



Graduation spotlight shines on Class of 2014

An overflow crowd of proud family, friends and faculty watched more than 150 TTUHSC pharmacy students receive their hoods and diplomas May 23 at the Lubbock Civic Center Auditorium.

President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., and School of Pharmacy Dean Quentin R. Smith, Ph.D., presided over the ceremony. Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance was the commencement speaker.

“Graduation is the biggest day of the year for our program,” Smith said. “These men and women represent the future of pharmacy and we are honored to share this time with them and their families.”

Several members of the Class of 2014 were also recognized for their individual achievements.

Justin John Thomas received The Bowl of Hygieia, awarded to a graduating Doctor of Pharmacy candidate who best exemplifies the qualities most desirable in a pharmacist, including leadership, high ethical standards, dedication and promotion of the pharmacy profession.

The Bowl of Hygieia symbolizes pure and potent medicines and is an internationally recognized symbol for the pharmacy profession.

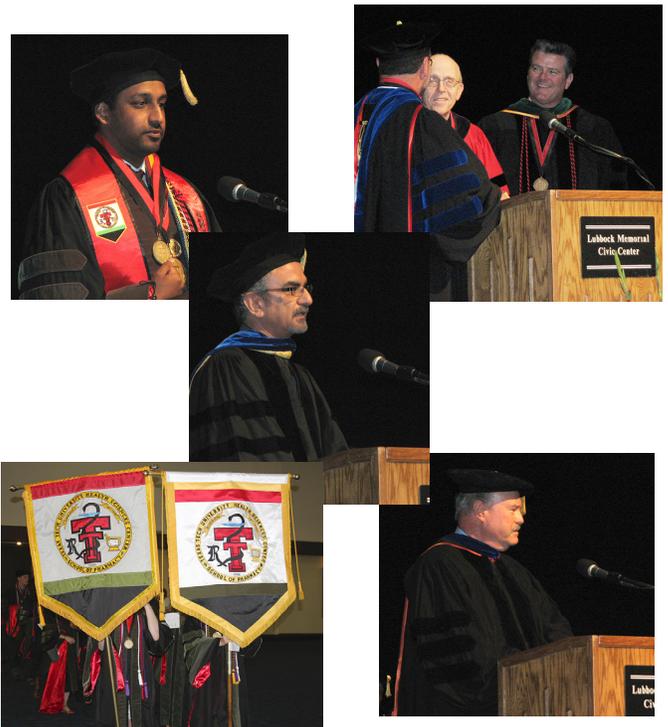
Katie Marie Ausburn and Mary Mei Liu had the highest cumulative grade point average for the Class of 2014, earning them recognition as the Banner Bearers for the Class of 2014. Because their grade point averages were identical, Ausburn and Liu each carried a pharmacy school banner during commencement.

Smith also presented a special award to Richard Burdine, chief executive officer of the Development Corporation of Abilene, Inc. With Burdine’s guidance and leadership, the Abilene campus was established

and now includes the Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing and the Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology.

The Class of 2014 also presented its award for the Most Influential Professor to Harold Miller, Ph.D. In addition, Reza Mehvar, Pharm.D., Ph.D., was named the first recipient of the P4 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Graduation - Class of 2014



*May 23, 2014
Lubbock Civic Center*

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Good Luck and Guns Up to the Class of 2014



McGinnis selected as 2013 Distinguished Alumni

Brandy McGinnis, Pharm.D., (Class of 2004) has been named a 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award winner for Excellence in Practice.

As a clinical pharmacy specialist in cardiovascular risk reduction service McGinnis has had the opportunity to impact thousands of patient lives by providing ambulatory care services like hypertension management, hyperlipidemia and smoking cessation. She also continues to serve as a preceptor for both Pharm.D. students and pharmacy residents as the pharmacy clinical coordinator for Seton Healthcare Family in Austin.

Colleagues call McGinnis a compassionate, engaging and consummate professional and say she displays a high level of integrity in all of her interactions, professional and personal. She is routinely sought out by peers as a confidant because she is willing to share her insight and experience to



Brandy McGinnis, Pharm.D., addresses the Class of 2014 and accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award from School of Pharmacy Dean Quentin Smith, Ph.D.

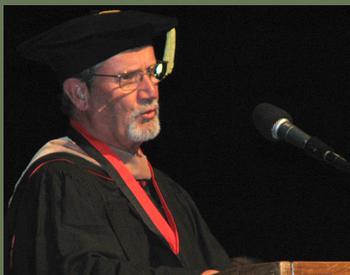


help further patient care and teach the next generation of pharmacy professionals.

As a board certified pharmacotherapy therapist, McGinnis stays abreast of changes in pharmacy practice through involvement in various national organizations. She has been instrumental in designing and implementing a successful clinical intern program that allows Pharm.D. interns to practice in clinical settings.

Most recently, McGinnis was received regional and national recognition for her work in medication adherence. She currently chairs an interdisciplinary workgroup for the region that is designing and implementing strategies to improve medication adherence for multiple chronic disease states. She has successfully published in this specialty area and she has been selected to work at a national level to design a strategy and infrastructure for improving patient medication adherence.

Habeger first to work, first to retire from School of Pharmacy



Butch Habeger made his mark on the School of Pharmacy.

Butch Habeger, R.Ph., the first faculty member to work at the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy, has announced he will become the first faculty member to retire.

