
Medical Relief of Children*



Turnout rates highest ever for latest TPPC Medication Cleanout collections

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) recently completed a busy spring that featured Medication Cleanout programs in Amarillo, Abilene and Lubbock.

“Our Spring 2013 Medication Cleanout events were very successful with the highest turnout to date,” TPPC Managing Director Jeanie Jaramillo, Pharm.D., said. “Our program is extremely important, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that the abuse of prescription medications is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States. Additionally, deaths from prescription drug overdoses have increased for the 11th year in a row.”

In the March 16 Amarillo collection, TPPC volunteers saw 650 cars and took in 1,761 pounds of medications. The April 13 event in Abilene collected 536 pounds from 191 cars and the April 27 Lubbock collection netted 630 pounds from 206 cars.

TPPC has conducted 25 Medication Cleanout events to date. The collections have combined to bring in 12,527 pounds of unused medications for appropriate disposal.

“These medications are no longer available as a source for poisonings, abuse, misuse or environmental contamination,” Jaramillo said. “None of this would be possible without the support of the pharmacy school, our students, volunteers, law enforcement agencies and community supporters.”

Jaramillo said the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has published a proposed new rule regarding unused medication collections that may affect the TPPC program.

“Contingent upon DEA’s final decisions, our next series of events are planned for this fall,” she said.



A steady stream of vehicles outside kept volunteers busy inside at the Amarillo Medication Cleanout event in March. The Spring 2013 Medication Cleanout collections in Amarillo, Abilene and Lubbock were the biggest to date for the Texas Panhandle Poison Center, which began the program in Sept. 2009.



APhA, Double T select officers for 2013-2014

Two School of Pharmacy student organizations — the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA) and the Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (Double T) — recently announced their officers for the 2013-2014 school year.

Amarillo P4 Justin Thomas was named president for APhA and Amarillo P2 Joe Dorsey was named president-elect.

Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) P3 Jordan Burdine was elected president for Double T and Abilene P3 Saeed Alzghari was tabbed president-elect.

APhA’s campus executive directors include P2 Houda El-Fakir (Abilene), P4 Megan Sneller (Amarillo) and P3 Sam Ho (DFW).

Other APhA officers include Amarillo P3 Katie Steele (secretary), Amarillo P2 Deep Shah (treasurer), Amarillo P2 Eva Coulson (SPAN coordinator), Amarillo P2 Cindy Adibe (historian/publicist), Abilene P3 Kellee Brown (second-year Texas Pharmacy Association delegate) and Amarillo P2 Carolyn Johnson (first-year Texas Pharmacy Association delegate).

APhA membership vice presidents include P3 Katrina

Trapp (Abilene), P2 Yasmine Alhasan (Amarillo), P4 Sharon Samuel (DFW) and P4 Camille Hightower (Lubbock).

The other 2013-2014 officers for Double T include DFW P3 Telyssa Anderson (vice president), DFW P3 Ryan Hadley (vice president of membership), DFW P3 Kimberly Chapman (secretary), Amarillo P2 Lillian Cheng (treasurer), Coulson (Amarillo liaison), P3 Brooke Halfmann (Lubbock Liaison), P3 Brian Le (Dallas liaison) and P3 Abby Wilson (Abilene liaison).

In case you missed it...



MacLaughlin

• Dr. Eric MacLaughlin (professor - Amarillo) has been named one of 51 practitioners to receive fellowship status from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). ASHP members who have achieved Fellowship status have successfully demonstrated sustained commitment or contributions to excellence in practice for at least 10 years, contributed to the total body of knowledge in the field, demonstrated active involvement and leadership in ASHP and other professional organizations and have been actively involved with and committed to educating practitioners and others.



Greene

• Dr. Shane Greene (associate professor - Dallas/Fort Worth) has been voted president-elect for the Texas Society for Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP). He will also serve on the group's Executive Committee and Board of Directors for 2014-2017. In addition, TSHP members voted Dr. Steven Pass (associate professor - Dallas/Fort Worth) secretary-elect. Greene and Pass were installed during the April 2014 TSHP Annual Seminar in Houston.



Pass

• Each year, the Texas Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists' student chapters from around the state are challenged to donate as many stuffed animals as possible to raise the spirits of the children receiving care through the Dell Children's Hospital in Austin. This year the Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists earned first place with more than 340 stuffed animals donated.



Ike

• Class of 2013 graduate Chiamaka Ike was recently awarded the prestigious Go Red for Women Scholarship that supports future health care providers who have shown they will truly understand the cultural differences and traditions that impact lifestyle and attitudes toward heart health. Only 16 scholarships were awarded nationwide.



Burdine

• Jordan Burdine (P3 - Dallas/Fort Worth) has been appointed to the ASHP Commission on Affiliate Relations Committee. She joins Pass as one of only two Texans chosen to serve on the committee.

Getting to know...

Audrey Nixon Coordinator - Office of Development • Dallas/Fort Worth



Nixon

Audrey Nixon was born and raised in Dallas. She graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor's degree in communication studies and a minor in mass communications. While in college, she was active on the Texas Tech Activities Board and served as the Homecoming Publicity Chair from 2009-2011.

"Promoting Homecoming was fun," Nixon said. "Being on the radio was a blast and it helped me realize what career I wanted after college."

Nixon started working for Texas Tech in 2009 as a student assis-

tant in the Student Union Building while completing her undergraduate studies. She currently works for the School of Pharmacy in Dallas as a development coordinator.

In her spare time, Audrey enjoys watching Red Raiders' games, baking, traveling, watching movies and playing board games with her boyfriend, Leo. She owns two dogs: a 5-year-old pug named Roman and a 4-month-old Boston terrier named Mellow.

"Going back to Lubbock for football games as an alumna is a whole new experience for me," Nixon said. "My first year as an alumna I managed to make it to three football games; next year my goal is to attend five."



Top: Roman the pug and Mellow the terrier chill out on Nixon's sofa.

Right: Nixon and Leo go Guns Up at a 2012 Red Raiders football game

School of Pharmacy Photo Gallery

The OTC Fair in Abilene included pharmacy students from the Phi Delta Chi Gamma Eta chapter. The group included (from left) PIs Brittany Nabors, Mengdi Lin, Tyler Rushing and Grace Voller.



Dr. Roland Patry poses at the 2013 Hooding Ceremony with Pharm.D./MBA graduates (from left) Glenda Hart, Holly Arimo and Rebecca Tally.



It's all Guns Up for Class of '13 graduate Ashley Gutierrez following the 2013 Hooding Ceremony



P1 Jason Park (above) and P2 Jamie Morris (right) were part of the TTUHSC contingent who provided free services to patients at the San Jacinto Health Fair in Amarillo.



Lubbock Regional Dean Dr. Chuck Seifert displays his Grand Rounds Survival Kit at the 2013 Lubbock Senior Banquet and Roast.



Above, from left: Lubbock P3s Timmi Ickert and Taryn Satterwhite provide information at the Future Health Care Providers Conference in Lubbock.



Class of '13 graduates Veronica Essex, Kendal Essex and Evan Parker are all smiles following the 2013 Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.



Left: Lubbock P3 pharmacy students (from left) Matthew Ries, Jeffrey Ho, Sarah Goff, Satterwhite, Maegan Patterson, Ickert, Whitney Mason and Jessica Garza answer audience questions about their experiences in the TTUHSC pharmacy program.

