



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy™

Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene

From the **DEAN'S
DESK**



May - June 2009

SOP Class of 2009 Walks the Stage

Without a doubt, graduation weekend is one of the most meaningful times of the year for TTUHSC and the SOP. It marks the end of a long and demanding journey for our students and affords our faculty and staff the opportunity to trumpet the accomplishments and individuals that personify each academic year and each graduating class.

The annual awards ceremonies and banquets that lead us into this most important weekend are also special because we get to celebrate the achievements of our students, faculty and staff and reflect upon the unique contributions they make to our program. I am always humbled and proud for the opportunity to recognize some of those contributions.

With that in mind, I'd like to thank the many people who



The SOP Class of 2009 recites the Oath of a Pharmacist at the annual Hooding Ceremony.

helped make the 2009 hooding ceremony and graduation such a successful event for our students and their families. I'd also like to express my gratitude to all the faculty and staff who traveled to Lubbock to support our graduates.

The SOP Class of 2009 was the tenth class to walk the stage and their impact upon our program was every bit as significant as was that of the previous nine classes. Some of the Class of 2009 members who received special recognition for their achievements included:

Jenna Hensley (Lilly Achievement Award and the TTUHSC-SOP Professionalism Award); Gradee Adrian (Roche Pharmacy Communications Award); Kathy Wheeler (Facts and Comparisons - Excellence in Clinical Communication Award); Karen Lucas (Mylan Excellence

in Pharmacy Award); Joshua Dominguez (GlaxoSmithKline Patient Care Award); Randall Martin (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition); Seth Rutherford (Teva Outstanding Student); and Jamie McCarrell (Pediatric Achievement Award).



Monica Montalvo receives her hood from Dr. Glenn Anderson, SOP associate dean for Academic Affairs.

Jenna Hensley was the recipient of the Class of 2008 Banner Bearer Award and Ryan Burke received the Bowl of Hygieia.

Congratulations and good luck to each of these honorees and to every member of the Class of 2009. As they move on to the next phase of their lives and careers, we know there will be many more accomplishments. We look forward to watching these young men and women flourish.



Class of 2009 classmates pose for a group photo. Top row (l-r): Kelly Amador, Tiffany Coomer and Jenna Hensley. Bottom row (l-r): Claire Jencopale, Kristen Keaton and Paige McDaniel.

Amarillo Campus Hosts '09 Research Days, Marsh Lecture

As we do every year, the faculty, students and residents from each TTUHSC-SOP campus gathered at the main SOP campus in Amarillo June 16-17 for the Eighth Annual Research Days.

Research Days is an interdisciplinary forum designed to showcase research activities that have taken place at the pharmacy school during the past year.

Faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students meet to exchange research ideas and interests and to stimulate interdisciplinary collaborations between the SOP's departments and campuses.

This year the two-day event also featured the Twelfth Annual Wendy & Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology & Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction. The lectureship is an annual event featuring speakers of the highest national reputation. The endowment is funded by the Marshes to give TTUHSC - SOP national recognition in the pharmacological area of substance abuse and the neurochemistry that precipitates this type of addictive behavior.



Marsh Lectureship speaker Dr. Fulton Crews also delivered the keynote address for Research Days.

Fulton Crews, Ph.D., was the featured speaker at the Marsh Lectureship and the keynote speaker for Research Days. Dr. Crews is a professor of pharmacology and psychiatry at the University of North Carolina. He also serves

as director for UNC's Skipper Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies where he investigates how drugs change the brain and behavior.

The hypothesis of Dr. Crews' research is that the structural and functional changes in the brain associated with binge drinking contribute to the cognitive changes that lead to addiction. His lecture was entitled, "The Neurobiology of Alcohol: Good, Bad and Ugly."



Graduate student Imam Shaik discusses his Research Days poster with SOP Associate Professor Dr. Sanjay Srivastava.

This year Research Days featured 10 podium presentations where selected SOP investigators discussed their research findings with students and colleagues.

Dallas/Fort Worth resident Alison O'Brien took first place for her podium presentation in the Pharmacy Practice category. Fellow D/FW residents Monique Lopes-Serrao and Katura Thomas finished second and third, respectively.

The podium presentation made by graduate student Vinay Rudraraju took top honors in the Pharmaceutical Sciences category. Second place went to Snehal Padhye and third place was awarded to Russell Snyder.