Habeger was just the person Founding Dean Arthur Nelson, Ph.D, R.Ph., was seeking

when he started filling positions for the newly opened School of Pharmacy. Nelson was looking for someone to head up a new opportunity to provide comprehensive, quality pharmaceutical care to prisons within the West Texas sector of the Department of Criminal Justice.

“Butch was a ‘round peg’ to help me fill a ‘round hole’ in the development of the SOP,” Nelson said.

Nelson said Habeger possessed the exact skill set the pharmacy program needed and quickly went to work designing the goals and mission of the program’s patient care services. That mission blossomed into multiple contracts with hospitals throughout the region, established three TTUHSC clinic pharmacies and developed a group buying program for all TTUHSC pharmaceuticals.

“None of this could have been accomplished without Butch’s hard work, deep experience in pharmacy operations and his ability to work with all types of people from chief medical directors to

technicians — all focused toward a common goal,” Nelson said.

Nelson said there was one funny issue with the hiring of Habeger.

“He was not the first faculty member hired; he was the first faculty member to come to work,” Nelson said. “Dr. David Allen was actually hired first but delayed his start date. When David was at the SOP, the two of them were always claiming to be first, and both were correct, just in a different way.”

“Hiring Butch Habeger was one of the critical early hires that led to developing a successful, comprehensive School of Pharmacy,” Nelson said. “It set boundaries and expectations that all Pharmacy Practice faculty and students learn best by applying classroom knowledge and laboratory skills in the actual care of patients, something that is central to the concept of a health sciences center and to the role of the School of Pharmacy in the TTUHSC model of patient care and education.”

Nelson praised Habeger for placing high importance on duty and honor — traits he said Habeger learned while serving in the military and brought to his work at the pharmacy school.

“Today’s students, faculty, staff and patients are reaping the special benefits that Butch Habeger brought to this job during the very foundational developmental years of the pharmacy school,” Nelson said. “I am proud to have been his leader and consider him to be a dear friend and colleague.”

Graduation festivities include individual awards

One of the highlights of the annual School of Pharmacy commencement program is learning which graduating students will be recognized for their individual academic and clinical training achievements.

This year, nine individual awards were presented to members of the Class of 2014. Each award and its recipient are listed in the table below.

Award	Recipient
WoltersKluwer Excellence in Clinical Communication Award	Urvi Desai
Teva USA Outstanding Student Award	Lauren Adams
Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award	Jeremiah Kruckemeyer
TTUHSC Pharmacy Communication Award	George Jacob
TTUHSC Pharmacy Patient Care Award	Taryn Satterwhite
Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition	Jonathan Stuckey
Lilly Achievement Award (new criteria)	Lance Cearly
Geriatrics	Miranda Saari
Pediatrics	George Jacob

Absar named Outstanding GSBS student



Absar

Shahriar (Abir) Absar, a graduate student in the School of Pharmacy's Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences earned the 2014 Outstanding Graduate award from TTUHSC's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS).

As the recipient of this award, Absar was the speaker at the GSBS convocation. He was nominated for the award based on excellence in educational merit; contributions made to the laboratory and/or department and to TTUHSC

and its students; receipt of research funding and/or scholarships; community service and any other awards.

Absar has several publications to his credit: six were first author and one was awarded several honors, including a 2013 Best Paper Award and a 2013 Dean's Scholar Award. He also received an American Heart Association pre-doctoral fellowship in 2013.

Absar successfully defended his dissertation in November and graduated with a doctoral degree in pharmaceutical sciences in May. He completed his research project under Fakhru'l Ahsan, Ph.D.

GPPS students earn travel stipends

The efforts of several students from the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences have been rewarded with travel scholarships. Honorees include:

- Alok Ranjan, Nilesh Gupta and Parul Gupta, who were selected to receive an American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) travel award from AMGEN. Each received a \$500 stipend to assist with travel expenses to San Diego to attend the AAPS National Biotechnology Conference in May. Ranjan works in the lab of Sanjay Srivastava, Ph.D.; Nilesh Gupta is a Ph.D. candidate in the lab of Fakhru'l Ahsan, Ph.D.; and Parul Gupta is a Ph.D. candidate in the Srivastava lab.

- Neel Fofaria, a Ph.D. candidate in the Srivastava lab, was selected to receive an AAPS Graduate Student Symposium Award sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company. He received a \$1,000 stipend to assist with travel expenses to San Diego to attend the AAPS National Biotechnology Conference in May.



Ranjan



N. Gupta



P. Gupta



Fofaria

Experiential Programs unveils innovative preceptor training program

Experiential education makes up approximately one-third of the curricula at many colleges and universities around the country. With new higher learning institutions opening their doors each year, combined with increasing enrollment at existing institutions, the need for preceptors is at an all-time high and is expected to increase.

In addition, it is estimated that more than 80 percent of introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences are delivered by adjunct faculty, most of whom have little or no formal training as teachers. Though the remaining experiences are taught by full-time faculty, many of these individuals also have limited training as teachers, even if they completed a structured teaching certificate program during their PGY1 or PGY2 residency programs.

The result is a continuing and critical need to increase preceptor training across the country. Although there are existing preceptor training programs, they are somewhat limited in quantity and diversity of mediums.

Armed with these facts, Craig D. Cox, Pharm.D., vice chair for experiential programs at the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy, worked with Brittany Patterson, the school's assistant director for experiential programs, to define a preceptor development strategy that targets preceptors representing all health professions.

