



**Amarillo • Lubbock • Dallas/Fort Worth • Abilene**

## SOP Class of 2011 walks the stage

We said goodbye to another outstanding group of graduates when we gathered in Lubbock on May 20 to celebrate the Class of 2011 at the SOP's annual Hooding Ceremony.

As a prelude to TTUHSC's annual graduation weekend, the Hooding Ceremony gives us the chance to reflect upon the unique contributions our graduates have made during their four years in our program.

Each of our 12 graduating classes have been special in their own ways and the Class of 2011 was no exception. In addition to their many individual and group contributions, they will also be remembered as the first class to include graduates from our Abilene campus.



*A group of the first SOP graduating class from the Abilene campus pose for a photo after the 2011 Hooding Ceremony.*

The Hooding Ceremony also affords us an opportunity to recognize the individual accomplishments of some of our graduates. Members of the Class of 2011 who received recognition included Elizabeth Riney (Lilly Achievement Award); Tyler Sledge (Facts and Comparisons - Excellence in Clinical Communication Award); Kristin Finical (Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award and the SOP Pediatrics Achievement Award); Ryan Novosad (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition); Toni Edgar (Teva Outstanding Student); Steven Turnbow (SOP Communications Award); Tanis Herr (SOP Patient



*Bowl of Hygieia recipient Toni Edgar (left) and Banner Bearer Award honoree Elizabeth Riney lead the Class of 2011 in reciting the Oath of a Pharmacist at the Hooding Ceremony.*

Care Award); and Loren Davies (SOP Geriatric Achievement Award).

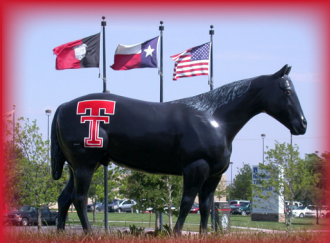
Riney also received the Class of 2011 Banner Bearer Award for having the highest GPA and Edgar earned the Bowl of Hygieia for her character and all-around contributions to leadership and professionalism inside and outside the classroom.

In addition, Associate Professor Dr. Eric MacLaughlin (Department of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo) was named the Most Influential Professor by the Class of 2011.

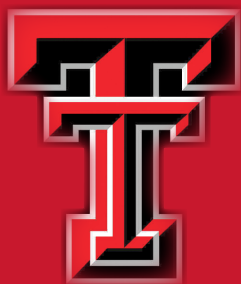
I want to express my appreciation to TTUHSC President Dr. Tedd L. Mitchell for speaking at the Hooding Ceremony and I'd like to personally thank the faculty and staff who helped make the 2011 graduation weekend such a successful event for our students and their families.



*Class of 2011 graduates Tyler Sledge (left), Tyler Wood and Zubin Bhakta are all smiles at the 2011 Hooding Ceremony.*



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## New electronic system to track CPE credits

Thanks to a national collaborative effort by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), an electronic system for tracking continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credits will soon be available to all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

The system, known as CPE Monitor, will replace paper or email statements of credit. It will also provide boards of pharmacy with the ability to electronically authenticate the CPE units completed by their licensees, thereby eliminating the need for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to submit proof of completion statements upon request or for random audits.

According to Brittany Patterson, the SOP director for continuing education, the new system will provide a secure, centralized portal through which pharmacists and technicians can maintain a record of all the CPE programs they have taken.

"Instead of each pharmacist and technician having to keep up with paper statements of credit or emailed credits, it's a more cohesive way to manage their records of completed CPE activities," Patterson said. "The pharmacist or technician won't have to worry with mailing proof of completion to their respective state boards. In addition, the state boards can complete their audits online using this new portal and the portal will become an essential part of their job."

Patterson said the program is mandatory and each pharmacist and technician will have to comply beginning in the fall.

"CPE providers are already starting to implement this program nationwide," Patterson said.

After setting up an e-profile with NABP, the pharmacist or technician will receive a unique identification (ID) number. They will furnish the ID number and their date of birth to the CPE provider upon registering for a program. The CPE provider will then be able to confirm credit for the attendee at the conclusion of the program.