SOP faculty, residents and graduate students also presented their research highlights during the annual Research Days poster competition. Each of this year's 59 posters were judged accord-



D/FW resident Alison O'Brien took top honors for her podium presentation and received her award from SOP Professor Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara.

ing to the researcher's introduction, research methods, results, conclusions, impact and a five-minute verbal presentation.

D/FW resident Young Ran Lee garnered first place in the Pharmacy Practice Residents category. Lauren Snodgrass (D/FW) took second place and Katie Hazelwood (D/FW) finished in third place.

Graduate students Venki Chithambarampilai and Hus-saini Syed Sha Qhattal took top honors in the Pharmaceutical Sciences category.

This year the Office of Research also started a new tradition by presenting Citation Laureate Awards to faculty members who have achieved more than 1,000 citations based on their published articles. The 2009 honorees included Dr. Ulrich Bickel (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo), Dr. Mark Lyte (Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock), Dr. Reza Mehvar (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo), Dr. Quentin Smith (Chair, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo), Dr. Sanjay Srivastava (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo), Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) and Dr. Ming-Hai Wang (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo).

Resident Class Set for 2009-2010

Since 1997, more than 140 residents have successfully completed training at TTUHSC-SOP. Vice chair of residencies Dr. Sara Brouse (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas/Ft. Worth) recently announced the 24-member class for 2009-2010.

This year our residents will receive diverse training opportunities through 13 unique pharmacy practice and specialty programs located in each of our campus communities. The class will consist of 13 residents at our D/FW campus; four residents each at our Amarillo and Lubbock sites; and three at our Abilene regional campus.

Below is a roster of our 2009-2010 residents, including their program-campus sites and the school from which they received their Pharm.D.:

- Michael Biglow, Psychiatry – D/FW (Parkland), University of Georgia
- Shree Chen, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW (Presbyterian), University of Texas
- Michalea Daggett, Pharmacotherapy – Lubbock (UMC), University of Houston
- Kidest-Mimi Demesse, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW (VA), South University SOP (Savannah, Ga.)
- Leena Deshpande, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW (VA), Midwestern University-Chicago COP
- Jamie Ecklund, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW (Presbyterian), University of Texas
- Amber Elliott, Pharmacotherapy – Amarillo (NORTH), TTUHSC - SOP
- Chris Giuliano, Pharmacotherapy – Amarillo (NORTH), University of Toledo
- Renee Holder, Pharmacotherapy – Abilene (Hendrick), Midwestern University (Glendale, Ariz.)
- Gary Jean, Hem/Onc – D/FW (VA), TTUHSC - SOP
- Sidney Keisner, Hem/Onc – D/FW (VA), University of Arkansas COP
- Audrey Kennedy, Pediatric – Amarillo (NORTH), University of Kansas SOP
- Robin Koffarnus, Pharmacy Practice – Abilene (Hendrick), St. Louis COP
- Sherry Laguardia, Ambulatory Care – Lubbock (UMC), Texas Southern University COP
- Jamie McCarrell, Pharmacotherapy – Amarillo (NORTH), TTUHSC - SOP
- Brian Mitchell, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW (VA), Texas Southern University COP
- Anjali Patel, Pharmacy Practice – D/FW (VA), University of Texas
- Robert Rangel, Ambulatory Care – D/FW (VA), University of New Mexico - COP
- Anne Schweighardt, Pharmacotherapy – Lubbock (UMC), University of Utah
- Carrie Shuman, Critical Care – D/FW (VA), University of Houston COP
- Carrie Tashjian, Critical Care – D/FW (VA), Ohio Northern University RCOP
- Katura Thomas, Ambulatory Care – D/FW (VA), Xavier University of Louisiana
- Giovanna Villigran, Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock (UMC), University of Texas
- Heather Wild, Pharmacy Practice – Abilene (Hendrick), Creighton University.

Preceptors of the Year Selected for 2008-2009

The Office of Experiential Programs has announced the honorees for faculty and adjunct Faculty as Preceptors of the Year for 2008-2009, as selected by our P3 and P4 students.

Faculty Preceptors of the Year include Dr. Mark Haase (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo); Dr. Lisa Chastain (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas/Fort Worth); and Dr. Rebecca Sleeper-Irons (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Lubbock).

Adjunct Faculty Preceptors of the Year include Dr. John Gulde (Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center) for the Amarillo campus; Dr. Chris Amaya (formerly with Arlington Memorial Hospital, now with Texas Health Presbyterian in McAllen) for the Dallas/Fort Worth campus; and Sylvia Dingus, R.Ph. (Brownfield Clinic Pharmacy) for the Lubbock campus.

