

JERRY H. HODGE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

TTUHSC.EDU/PHARMACY



STUDENTS PRESENT AT ASHP MIDYEAR MEETING

In December, an amazing group of 24 students attended the 2025 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition in Las Vegas. Of those, 14 had the honor of presenting posters during the event — a noteworthy accomplishment.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The new semester is bringing refreshing energy back to campus after a relaxing holiday break. In this issue, you will read about amazing accomplishments of students, alumni, and team members, as well as community service events and partnerships. We are proud of faculty, students, and alumni for obtaining state, national, and international distinctions. Our teams continue to serve the community through health fairs and will soon have a series of the Spring Medication Cleanout events. The teams' collective service is making a significant impact on people's lives in the community.

—Grace M. Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD



FACULTY RECEIVE UNIVERSITY AWARDS

The University Awards mark a meaningful new chapter at TTUHSC, recognizing the collaboration and commitment that drive excellence in education, research, service and patient care for faculty and staff together in one shared celebration. The 2026 recipients for the SOP include:



President's Excellence in Interprofessional Collaboration Award: Sara Brouse, PharmD, Magdalena Karbowniczek, MD, PhD, Maciej Markiewski, MD, PhD, and Sanjay Srivastava, PhD

President's Team Teaching Award: Levi Campbell, PharmD, Craig Cox, PharmD, Brian Irons, PharmD, Mary Klein, PharmD, and Debra Notturmo-Strong, DHS, MS, MSA,

President's Early Career Investigator Award: Mahmoud Salama Ahmed, PhD

University Team Awards: InfantRisk Center of Excellence - included Levi Campbell, PharmD

DAS NAMED FELLOW

Hiranmoy Das, Ph.D., professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the TTUHSC-Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy, has been named a fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, an honor that recognizes leaders who advance the life sciences through education, research and science policy. His commitment to research excellence continues to make a lasting impact, advancing innovation, education and discovery to improve overall community health.



OKAFOR 'S ESSAY PLACES 2ND

Ogochukwu-Joy Okafor, P1 at the Dallas campus, recently placed second in the first Texas Pharmacy Association Academy of Student Pharmacists Scholarship Essay Writing Contest. Her piece emphasized how recognizing pharmacists as providers can positively influence patient outcomes and address critical gaps in the healthcare system.



EXPERIENTIAL UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP AS HAYNES RETIRES



Jean Haynes retired at the end of January after serving the School of Pharmacy for 20 years. We are grateful for all she has done for our experiential program, school and students.

Jacey Brown will be taking over for Jean in the role of Director of Experiential Programs. Jacey has served as Assistant Director of Experiential Programs on the Dallas campus for six years and is excited to step into the new role.

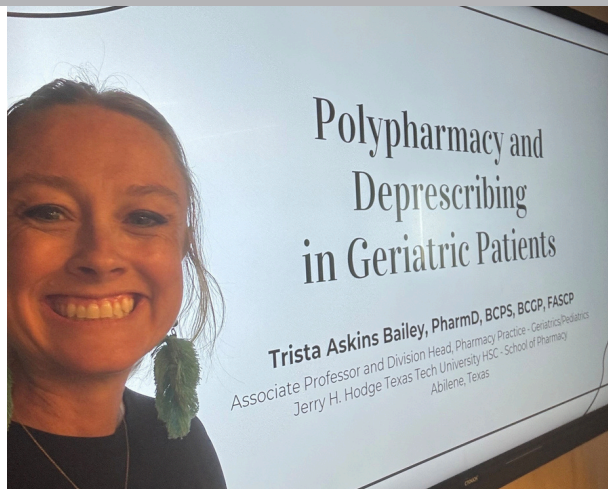
We wish both Jean and Jacey all the best in their new endeavors.



FACULTY GIVE PRESENTATIONS



Kalin Clifford, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice, gave a 1-hour presentation at the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates (SUNA) annual meeting in Louisville, KY., and a 2-hour presentation at the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV.



Trista Bailey, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice, spoke at the Clinical Pharmacy Conference in Vienna, Austria as a part of the Austrian Pharmacy Association annual meeting. During the conference, she gave five one-hour presentations over geriatric-related content.