Once the information is received by NABP, the pharmacist or technician will be able to log in and access information about their completed CPE activities.

After the new system is completely implemented, Patterson said all CPE monitoring activities for

pharmacists and technicians will strictly be electronic and accredited CPE providers will not be able to email or mail statements of credit. She said the program is an important recordkeeping tool that will save time for CPE providers and program attendees.

"This new system will drastically reduce the turnaround time for CPE providers to produce statements of credit because it's a simple spreadsheet upload to the CPE Monitor system," Patterson said. "There will no longer be lost statements of credit and

the attendee won't have to call the CPE provider years down the road looking for proof that they completed a course. This is extremely pertinent to my practice-based programs such as the Sterile Products Certification and Immunization Certification courses."

Patterson said all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are encouraged to visit [www.MyCPEmonitor.net](http://www.MyCPEmonitor.net) as soon as possible to set up their NABP e-profile and obtain their ID. She said this will ensure they receive credit for any ACPE-accredited CPE activities that take place during the latter part of 2011 after the CPE Monitor program has been fully implemented.



## ON TARGET... *Celebrating Continuous Quality Improvement in the TTUHSC-SOP*

Beginning in 2006-07, the SOP implemented a formal, systematic evaluation plan process covering all the school's major programs and activities.

The evaluation plan is titled *Program Improvement, Planning and Accreditation Process* (PIPAP) and is structured to be very closely aligned with the 30 ACPE Standards 2007. Other SOP programs and activities, such as business operations, communications, research centers and the Texas Pharmacy Museum are also included.

Each year, the SOP assesses and evaluates progress toward the plan and makes adjustments, as necessary, in pursuit of continuous quality improvement.

Additional information, including the 2006-07 through 2009-10 PIPAP Evaluation Plan reports, is available through the SOP website at:

[http://www.ttuhsoc.edu/sop/administration/Eval\\_Plans.aspx](http://www.ttuhsoc.edu/sop/administration/Eval_Plans.aspx).



# Mission trip a success for new student organization

During the 2010-2011 school year, roughly 30 students from the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo organized a student chapter for the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC). In May, 16 of those students, all incoming P2s from the SOP, traveled to Alajuelita, Costa Rica as part of a mission trip to provide free medical services to children in need.



P2s Bryant Gajdos and Elizabeth Neyland outside the FIMRC mission clinic in Costa Rica.

The group included Austin De La Cruz, Urvi Desai, Elena Doan, Kristin Foster, Bryant Gajdos, Odunayo Kajopelaye, Selcan Kasap, Myka McMeans, Violet Ndungu, Elizabeth Neyland, Traci Pafford, Michael Rayos, Elisa Rodriguez, Daryn Tidwell, Eva Vindekilde and Derrica Walker.

Doan, president for the FIMRC-TTUHSC-SOP student chapter, said the purpose of the mission was to provide free medical care to underserved children within communities that had little to no access to medical care. The location was selected from FIMRC clinic sites in Costa Rica, El Salvador, India, Nicaragua, Peru and Uganda.

"Since this was our first mission trip, I wanted a location for us that would be both safe and less expensive for the volunteers, so Costa Rica was the best choice," Doan said.

Pafford, the organization's fundraising director, said time was a factor in raising funds for the mission because the group wasn't able to start until the spring semester.

"Unfortunately, \$2,000 was paid by each member for the trip

due to the late start on fundraising," Pafford said.

The cost included plane tickets, transportation, food, lodging and a program donation that went to help supply the clinics in Costa Rica with pharmaceuticals. Doan said the group received help from several Amarillo faculty members, including SOP Department Chair Dr. Cynthia Raehl, Regional Dean for the School of Allied Health Sciences Dr. Michael Hooton and SOP Associate Professor Dr. Eric MacLaughlin.

"Dr. Paul Lockman is our faculty advisor and he has been extremely supportive and helpful in getting our chapter started," Doan said. "We would not have had such a successful turnout without him."