During the selection process the Office of Experiential Programs reviewed preceptor evaluations submitted by students and then determined the top five faculty preceptors and top five adjunct preceptors from each campus. Students then voted for one of the five candidates from their respective campus sites in each category.



Dr. John Gulde was selected for the Adjunct Faculty Preceptor of the Year award by SOP students in Amarillo.

Students, Faculty, Staff Recognized at May 1 Ceremony

SOP students, faculty and staff were recognized for their efforts and accomplishments over the past year at the annual TTUHSC – SOP Honors Convocation. Ryan Burke (P4-Amarillo) served as Master of Ceremonies for the event, which took place May 1.

The ceremony gives each of our student organizations an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of individual members and acknowledges the students who made the Dean's List.



Amarillo P2 Steve Hammond (left) presents Dr. Mac McCall the P2 Teacher of the Year Award.

The Student Staff Appreciation Award honoree is also recognized and the Teacher of the Year and Teaching Team of the Year for each class are announced.

In addition, the achievements of individual students are recognized by TTUHSC-SOP and other organizations.

Some of the 2008-2009 honorees included: Loren Davies (P2 - Abilene), who received the Perrigo Award of Excellence in Non-prescription Medication Studies; Bridget Mayer (P2 - Amarillo), who received the P2 Achievement Award; and Ryan Burke, who was named the Pharmacists Mutual Student Unsung Hero.

Dr. James Stoll (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Amarillo) was named P1 Teacher of the Year and Dr. Kenneth "Mac" McCall (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice-Amarillo) was named P2 Teacher of the Year. In addition, Dr. Craig Cox (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Lubbock) was selected as P3 Teacher of the Year and Dr. Reza Mehvar (Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Amarillo) was named Graduate Teacher of the Year.

Teaching Teams of the Year included the Biochemistry Team (P1 students), the Cardiovascular/Pharmacotherapy Team (P2s), the Nutrition Team (P3s) and the Pharmacokinetics Team (graduate students).

Dr. McCall received the P4 Most Influential Professor Award and Dr. Judy Newsome (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice-Amarillo) was named the Faculty Mentor of the Year.

Gabby Robledo (Clerk Specialist III - Lubbock) and David Watson (Assistant Dean, Finance and Administration - Amarillo) were named recipients of the Excellence in Staff Services award.



I had the honor of presenting several of our students, including Amarillo P1s Kristy Ramirez (left) and Jennifer Newman, with Academic Assessment Achievement Certificates.

Alicia Aragon (Coordinator, Early Experiential Programs-Amarillo) received the Student Staff Appreciation Award.



Dr. Sherry Luedtke (center), SOP associate dean for Professional Affairs, receives the Rho Chi Sponsor Award from P4s Kathy Wheeler (left) and Norma Solis.

How to Submit Items for the Dean's Newsletter

The mission of "From the Dean's Desk" is to communicate the news, events and achievements from the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy to all four of our campus sites 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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In Case You Missed It...



Joshua Jacobs

• Joshua Jacobs (P2 – Abilene) is the 2009 Texas Tech recipient of the Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship. Joshua will receive his \$1,000 scholar-

ship at the TPA Rxperts Conference and Expo in San Antonio. The criteria for this scholarship include academic excellence, need and the potential to become a leader for Texas pharmacy as demonstrated by involvement in pharmacy school and community activities.



Dr. Mary Klein

• SOP alumna Dr. Mary Klein (Class of 2007) was recently elected Director at Large for the Texas Pharmacy Association and will serve a

three-year term on the TPA executive committee.



Dr. Majid Moridani

• Dr. Majid Moridani (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) was appointed to a four-year term as a consultant for the Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Toxicology Devices Panel and to several other panels of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration, U.S.A.

The Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Toxicology Panel reviews and evaluates data concerning the safety and effectiveness of marketed and investigational in vitro devices for use in clinical laboratory medicine, including clinical toxicology, clinical chemistry, endocrinology and oncology and then makes appropriate recommendations to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
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Introducing...

Md Shahriarul Absar
Graduate Student/Research Asst.
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Srinivas Boreddy
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Julie Capper
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Jun Liu
Graduate Student/Research Asst.
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Madonna Mashburn
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Franziska Mohr
TTUHSC Student Intern
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Brijeshkumar Patel
Graduate Student/Research Asst.
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Amanda Roberts
Technician III
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Jill Roberts
Post Doctoral Fellow
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Naomi Wangler
Graduate Student/Research Asst.
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Please take a moment to welcome each of these individuals to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy.