One of the first programs developed was a preceptor mini-series consisting of twelve episodes. Each of the videos in the series is five to eight minutes in length and each episode builds upon previous episodes in the series.

The storyline for the series follows a young preceptor and her two students through a six-week clinical rotation at a hospital. The students are cast as polar opposites and present unique challenges to the preceptor. At moments throughout each episode, two preceptor experts share insight into how they would deal with each difficult learning situation.

Cox wrote and directed each video in the series; Studio 84, a professional production company

located in Lubbock, produced and edited the videos. Production took approximately six months to complete from conceptualization to final product release and was funded internally by the School of Pharmacy.

All actors were School of Pharmacy faculty and students who volunteered to be a part of the innovative training series. For each episode, two reflective questions were prepared to allow for participants to consider the potential impact of the episode on their own teaching.

Once the final product was completed, the Continuing Education Committee, in conjunction with the Preceptor Advisory Council, reviewed each episode to determine how long it took to watch the episode and complete the two reflection questions. It was determined that each episode required roughly 15 minutes to complete, meaning each episode

translates to 0.025 continuing education units, or CEUs. Individuals who complete the entire series — 12 episodes — receive three CEU contact hours, a result Cox targeted to meet the required hours preceptors must receive every two years to be certified.

The series premier was held March 27 at Premiere Cinemas at Lubbock's South Plains Mall. The full 12-episode series was presented on the big screen in front of more than 100 students and pharmacists who also received free popcorn and soda.

At the end of the program, attendees had the opportunity to get autographs from the actors and actresses who attended the premier.

"It was a fun event," Cox said. "It was unlike any preceptor education program that the pharmacists had ever seen before and I really think they were excited and impressed by it."

Cox and the School of Pharmacy are working to make individual episodes of the series available online for continuing education credit through the school's Continuing Education site. With the first series in the can, Cox and his colleagues are working on scripts for the second and third series, which they plan to produce this summer.



Neyland, Sneller earn Student Leadership Awards

Though their career paths will likely not cross, fourth-year students Liz Neyland and Megan Sneller have employed similar means to reach different ends. It is those means that earned Neyland and Sneller the final Dean's Leadership Awards for the 2013-2014 school year.

As members of the Class of 2014, Neyland and Sneller have made quite an impression on their respective campuses. Neyland has applied her leadership style on the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) campus while Sneller has left her mark on the Amarillo campus.

"Liz is a student that leads by example," Associate Professor Krystal Edwards said. "She is very active in many student organizations and she is a student that is not afraid to stand up for herself or others. She is always giving of herself and willing to help out as needed, never turning away a request to assist her classmates or to go above and beyond the requirements of the clerkship. She 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 where and when needed."

Toni Johnson, administrator for the Amarillo regional dean's office, said Sneller is innovative in her thoughts and actions.

"Megan is teachable, which means she is willing to listen and learn from others, yet she also has strong convictions and thinks for herself in given situations. She may not always agree with the direction someone wants to take, but she is willing to listen to their side and then find ways to compromise or make the idea work in a way that is a win-win for all involved."

Neyland most recently served as president of Phi Lambda Sigma and she and helped found the DFW campus chapter for Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International. Neyland was also a driving force in establishing the School of Pharmacy chapter for the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of children (FIMRC).

"Liz was very active and vocal in going to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's national meeting this year," Edwards said. "She was very interactive at the meeting and learned the value of networking."

Edwards said Neyland also excelled as an officer for the DFW Student Senate Spring Banquet Committee.

"Liz helped the Dallas students feel like they had a true banquet that fostered excellent interactions



From left:
School of Pharmacy
Dean Quentin Smith,
Ph.D., Megan Sneller,
Toni Johnson and
Amarillo Regional
Dean Thomas
Thekkumkara, Ph.D.

From left: Liz
Neyland, DFW
Regional Dean Dr.
Roland Patry, Dr.
Krystal Edwards
and School of
Pharmacy Dean
Dr. Quentin Smith,



between the students, staff, faculty and alumni. It was truly a memorable experience, and as a faculty member, I can say I was excited and inspired by the banquet. It showcased our student's enthusiasm to be a part of something larger with the staff, faculty, and alumni while celebrating their own successes."

Sneller served as an officer for the American Pharmacists Association and the National Community Pharmacists Association. She was also the P4 class secretary and she was an active Student Council member

for the School of Pharmacy during her P4 year.

"Megan has not only has taken an active interest in her peers on campus, but she has extended herself to the community throughout the years to promote the profession of pharmacy to the next generation of young people," Johnson said. "She has also personally extended her compassion to the less fortunate of our community and in other countries."

Now that they've graduated, Neyland and Sneller are preparing to serve patients in different segments of the pharmacy profession. Neyland plans to work as a clinical pharmacist while Sneller is interested in community pharmacy.

"Liz truly showed a passion for patient-centered care and collaborative drug therapy management while on rotation," Edwards said. "Her interactions, preparedness, assessment and plans for and with patients was outstanding and she truly was a patient advocate in all senses of the word. She appeared to look forward to being challenged by complex and difficult patients and following up on repeat patients during the rotation. It was through these interactions and challenges that Liz really shined."

Johnson said Sneller career dream is to become a community pharmacist in a place where she can make a real difference for her patients.

"Megan has a job lined up after graduation and she is excited to begin her practice of pharmacy," Johnson said. "She is always very encouraging to others, even when she needs to help them make something better. She is well spoken and guards her words carefully so that she is corrective, yet encouraging."

