

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2023



On May 20, the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy Class of 2023 received their PharmD degrees at the Amarillo Civic Center Auditorium in front of a crowd of proud family and friends.

Class of 2001 alumnus and distinguished alumni award recipient, Shawn Hodges, PharmD, delivered an inspiring commencement address. Hodges is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Revelation Pharma Corporation.

Of the 150 graduates who made up the class of 2023, 51 have gone on to residency programs, 6 have gone on to fellowship programs, 29 received PharmD/MBA dual degrees, and 2 received honors in research designations.

A full recording of the ceremony can be found [here](#).

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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



In May, faculty members from all four TTUHSC campuses gathered at the Amarillo campus for a three day faculty retreat. During the retreat, they took part in team building, development and training sessions, worked with the staff council, and finished the week with graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2023.



Krystal Edwards, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice at the Dallas campus received the Perseverance award at the faculty dinner in May. The award recognizes a team member who has persevered through challenges.

PROMOTION AND TENURE



In March, the Board of Regents approved tenure and promotion appointments for three faculty members that will go into effect on September 1, 2023.

- **Mary Klein, PharmD**, promotion - assistant professor to associate professor
- **Becky Mahan, PharmD**, promotion - assistant professor to associate professor
- **Grace Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD**, tenure

KOGANTI HONORED FOR INFLUENCE



Each year, the graduating class selects a faculty member for the honor of the Harold Miller Most Influential Professor award. The Class of 2023 selected Siva Koganti, director of testing and assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the TTUHSCSOP Dallas campus as the 2023 recipient.

The award, which recognizes a faculty member who has had a significant impact on the student body, superior leadership, dedicated service and teaching excellence, was presented to Koganti at commencement ceremonies.

Students described Koganti as someone with an extreme regard for students as individuals, the definition of influential, understanding, and above all very caring.

TTUHSCSOP WELL REPRESENTED AT AACP ANNUAL MEETING

Nearly 20 TTUHSCSOP team members attended the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting, with several presenting posters, including:

- Ashley Selby, Krystal Edwards, Amanda Hines, Mary Klein and Kenna Payne: “Student Engagement in a Pop Culture-Themed Leadership Retreat”
- Sonya Sherrod and Rebecca Sleeper: “Analysis of Repeat Exam Item Performance as a Proposed Measure of Concept Retention
- Craig Cox, Jean Haynes, and Kristin Mauldin: “Preceptor Week: Mini-Sessions to Promote Preceptor Development”
- Krystal Edwards and Academic Leadership Fellows Program (ALFP) co-authors: “ALFP Debate: Are PharmD Students Customers of Schools of Pharmacy?”
- Krystal Edwards: “Freudefreude as a Foundation for Fostering a Positive Leadership Mindset”
- Molly Minze: “Preparing the Incoming Students for Success”
- Molly Minze and Colleagues from other Schools: “From Tradition to Transformation: Strategies for Student Success”

The meeting also marked the beginning of an AACP Presidency term for Craig Cox, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice and vice chair of experiential programs at the Lubbock campus.



TTUHSC STANDING OUT IN DALLAS

The [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center](#) is making our presence known in the metroplex. Next time you fly in or out of Dallas Love Field Airport, look for the Double-Ts on the roof of our Dallas campus, which educates future pharmacy and nursing professionals.



P4 ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECOGNIZED

On May 20, an award breakfast was held for fourth-year students and their loved ones prior to commencement ceremonies. At the breakfast, several students were recognized for their accomplishments and efforts during their time at TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy.

AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDED:



Eric Kennison
Bowl of Hygiea



Kevin Zhong
Banner Bearer



Maura Shaffer
Community Outreach
Award of Excellence



Chamini Mahawewa
Hannah Leigh Thompson
Resilience Award



Mahsa Helforouh
Superior Patient
Care Award



Karli Ammons
Viatrix Excellence in
Pharmacy Award



Jacee Billings
Excellence in
Geriatrics Award



Sydnie McClendon
Excellence in Community
Practice Award



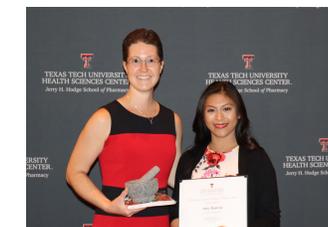
Lindy Burnam
Excellence in
Correctional Managed
Health Care Award
and Excellence in
Pediatrics Award



Emily Conard
Excellence in
Ambulatory Care Award



Nassim Aghassibake
Excellence in Inpatient
Clinical Practice Award



Amie Bautista
Excellence in Inpatient
Clinical Practice Award

STUDENTS GAIN EXPERIENCE AT BETTY FORD CENTER

Two P4 students, Lakyn Lucio and Taylor Scroggins, had the opportunity to be a part of the Medical Education Partnership Program at the Hazelden Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. The program creates an immersive experience that teaches about addiction medicine-related interests, and is designed to help equip participants with the knowledge, tools and insight to promote healing and lasting recovery.



STUDENTS PLACE SECOND AT SNPhA NATIONAL COMPETITION



The TTUHSCSOP Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) Chapter's Prescription for Service (P4S) team placed second overall in the national competition held at the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA) conference in New Orleans. The team, which included P3s Alán Nguyen and Tina Thai, and P4s John Huynh, Parker Lenheiser and Daisy Doan, created a service project centered around diabetes education that will have a lasting impact on an underserved community. Their second place finish earned them a \$5,000 prize that will be split equally among them.

RESIDENTS ATTEND WORKSHOP



In July, the TTUHSCSOP Class of 2023-2024 residents attended a resident workshop at Group Dynamix in Dallas. During the workshop, residents got to know each other better by participating in team building activities, including glow in the dark dodge ball, team stick tower building, zip lining and more.

CLINICAL ROTATION OFFERS STUDENT UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

When Sydnie McClendon began her pharmacy education at the TTUHSC Amarillo campus four years ago, she had no idea part of her education would involve a blizzard, moose and glaciers. Anyone who knows the Texas Panhandle might wonder how she managed to find those things. The answer is she traveled the 3,000 plus miles from the Texas Panhandle to Alaska to complete a clinical rotation in advanced ambulatory care.

Read more about McClendon's experience [HERE](#).



SUMMER ESCAPE LIKE NO OTHER



At first glance, Camp New Day is an ordinary summer camp. Take a closer look and you will notice a staff of medical and pharmacy students that give kids with diabetes an experience they can't get anywhere else.

MANAGEABLE CHANGE

Summer camp environments can have a dramatic effect on children with diabetes. Extra physical activity and emotional stressors make blood sugars erratic, requiring dosage changes on a day-to-day, if not hour-by-hour, basis. Most summer camps don't have the medical staff to manage these constant changes. That's why diabetes camps fill an important gap, said Thomas Parker, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice at TTUHSC, who also serves as Camp New Day director.



Read the full story [HERE](#).

P3S EARN MBA DEGREES

On May, 12 third-year pharmacy students officially received their MBA degrees at commencement ceremonies for the Texas Tech University Rawls College of Business in Lubbock.



DALLAS TEAMS UP WITH UPWARD BOUND

The Dallas campus recently welcomed students with the Dallas College Trio Upward Bound Program to the campus for a tour, a lab demo, and Q&A about admissions and applying to pharmacy school. While there they also got to try on white coats.



STUDENTS JUDGE HOSA SKILLS EVENT

In July, the Dallas campus partnered with Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) to serve as a clinical education site for their International Leadership Conference (ILC). During the conference, HOSA utilized the sterile and compounding labs and classroom spaces to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in pharmacy science and biotechnology for the skills portion of the event.

Ten of our students who applied had the opportunity to serve as judges for portions of the skills event. Wakana Hayashi-Brune, Kristen Johnson, Carmen Melendez Beltran, Afsana Musharof, Denise Serna, and Tina Thai judged the pharmacy science portion, where students withdrew liquid from a vial and verified the contents. Leigh Brown, Ingrid Hermanson-Miller, Yolanda Kowalewski, and Tamica Stubbs judged the biotechnology portion, where students showcased micropipette and transfer pipettes use and calculated transformation efficiency.