PROJECT TEAM WORKING TO INCREASE FUNDING



Supported by a grant which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s Strengthening Research Opportunities for NIH Grants (STRONG) Initiative, a TTUHSC project team, which includes TTUHSC – SOP's Ulrich Bickel, M.D., professor and associate dean for sciences, conducted a capacity-building study during the last year aimed at increasing the university's overall NIH funding.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

JERRY H. HODGE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY'S HONORS RESEARCH PROGRAM

Is now accepting applications! Use the QR code to view eligibility and completion requirements in the Program Manual. *See Appendix 1 for application

Application documents should be submitted to SOPHonorsResearchProgram@ttuhsc.edu

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The TTUHSC – SOP Honors in Research Program is now accepting applications. Those interested should apply by March 1. For more information, click [HERE](#).

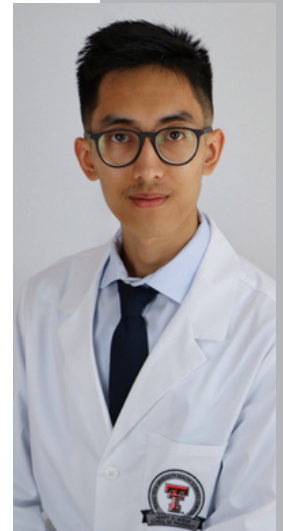
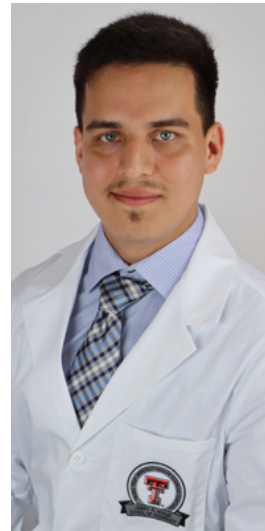
GERMAN AN ACCELERATOR FOR ADVANCED CANCER RESEARCH

An Accelerator for Advanced Cancer Research: Nadia German, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was among 21 researchers and companies selected in 2023 to join the Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics. The Texas Medical Center Innovation's (TMCi) program supports investigators and early-stage biotechnology companies conducting innovative and novel work in cancer therapeutics. Learn more about her TMCi project [here](#).



P1 TEAM ADVANCES TO ACCP-SCCP NATIONAL COMPETITION

TTUHSC – SOP recently held the 2026 American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP) local Clinical Research Challenge (CRC). The top scoring team, including P1 students on the Dallas campus Sara Hallmark, Issac Lopez and Nelson Nguyen, will advance to represent TTUHSC-SOP at the national competition. Congratulations, to everyone who competed and best of luck to our advancing team.



ABILENE HOSTS 8TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



The Abilene campus hosted top researchers from the area at its eight annual Abilene Interdisciplinary Symposium on Cancer & Biomedical Research. Researchers, students and medical professionals came together to share their expertise and resources.

THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY ON THE HIGH PLAINS

Step back in time! Explore the history of pharmacy on the High Plains with a look inside the Texas Pharmacy Museum at the TTUHSC-SOP. Krystal Haase, Pharm.D., stopped by KAMR Local 4 News to explain how this hidden treasure preserves the roots of pharmacy science—and why understanding our past helps proudly shape our future in health care.





INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN ACTION

Faculty members Emily Eddy, PharmD, and Ashley Higbea, PharmD, and P3s at the Dallas campus, Mackenzie Reinert and Ha Le, partnered with UTSW medical students for a hands-on vaccination skills session. Our pharmacy team led instruction and demonstrations on how to safely and effectively administer intramuscular and subcutaneous vaccines — reinforcing teamwork, communication, and shared responsibility in patient care.

AMARILLO STUDENT VOLUNTEERS SET UP LABS

The Amarillo SOP Student Council recruited volunteers to help set up the lab sections in our compounding lab. Students had the opportunity to get involved, meet fellow students, and contribute to improving our learning spaces.



APHA-ASP HOSTS SWAB-A-PALOOZA



In November, the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) members on the Abilene, Amarillo and Dallas campuses hosted Swab-a-Palooza events, a Blood Stem Cell Donor Registration Drive in collaboration with Earl Young's Team and DKMS, to support efforts in identifying potential life-saving stem cell donors. Those who signed up could one day be the match that saves a patient's life.