Two leaders from different School of Pharmacy campuses using the same skills and compassions to better the lives of patients. For future pharmacy leaders like Neyland and Sneller, the end will almost certainly justifies the means.

Pediatric group names Luedtke ninth recipient of Helms Award



Luedtke

Sherry Luedtke, Pharm.D., a founding faculty member for the School of Pharmacy, has been named the ninth recipient of the Richard A. Helms Award of Excellence in Pediatric Pharmacy Practice by the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG). Luedtke received the award in May at the PPAG Annual Seminar.

The Helms Award recognizes sustained and meritorious contributions to PPAG and to pediatric pharmacy practice and contributions of importance to education, new knowledge and outreach. The award is made possible by donations from Dr. Helms' colleagues, friends and past postdoctoral trainees.

To be eligible for the award, nominees should have made a lasting contribution to pediatric pharmacy practice, must be in pediatric pharmacy practice for a minimum of 15 years and must be an active member of PPAG for a minimum of five continuous years.

Luedtke, who served as PPAG president from 2002-2004, is the youngest recipient of the Helms Award. She has served the organization in many capacities since 1996 and is currently a member of PPAG's education committee. She also serves as associate editor for the organization's "Journal of Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics."

"It is a great honor to receive the Rich Helms Excellence Award and to be considered a member of a truly elite group of leaders within pediatric pharmacy," Luedtke said. "I greatly respect each of the past award winners and feel very humbled to be a recipient."

Jordan Burdine, a fourth-year pharmacy student at the Dallas/Fort Worth campus, said the award demonstrates Luedtke's dedication to pharmacy and to her students.

"Dr. Luedtke has been such an asset to my education and personal development," Burdine said. "She continues to be a mentor throughout my time here at TTUHSC and she is continuously reaching out to promote students and provide as many learning opportunities as possible. She has also truly been an asset as the founding faculty advisor for the newly recognized Texas Tech Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group student chapter. I think this accomplishment truly exemplifies not only her outstanding work in pharmacy, but how exceptional the faculty are here at TTUHSC."

Although she is proud to receive the Helms Award, Luedtke said she is more gratified in the accomplishments of her former residents and students who have gone on to career in pediatric pharmacy.

"These residents and students are the future of pediatrics and pharmacy," Luedtke said. "I am so proud to have helped in some way to inspire them to become our future leaders."

Three School of Pharmacy faculty members promoted

Two faculty members for the Department of Pharmacy Practice and another from the Department of Biomedical Sciences recently received promotions.

Brian Irons, Pharm.D., division head of ambulatory care, has been promoted to full professor, non-tenure track. Irons has been with the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Lubbock campus since 1999.

Dr. Sachin Shah, Pharm.D., associate dean for assessment and accreditation, was also promoted to full professor, non-tenure track. Shah is a member of the Department of Pharmacy Practice faculty at the Dallas/Fort Worth campus. He created and developed a clinical oncology pharmacy program at the Dallas VA Medical Center and established an ASHP accredited hematology/oncology specialty residency program.

Kalkunte Srivenugopal, Ph.D., from the Amarillo campus has been promoted to full professor with tenure in the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Srivenugopal joined the school in 2002. His research interests include anticancer drug resistance focusing on the DNA-repair 06-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT), redox stress in cancers and regulation of p53 function.



Clockwise from left: Srivenugopal, Irons and Shah all received faculty promotions from the School of Pharmacy.



Lab enhancements increase school's research capabilities

By Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D.

In 2012, the School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences set out to significantly enhance the delivery of medicinal chemistry coursework for educating pharmacy students and graduate students in pharmaceutical sciences. These changes included new equipment and laboratory enhancements to increase the school's research potential.

The process began with the targeted recruitment of a new department faculty member who possessed training and experience in medicinal chemistry. With those qualifications in mind, Paul Trippier, Ph.D., was hired in the summer of 2012 from Northwestern University as a tenure track assistant professor.

Trippier received his postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Richard Silverman, Ph.D. The training included the synthesis and intracellular target identification of potential therapeutics for treating neurodegenerative diseases.

Since his hiring, Trippier has established his laboratory research at TTUHSC to focus upon the design and synthesis of compounds to modulate tumor-stromal interaction for drug resistant cancer and compounds to promote neuroprotection for a variety of CNS diseases.

To make Trippier's recruitment possible, TTUHSC, the School of Pharmacy and the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

put together resources to purchase a new 400 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to support small molecule analysis and Trippier's new research program.

NMR analysis provides the only method to unequivocally determine the structure of small molecules synthesized in a medicinal chemistry program. By offering this type of analytical equipment, the School of Pharmacy maintains its status as one of the best in the nation.

To date, the NMR has been used for more than 1,150 hours in its first year of operation and has stimulated collaborative research between numerous groups.

The machine is currently being used exclusively by School of Pharmacy researchers, but is available to all TTUHSC faculty or students. In fact, it is our hope that this equipment will facilitate collaborative efforts between multiple TTUHSC schools and departments.

The NMR is also essential to generating publication-quality data — the first manuscript generated using this data is pending submission to the "Journal of Organic Chemistry." In addition, several medicinal chemistry grant applications have been submitted containing preliminary data made possible by the NMR. Throughout these processes, Trippier and his lab staff have provided their expertise to keep this equipment serviced and in full operation.