Doan said SOP Assistant Professors Drs. Niambi Horton and Shawna King provided valuable insight from their experiences in planning mission trips for the Global Health Outreach elective clerkship. She said the group is also thankful to everyone who believed in and supported the organization through various fundraisers.

Having spent roughly 13 years working in retail pharmacy before entering pharmacy school, Pafford had firsthand knowledge of the impact pharmacists can have on their patients. She said making such an impact within other cultures was gratifying.

"Seeing the faces of those children light up when they saw our group was indescribable," Pafford said. "They understood we were there for them and we were a safe haven from the conditions and heartaches they endure daily. To be a part of the good experiences in a child's life for that brief time is a fulfilling experience that will endure for the rest of my life."

McMeans, FIMRC-TTUHSC-SOP vice president, was also moved by the mission.

"It enhanced my knowledge and skills to better serve the people who need care," McMeans said. "It also meant getting to spend quality time with those who are in desper-

ate need and desire of attention and help."

Doan said the mission complemented the clinical experiences that form the foundation of the SOP program. She said each mission participant gained a new perspective on their roles as pharmacists and most of them are now driven to take medical Spanish classes so they can effectively communicate with a broad spectrum of patients.

"We also participated in setting up and managing a small pharmacy without any guidance, which was definitely an unforgettable experience," Doan said. "A lot of us were able to step in and become leaders when necessary, as well as work in a team setting in different areas of the clinic. This mission trip gave us the opportunity to apply knowledge we acquired in the classroom to a clinical setting and to help underserved children while doing so, which made it a very rewarding experience."



The SOP's FIMRC mission group made quite a few young friends while working in Costa Rica.

In the coming year, Pafford said the organization will try to put together two foreign missions. She said they will also investigate ways to conduct local missions to provide care to U.S. families.

"As a new organization, one of our key goals for next year is to increase membership so we can also increase the services we can provide," Pafford said. "The officers will be holding a general meeting that will help to explain our chapter goals and give more students and faculty a chance to become involved. We are excited about the upcoming year."

## SOP hosts 2011 Research Days

SOP faculty researchers, graduate students and residents converged upon the school's main campus in Amarillo in June for the 10th Annual SOP Research Days.

Those who attended the event learned about research activities that have taken place at the SOP during the past year. They also exchanged research ideas and interests and discussed possible interdisciplinary collaborations.

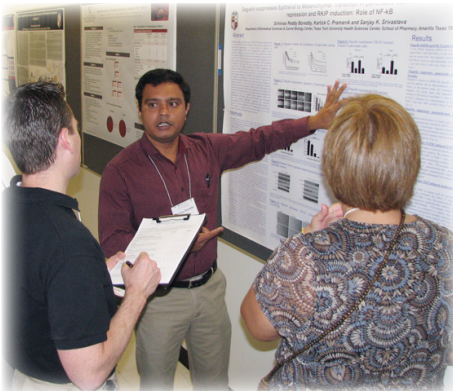
TTUHSC Executive Vice President for Research Douglas M. Stocco, Ph.D. was the keynote speaker for the event. There were also 10 invited podium presentations made by various SOP faculty, graduate students and residents.



Keynote speaker Dr. Douglas M. Stocco addresses the 2011 Research Days attendees.

In addition, 65 faculty, student and resident investigators entered the event's annual poster competition that highlights research activities undertaken during the past year.

In the Pharmacy Practice category, Ninh La-Beck, Pharm.D., took first place, and second place went to Leena Deshpande, Pharm.D. Third place was awarded to Kunal Patel, Pharm.D.



Graduate student Srinivas Reddy Boreddy (center) discusses his research poster with SOP faculty members Dr. Eric MacLaughlin and Dr. Lisa Brinn.

Prabodh Kandala, B.Pharm., garnered first place honors in the Biomedical Sciences category for the second straight year. Maciej Markiewski, M.D., Ph.D., earned second place and Parul Gupta, M.Pharm., got the nod for third place.

The top prize in the Pharmaceutical Sciences category was awarded to Shahriarul Absar, M.Pharm. Nilesh Gupta, B.Pharm., finished in second place and, Vinaykumar Venishetty, Ph.D., was the third place honoree.