RECENT GRAD HAS ARTICLE PUBLISHED



Haseeb Foroghi, a Class of 2023 graduate, had an article, titled “A Novel Way of Treating Schizophrenia, published in Pharmacy Times. Rachel Basinger, PharmD, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the TTUHSC Dallas campus, served as co-author of the article. View the full article by visiting bit.ly/3roEwmE

MEET THE 2023 SOP ALUMNI BOARD



Martin Bishop - Past Chair

Class of 2011, Dallas
Current Role: Pharmacy Analytics,
OptumInsight



Jenn Bulin - Secretary

Class of 2020, Amarillo
Current Role: Specialty Pharmacy Senior
Manager - Essentia Health



Athena Cannon - Member At Large

Class of 2020, Abilene
Current Role: Clinical Pharmacist - Federal
Urban Health Network/ University of
Minnesota & U.S. Sports Pharmacy Group



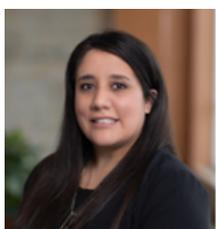
Daniel Capps - Member At Large

Class of 2020, Amarillo
Current Role: PIC at Hometown Pharmacy in
Plainview, TX



Amber Elliott - Member At Large

Class of 2009, Amarillo (Pharmacotherapy
Residency 2011)
Current Role: Associate Director, Medical
Science Liaison - Sandoz



Jo Ann Leal - Chair

Class of 2021, Amarillo
Current Role: Inpatient Operations Manager
at Essentia Health



Jacob Rogers - Member At Large

Class of 2020, Abilene
Current Role: Ambulatory Care Clinical
Pharmacist at HSC Health - Center for Older
Adults and Assistant Professor of
Pharmacotherapy at UNTHSC College of
Pharmacy

THE ROLE OF THE ALUMNI BOARD

The Alumni Board is the official representative for the larger SOP alumni group. The primary goal of the Alumni Board is to connect past graduates with the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy to promote collaborative efforts across current students and past graduates.

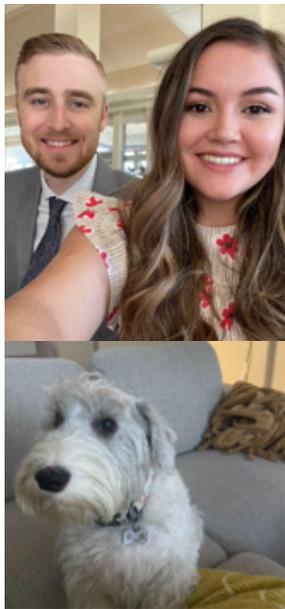
WHAT WE DO/WHAT WE DON'T DO

The Board works to enhance the TTUHSC alumni network, asks alumni for feedback on Board supported initiatives, and encourage alumni to submit initiatives that impact their pharmacy practice. The Board will NOT ask for monetary donations or share your contact information with anyone outside of TTUHSC.

HOW ALUMNI CAN GET INVOLVED

- Provide continuing education (CE) content on a topic of interest/expertise
- Mentor current TTUHSC student pharmacists
- Attend alumni and TTUHSC sponsored events
- [Donate to "Adopt-a-White Coat" for the annual White Coat Ceremony.](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Daniel Kent, PharmD, Class of 2020, Abilene

After graduating, Kent accepted a position with Walmart Pharmacy in the Houston area and subsequently transferred to San Antonio, Texas, where he currently lives with his wife.

Though retail pharmacy can be stressful at times, ensuring his patients have the information they need to easily navigate today's complicated healthcare system, keeps Kent motivated. He would like to pursue his passion for diabetes education/continuity of care with his wife once she completes her medical residency and fellowship in endocrinology.