TTUHSC provided additional resources in 2013 to make possible the research infrastructure improvements necessary to support the growing medicinal chemistry research programs of Trippier and Nadia German, Ph.D., an additional medicinal chemistry faculty recruited by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

After a national faculty search, German was recruited to the department from the Research Triangle Institute as a tenure track assistant professor. She will start her faculty position in August.

German received postdoctoral training at Virginia Commonwealth University under the direction of Richard Glennon, Ph.D. Her expertise lies in the design and synthesis of allosteric modulators of CNS receptor systems for a variety of CNS diseases.

The consolidation of medicinal chemistry research into School of Pharmacy Lab 427 is expected to be completed in August and is essential to support newly hired medicinal

chemistry faculty members and to continue expanding medicinal chemistry within the school. Because medicinal chemistry is a discipline that requires hood space rather than bench space, Lab 427 will be equipped with a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system — HVAC — to support 4x8-foot chemical fume hoods and will be plumbed for water, drain and vacuum.

These renovations will add hood space for eight chemists. When existing facilities in the adjacent Lab 426 are taken into account, as many as 10 chemists will be able to work productively and safely.

The renovations will also allow further recruitment of students and faculty. In addition, collaboration, resource sharing and learning will be enhanced because all chemistry students can work in one lab.

Finally, the renovations will strengthen the environment and institutional commitment sections of any grants pertaining to medicinal chemistry.



The Nuclear Magnetic Resonance machine is being used for important research in several School of Pharmacy laboratories, including that of Dr. Paul Trippier.



Pharmacy staff efforts recognized, rewarded

Three staff members were recently recognized for their efforts on behalf of the the School of Pharmacy.



Breeding

Paula Breeding, unit supervisor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice in Amarillo, was selected to receive the 2014 President's Quality Supervisor

Award, one of several distinguished staff awards presented by TTUHSC.

"Paula has been an outstanding staff member and supervisor in our department for many years and this is well deserved," Interim Department Chair Eric MacLaughlin, Pharm.D., said.

The School of Pharmacy also selected Lee Easterday and Michelle Sperbeck for its 2014 Staff Excellence Awards. Easterday was the Amarillo campus honoree and Sperbeck, who works at the Abilene campus, was selected as the distant campus recipient. The awards are given annually to staff who exemplify the best the School of Pharmacy has to offer.



Easterday

In his nomination, Easterday was commended for his innovation, effectiveness and initiative.

"He has always been a close and dependable associate," Butch Habeger, R.Ph.,

said. "Lee has been indispensable to the School of Pharmacy."

MacLaughlin praised Sperbeck for her diligence and the quality of her assistance with logistics and planning. If not for Sperbeck's efforts, MacLaughlin said the department would have been significantly hampered in its faculty recruitment efforts.

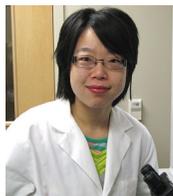


Sperbeck

Debra Notturmo-Strong, associate dean for professional affairs, called Sperbeck a truly unsung hero.

"Michelle works tirelessly for the department and is instrumental in keeping things running. She is an invaluable asset," Notturmo-Strong said.

Liu, students published in noted journal



Liu

Xinli Liu, Ph.D., an assistant professor for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and several of her graduate students have published

in the "ACS Nano Journal."

According to Department Chair Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D., the journal has an impact factor of >12 and defines the fields of nanoscience and nanotechnology.

"This is a major accomplishment for Dr. Liu and her pharmaceutical sciences graduate students," Abbruscato said. "We are very proud of Dr. Liu's research program. She is a great mentor for her talented graduate students."

Graduate students Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal, Ph.D., Amer Alali and Tanvirul Hye collaborated with Liu. The paper is entitled "Hyaluronan Polymer Length, Grafting Density, and Surface Poly(ethylene glycol) Coating Influence in Vivo Circulation and Tumor Targeting of Hyaluronan-Grafted Liposomes."

Greene installed as TSHP President-Elect



Greene

Shane Greene, Pharm.D., an associate professor in ambulatory care for the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Dallas/Fort

Worth campus, was elected in May to serve as president-elect for the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP). He will become president in April 2015.

Greene said his installment shows how the School of Pharmacy continues its history of fostering the growth of faculty into state-wide, regional and national leaders.

"I have been fortunate to have had great mentors as senior faculty or as chairs who themselves have been presidents of many organizations, including two currently on faculty as past-TSHP presidents," Greene said.

MacLaughlin elected to ACCP Board of Regents



MacLaughlin

Eric MacLaughlin, Pharm.D., interim chair and professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has been elected to serve on

the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Board of Regents.

MacLaughlin will be installed as a new officer during the 2014 ACCP Annual Meeting in October.

MacLaughlin's scholarship and research interests include prevention and of treatment of osteoporosis, health professions education and optimizing management of cardiovascular diseases.

He is also a professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine at TTUHSC School of Medicine. His practice specialty is family medicine.



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School of Pharmacy

Students hand out 2013-2014 Faculty Teaching Awards

Several individual faculty members and teaching teams were recognized by each School of Pharmacy class at the school's annual awards ceremony in April.

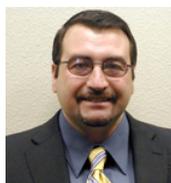


A. Karamyan

Anna Karamyan, Ph.D., an assistant professor for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named Teacher of the Year by the first-year (P1) class.

Karamyan joined the school in 2010. Her research interests include marine natural products and drug discovery.