LONGITUDINAL SERIES PROMOTES LEADERSHIP ACROSS CAMPUSES

During the fall semester, the first two of four sessions of the Survivor themed longitudinal leadership development series were held across all four of the TTUHSC - SOP campuses. The sessions, titled Leadership Playbook: Survivor Edition and Changing the Game: How Leaders Evolve, each featured hands-on interactive activities, reflection, professional skill-building and food. The third and fourth sessions of the series will take place during the spring semester.



CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



Faculty, staff, and students at the Lubbock campus were joined by family and friends for an evening at the Corn Maze and s'mores around a fire.



In November, faculty, staff, and students at the Lubbock campus gathered at the home of Drs. Irons and Sleeper for a home cooked meal and game night.



The TTUHSC-SOP Amarillo Student Council hosted a Bowling and Game Night for all Amarillo students to celebrate the end of the semester.

ALUMNUS WORKING TOWARDS GOAL



The joke among friends is that Traylor Moses, PharmD, MPH, MSMP, has more degrees than a thermometer. As he pursues a second year of residency, specializing in oncology pharmacy. All of this serves the ultimate goal of directing a cancer center somewhere in the U.S. “I loved the science behind it all, but I’m extremely extroverted, so being in a lab all day wasn’t as appealing as actual patient interaction, so (I decided) pharmacy was the best way for me to do that,” he says.



ALUMNA SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

As a pharmacist, it’s not just about what am I trained to do but where are the needs of my community, and how can I help fill that?”

- Katie Steele, PharmD, Class of 2015

Read more about how Dr. Steele’s work [here](#).

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT



Nominations for the 2026 Distinguished Alumni Awards are now open! The annual awards honor the accomplishments and contributions to health care made by alumni who have achieved a high level of success in their professions, or whose efforts have made a positive impact on their community or humanity. This year, there are separate nomination forms for all school awards and the presidential award. Nominations can be submitted [ONLINE](#).

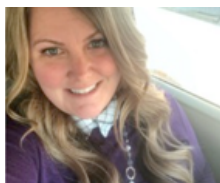
THE 25-26 SOP ALUMNI BOARD



Athena Cannon - Communications Officer

Class of 2020, Abilene

Clinical Pharmacist - Indian Health Board Medical Clinic & U.S. Sports Pharmacy Group



Mikala Conatser - Member at Large

Class of 2011, Amarillo

PIC New Solutions Functional Wellness Pharmacy



Daniel Capps - Member at Large

Class of 2020, Amarillo

PIC at Hometown Pharmacy in Plainview, TX



Amber Elliott - Chair

Class of 2009, Amarillo

(Pharmacotherapy Residency 2011)

Associate Director, Medical Science Liaison - Sandoz



Abimbola Farinde - Secretary

Class of 2010, Abilene

Professor with Columbia Southern University and
Clinical staff pharmacist with Vibra Health



Ike Oguejiofor - Member at Large

Class of 2018

Clinical Pharmacist & Residency Program
Coordinator at Terry Reilly Health Services



Dustin Wynne - Chair Elect

Class of 2011, Amarillo

Pharmacy Manager at BSA Harrington Cancer Center



Jacob Rogers - Past Chair

Class of 2020, Abilene

Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist at HSC Health -
Center for Older Adults and Assistant Professor of
Pharmacotherapy at UNTHSC

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-SOP to promote collaborative efforts across current students and past graduates.

WHAT WE 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.