Congratulations to each of the winners and thanks to everyone who helped make this year's event a success.

## Medication Cleanout program goes to Pampa

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) took its Medication Cleanout program to Pampa on June 18. This was the 11th event for the TPPC, which is hosted by TTUHSC and the SOP and managed by SOP Assistant Professor Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo.



Including the 166 pounds of unused medications collected from 62 participants in Pampa, the Medication Cleanout program has collected 4,793 pounds of unused medications from 1,708 individuals since the first collection in September 2009.

In April, TPPC coordinated data collection of items received at the first 10 medication take back sites throughout the nation. Those reports will be shared with the DEA in July 2011.

"The overall goal of the data collection is to provide the information needed to address the issue of unused medications at its root cause rather than at the disposal end," Jaramillo said.



Volunteers were hard at work on June 18 at the Medication Cleanout event in Pampa.

## Amarillo students garner scholarships

Congratulations to a pair of Amarillo P2 students who recently received scholarships.



Elizabeth Neyland



Kaytlin Huseman

- Elizabeth Neyland was awarded the Irene S. Wischer Education Foundation Scholarship, a \$10,000 renewable scholarship. Requirements for the award include U.S. and Texas citizenship, good character, academic potential and ability.

- Kaytlin Huseman received the \$1,500 USA Funds Access to Education Scholarship.

Requirements for this scholarship include academic achievement, leadership, participation in school and community activities, work experience and career and educational aspirations and goals.



# Summer brings pharmacy campers to Abilene

For the fourth straight year, the SOP's Abilene regional campus played host to a group of aspiring pharmacists at the Raider Red Pharmacy Summer Camp. The 2011 camp included 26 high school juniors and seniors from Texas, California and Missouri who spent a week exploring the profession through hands-on learning experiences and activities. Overnight dormitory accommodations were provided by Abilene Christian University.

"Each student that attended the camp this year truly wanted to experience the pharmacy profession," SOP Unit Coordinator and camp contact Melissa Edwards said. "We had a great group that really wanted to learn more about pharmacy and see if this career field was for them."



*Dr. Mary Klein (left) introduces campers to the simulation lab at the 2011 Raider Red Summer Pharmacy Camp in Abilene.*

The campers toured local health care facilities and met with college recruiters to discuss pre-pharmacy course requirements. They were also introduced to drug compounding, patient assessment and pharmacy laboratory research by SOP faculty and local pharmacists.



*It's "Guns Up" for the 2011 Raider Red Summer Pharmacy Camp staff and campers in Abilene.*

"The students also have time to enjoy themselves at camp but we try to ensure a sense of reality by exposing them to the dedication it takes for a person to commit themselves to pharmacy school and to a career in pharmacy," Edwards said.

Guided by an exit survey she administers at the end of each camp, Edwards said she tries to make sure the schedule improves each year. She said the camp has become so popular that not all of the applicants could be accepted this summer.

"This year we had Dr. (Lisa) Brinn and Dr. (Neshil) Desai in the compounding lab everyday and the students loved it," Edwards said. "I also try to think of different camp activities that the students will enjoy, and at the same time, remain cost effective."

In addition to their daily pharmacy-related activities, Edwards said the campers were treated to miniature golf, bowling and arcade games at Primetime Entertainment. They also played video games, had a cookout and watched movies and the NBA finals.

"We also rented out the Abilene State Park pool and the

students really had a great time," Edwards said. "We ended the last night with a trip to the Abilene Zoo and volleyball at Sonic."

Although the Abilene campus has been open for five years, Edwards said some people in the community still don't know it's there. The camp, she said, helps to spotlight the SOP and remind people that TTUHSC is a community resource and neighbor.

"The more involved in the community we are the more we can keep their support, which we need to succeed," Edwards said. "Thanks to the great support and coverage we get from the local television stations and the *Abilene Reporter-News*, people have already started calling about the camp for next year. I think it's great that we can keep the camp local and help pharmacy grow in West Texas."