The P1 class also selected the Drug Delivery Systems I Team as its Teaching Team of the Year. The team includes Fahkrul Ahsan, Ph.D., Nishil Desai, Ph.D., and Karamyan.



Cucullo

Students from the P2 class selected Luca Cucullo, Ph.D., as their Teacher of the Year. Cucullo joined the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty in 2011. His field of research includes cerebrovascular modeling and his research programs are currently

funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and Alternative Research and Development Foundation.

The Infectious Diseases Team was named Teaching Team of the Year by the P2 class. Team members include Harold Miller, Ph.D., Young Lee, Pharm.D., Xinli Liu, Ph.D., Mark Lyte, Ph.D., Krystal Haase, Pharm.D., and Jennifer Grelle, Pharm.D..



Wang

The P3 class named Ming-Hai Wang, M.D., Ph.D., as its Teacher of the Year. Wang, a tenured professor for the Department of Biomedical Sciences, is a cancer biologist and immunologist. He is also the Amarillo Community

Endowed Chair in Cancer Research and director of the Cancer Biology Center at the School of Pharmacy.

The P3 Teaching Team of the Year – The Oncology Team received the P3 class Teaching Team of the Year award. Members include Kalkunte S. Srivenugopal, Ph.D., Sachin Shah, Ph.D., and Wang.



Mehvar

The School of Pharmacy graduate students selected Reza Mehvar, Ph.D., as Teacher of the Year and Vardan Karamyan, Ph.D., as Mentor of the Year.

Mehvar, a professor for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, joined the School of Pharmacy in 1999. He has received several awards, including a TTUHSC President's Award and Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Award for his teaching and research accomplishments.

How to submit items for the Newsletter

The mission of this newsletter 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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Mehvar's research interests include pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, hepatobiliary disposition, macromolecular prodrug delivery, liver transplantation, liver ischemia-reperfusion injury and ability-based, outcome-driven learning strategies



V. Karamyan

Vardan Karamyan joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2008. His research group is studying the (patho)physiological function of metalloendopeptidase neurolysin (EC 3.4.24.16) in ischemic stroke and neurogenic hypertension. The group is also collaborating with Department Chair Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D., to study the role of opioid receptors for neuroprotection in stroke.

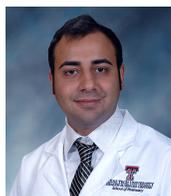
As their Teaching Team of the Year, the graduate students selected the Biochemistry Team, whose members include James Stoll, Ph.D., Miller and Russell Snyder, Ph.D.

Students win Target grant



Jonathon Delong

Jonathon Delong and Farbod Dehmami were named winners of the 2014 Target Campus Grant.



Farbod Dehmami

In Target's Healthy Guests=Happy Guests contest, eight two-member teams developed business plans designed to answer the question, "How might Target position itself as the one-stop-shop for guests' health and wellness wants/needs?"

Target representatives Shea Hudson and Glenda Hart selected the winning team. Each member received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Roland Patry, Dr.PH., Cole Kildow, Pharm.D., and Joel Epps served as the teaching team for the contest.

Students receive WTPA scholarships

The following students received scholarships from the West Texas Pharmacy Association:

Kathryn Bachman (Amarillo); Teryn Bibb (Abilene); Lida Binesheian (Amarillo); Carissa Chadwick (Abilene); Cody Clark (Abilene); Haylee Contreras (Lubbock); Cody Frausto (Amarillo); Nathan Harris (Amarillo); Chris Hobart (Lubbock); Anh Huynh (Lubbock); Sydney Kutter (Abilene); Suzanne Lamb (Amarillo); Crystal Le (Abilene); Hannah Lenamon (Abilene); Cortney McGinnis (Amarillo); Myka McMeans (Dallas); Justin Miranda (Lubbock); Phuong Nguyen (Abilene); John O'Connor (Amarillo); Andrew Patel (Lubbock); Danielle Rodgers (Abilene); Megan Sneller (Amarillo); Samantha St. Claire (Lubbock); Amy Stretcher (Abilene); Jordan Talley (Abilene); Aaron Thompson (Lubbock); Justin Urby (Abilene); and Erika White (Abilene).

TRIG community initiative successful in Abilene

As part of the Translational Research Interest Group (TRIG) Community Initiative, School of Pharmacy students presented "Careers in Science" to more than 1,000 eighth graders in the Abilene area during the spring semester.

The program encourages middle school students to consider a career in one of the many science and health care fields discussed by the pharmacy students.

SGA honors Lubbock student



Timmi Ickert

The TTUHSC Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Council selected Timmi Ickert from the Lubbock campus to receive a SGA

President's Award of Excellence.

The awards go to senators who have gone above and beyond the requirements of their position.

Ickert, who graduated in May, was honored for the 2013-2014 academic year.

"Timmi Ickert has proven for two years in a row to be an excellent leader and a hard worker," SGA President Hunter Atkins said. "We are so pleased to have had the opportunity to work with her. Although we are sad to see her leave us, we are extremely happy to see her finishing her degree and becoming a professional."

This year Ickert helped organize entertainment, acquired posters and recruited volunteers as a member of the board for the Future Healthcare Provider's Conference.

Students qualify to compete at TPA conference

Teylssa Anderson (first place), Jordan Burdine (second) and Jacy Hodges (third) were the top finishers at the local Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA) Patient Counseling competition and will represent TTUHSC at the TPA Conference and Expo in San Marcos, Texas.

