



*SOP Alumni Gather in Lubbock for Fun, Food and Football*



*Left to right: SOP alumni Ashley James (Class of 2003), Cody Dye (2003) and Sara Gibbons (2004) sharing good times and memories from their pharmacy school days.*

Approximately 40 alumni, students, faculty and friends of the SOP's Lubbock Regional Campus shared camaraderie and grilled delights Sept. 18 at the Annual Pharmacy Picnic and Tailgate prior to the TCU/Texas Tech game.

The U.S. Air Force sponsored the food and CVS Pharmacy sponsored tickets to the game. Great fun was had by all...and Texas Tech won the game 70-35. GUNS UP!

***SOP Representatives Named to Student Senate***

The Texas Tech Student Senate recently appointed several SOP student representatives to School-Wide Committees. *Eric Horne (P2 – Amarillo)* and *Larry Moss (P1 – Amarillo)* were named to the Curricular Affairs Committee; *Rachel Mason (P2 – Amarillo)* and *Jessica Crow (P3 – Amarillo)* were selected for the Student Affairs Committee; *Alisa Hirschberg P3 - Amarillo)* and *Jamie Guyear (P3 – Amarillo)* were tabbed for the Faculty Affairs Committee; *Gina DellaValle (P2 – Amarillo)* and *Kathy Wheeler (P1 – Amarillo)* are now members of the Student Outcomes Assessment Committee; and *Rene Ramirez (P2 – Amarillo)* and *Shawna King (P4 – Amarillo)* will join Alisa Hirschberg on the Student Services Fee Advisory Committee. I'm sure all these students will do a great job representing the SOP student body.

## ***SOP Faculty Receive President's Awards***

Several SOP faculty members were recognized September 29 at the TTUHSC State of the University Address and Faculty Awards Convocation. [\*Dr. Reza Mehvar \(Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo\)\*](#) received the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. In addition, [\*Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan \(Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo\)\*](#) and [\*Dr. James Tsikouris \(Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock\)\*](#) were recipients of the President's Young Investigator Award.

Other SOP nominees included [\*Dr. Eric MacLaughlin \(Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo\)\*](#) who was nominated for the President's Distinguished Clinician Award and [\*Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara \(Associate Dean for Research – Amarillo\)\*](#) who was a candidate for the President's Research Achievement Award.

Congratulations to each of these individuals for a job well done!



*Dr. David Allen (Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs) presents awards to Dr. Mehvar (left) and Dr. Ahsan at the TTUHSC State of the University Address and Faculty Awards Convocation.*

## ***Snella, MacLaughlin Promoted***

In recognition of the hard work and numerous contributions they have made to the SOP, [\*Dr. Kathleen Snella \(Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo\)\*](#) and [\*Dr. Eric MacLaughlin \(Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo\)\*](#) were recently promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Snella currently practices at the University Physicians of Texas Tech, Internal Medicine Clinic in Amarillo. Her research interests include ambulatory care, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, reimbursement, and credentialing.

Dr. MacLaughlin is a Clinical Pharmacist with the Department of Family Medicine at Texas Tech School of Medicine. He was recently elected Treasurer for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Ambulatory Care Practice and Research Network (PRN). His research interests include osteoporosis and medication access and use systems.

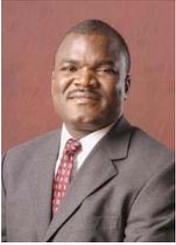


*Dr. Snella*



*Dr. MacLaughlin*

## ***Youan Picked for Keck Futures Conference***



*Dr. Youan*

Kudos go out to *Dr. Celestin BiBotti Youan (Assistant Professor, Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo)*, who will join a select group of 14 scientists from Texas at the National Academies Keck Futures Conference November 19-21 in Irvine, California.

The Keck Futures Conference is an interdisciplinary research conference that brings together more than 100 of the country's top researchers from academic, industrial, and government laboratories. Researchers attending the conference learn about cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, which allows them to broaden their perspective and hear about new insights and techniques that may apply to their own research. The theme of the 2004 Keck Conference is "Designing Nanostructures at the Interface Between Biomedical and Physical Systems."

In preparation for the Keck Conference, Dr. Youan will also participate in a pre-conference discussion October 27<sup>th</sup> at Rice University where he and his fellow Texas researchers will discuss ways to more effectively compete for Keck Futures seed grant funding, which ranges between \$25,000-\$75,000.

## ***Lubbock Regional Campus Recognized for SECC Gifts***

The School of Pharmacy's Lubbock Regional Campus was honored with two awards for their contributions to the State Employee Charitable Campaign for FY 2004. For 31-50 employees the Lubbock SOP campus had the highest percent contribution and the highest per capita gift.