The 2011 camp was made possible through the support of the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation, First Financial Bank, CVS/pharmacy, Walmart, Hendrick Medical Center, the Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union, Barnes & Williams Drug Center, Big Country AHEC, TTUHSC and the SOP.



*Campers learned how to check pulse rates during Abilene's 2011 Raider Red Summer Pharmacy Camp.*

### Global Health Outreach makes return mission to Guatemala

Since 2009, SOP Assistant Professors Drs. Shawna King and Niambi Horton have spent part of their summers introducing SOP students to mission work through an elective clerkship program they put together known as the Global Health Outreach (GHO). This year they traveled to Guatemala with Lubbock P4s Shawna Thomas Nunez and Matt Cox and Dallas/Fort Worth P4s Joshua Jacobs, Merlyn Joseph, Lauren Miller and Jackie Petty.

The GHO mission is to expose students to populations in which barriers to health care exist and learn how pharmacists can help overcome these barriers. Students are expected to provide pharmaceutical care in a setting with limited resources and to patients with different cultural backgrounds and languages. The students also learn the role of pharmacists on multi-disciplinary health care teams and how to communicate effectively.



*The 2011 GHO team in Guatemala. Pictured from left: Merlyn Joseph, Shawna Thomas Nunez, Jackie Petty, Dr. Shawna King, Joshua Jacobs, Dr. Niambi Horton, Lauren Miller and Matt Cox.*

Guatemala was also the location of the 2010 GHO clerkship. However, Horton said this year's trip varied a great deal from the previous year. "None of the places we visited this year were places that Dr. King or myself had been before, so it was a totally new experience," Horton said. "The places we traveled to were more rural and remote than before. There was also more poverty and virtually no access to health care aside from self-medication with prescription drugs from the local pharmacies."

The rotation began during Block 1 and included four weeks of preparation and two weeks in Guatemala. The group provided services to more than 400 people in Guatemala City, Cobán, Cahabón and Amatitlán, a total that does not include those they saw at hospitals and clinics. During their limited free time they also visited Antigua and Semuc Champey.

"The climate was different this year as well," Horton said. "Last year it was much more temperate—we were in the highlands of Guatemala—and this year we were in much more tropical areas with high temperatures and high humidity. The accommodations were more humble than last year, but still very nice."

Because prescriptions are not required for most drugs in Guatemala, including antibiotics and medications for chronic diseases, Horton said the students were exposed to some of the non-traditional ways of practicing pharmacy in a different culture and country. She believes these types of experiences help the students grow as future pharmacists and as people.



*Dr. Niambi Horton (left) looks on as P4s Joshua Jacobs and Lauren Miller take blood pressure readings from clinic patients in Guatemala.*

"During this rotation the students learn about and experience other cultures and see firsthand how other countries' handle health care issues," Horton said. "They have the opportunity to make a profound impact on others that will have positive long-term effects on both the students and the people we help. The students learn what it means to be citizens of the world, to truly see firsthand that we are all connected and to see beyond our self-centered culture to experience different—and sometimes better—ways of doing things."

Horton said the GHO experience is special to her because it combines the things about which she is passionate: serving others through mission work and teaching. She said she was "awestruck" by the 2011 mission because of the way she, King and the SOP students were able to help so many patients despite language, cultural and economic barriers.

"I'm not sure my explanation of what it means to me does the experience justice; it is beyond words," Horton said. "This trip was eight people from different backgrounds, beliefs, perspectives and life experiences, yet we were able to come together to serve people in areas with great need despite the limited resources that were available for what we were asked to do."

"The Guatemalan people were physically poor but spiritually rich and it was an amazing experience. It wasn't easy by any means, but the end results were worth every bit of discomfort we experienced for those 14 days. If we were able to help at least one of those people live a little better or a little longer then it was all worth it."



## CORRECTION

In the last issue of *From the Dean's Desk*, there was a mistake and an omission in the story entitled, "Faculty receive awards, promotions."

Dr. Lisa Brinn (Abilene) was promoted from instructor to assistant professor.