In addition, Thein Hoang, An Nguyen, Justin Urby and Barbara Tiner won the TPA Self-Care Championship local competition and will compete at the state contest in August.

Abilene team competes at CLARION 2014

Four students from the TTUHSC Abilene campus were selected in March to represent TTUHSC in the CLARION 2014 Interprofessional Team Case Competition in Minneapolis.

Pharmacy students Angel Acosta, Houda El Fakir and Halima Sani joined nursing student Jessica Scowden to compete against other TTUHSC teams in Lubbock.

"The group performed well against some tough competition," Faculty Advisor Kathryn Whitcomb, MSN, RN, DNPc, said.

CLARION is a University of Minnesota student organization dedicated to improving healthcare through interprofessional collaboration.

In 2005, the competition expanded to the national level. Student teams of four each, consisting of at least two disciplines, are given a case and are charged with creating a root cause analysis.

The team presents its analysis to a panel of interprofessional judges that evaluates their analysis in the context of real-world standards of practice.



Clockwise from top left: The 2014 CLARION team from TTUHSC includes Angel Acosta, Kathryn Whitcomb, Houda El Fakir, Halima Sani and Jessica Scowden.

Funds allow campuses to renovate, expand

Three School of Pharmacy campuses have benefitted in a multitude of ways from more than \$4 million in improvements made during the past year.

On the Amarillo campus, TTUHSC has dedicated approximately \$1.1 million to exterior refurbishments of the main School of Pharmacy building and \$810,000 to improve the medicinal chemistry laboratory.

In Dallas/Fort Worth, \$580,000 has been invested into renovations for the Southwest Campus, including new and refurbished labs, additional office space and an expanded classroom.

In Abilene, \$610,000 was used to equip the new sterile products laboratory and \$80,000 is going into an improved water system. In addition, the Development Corporation of Abilene provided \$908,520 to expand the Abilene Campus vivarium.

“In total, the expansion will provide almost 5,000 square feet of state-of-the-art vivarium space for TTUHSC researchers, enhancing the competitiveness of student training, research and drug development at the Abilene campus,” Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology chair Jon Weidanz, Ph.D., said.

Pharmacy Practice recruits new faculty to Abilene, Amarillo

The Department of Pharmacy Practice posted a significant number of recruiting successes recently by filling several open positions that should greatly enhance student experiences on the Abilene and Amarillo campuses.

Six open faculty positions in Abilene have been filled despite some difficulty in finding candidates suited to the town’s non-metropolitan environment.

The hirings are expected to significantly improve student access to area rotation sites and make it easier for students to complete their education at the Abilene campus.

The newest members of the Abilene faculty family include: Brian Terrell, Pharm.D., Ambulatory Care (Dyess AFB); Kayley Will, Pharm.D., Ambulatory Care

(Hendrick); Livia Macedo, Pharm.D., Correctional Health Care; Becky Mahan, Pharm.D., Geriatrics (Hendrick); and Bethany Ibach, Pharm.D., and Chephra McKee, Pharm.D., Pediatrics (Hendrick/ Ambulatory Pediatrics Clinics).

The department is also actively recruiting for the Amarillo and Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) campuses.

On the Amarillo campus, Amarillo campus, Dr. Les Covington has joined the geriatrics and ambulatory care divisions. Interviews continue for a correctional health care position.

Interviews are also ongoing at the DFW campus for a position in clinical and translational research and practice management. An offer has also been extended for an ambulatory care position.

Residency Program has banner year, welcomes new residents

Under the direction of Dr. Steven Pass, vice chair for residency programs, the School of Pharmacy residency program thrived in 2013-2014. The program currently has 26 residents (14 PGY-1 and 12 PGY-2) in the 2013-14 residency class that will complete their training in June.

- The Class of 2014 included 18 students who were matched to PGY-1 residency programs.

Twelve went to traditional PGY-1 pharmacy practice programs, two to PGY-1 community programs, one to a PGY-1 managed care program and three to PGY-2 pharmacotherapy programs.

- The 2014-15 TTUHSC residency class will consist of 28 residents: 15 in PGY-1 programs and 13 PGY-2 programs spread across all four campuses. This includes two new programs: PGY-2 Oncology at UT-Southwestern Medical Center and PGY-2 Psychiatry at the Dallas VA Medical Center.

- Dr. Pass was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Commission on Credentialing for a three-year term.

Incoming residents include:

- Lubbock Pharmacotherapy: Linda Nwachukwu and Nephy Samuel
- Dallas Critical Care: Elizabeth Lee, PharmD
- Dallas Oncology: Rene Mani, Pharm.D.
- Dallas VA Psychiatry: Courtney Jason Givens, PharmD
- Parkland Psychiatry: Joy Martindale, PharmD
- Presbyterian: Wesley P. Welchel, Mary M. Liu and Sarah Woodard
- Dallas Ambulatory Care: Barakha Yadav, Pharm.D.
- Abilene PGY-1: Han Li
- Dallas ID: Marcus Kouma and Norman Mang
- Amarillo Pharmacotherapy: PGY-2 Corrie Lowe, Shirley Yu, PGY-1 Maegan Patterson and Taryn Satterwhite
- Amarillo Pediatrics: Kayla Vecera, PharmD, and Jessica Degiacomo, Pharm.D., B.S.
- Abilene Pharmacotherapy: Jessica Garza
- Dallas Geriatrics: Belinda Hong
- Veterans Administration PGY-1: Katherine Kelly, Joshua Armstrong Koontz, Lauren Adams, Kiya Harrison and Brian Allen Spense.