*Dr. M. Roy Wilson (President, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center)* presented the awards to *Dr. Charles Seifert (SOP Regional Dean - Lubbock)* and *Salley Martinez (Administrative Assistant - Lubbock)*. Salley was the SECC Campaign Chair for the SOP's Lubbock Regional Campus. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO MADE THE CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!



*Salley Martinez, TTUHSC President Dr. M. Roy Wilson (center) and Dr. Charles Seifert pose with one of the awards earned by the SOP's Lubbock Regional Campus during the FY 2004 State Employee Charitable Campaign.*

## SOP Hosts Texas Pharmacy Congress

In August the SOP welcomed folks from the Texas Pharmacy Congress (TPC) to Amarillo for the group's most recent quarterly meeting. Members arrived in town August 10 and made a trip to Palo Duro Canyon for a little sightseeing and a wonderful dinner at Elkins Ranch. The quarterly TPC meeting took place Aug 11.

For those of you who may not know, TPC is a coordinating body that meets and discusses issues of common interest to its members and other matters that may be important to Texas pharmacists. Even when members cannot reach a consensus on a particular issue, the discussions are quite helpful and give participants insight into the viewpoints of other individuals and the organizations to which they belong. Since TPC was organized, several other states have used it as a model for creating similar organizations.

TPC membership consists of two representatives each from TTUHSC - SOP; the Texas State Board of Pharmacy; the Texas Federation of Drug Stores; the Texas Pharmacy Association; Texas A&M Kingsville School of Pharmacy; Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists; The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy; the University of Houston College of Pharmacy; and Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.



*That's me in the middle posing with Dr. Steven Leslie (Dean, University of Texas College of Pharmacy) and Jennifer Myhra (Asst. Dean, University of Texas-Austin). Dr. Leslie and I are holding Double-T cookies. I'm not sure what Dr. Myhra is doing.*



*From left: Debbie Garza (Director of Healthcare Relations – Walgreens), Oren Peacock, Jr. (Vice President for Pharmacy Relations - Eckerd Drug Stores) and Karen Reagan (Executive Director for the Texas Federation of Drug Stores).*



*From left: Dr. Sunny Ohia (Dean, University of Houston College of Pharmacy), Jennifer Myhra (Asst. Dean, University of Texas-Austin), and Dr. Pat Davis (Associate Dean and Professor, University of Texas College of Pharmacy).*

## Poison Center Team Gets Published

The hard working people at the Texas Panhandle Poison Center recently received word that an article they put together was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Toxicology-Clinical Toxicology*. The article is titled “Drug Identification: A Survey of Poison Control Centers” and was authored by [\*Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo \(Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo and Interim Managing Director for the TPPC\).\*](#)

Co-authoring the article were [\*Dr. H. Glenn Anderson \(Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo and Director of the SOP Drug Information Center\); Dr. Shu Shum \(Medical Director, TPPC\); Mary Lou Nester, R.N. \(Certified Specialist in Poison Information, TCCP\); and Paul Jaramillo, R.N. \(Certified Specialist in Poison Information, TCCP\).\*](#)

The article was published online August 16 and print published September 1. Congratulations to the entire team for a job well done!

## ***Weidanz Helps Bring \$2M Commercial Venture to SOP***

Receptor Logic Ltd. and TTUHSC – SOP assistant professor [\*Dr. John Weidanz \(Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo\)\*](#) received a three-year, \$2 million grant Sept. 30 from the National Institute of Standards & Technology's Advanced Technology Program. Receptor Logic is the first commercial venture spun off from research at TTUHSC – SOP. Dr. Weidanz and [\*Vaughan Wittman \(SOP Graduate Student – Amarillo\)\*](#), are chief scientists for the company.

The grant will bolster the efforts of Dr. Weidanz and Receptor Logic in developing a cancer profiling and immunotherapy platform targeting breast cancer. Dr. Weidanz and Receptor Logic have developed a technology that creates antibodies designed to attack a specific type of cancer by directly targeting a tumor. ATP, which is managed by NIST, provides cost-shared funding to industry for high-risk R&D projects with the potential to spark important, broad-based economic benefits for the United States. Grants are awarded through a rigorous peer-reviewed selection process. ATP received 870 proposals in April; Dr. Weidanz and Receptor Logic received one of only 32 grants that eventually came from that proposal process.

## ***Russian Group Visits SOP***

A delegation of Russian entrepreneurs involved with their country's pharmaceutical industry was welcomed to Amarillo at a reception held October 15 at the SOP. The 13-member delegation included 11 owners and managers of Russian drug stores and pharmaceutical companies. The group was in Amarillo until November 7 and was shown how the U.S. pharmacy system works by local volunteer pharmacists.