In addition, Dr. Sanjay Srivastava from the Amarillo campus was granted tenure and promoted to professor. Both are with the SOP's Department of Biomedical Sciences.



Dr. Lisa Brinn



Dr. Sanjay Srivastava

## In case you missed it...



Dr. Eric MacLaughlin



Dr. Kenna Payne

• Department of Pharmacy Practice (Amarillo) Associate Professor Dr. Eric MacLaughlin and Assistant Professor Dr. Kenna Payne received a teaching recognition award on June 24 from the graduating TTUHSC Family Medicine residents in Amarillo. The award included a plaque with the following quote from U.S. author, autobiographer,

academic and historian Henry Brooks Adams: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence ends."



Dr. U.S. Rao

• A forthcoming research article by SOP Associate Professor Dr. U.S. Rao has been selected to appear on the cover of the Aug. 15 issue of the *International Journal of Cancer*.

The article will be titled, "Galectin-4 is a tumor suppressor of the human colorectal cancer."

## Getting to know...

### Toni Johnson Coordinator - Experiential Programs Department of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo

Toni is a Texas Panhandle native born in Dumas and raised in Stratford. After high school, she moved to Canyon to attend West Texas State University, which is now West Texas A&M University (WTAMU). She received her Bachelor of Science degree in speech therapy along with endorsements in language/learning disabilities; kindergarten; and early childhood education-handicapped (ECE-H).

While at WTAMU, Toni met her husband, Rick, who also went on to graduate from WTAMU. The couple married at Hill Chapel on the WTAMU campus in 1979 and lived in Canyon for seven years. Toni was a public school speech therapist for three of those years and an ECE-H teacher for two years in Tulia. She also taught preschool at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church School for one year.

In 1987, Toni moved to California when Rick took a job with Pepperdine University and they lived in the Thousand Oaks area for 22 years. She taught for two years in a private Christian school before staying home with their three children: Alissa, Brady and Cody.



Toni Johnson poses with youngest son, Cody, and husband, Rick (top photo); oldest son, Brady (left photo) and daughter, Alissa.

While in California, Toni was also employed by Pepperdine University as a graduate campus coordinator, initially in Westlake Village and then in Encino.

"Rick and I were on God's 22nd year of our five-year plan when we moved back to Texas," she said.

In her spare time, Toni enjoys spending time with her extended family, especially since she now lives closer to them. She also enjoys participating in the evening women's Bible Study Fellowship in Amarillo where she serves as the substitute teaching leader.

"Moving back to Amarillo from LA has been a delightful transition and working at TTUHSC-SOP has been a part of that delight," she said. "Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful."

## SOP Photo Gallery

*The SOP Class of 2011 recites the Oath of a Pharmacist at the annual Hooding Ceremony in Lubbock.*



*Category winners at the 2011 Research Days poster competition included Shahriarul Absar (below), Ninh La-Beck (below left) and Prabodh Kandala.*



*P2s Odunayo Kajopelaye (left) and Austin De La Cruz discuss medications with patients as part of the FIMRC-TTUHSC-SOP mission trip in Costa Rica.*



*P4s Matt Cox (left) and Jackie Petty discuss screening results with a patient and her family at the 2011 Global Health Outreach mission trip in Guatemala.*



*From left: Kristi Carter, Lori (Law) Campbell, Sarah Carman and Rebecca Briggs wait backstage for the Class of 2011 Hooding Ceremony to begin.*



*Elizabeth Riney leads the SOP Class of 2011 at the annual Hooding Ceremony. Riney, a member of the SOP's first graduating class from the Abilene campus, received the Banner Bearer Award for having the highest GPA in her class.*



*Staff members used their lunch hours and breaks to put together jigsaw puzzles to decorate the reception area at the Amarillo campus. Pictured from left: Bill Pulliam, Logan LaRue, Shari Morris, Alicia Aragon, Teresa Carlisle, Toni Johnson and Tara Thorton.*



*Campers learned about drug delivery systems—lollipops in this case—at the Raider Red Summer Pharmacy Camp in Abilene.*



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