Alumni Board plans more involvement with current students

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Association (SOPAA) board of directors met April 29 and discussed ways to become more involved with the pharmacy program and its students.

On tap for the coming year are a golf tournament in conjunction with the National Community Pharmacists Association, a fund-raising initiative, a fall tailgate and an Alumni Reception at the Texas Pharmacy Association Conference.

The board also discussed how to increase alumni participation in School of Pharmacy activities. Some of the events already on their radar are the White Coat Ceremonies, the Career Fair, mentoring round tables and the Graduation and Hooding Ceremony.

In addition, Traci Metting, Pharm.D., (Class of 2000) and Alisia Baker Sutton, Pharm.D., ('06) were recognized for their service to the SOPAA.

Metting served on the SOPAA Board (2009-2013) and was the board chair (2009-2011). She is currently the director of pharmacy and medication safety at Tenet Healthcare in Dallas and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni in 2003.

Sutton is a staff pharmacist at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Forth Worth. She

Current SOPAA members include (from left): Sid Phillips, Pharm.D.; Sarah Ussery, Pharm.D.; Shawn Gautreaux, Pharm.D.; Kevin Aloysius, Pharm.D.; Sarah Gibbons, Pharm.D.; Angela Wu, Pharm.D.; and Kenna Payne, Pharm.D.



was a SOPAA board member (2009-2013) and served as board Secretary (2011-2012).

SOP alum Nathan Buerkle, Pharm.D., ('09) was recently honored as the outgoing president of West Texas Pharmacy Association (WTPA). Buerkle is pharmacist in charge for Sam's Club in Lubbock. While in school he received WTPA scholarships for three years and was named a 2012 Adjunct Faculty Preceptor of the Year in 2012.

Getting to know...

Jacey Redfearn Assistant Director

Office of Experiential Programs • Dallas/Fort Worth (SW)

Jacey Redfearn was born in Amarillo. As a member of a pastor's family, she had the opportunity to grow up in different cities across Texas, including Victoria and Fort Worth. Redfearn said it may have been the moving around as a child that instilled in her the sense of adventure that has become her passion. She comes from a large family and she spends time with them every chance she gets. She said she especially enjoys spoiling her eight nieces and nephews.

Redfearn graduated from Howard Payne University in 2002 with a B.S. degree in communications. She has worked in higher education, music publishing and, most recently, in development for nonprofits.

Redfearn began her new journey at the School of Pharmacy

in September and enjoys getting to travel around her old Dallas/Fort Worth stomping grounds developing relationships with the staff at the different pharmacies and hospitals in the area and ensuring that students get the best experiences they can on rotation.

In her spare time, Redfearn enjoys spending time with family and friends, attending every Texas Rangers game she can, discovering new restaurants and traveling across the state, country and around the world. She has been to Mexico; lived on a boat for weeks at a time on the Amazon in Brazil;

trekked through parts of South Africa; climbed through castle ruins and sang in cathedrals in Estonia; and rode a camel near the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. She said she is currently researching what adventure will come next.



Whether she's riding a camel, traveling in a foreign country or attending a Texas Rangers game, Jacey Redfearn is always looking for new adventures.

School of Pharmacy Photo Gallery



From left: Toni Johnson and Jean Haynes visit with BSA Pharmacy Director Dr. Marcus Baker at the Amarillo Preceptor Reception while Dr. Craig Cox (below) tries to figure out the soda fountain.



From left: Taylor Tran, Vi Bui and Tina Truong proudly display their native attire at Kappa Psi's 2014 International Night and Talent Show in Amarillo.

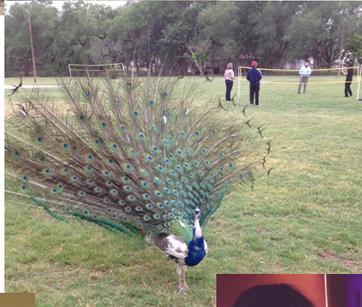


Krista Heinrich (left) and Wendy Shu present the award for "Most Likely to Run with the Bulls" to Cash Tidwell at Dallas/Fort Worth Spring Banquet.



School of Pharmacy faculty enjoy an outdoor meal at the 2014 Faculty Retreat in Lubbock.

A peacock appears to be unimpressed by a group of badminton players at the 2014 Faculty Retreat in Lubbock.



Members of the Dallas/Fort Worth APhA chapter are ready to chow down at the group's Buffalo Wild Wings fundraiser.



Monique Enih shows off a gift card she won at the 2014 School of Pharmacy Recognition of Excellence program.



Catherine Nguyen and Austin De La Cruz posing with the Queen of England herself at the Dallas/Fort Worth Spring Banquet.



Caitlyn Downs sang her way to first place at Kappa Psi's 2014 International Night and Talent Show in Amarillo.

Paula Breeding, unit coordinator for the Department of Pharmacy Practice in Amarillo, receives the 2014 TTUHSC Quality Supervisor Award from TTUHSC President Dr. Tedd L. Mitchell.



Amarillo Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Dr. Kami Jenkins and Faculty Preceptor of the Year David Simmons, R.Ph. Jenkins is pharmacy manager at Amerita Specialty Infusion Services. Simmons is a pharmacy practice instructor in Amarillo.