The group stayed in the homes of local volunteer families and participated in several business management-training programs sponsored by area local drug stores, pharmacies, and health care professionals such as Cardinal Health, BSA Health System and Northwest Texas Healthcare System.

Their visit was sponsored by the Amarillo West Rotary Club and was part of the Productivity Enhancement Program, a U.S. State Department program administered by the Center for Citizen Initiatives that brings Russian entrepreneurs and business owners to the U.S. for intensive industry-specific business training and cultural exchange. They were the thirtieth such delegation to visit Texas since 1998 and one of the more than 400 PEP has brought from Russia to the U.S. since 1996. A big pat on the back goes out to [\*David Watson \(Assistant Dean, Finance and Administration – Amarillo\)\*](#) and the other folks who helped organize the visit and reception.



*The 13-member Russian delegation poses for a quick picture during their recent visit to Amarillo and the SOP.*

## *Raehl Named to Task Force*



*Dr. Raehl*

Congratulations are in order for *Dr. Cynthia Raehl (Chair, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)* for her recent appointment to the Women in Health Task Force. The task force, which was created by *Dr. M. Roy Wilson (President, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center)*, will be dedicated to increasing the number of women faculty, especially in senior academic ranks, and to increasing the number of women holding administrative leadership positions. The task force's mission is included in President Wilson's vision for the future of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, which he presented last spring during the "Lighting the Path" Symposium.

## *Poison Center Reaches Milestone*

September was a noteworthy month for the hardworking staff at the Texas Panhandle Poison Center. It has now been one year since TPPC became part of the TTUHSC family and 10 years since the Center began answering calls from its offices at Northwest Texas Hospital.

During its first year, the TPPC answered roughly 20 such phone calls each day. By Sept. 1, 2004 call volume had more than tripled to approximately 70 calls per day.

For those who may not be familiar with TPPC's history, it was created in 1993 by State Bill 773, which established and financed a network of six poison centers across the state called the Texas Poison Center Network. Call centers were also opened in Galveston, Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso and Temple.

Original construction of the TPPC's present location was funded by a grant from Children's Miracle Network; expansion of the location in 1996 was funded by TDH, who contracts with the Amarillo Hospital District for operating TPPC. From 1994 until 2003 the Amarillo Hospital District sub-contracted with Northwest Texas Hospital to be TPPC's host institution. On Sept. 1, 2003 TTUHSC took over as TCCP's host institution through the School of Pharmacy

As mandated by the 1993 legislation, funding for the Texas Poison Center Network comes from a nominal surcharge (.3 of 1 percent) on all intrastate long distance telephone bills. In 2001, the TPPC and all other regional poison centers across the nation became accessible using one nation-wide toll-free number. Callers can dial the toll-free number from anywhere in the country and are immediately connected with a regional poison center that covers the area from which they calling.

TPPC's region includes the Texas panhandle, the south plains region, and a portion of central Texas. It encompasses 71 counties, a geographical area equivalent to roughly 25% of the state and a population of more than 1.3 million. The area is mostly rural, but also includes four urban areas: Amarillo, Lubbock, Abilene and Wichita Falls.

When it opened in 1994 TPPC employed five registered nurses and two paramedics as call takers. Today there are six registered nurses, all of whom are all qualified as Specialists in Poison Information.

*Dr. Shu Shum, M.D.*, a local pediatrician and board certified toxicologist has been the Medical Director of the center since the day it opened. His present staff includes a Managing Director, a Community Outreach Specialist, a Unit Coordinator and six full-time call takers.



*TPPC's first educator  
taking a well-  
deserved break*

## ***P4s Attend Career Fair***

Amarillo, Lubbock and Dallas/Fort Worth P4 students recently had an opportunity to speak with potential employers at their respective campuses as part of the SOPs 2004 Fall Career Fairs. These fairs are held once each semester and give our P4s a chance to explore internship opportunities and collect information regarding residency programs with various hospitals and retail pharmacies.

This year's fall career fairs kicked off with a meet-and-greet session and included several career development programs, an internship and residency showcase, and interview sessions with potential employers.

As usual, ***Candace Root (Assistant to the Associate Dean of Professional Affairs – Amarillo)*** and ***Dr. Sherry Luedtke (Associate Dean of Professional Affairs – Amarillo)*** did a great job organizing the event.



*Aimee Coleman (P4-Amarillo) discusses career opportunities with a CVS Pharmacy representative at the 2004 Fall Career Fair.*

## ***SOP Student Organizations Attend Community Event***

Two of our student organizations recently participated in the Senior Fall Festival at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Students belonging to the American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Students of Pharmacy (APhA-ASP) organized a program called the Vial-of-Life and students from the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) performed a brown bag seminar.