Outside of pharmacy, Kent enjoys traveling, spending time with family, landscaping, and spoiling his dog.

LIFE AS A RURAL PHARMACIST



In 2019, alumnus Nathan Buerkle, PharmD, ('09) bought Haskell Drug Store, fulfilling his dream of owning a pharmacy. But being in a small town means Buerkle does much more than fill prescriptions. Haskell Drug Store also houses a gift shop for bridal registries and a baby boutique. "There are fewer options for certain products and services," he said. "We want to meet the needs of the community." Hear more about what life is like for small-town pharmacists like Nathan [HERE](#).

WANT TO SEE YOUR OR A COLLEAGUE'S CURRENT WORK OR LIFE EVENTS HIGHLIGHTED?

Email alumni photos and the following information to the board at sopaa.ttuhsoc@gmail.com.

- Tell us about yourself.
- Where are you now?
- Where do you practice?
- What keeps you motivated?
- What has been the most rewarding part/moment of your career so far?
- What are your favorite things to do outside of pharmacy?

UPCOMING EVENTS



White Coat Ceremonies for the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy Class of 2026 will be held by each campus during the month of August. Receiving the white coat is a reminder of the commitment incoming students are making to an honorable and trusted profession.

August 5: Dallas, The Black Academy of Arts and Letters

August 6: Abilene, Paramount Theatre

August 12: Amarillo, Harrington Lecture Hall, Amarillo Campus

AUGUST:

- 7-11: P1 Orientation Week, Abilene, Amarillo and Dallas
- 11: P3 Orientation
- 14: First Day of PharmD Classes
- 17-18: P1 IPE Event/Dinner, Lubbock
- 18: P2 Back to Campus
- 18-19: Student Leadership Retreat, Abilene

SEPTEMBER:

- 4: Labor Day Holiday
- 13: P1 IPE Event
- 19: P2 IPE Event
- 22: P4 Back to Campus
- 23: Lubbock Medication Cleanout

OCTOBER:

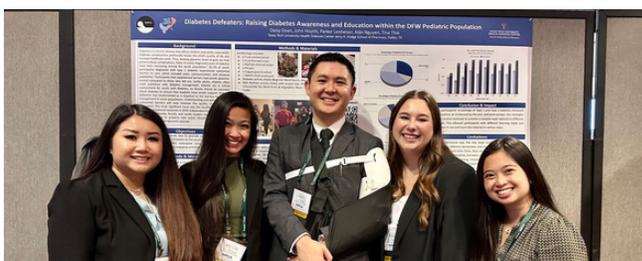
- 12-13: Career Fair P3/P4, Dallas
- 14: Abilene Medication Cleanout
- 18: P1 IPE Event
- 28: Amarillo Medication Cleanout



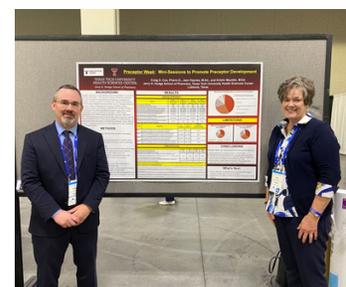
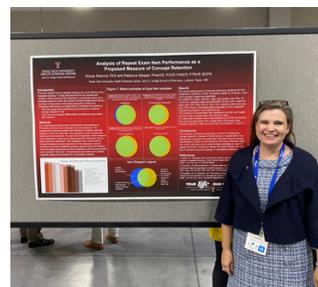
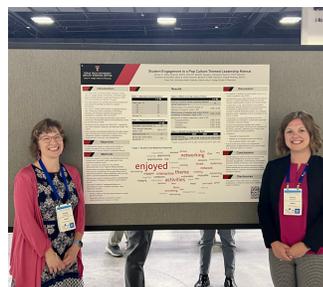
Spotted Here & There



Raider Rx Orientation Week



SNPhA Competition



AACP Meeting

Have something or someone you'd like to see featured in the SOP Newsletter? Send a photo and a brief description of what you would like to see featured to amber.bustos@ttuhsc.edu