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"

UPCOMING EVENTS



The **Spring Medication Cleanout** collection cycle will kickoff in March. The drive through collections allow the public to drop off unwanted medicines and sharps to dispose of them in a free, legal and environmentally responsible manner. To learn more, visit MedicationCleanout.com

Tentative Event Dates:

Lubbock Campus: March 28

Amarillo Campus: April 11 (100th MCO event)

Abilene Campus: April 25

MARCH:

- 6: Amarillo Disaster Day Simulation
- 18: Residency Match Day – Phase I
- 20: Spring Break HSC Holiday
- 27-30: APhA Annual Meeting - Los Angeles, CA
- TBD: Texas Pharmacy Day at the Capitol
- 27: Lubbock Disaster Day Simulation
- 30-31: SOP Spring Break

APRIL:

- 1- 3: SOP Spring Break
- 22: Residency Match Day - Phase II
- 24-26: TSHP Annual Seminar - Galveston, TX

MAY:

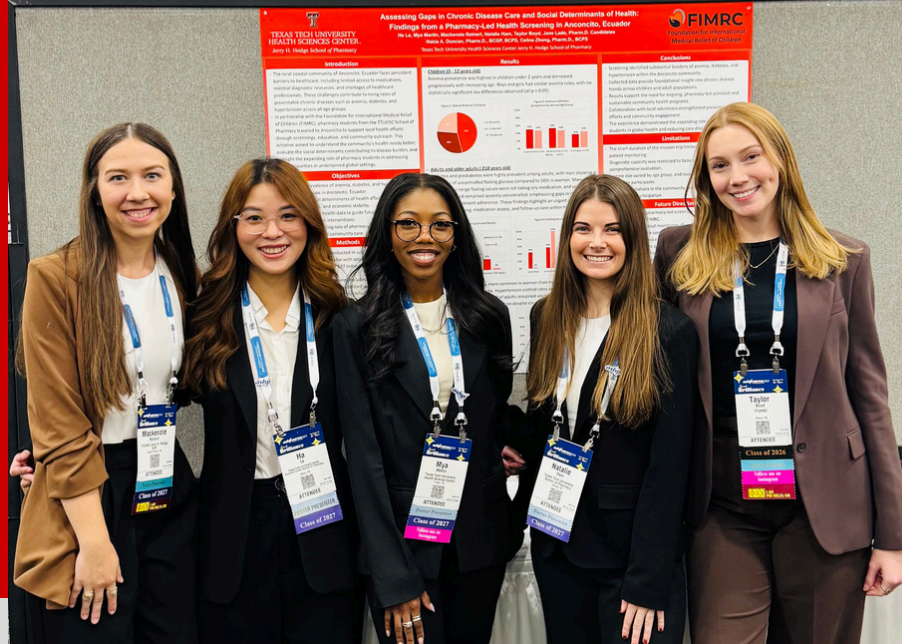
- 13: Celebration of Achievement
- 15: SOP 30th Anniversary Celebration
- 16: Graduation
- 25: Memorial Day Holiday



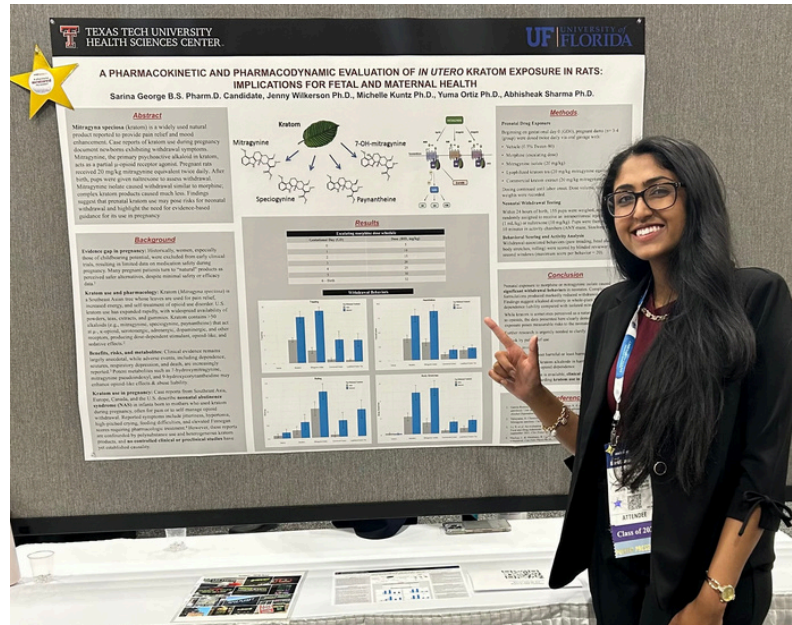
Fun in Photos



ASHP Midyear



Holiday Fun



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