SOP students and faculty advisors also provided cholesterol, lipids, and glucose screening and worked with OB/GYN students to provide osteoporosis screening.

Congratulations to everyone who participated and represented our programs well!

## ***GETTING TO KNOW...***

### **Patrick King, Ph.D.**

*Director*

*Center for Learning & Teaching with Technology - Amarillo*



Dr. Patrick King, a Texas Tech alum, was born in Upstate New York and has lived in ten states and several countries around the world. A former Marine pilot who served in Vietnam, Patrick spent a number of years in graduate school earning two Masters and a Ph.D. in higher education. His specialties are group psychotherapy, curriculum & instruction, learning theory, and on-line course design.

Patrick's interests and hobbies are varied. He has been studying the Civil War since first visiting Gettysburg at the age of ten. He is also an avid traveler, SCUBA diver, NASCAR fan, and turkey hunter. He also enjoys reading, writing, and listening to his large eclectic music collection. When he can, he likes to spend time with family in their 160-year old home near Cooperstown, New York.

## **Brian Burleson, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S.**

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo*

Although born in North Carolina, Dr. Burleson grew up primarily in San Antonio, Texas after a brief three-year stay in Hawaii. At the age of 14 he became a Red Cross volunteer at a San Antonio hospital; at age 16 he became a pharmacy technician for Eckerd Drug Stores.

Dr. Burleson received his B.S. in biomedical science at Texas A&M University and worked briefly as an operating room pharmacy technician before attending Texas Tech SOP. After earning his Pharm.D. he moved to St. Louis to complete a two-year pharmacotherapy residency (emphasis in critical care and infectious diseases) at Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University Medical Center. He has been a Texas Tech faculty member since July 2003. His research and practice interests include sepsis, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Dr. Burleson and his wife Holly have two daughters: three-year old Megan and two-year old Ashley. He enjoys basketball and tennis in his spare time and is active in his church, Grace Church of Amarillo.

## **Ming Hai-Wang, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Professor and Amarillo Community Endowed Chair*

*Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo*



Dr. Wang came to TTUHSC from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, CU Cancer Center, and Denver Health Medical Center in Denver where he served as Associate Professor of Medicine & Cancer Biology and the Head of the Oncogene Research Group.

Dr. Wang was born in a small island along the east coast of Shanghai in China. His childhood was filled with fish, boats and waves of the sea. After graduating from high school, Dr. Wang went to Hangzhou, the most beautiful city in China. He received his Medical Degree in 1982 from the Department of Medicine and his Master of Medical Sciences in 1985 from the Institute of Infectious Diseases at Zhejiang University School of Medicine.

After a short period of medical practice, Dr. Wang was selected as an Exchange Ph.D. Candidate and went to Borstel Research Center in Germany. He received his Doctor of Medical Sciences (Ph.D. equivalent) in 1989 from a joint program between Zhejiang University and the Medical University of Leubeck, Leubeck, F. R. Germany. From 1989-1994, Dr. Wang completed his post-doctoral training, first at Borstel Research Center in Germany and later at Laboratory of Immunobiology at National Cancer Institute of NIH. He says he was lucky to have worked during that period with Prof. Hans-Dieter Flad in Germany and Dr. Edward J. Leonard in the United States.

In 1995, Dr. Wang became a faculty member at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Michigan. He later joined the faculty of University of Colorado School of Medicine and was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine and Cancer Biology in 1999. He holds the Chang-Kung Scholar Program Professorship in Zhejiang University awarded by Chinese Ministry of Education.

Dr. Wang has published more than 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals including Science, PNAS, JCI, and JBC. He has served in the NIH Minority Programs Review Committee and as ad hoc reviewer for Oncogene, Carcinogenesis, J. Immunol, J. Pathol, and others. His research is focused on mechanisms of cancer invasion and metastasis, specifically on the metastatic potentials of a growth factor receptor called the RON receptor tyrosine kinase. NIH R01 grants, Amarillo Area foundation, and Chinese Chang-Kung Scholar Program currently support the projects.

Dr. Wang has been married to Dr. Yi-Qing Chen—his medical school classmate—for almost 20 years. They have two children: Jennifer, a college sophomore attending the Texas Academy of Math and Sciences at the University North Texas, and Freddie, a funny second-grade student who attends Amarillo's Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. They also share their home with Sunnymoon, a tiger-like cat who sleeps too long. Dr. Wang enjoys literature, history, and traveling. His dream is to visit the every major city in the world after retirement.