Getting to Know...

Alicia Aragon
Coordinator, Experiential Programs
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo

Alicia has been employed at the SOP since October and says she has enjoyed her time here immensely.

“My favorite part about my job is getting to know the students and helping them out in any way I can,” she says. “It is a joy to see them succeed. I am so thankful that God has led me to TTUHSC!”

Alicia was born in Amarillo, but soon after lived for two years in her father’s native country, Mexico. Her mother is from North Carolina and Alicia says, “Somehow they met in Amarillo.”

Alicia has spent most of her life in Amarillo, but she has also lived in El Paso and Lubbock. She says she learned to speak Spanish before English and had a hard time adapting to English. She is still fluent in Spanish and visits her family in Mexico as often as she can.

Alicia has two younger sisters—one 19 years old, the other 18.

“I enjoy being a big sister more than anything in the world and I take pride in calling my sisters two of my best friends,” she says.

In March, Alicia accompanied her parents and sisters on a

Caribbean cruise and visited Costa Maya, Belize and Cozumel. The family has also traveled together to Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas and Mazatlan.

“I love to travel and would love to do nothing but travel someday,” she says.

Alicia expects to earn her degree in psychology from California Coast University in December or in May 2010.

“Taking classes full time and working full time has been a struggle,” she explains, “but I am doing my best and I’m proud of myself.”

When she isn’t busy with work or school, Alicia is an avid reader. She also likes movies, spending time with friends and family, dabbling in photography and playing with her dogs.

“Since I have no children—yet—I call my dogs my children,” she says. “I have a Welsh Corgi named Ox whom I have had since 2000. I also have a one-year-old miniature Dachshund who is named Ellie; when she’s in trouble, it’s Ellie May.”

Alicia also enjoys watching Dallas Cowboys football and Ultimate Fighting.

“I’m pretty much a girly girl,” she says with a laugh, “but I enjoy watching the boys beat each other up once in a while!”

Alicia says her ultimate dream is to one day be a wife and a mother.

“Ever since I was little I have dreamed of having a family of my own,” she continues. “I always wanted to be as good of a mom as my mom was for me.”

Alicia says she also has wanted to teach elementary school since she was 5 years old

“I am trusting that God will lead me in the right direction when, and if, the time comes,” she says.



Alicia Aragon (center left) poses with her mother and sisters while cruising in the Caribbean. Also pictured are her dogs Ox (left) and Ellie.

SOP Photo Gallery



2009 SOP graduate Seth Rutherford (left) discusses the Research Days poster program with Dr. Richard Leff, D/FW regional dean.

Left to right: Graduating classmates Holly Bland, Karen Lucas and Monica Munoz pose for a photo at the Class of 2009 Hooding Ceremony.



SOP graduate student Md Shahriarul Absar (right) helps a student from the West Texas A&M MASH camp prepare a lip balm in the pharmacy practice laboratory.



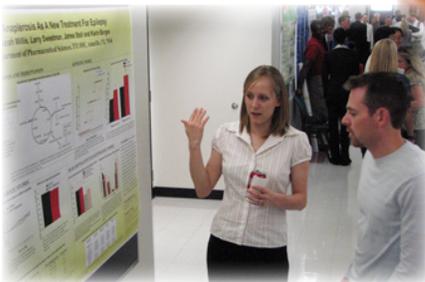
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice Chair Dr. Roland Patry (left) presents a commemorative plaque to Dr. Mac McCall, who left TTUHSC-SOP to become a department chair at the University of New England College of Pharmacy in Portland, Maine.



Dr. Paul Katz, SOP assistant professor and curator of the Texas Pharmacy Museum, gives a pill rolling demonstration to high school students from the West Texas A&M MASH camp.



Marsh Lectureship speaker Dr. Fulton Crews (right) discusses his presentation with SOP Professor Dr. Ulrich Bickel (center) and SOP Senior Research Associate Dr. Alexander Mdzinarishvili.



Graduate student Sarah Willis explains the research behind her poster to SOP Associate Professor Dr. Eric MacLaughlin at the 2009 Research Days poster competition.



Bowl of Hygieia honoree Ryan Burke and Banner Bearer Award recipient Jenna Hensley lead their classmates in reciting the Oath of a Pharmacist at the Class of 2009 Hooding Ceremony.

